

COUNTY DEBT GROWS

Taxpayers' League Arraigns Present Administration.

WHY NOT GREATER ECONOMY?

Offices Where Fees Are Collected Fail to Be Self-Supporting—Figures Show Just Where Money Went.

The expected report to the Taxpayers' League as to the conduct and condition of county affairs was made public yesterday. It is, in full, as follows: Portland, Ore., Jan. 21, 1902.—The committee on county affairs begs leave herewith to submit its statement of the expenditures of the county for the year 1901, taken from the report of the County Auditor, which it does without comment, except to call attention to a few results in certain offices. In some departments very considerable savings are shown, while in others the results are disappointing. The Circuit Courts continue to show a steady reduction in expense. For the year 1901 they reduced the expense from \$20,465.88 to \$14,157.88, a saving of \$6,308.00, or about 31 per cent. On the other hand, in departments where money-makers a continued loss is shown. The indebtedness of the county has increased during the year by the sum of \$4,339.67, and this notwithstanding a collection on the delinquent rolls of about \$8,000, and the statements repeatedly made by those in authority that the delinquent taxes would nearly wipe out the debt. The causes as shown by the tables were, in our opinion, not that the levy was insufficient, but large expenditures and increased expenses in certain departments. The following table shows the expense by departments for the years 1900 and 1901, the increase or decrease in cost and the earnings for the same years and the increase or decrease:

Table with columns for 1900, 1901, Increase, Decrease, Earnings, 1900, Earnings, 1901. Rows include Current expense, Circuit Court, County Court, Justice Court, etc.

Receipts Other Than From Offices.

Table with columns for 1900, 1901, Increase, Decrease. Rows include State commitments to penitentiary, State commitments to asylum, etc.

Indebtedness.

Table with columns for 1900, 1901, Increase, Decrease. Rows include 1900 assessed valuation, 1901 assessed valuation, etc.

Roads and Bridges.

Table with columns for Produced, Expended, Expended over Levy. Rows include 1900 assessed valuation, 1901 assessed valuation, etc.

Operation of Certain Departments.

Table with columns for 1900, 1901, Reduction. Rows include Circuit Courts, Justice Court, County Court, etc.

Two \$5000 Damage Suits.

Helps of Engineer White and Fireman Fish Sue Southern Pacific. Suits were commenced in the United States Court yesterday to recover damages on account of the deaths of William H. White, engineer, and S. L. Fish, fireman, who were killed by an engine leaving the track near the railroad station at Salem early in December last.

Lowest Rates To All Points East.

Apply via Rio Grande Lines. Through rates for 1901, making the rate well below that for the year 1900. Estimate for 1902. Current expenses \$14,000. Board of County Commissioners \$2,300.

TRYING TO GET LOWER LEVY.

TAXPAYERS' LEAGUE APPEARS BEFORE COUNTY COURT.

Wants to Know Why Indebtedness Has Increased, and Expenses Have Not Been Curtailed.

William M. Ladd, J. Thorburn Ross, A. L. Mills, J. N. Teal and L. A. Lewis, members of the Taxpayers' League, appeared before the County Court yesterday and urged that a low tax levy be made for county and road purposes. The general expression of opinion was that a levy of 3 mills will suffice for county purposes and 1 mill for roads. It was expected that the levy would be made yesterday afternoon, but County Commissioner Shown went out to attend to some road and bridge matters. County Commissioner Mack remained at his place of business, and Judge Calk left the Courthouse at 3:30 o'clock. The road tax last year was 15 mills, and the county tax 4 mills, on an assessed valuation of \$11,000,000. This year the valuation is \$14,000,000. A 1-mill tax for roads this year would realize about \$140,000, and 3 mills for county purposes on \$14,000,000 would bring in \$420,000. From this has to be deducted the amount of the delinquent tax, which would cut down the figures somewhat.

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Indebtedness Has Increased over \$46,000.

"No," said Judge Calk, "on the contrary, it has been decreased." "Why do you say that?" the Auditor show this to be the case," broke in Mr. Ladd. "I don't know; you can find out from the Auditor," replied Judge Calk. The Auditor's office ran behind instead of being self-supporting, and was informed that the matter had not been inquired into. He next asked why the deficit in the road fund a year ago was 50 per cent of the amount of the levy, and why in 1901 it was 66 per cent, to which Judge Calk answered that the money was needed for the roads. Auditor Boy suggested that, if the tax levy for county purposes was 3 1/2 mills

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Will Leave for California.

A. W. Ooebock, a well-known resident of Holiday addition, will shortly leave for Lower California, in the hope that the change of climate will benefit his health. He has been in a Portland sanatorium for the past five weeks under treatment for paralysis. Mr. Ooebock will spend the remainder of the winter in California.

Travel in Comfort.

The new steamer Hassala leaves Astoria dock for Astoria and Lower Columbia points daily, except Sunday, at 3 P. M. The steamer is a new and comfortable vessel, and has a large number of reservations at O. R. & N. ticket office, Third and Washington.