

TAXES PAID WHEN CARS ARE SEIZED

Company Saves \$29,000 by Refusal to Pay Delinquent Penalty.

STATE LAW IS DEFECTIVE

Passengers Gladly Leave Cars When Ordered Out by Deputies, Who Are Encouraged by Shouts of Approval.

SEATTLE, May 11.—(Special.)—County Treasurer Matt Gormley today forced the Seattle Electric Company, operating the principal streetcar system of this city, to pay \$167,000 delinquent taxes by seizing 125 of the company's cars, but by this act he invalidated the county's claim to the 15 per cent interest penalty provided by law and lost to the county the sum of \$2,000.

When James B. Howe, general counsel for the Seattle Electric Company, offered to pay the county's taxes assessed against the company for 1908 by tendering a check for \$167,123.86, plus the cost of seizing the cars, Treasurer Gormley refused the check, because there was no provision made for the payment of the delinquent interest, which amounts to \$29,000.92.

At 12:30 o'clock Gormley and Howe went to prosecuting attorney Vanderveer's office for a conference. Howe there declared that his offer only stood for two hours. Vanderveer was in favor of accepting the tender made by Howe, but wanted to put the matter up to Attorney-General Bell, who is in Olympia.

Bell Decides for Company.
The law says that in cases of failure to pay personal property taxes there shall be a delinquent penalty of 15 per cent. The law provides for a seizure of the property. But the seizure statute says that the seized property shall be returned on the payment of the taxes, and the cost of seizure. The framers of the section evidently overlooked the interest feature and it is on this that the Seattle Electric Company is relying to evade payment of the delinquent penalty. Prosecuting Attorney Vanderveer says that he and Attorney-General Bell discussed this subject on one occasion, and that the Attorney-General agrees with him that the statute, as it stands, provides that the seized property shall be returned upon the payment of the taxes and the cost of seizure.

Gormley has put the matter entirely up to Vanderveer. If Vanderveer says to take the taxes without the delinquent penalty, Gormley will do so. Howe made his formal tender in the prosecuting attorney's office at 1 o'clock this afternoon. The decision from the Attorney-General was made at 3 o'clock, accepting the money.

Procedure Pleases Public.
The Seattle Electric Company decided to do business with the county only after Gormley had seized about 150 cars in the Cedar-street barn, and had tied up the Port Lawton, Ballard, Ballard-Sloop, Ray street, North Queen Anne and West Queen Anne lines. Gormley and his ten deputies were in the act of seizing a Port Lawton car at First and Denny way, when Howe intervened and offered to pay the taxes.

This is the first time since the controversy became acute that the Seattle Electric Company has even admitted that it owed the county any taxes. So far Gormley won a decided victory this morning.

Gormley decided to allow the seized cars to run while the conference was being held in Vanderveer's office.

That Gormley's move was a popular one was made evident when he began seizing the cars this morning. The passengers on the seized cars piled out joyfully, telling the deputies to "keep at it," "the 'em all," "make them pay their taxes." Those who had leisure gathered around the stalled cars, showing every sign of glee.

OREGON SCHOOLS PRAISED

International Year Book Gives Additional Space to State.
SALEM, Or., May 11.—(Special.)—The International Year Book for 1909 has just been issued, and increased space given to Oregon over the previous year is noticeable. Under "Education," Oregon is given more space than California and Washington combined. At the opening, it is said: "It is probable that no state in the Union has made greater progress in its public school system during the past few years than has Oregon. Then attention is called to the fact that Oregon won the grand prize for the best educational exhibit at the Alaska-Yukon Exposition; describing in detail the six-months' law and the high school law, which were passed at the last session of the Legislature. The description of the school system of Oregon closes with the following statistics:

"The average daily attendance for 1909 was 95,984, as compared with 83,313 in 1908. The teachers numbered 4,452, and of these 3,899 were women and 553 men. The average monthly salary of men teachers was \$82.25, and of women \$51.97. The average monthly salary of rural teachers was \$56.15. The number of high schools has increased to 175, and there were enrolled in these, during the year, 27,532. Completing the public school system are the University of Oregon and the Oregon Agricultural College, the former at Eugene, and the latter at Corvallis. Each institution has shown steady growth."

MARSHFIELD GETS ROAD

Franchise Granted to Coos Bay Rapid Transit Company.
MARSHFIELD, Or., May 11.—(Special.)—The Marshfield City Council has granted to the Coos Bay Rapid Transit Company a franchise for building an electric streetcar line in Marshfield. The company is the one promoted by Mayor L. G. Kinney and the franchise to build a line from this city to North Bend. The franchise for that city has been granted and will be perfected this month. The Marshfield franchise provides that the company must pay to this city 1 per cent of the gross earnings, after the population has reached 25,000.

POTATO CONTEST STARTED

Klamath Children Will Compete for \$100 in Prizes.
KLAMATH FALLS, May 11.—(Special.)

SPENCE ELECTED MASTER OF GRANGE

Proposal Is Made to Bar All Politicians From Membership in Order.

