

# RAILROADS WANT TAXES REDUCED

## Washington Lines Appeal for Cut in Valuations of \$30,000,000.

# LEVY IS NOT EQUITABLE

## Claim Made That Other Property Is Not Taxed at Full 60 Per Cent of Real Value, While Railroads Are by Own Figures.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Sept. 17.—(Special.)—Reductions that will aggregate at least \$20,000,000 in the assessed valuation of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railways, as fixed by the Tax Commission, are asked by attorneys for the two railroads of the State Board of Equalization.

Approximately \$4,000,000 of this is claimed as a flat reduction on the ground that to leave that amount stand would result in double taxation. The balance of the reduction is asked on the ground that the Tax Commission's valuations are fixed at 60 per cent of the true value of the railroads, while other property in the several counties traversed is not assessed at so high a proportion.

The Tax Commission, in assessing railroads, adopted as the basis the figures fixed by the Railroad Commission as the market value of the roads and fixed the assessed valuation at 60 per cent thereof.

The Railroad Commission placed the market value of the Northern Pacific in this state at \$111,000,000, and the Great Northern at \$59,000,000.

### Allege Double Taxation.

It is claimed by the railroad attorneys that the Railroad Commission, in making up these values, put in approximately \$13,000,000 on account of facilities offered the railroads by commercial property owned by them in Spokane, Seattle and Tacoma. It is asserted that the three counties have listed this commercial property also and that to retain it in the value of the railroads by the state board would result in double taxation. The property in controversy, assessed at 60 per cent, constitutes nearly \$8,000,000 of the Tax Commission's figures.

The railroad attorneys claim that a flat valuation of 60 per cent, or any other percentage, of the true value of railroad property is unjust. They propose to the State Board of Equalization that the true value of the railroads, determined by excluding the \$13,000,000 worth of commercial property above mentioned, be adopted as the basic valuation, and that this valuation be segregated by counties according to the mileage in each county. That thereafter the valuations be fixed in each county in the same proportion as other property is valued for taxation purposes.

The adoption of this plan would, it is claimed, result in a reduction from the tax commission figures of millions of dollars. Great Northern attorneys assert that in Spokane County other property is valued at from 35 to 40 per cent of its true value, and that in other counties traversed by the road, with the exception of King, the proportion is from 25 to 35 per cent. King County, they claim, is assessed at a higher proportion of true value than any other county in the state. It was asserted before the state board that if King County's last year's figures were adopted this year, the county would still be assessed at a higher proportionate valuation than any other county in the state.

### Higher Rates With Higher Taxes.

R. S. Grosscup, counsel for the Northern Pacific, presented the argument to the state board that the railroads themselves were little interested in the actual amount of taxes they had to pay. He claimed that under present-day conditions the managements of the railroads were but trustees of the property and were held down by state and Government supervision to a standard rate of income.

High taxation would mean increased rates in order that this standard of income might be realized and the people would actually pay the bills.

The assessing officers of King, Pierce and Spokane counties are also objecting to the listing of what is claimed to be commercial property in Tacoma, Spokane and Seattle as operating property of the two railroads.

The value of the property aggregates about \$2,000,000 in each city. If classed as operating property its value will be spread over the entire state on a track mileage basis. If classed as distinctly commercial property the entire value

will be assessable in the counties where it is located.

### State Board Has No Plan Yet.

The State Board of Equalization has not yet adopted a plan for the segregation of the railroad values by counties. It seems to be conceded that the board cannot legally adopt the tax commission's flat valuation of 60 per cent of the true value of the railroads.

If the railroad company's plan is not adopted, it is likely that the average percentage of true value of other property throughout the state will be the basis for determining the assessable value of railroads. The law apparently requires the state board to adopt figures representing the assessable value of each railroad in its entirety and then to segregate by counties according to track mileage. To average the entire state would result in a lesser reduction from the tax commission's figures than if the railroad company's plan is adopted, for the reason that King County is having nearly one-third of the total state valuation and a high percentage, would bring up the general average in the other counties.

### KING COUNTY'S COMPLAINT Assessed Valuations Higher Than Any Other Except Spokane.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Sept. 17.—(Special.)—This was King County day before the State Board of Equalization, and arguments were made to the Board by Assessor Parrish, by M. J. Carkeek, J. S. Goldsmith, Attorney Gorham and John Schram, representing the Seattle Chamber of Commerce; by Chairman Dan Abraham, of the Board of County Commissioners, and Commissioner Al Rutherford and by John L. Snapp, tax agent of the Great Northern.

