

OPPOSES TAX BILL

Taxpayers' League Objects to Improvement Act.

BELIEVES IT TO BE UNJUST

Petition Takes Strong Stand, Urging That City Should Not Pay for District Improvements—Suggests Original Plans Be Followed.

The Taxpayers' League is opposed to House Bill No. 130. The members of this body see in it many objectionable features and urge that the bill, which provides primarily for the city to levy special taxes for the construction of bridges elsewhere than across the Willamette, should not pass.

In a petition to the Legislature the executive committee of the league sets out the reasons for its opposition to the bill. It is suggested that the city should not pay for the construction of bridges elsewhere than across the Willamette, but that it should pay for the construction of bridges across the Willamette.

Here is the league's official statement in full:

Portland, Or., January 19, 1906.—To the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon: The undersigned, the executive committee of the Taxpayers' League of the City of Portland, Multnomah County, State of Oregon, do hereby protest against the passage of an act, to wit: House Bill No. 130, to authorize the City of Portland to levy special taxes and to appropriate the proceeds of the same in the construction of such bridges as may be located across the Willamette River, in the City of Portland, the estimated cost of which by said city shall not amount to less than \$300,000 each, and for the payment of the same which have been constructed or are now under construction by said city and not paid for, and to pay interest upon the money due upon contracts for the construction of such bridges, and to limit the amount of such special taxes for any year, etc.

Meaning of the Bill.

And throughout your petitioners respectfully show:

That under and by virtue of the provisions of section 3 of said act the City of Portland is authorized to levy each year a special tax in addition to the tax levied by its charter, of not to exceed 2 mills upon the dollar upon all the taxable property of the city, to be used for the purpose of paying for the construction of bridges in said city, elsewhere than across the Willamette River, the estimated cost of which by said city shall not amount to less than \$300,000 each, and for the payment of the same which have been constructed or are now under construction by said city and not paid for, and to pay interest upon the money due upon contracts for the construction of such bridges, and to limit the amount of such special taxes for any year, etc.

That by section 2 of said act the City of Portland is further authorized, until said special tax shall have been collected, to set out of its general fund a special fund of not to exceed \$100,000, which shall be used for the purpose of paying for the construction of bridges in said city, elsewhere than across the Willamette River, the estimated cost of which by said city shall not amount to less than \$300,000 each, and for the payment of the same which have been constructed or are now under construction by said city and not paid for, and to pay interest upon the money due upon contracts for the construction of such bridges, and to limit the amount of such special taxes for any year, etc.

Section 3 provides that the power and authority authorized by this act shall be exercised and exercised by the city, and that said bridges shall be constructed under and in accordance with the provisions of its charter, said act further providing that the acts or parts of acts in any way that conflict with the provisions of the proposed act, said bill, if passed, is practically a repeal and amendment of certain provisions of the charter of the City of Portland, without on its face purporting to be such change or amendment, and no such amendments or changes should be made to the charter, under any circumstances without being first submitted to the vote of the people of the City of Portland.

No Authority in Charter.

Your petitioners further show that there is no authority under the present charter of the City of Portland, without on its face purporting to be such change or amendment, and no such amendments or changes should be made to the charter, under any circumstances without being first submitted to the vote of the people of the City of Portland.

Your petitioners further show that under and by virtue of the authority granted by the charter of the City of Portland, the Council has power to create districts to levy improvements not limited in area and only limited to property which the Council deems specially benefited thereby.

That shortly after the present charter of the City of Portland went into effect the residents of South Portland, feeling the need of better street improvements and connections with the main portion of the city, urged upon the Council of the City of Portland the building of a number of bridges and bridges in that portion of the city.

That in accordance with the express desire of a large number of the residents of the southern portion of the City of Portland the Council proceeded to make and enter into contracts for building bridges and making links throughout said section of the city.

That early in the year 1903 it was determined by the Council to erect a bridge on Front street, crossing Marquam Gulch, in the City of Portland, and in pursuance of the charter provisions in such case made and provided, laid out a district containing lots and parcels of land which said Council deemed specially benefited by such improvement, said lots numbering 8142.

That on the 1st day of October, 1903, a contract for the erection of a steel bridge on said First street, crossing Marquam Gulch, was let for the sum of \$40,000, and on September 22, 1904, said bridge was accepted for the sum of \$20,000; that the preliminary assessment covering the lots specially benefited by said improvement was duly advertised on the 4th day of November, 1904; that said proposed assessment has been objected to by numerous property-holders, and the cost thereof has been computed three times, but the present condition thereof is that said assessment is again being contested.

That thereafter and on or about August 18, 1904, a contract for another steel bridge on Front street, crossing Marquam Gulch, was let for the sum of \$50,000; that in addition to said price, there will be other amounts to pay, based upon the quantities of material furnished and work done on said bridge, and which, in the opinion of petitioners, will make the cost of said bridge not less than \$65,000.

That on March 22, 1904, a contract was let for the building of a bridge on Thurman street, in the City of Portland, at the contract price of \$20,000; that the same has been completed and will come before the Executive Board for acceptance on January 20, 1905, for the sum of \$24,998.15; that included in the assessment district found by said bridge are about 350 lots.

That each and all of said bridges were built and all proceedings thereabout taken under the provisions of the charter of the City of Portland, and no citizen thereof had the right of protest or the right to be heard in connection therewith, excepting those situated within the assessment district now had they any right to be heard as to the necessity of two expensive bridges situated 200 feet apart.