ASSEMBLIES ARE OPPOSED

W. S. U'Ren Advises That Grange Use Initiative for Only Strictly Grange Legislation—F. W. Mulkey Makes Address.

OREGON CITY, Or., May 11.—(Special.) Resolutions opposing party assemblies, barring politicians from membership in the Grange, proposing a constitutional amendment forbidding the Legislature to amend initiative measures, fixing a limit to the state's indebtedness and opposing a constitutional convention were among those presented at today's session of the State Grange. There were also addresses by E. T. Allen, of the Forestry Service, on conservation; W. S. U'Ren, who urged that the order confine its efforts on initiative matters purely to Grange matters; and Fred W. Mulkey, ex-United States Senator, who discussed the proposed tax amendment.

At the election of officers, held in the afternoon, C. B. Spence, of Clackamas County, was elected state master, receiving 24 votes against 22 for J. J. Johnson. When it came to the election of state lecturer, J. J. Johnson was elected almost unanimously, but firmly declined the office. Other officers chosen are: J. H. Scott, Elected Overseer.

Overseer, J. H. Scott, Shedd, Linn County; lecturer, H. A. Darnall, Gresham, Multnomah County; steward, E. C. Huffman, Loran, Lane County; assistant steward, F. E. Griffith, Klamath Falls, Klamath County; chaplain, Cyrus Walker, Albany, Linn County; treasurer, H. Hirschberg, Independence, Polk County; secretary, Mrs. Mary S. Howard, Multnomah County; gatekeeper, K. H. Hansen, Gravel Ford, Coos County; Pomona, Mrs. Lulu Miller, Albany, Linn County.

Election of remaining officers was made a special order tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. The lecturers' institute took up the evening session, under direction of State Lecturer, J. J. Johnson. E. T. Allen, in his lecture on conservation, appealed to the Grange to support a recommendation proposing taxation on timber land alone to provide a fund for patrol and fire preventive work. The proposed bill to be introduced in the Legislature will ask for a state forester and appropriation.

U'Ren Gives Advice.
W. S. U'Ren addressed the Grange and asked the order to confine its efforts on initiative to purely Grange matters and not interfere with measures presented by others. He further advised the Grange to keep aloof from matters opposed by other bodies.

F. W. Mulkey, ex-United States Senator, addressed the Grange relative to constitutional tax amendments submitted by the last Legislature to be voted upon next election. These amendments are largely the work of the legislative committee of the State Grange, but because of a decision of the State Supreme Court it has become necessary to add another clause, which Senator Mulkey has prepared. The Federation of Labor has also prepared a clause which the Senator says provides for local option in taxation, and this he opposes, but favors the completed Grange measure. He spoke in favor of corporate and inheritance taxation and favored elasticity in general tax laws.

The Labor Federation wants single tax on land, and its measures do not harmonize with the Grange ideas, yet the Federation wants Grange assistance to carry their point. The Senator told the Grange not to go too far in cooperating with the Federation of Labor in this matter.

One Normal School Favored.
The initiative bill, favoring a normal school at Monmouth, with an appropriation of \$35,000, was recommended, but the Grange is not in favor of more than one normal school in the state. A resolution which will come up tomorrow would refuse membership in the Grange to politicians and professional men from the cities in the future, and debar those from holding any office who may now be members of the order. It will provoke a discussion, because some do not believe the lines should be too closely drawn, although the state master virtually recommended such action in his annual message.

The Grange will approve a resolution from Hood River County, demanding that the State Legislature shall not amend, modify or repeal any law or measure passed by the initiative, any action on such laws to remain the exclusive rights of the voters of the state. Idem county in a resolution opposes

MARION COUNTY MAN IS IN CHARGE OF STATE CORPORATION DEPARTMENT



Frank T. Wrightman, Who Succeeds G. A. Taylor.

SALEM, Or., May 11.—(Special.)—Frank T. Wrightman is the Marion County attorney who was recently placed in charge of the corporation department of the state government to succeed G. A. Taylor, who resigned to enter the real estate business in Portland. Mr. Wrightman is prominent in politics, having served for several years as Sheriff of Marion County and having been a strong candidate for the office of Secretary of State when F. W. Benson, the present incumbent, received the nomination.

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- SPECIAL AT \$2.95**—Couch Covers in Oriental designs and dark blue and dark red color combination. 60 inches wide and 3 yards long—regular \$4.00 values.

Owyhee, Boise's new modern and handsome hotel, was officially opened to the general public Monday night by Governor Brady, who after a short and complimentary address, threw the key of the big hostelry into the fire of a roaring furnace, showing that the doors of the hotel are open in the future. The opening ceremony was witnessed by hundreds of people. The key was presented to the chief executive by Miss Zella Dawson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pierce H. Dawson.

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Literature Sent on Request.

M. J. GEARY, Gen'l Agt. Pass. Dept.
Phones, A 2666, Main 334. 140 Third St., Portland, Or.

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He likes it, he says, not alone for its deliciousness and its refreshing qualities, but because it relieves fatigue of body and brain and is the best beverage for quenching thirst that he ever tried. Such an endorsement from such a ball player should recommend **Coca-Cola** to you, whether you be amateur or professional.
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