

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, SEPT. 23, 1909.

TAFT ON THE CORPORATION TAX.

The opinion of The Oregonian coincides with the opinion of those who believe that the proposed corporation tax is fair and just, and will yield better returns to the Government, than the tax on corporations. President Taft, in an extended speech, takes the opposite view.

But the corporation tax, wanting this equality, is not fair. It is not equal. It taxes a corporation on its profits, but does not tax the individual or the partnership doing the same work.

Again, if the corporations are to be taxed, they should be taxed by the states, not by the General Government. They are creatures of the states; they owe their existence to the state laws.

And a tax on personal incomes is the fairest tax. A tax on corporations does not bring contributions from one-half the number of persons that an income tax would. It is a partial and inequitable tax which can be anything else.

And the constitutionality of an income tax, it is hardly a moot-question longer. In his speech of acceptance, Mr. Taft said that if more revenue were necessary than customs and excises provided, "an income tax can and should be levied which will conform to the Constitution."

RAILROAD PEACE AT PITTSBURG. That wonderfully potent economic force known as the "Harriman influence," in American railroading, promises to live on, perhaps, for many years after the hand of the master who created it has passed from earth.

The money spent by the Gould interests in gaining a foothold at Pittsburgh and in financing the Western Maryland, over which they were to push on past Pittsburgh, to the Atlantic Coast, had depleted their resources to such an extent that when the panic of 1897 swept over the country, the Western Maryland, the Washburn-Pittsburgh Terminal and the Wheeling & Lake Erie, all vital necessities to the Gould plans for Pittsburgh, were forced into the hands of receivers.

naturally, any assistance he might render in rehabilitating the Gould lines in the East would tend to assist him in forestalling the coming competition of the Western Pacific.

Almost simultaneously with Mr. Gould's announcement, that he was pleased to have Mr. Harriman interested in the Gould properties, there was a cessation of the fierce hostilities that, up to that time, had marked the progress of the Harriman-Pacific from Oregon to the Pacific Coast.

"PUBLIC CONSCIENCE IN THE WEST." The New York Evening Mail, in an article unfriendly to Secretary Ballinger, says: "Mr. Ballinger comes from a part of the country where the public conscience is not keen about non-competition."

But hadn't the Government been giving away its property all over the country during an indefinite period? All persons owning property have been taking it, and oftentimes have done so in violation of the law.

These grants of various kinds covered the water powers that now have become valuable, and other lands bearing timber and minerals; and because Mr. Ballinger knows they can't be taken away from their owners, he is taunted with having come from a part of the country where the public conscience is not keen about conserving the Nation's property and resources.

A DUBIOUS INVESTMENT. The Oregonian has been asked for its opinion upon certain circulars which lawyers of more or less repute are scattering abroad. These alluring documents invite people to pay a lawyer's fee of \$75 in the hope of securing title to a quarter section of land in the Hittiged grant of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

But, what is more to the point, no seeker of a tract can have a shadow of claim unless he is an "actual settler"—which means that he must dwell on the land, improve it, grub his stumps and brush, till the soil, and raise thereon crops, chickens, livestock and a family. It will be necessary for every claimant to be an actual settler, and if he uses the land in the way just mentioned there can be no dispute of his settlement thereon.

OUR LOCAL FAIRS. The Clackamas county Fair Association is on its feet, and purposes to hold a fair at Canby in a few days, that will proclaim to all the world the resources, industries and products of the county's wide area.

THE TURBULENT JOY RIDER. The joy riders which are taken in the small hours of the night with stolen automobiles do not seem to be named as descriptively as they might. Judging from what happened to Mr. Ladd's chauffeur and his party early Sunday morning, "death rides" would be a far more accurate name for their riotous and drunken recklessness than to mingle in about equal measure to make up what joy there is experienced as the riders speed over the roads in their merrimentous career.

HUDSON AND VERRAZANO. In these days of heated controversy between explorers, it is more or less interesting to remember that even Henry Hudson's halo is not irrevocably affixed to his head, as the very well-to-do party of the Hudson River, but it is decreed to bear in mind at the same time that Verrazano may have entered it eighty-five years earlier.

It is the safety of the joy riders themselves who are the thing at stake, or rather, the thing at stake is the night cheerfully say, "On with the dance; let joy be unconfined." The work of natural selection is, upon the whole, beneficent, and when such characters are willing to help eliminate themselves, its salutary course is much facilitated. But, unfortunately, they endanger other people as much or more than themselves.

pair of scamps who killed her. Fortune plays strange tricks on occasions of this kind.

It is safe to say that without the roadhouses and their attractions there would be very little joy riding at half-past two in the morning. It is these disreputable resorts which furnish a goal for the trip and provide the drinks which make the return doubly dangerous.

"Really, the American papers terrify me. I am afraid to pick one up. It is dreadful," said Maxine Elliott on arriving at New York from London, where she was a special favorite of King Edward.

The sinful Mr. Patten, or some of his associates in Chicago, have advanced the price of September wheat to nearly 10 cents per bushel, or about ten days, on account of the scarcity of cash wheat in the Chicago market.

A MINIMUM RATE FOR METERS. The clamor for more water meters is easy to understand. The consumer gets water cheaper in that way. Instances are known where it cost only 40 cents or less a month, which is not much more than the expense of the service.

It costs \$11 to install a meter. A consumer who pays only 40 cents a month would not liquidate this bill in much less than three years. In the meantime the city gets nothing for the water he uses and the meter is not paid for.

Walt Whitman, little understood, less appreciated, and less read during his life, has come into prominence in the reading world in a recent biography written by George Rice Carpenter as a contribution to the Men of Letters Series.