HOBEN HEADS BOARD

Sailor Boarding-House Commission Is Organized.

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Columbia River Lightship Brought Here After Four Years' Hard Service—Dalles City on the Ways—Arrival of Christel.

The new Sailor Boarding-House Commission is ready now for business. A meeting was held yesterday by the three members—William MacMaster, Captain Andrew Hoben and A. M. Smith—and the Commission was formally organized by the election of Captain Hoben as president and Mr. MacMaster as secretary and treasurer.

That within the city limits of the City of Portland there are about 25,000 acres of land of varying physical characteristics, and each and every portion of said city is entitled to be treated fairly, justly and equitably, and it is unfair and unjust to saddle upon certain portions of the city, the property-holders of which have for years been constructing, maintaining and repairing streets for the use of the general public, the cost of improvements of special benefit to property situated in other portions of the city.

That there is no similarity of conditions between bridges crossing the Willamette River and bridges crossing the same in various portions of the city, for the Willamette River absolutely divides the city into two parts, and there can be no communication between the two main portions without the use of bridges or ferries, and therefore the entire city as such is directly benefited by such connection; furthermore, before the law providing for the building of the Morrison-street bridge became effective it was submitted to the vote of the people of the city.

Furthermore, your petitioners have reason to believe that the release of the Council of the City of Portland to levy the assessments for these bridges when completed and for the same in South Portland, and from a profit on the assessment and the people's Institute City Council to pay interest for causing delay in the payment thereof, that it was never the intention of some members of the Council to have the district created thereby pay for these bridges and also, to carry the matter along until the meeting of the Legislature, and then by legislative enactment have the charter indirectly amended, and the cost thereof cast upon the entire city. Such, in our opinion, being the original intention of said members of the Council, it would have been fair and just to have waited before making these improvements in order to determine whether or not the city would care to pay for this character of improvement or to have them made.

That a copy of this petition be sent to the chairman of the Multnomah division of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, and copies thereof be furnished to the daily papers of the City of Portland.

Wherefore, your petitioners pray that said act be passed or enacted into law, and do respectfully but firmly protest against the passage of the same.

F. W. Mulkey, president; Leo Fricke, R. L. Gibson, S. A. Brown, Isaac White, L. J. Goldsmith, W. M. Laid, executive committee.

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The Taxpayers' League has drafted a petition which will be presented to the Council at its next meeting, and which is in the nature of a protest against the act which authorizes the City of Portland to pay for the construction of bridges elsewhere than across the Willamette River, the estimated cost of which by said city shall not amount to less than \$300,000 each, and for the payment of the same which have been constructed or are now under construction by said city and not paid for, and to pay interest upon the money due upon contracts for the construction of such bridges, and to limit the amount of such special taxes for any year, etc.

The petitioners further show that under and by virtue of the authority granted by the charter of the City of Portland, the Council has power to create districts to levy improvements not limited in area and only limited to property which the Council deems specially benefited thereby.

That shortly after the present charter of the City of Portland went into effect the residents of South Portland, feeling the need of better street improvements and connections with the main portion of the city, urged upon the Council of the City of Portland the building of a number of bridges and bridges in that portion of the city.

That in accordance with the express desire of a large number of the residents of the southern portion of the City of Portland the Council proceeded to make and enter into contracts for building bridges and making links throughout said section of the city.

That early in the year 1903 it was determined by the Council to erect a bridge on Front street, crossing Marquam Gulch, in the City of Portland, and in pursuance of the charter provisions in such case made and provided, laid out a district containing lots and parcels of land which said Council deemed specially benefited by such improvement, said lots numbering 8142.

That on the 1st day of October, 1903, a contract for the erection of a steel bridge on said First street, crossing Marquam Gulch, was let for the sum of \$40,000, and on September 22, 1904, said bridge was accepted for the sum of \$20,000; that the preliminary assessment covering the lots specially benefited by said improvement was duly advertised on the 4th day of November, 1904; that said proposed assessment has been objected to by numerous property-holders, and the cost thereof has been computed three times, but the present condition thereof is that said assessment is again being contested.

That thereafter and on or about August 18, 1904, a contract for another steel bridge on Front street, crossing Marquam Gulch, was let for the sum of \$50,000; that in addition to said price, there will be other amounts to pay, based upon the quantities of material furnished and work done on said bridge, and which, in the opinion of petitioners, will make the cost of said bridge not less than \$65,000.

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SPECIAL SALE

UPHOLSTERY FABRICS

20 PER CENT DISCOUNT

For the balance of January we shall make this discount on all upholstery fabrics used in all new and "done-over" upholstery work brought to us before February 1. 'Twill pay you to have your renovating down now.

SILK TAPESTRIES, COTTON TAPESTRIES, WOOL TAPESTRIES
SILK BROCADES, SILK BROCADELLES, SILK VELOURS, COTTON
VELOURS, SILK MOIRES, COTTON MOIRES, ART BURLAPS

OUR UPHOLSTERY DEPARTMENT

We'd like everyone to know that we have the best equipped Upholstery Shop in the Northwest. The men who work there are thoroughly competent and under the direction of a skilled and experienced foreman. No work is too difficult for us to undertake. We carry a splendidly assorted stock of fine and medium-priced Upholstery fabrics and we're always glad to have you come in and get an estimate on any work you want done; or, if you prefer, telephone us and we will call for any furniture you may want done over. You can then come in and select the fabric. We'll tell you the cost. But come