The Seattle representatives in brief insisted that the valuations reported by King County this year, despite the 20 per cent cut, are relatively higher than any other county in the state except Spokane, and the speakers asked that either King County's gross valuations should be reduced for state levy purposes or that all the other counties be raised to the same level.

Snapp submitted a typewritten statement giving what he claimed was a correct statement of the proportion of assessed valuations to real value. Tax Commissioner Frost insisted that this statement was simply a conclusion and that it should be considered by the Board unless evidence was submitted to show upon what the conclusions were based.

Mr. Snapp said that for about a year 11 men have been employed in all of the counties of the state making records of considerations named in actual transfers and in other ways securing actual valuations, and in this work more than 41,000 transfers have been checked up.

The figures shown as actual prices paid have been compared with the assessed valuations this year, and these, he claimed, show that property in the several counties have been assessed at the following percentages of real value: Adams 34 per cent, Asotin 33, Benton 35, Chehalis 20, Chelan 35, Clallam 26, Clark 31, Columbia 32, Cowi 31, Douglas 28, Ferry 25, Franklin 26, Garfield 25, Jefferson 23, King 48, Kittitas 27, Klickitat 27, Lewis 33, Lincoln 30, Mason 27, Okanogan 25, Pacific 26, Pierce 32, Skagit 25, Skamania 31, Washington 23, Spokane 40, Stevens 23, Thurston 27, Walla Walla 25, Whatcom 23, Whitman 18, and Yakima 23.

### ARREST JAP HIGHBINDER

#### Oriental Secret Society Member Accused of Los Angeles Murder.

ASTORIA, Or., Sept. 17.—(Special.)—T. H. Zeigler and T. N. White, detectives promoted with the Astoria police department, arrived here at noon today after Ito, the Japanese, who was arrested by Policeman Wilson on the arrival of the ship Berlin from Alaska, on a charge of murdering K. Okazaki in Los Angeles on February 4, last.

White has known Ito for several years and immediately identified him as the man wanted and Ito made no attempt to deny his identity. In fact, in conversation with the detectives he admitted committing the crime, but said no one had paid him to do it.

He claimed that Okazaki had tried to get him to kill T. Uyehara, who is king of the Japanese highbinder society in Los Angeles, and for that reason he shot Okazaki, at a supper which Ito gave and invited his victim to come as a guest.

Ito, who is a noted highbinder, is said to have killed two Japanese in the State of Washington, but escaped capture. It is a rule among the highbinders that when one of the number accepts a commission to commit murder, he cuts the first joint of his little finger on his left hand and gives it to the society king as a pledge. He cut off a portion of his little finger last January, and the officers believe it was a pledge to the society that he would murder Okazaki.

### MAINTENANCE MISTAKE; PEOPLE'S GAIN

#### \$25,000 Stock New Fall Style Shoes Labeled Incorrectly.

Admit mistake and order shoes sold. Bannister, Kneeland, Slater and Moral, 115 and 121 Adams; 115 and 121; women's \$2.50; men's \$3.50 and \$4 grades. \$2.40. Dellar, 291 Morrison, bet. 4th and 5th.

# PORTLAND DAY IS RECORD BREAKER

## Over 25,000 People in Attendance at State Fair Grounds at Salem.

# CROWD PULLS UP FENCE

## Impatient to Enter Grandstand. Track Lined With Spectators for Quarter of Mile—Trotting Record Is Broken.

SALEM, Or., Sept. 17.—(Special.)—Over 25,000 people attended the State Fair today, Portland day, thus breaking all previous records. The crush at the grandstand this afternoon exceeded that of yesterday, and not only was the grandstand packed by about 6000 people, but the race-track on both the outside and inside was bordered with a dense mass of people for a distance of over a quarter of a mile. And with this immense throng at the track, all other parts of the grounds were crowded at the same time.

Early this morning all the main roads leading into Salem assumed the appearance of a line of march for a farmers' procession. The visitors came by team from as far away as Independence, Dallas, McMinnville, Silverton and Stayton, and by the time each city, village and hamlet had sent its quota, the total made up an almost continuous stream of vehicles coming into Salem.