Some improvement is reported in the attendance at the livestock show in this city, and every visitor who has seen the remarkable exhibition, commends the merits of the big show.

It isn't the tariff, it is something else to cinch the ultimate consumer. In the case of the cordwood trust, it is merely a question of how much Portland people will stand for. By giving up meat and fruit, they can probably manage to pay \$7 a cord—until the price is raised to \$8.

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FIRST COUNTY FAIR IS NEAR. St. Helens Expects Through at Exhibit to Open Next Friday.

ST. HELENS, Or., Sept. 22.—(Special.)—Columbia County's first annual fair, to be held under the auspices of the County Grange, will begin at St. Helens Friday, September 24, and will continue for two days. A large attendance is expected, as general interest is being manifested in all parts of the county.

COOS HAS ANOTHER LINE. Electric Railway Company Incorporates for \$1,500,000.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Sept. 22.—(Special.)—The Coos Bay Electric Railway Company has just been incorporated, with a capital stock of \$1,500,000. The incorporators are James H. Flanagan, W. S. Chandler and F. C. McCollem.

WORK ON BRANCH TO BEGIN. Lebanon-Crabtree Road Ready for Builders, Says Agent.

ALBANY, Or., Sept. 22.—(Special.)—J. B. Eddy, right of way agent of the Southern Pacific, stated today that work will begin on the Lebanon-Crabtree branch next week. He was in Albany today en route to Portland on Lebanon work he has completed securing rights of way for this branch.

VETERANS MEET AT EUGENE. Lane County Reunion Called—Sixteen States Represented.

EUGENE, Or., Sept. 22.—(Special.)—The Lane County Veterans' Association held their first day's meeting of the annual reunion last night. Half a hundred old soldiers registered today and it is believed the number will be considerably augmented tomorrow.

OLD WILLAMETTE MOST ACTIVE. Many Students Register—Eaton Hall is Occupied.

SALEM, Or., Sept. 22.—(Special.)—This is the busy day at Willamette University. Students are registering and getting lined up for the new school year, equipment is being moved from the old College of Education to the new building, now Eaton Hall, and everything about the historic old institution indicates the opening day of another school year.

PARALYSIS TAKES HOPGROWER. J. F. Isham, Willamette Valley Pioneer, Dies Near Lincoln.

SALEM, Or., Sept. 22.—(Special.)—J. F. Isham, a pioneer of this section of the Willamette valley, died of paralysis last night at his home near Lincoln, north of Salem.

HITCHCOCK TO ARRIVE TODAY. Postmaster-General to Address Oregon Postmasters This Morning.

Frank H. Hitchcock, Postmaster-General, will arrive this morning from Seattle, address the Presidential Postmasters' Association at the Commercial Club during the forenoon and leave for the North Bank this afternoon for Butte, Mont., on his return trip to Washington. Mr. Hitchcock will be accompanied by four men prominent in the postal service on the Pacific Coast.

MOSCOW BUILDINGS NOW SURE. Contractors to Erect Federal Structure and University Wing.

MOSCOW, Idaho, Sept. 22.—(Special.)—Postmaster J. R. Collins has been requested by the Interstate Construction Company, of Saginaw, Mich., to hold in attendance at today's session of the convention a large delegation of these officials, representing all four classes of postoffices, from all sections of the state.

RUBBER STAMPS ARE FORGED. Swindler Used Name of Roy W. Somerville, Vancouver Resident.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Sept. 22.—(Special.)—A system of wholesale forgeries has just been discovered, with Vancouver as its center, and spreading as far east as Chicago and as far west as Seattle. The discovery came in the protest of checks given by the alleged forger, who signed himself as Roy W. Somerville, by three local banks, a telephone house and the Canadian Pacific Railway.

SCHOOL BONDS SOLD TWICE. First Lewiston Buyers Back Down, Chicago Firm Steps In.

LEWISTON, Idaho, Sept. 22.—(Special.)—The second sale of the \$50,000 bond issue of the Lewiston independent school district has been awarded to a Chicago firm, a profit of \$98,000. The first sale was made to a local purchaser declining to take the issue after submitting a bid providing for a \$100 premium.

R. D. HOLMAN PASSES AWAY. Oldtime Resident of Salem Succumbs to Paralysis.

SALEM, Or., Sept. 22.—R. D. Holman, for 30 years a well-known resident of Salem, died of paralysis at his home, 200 Front street. Three years ago he suffered a stroke of paralysis, last April another stroke came and a few days ago a third stroke. Since Friday he was unconscious.

FISH CAUGHT WITH SHOVEL. Three-Foot Silver Salmon Traveled 35 Miles in Irrigation Ditch.

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., Sept. 22.—(Special.)—Catching a three-foot silver salmon with a shovel and an irrigation ditch was the unique experience of Aaron Jaques, a ditch-walker on the Selah Canal today. Jaques was attracted to the hole by a great splash in the canal. Upon investigation he discovered that it was a salmon, which he threw out on the bank with his shovel.

WIVES GET JUDGMENTS FOR CASH. While Divorce Suits Pend.

Prospective grass widows had a merry time before Presiding Circuit Judge Brough yesterday morning. The more men, whom they once called husbands must bear the consequences. Judge Brough ordered four unucky husbands to pay their wives alimony, and suit money.

MRS. FREDERICKSEN DEFENDED. More Affidavits Filed in Court in Mendhall Divorce Suit.

Affidavits making more charges in the divorce suit of Ed. C. Mendhall against Edna Matilda Mendhall, were filed in the Circuit Court yesterday. Fred Jensen, who says she has been living with her husband at 215 McMillen street, where Mrs. Auld Fredericksen, now Cobb lives, averts suspicion and quarrels, his wife is of a patient disposition.

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