### Arrive by Wagons and Trains.

The excursion trains from Portland brought several thousand, the exact number being unknown. The day was perfect, the fair at its best, the races unusually interesting and everybody in good humor. Fortunately a very large proportion of the visitors brought lunch baskets, otherwise many would have gone hungry, for the restaurants and lunch counters were crowded till long after the noon hour. As it was, all were provided for.

To greet Oregon's athletic heroes who recently returned with laurels won in the world's Olympic games; to see the Lone Oak track record broken and the 3-year-old pace records broken and to witness a parade of the prize-winning livestock, the best and most valuable assemblage of stock anywhere in the United States, were the special privileges enjoyed by the visitor to the fair grounds today. The livestock parade took place this forenoon. Therefore the parade has been held on a small track east of the pavilion. This year the crowd of spectators was so great that it was necessary to conduct the parade on the racetrack.

### New Track Record Is Set.

The breaking of the Lone Oak track trotting record occurred in the 2:14 trot for the Lewis and Clark purse of \$500. The previous record was that of R. Ambush, 2:13 1/2, in 1907. The record was broken in the first heat of the 2:14 trot today, when Joe McGuire's Day Break made the mile in 2:12. In the second heat the same horse reduced the record to 2:05 1/2.

The Olympic victors were the special guests of the fair management, and during the races were introduced to the audience by Governor Chamberlain. The crowd went wild with enthusiasm, and after greeting them with hearty applause gave three cheers as a further expression of appreciation. There were numerous calls for speeches from Smithson, Gilbert and Kelly, but the calls had no other effect than to cause the athletes manifest embarrassment and to induce them to get off the judges' platform as quickly as they could.

### Impatient Crowd Pulls Up Fences.

Up to a late hour tonight nothing had occurred to mar the pleasure of the day, except that in the 3:14 trot a collision between Berta Mac, driven by Helman, and Della Derby, driven by Whitehead, resulted in Helman being thrown from his sulky. He was somewhat bruised, but after waiting for a few moments was in condition to resume his place in the race.

The crowd refused to be controlled, and was good-natured in its unruliness. Being the gates to the grandstand many of those who came early became impatient and pulled up the fence, but they willingly paid their admission fees. During the races many people stood in the aisles so that those seated could not see. The judges and other officers tried in vain to keep the crowd seated, but whenever a race was in progress everybody stood up, laughed at the officials and enjoyed the race. Had the day been hot instead of cool, the crowd, under the circumstances, would very likely have been in poor temper. Starter R. L. Harrison, who has been criticized for being slow in getting races started, has always had the drivers in good humor and

# GREAT TRADE-BUILDING SALE



## Brownsville Woolen Mill Store

THIRD AND STARK STS. "MILL-TO-MAN CLOTHIERS" PORTLAND, OREGON

There are no secret reasons for the wonderful growth of this business—everything is well defined and apparent to even the most casual observer. "Everlastingly giving the best values," "Selling absolutely dependable merchandise at all times," "Making good every spoken or printed statement," are some of the things that have placed this store at the front in clothing selling on the Pacific Coast. Necessity compelled us to double the size of the store. We want to be placed in a position where we will be obliged to enlarge our quarters again and again. To gain that point we are simply outdoing any and all our previous efforts in value-giving. What we are doing is told in a few bold words. Read on:

All Our \$15, \$17.50, \$18.50, \$20, \$22.50, \$25, \$27.50 and \$30 Suits on Sale at

# \$15

### A Style for Every Taste

If your desire leans to the novelty effects, cuffs, welt seams, flaps on the pockets, and so on; or if your taste runs to the more unobtrusive lines, you'll be able to find just what you want in the collection. There are blues, blacks, browns, grays and pin checks; in short, no matter what your suit fancy may be, you can gratify it here at very small cost. But no matter which suit you select, it's certain to be a bargain in the best and truest sense of the word.

### Our Fall and Winter Catalogue Is Ready

If you live at too great a distance to visit this store in person, why then, send for our new Catalogue. It is filled from cover to cover with splendid bargain news. A postcard request brings it to you. Don't delay in getting a copy, for it's worth your while.

VIEW SHOWING THE CROWDED GRANDSTAND AT THE SALEM STATE FAIR DURING THE PORTLAND DAY RACES.

