LAW PERNICIOUS, ASSESSOR FINDS

Experience With Initiative Proves "Sugar Coating" Is Better Than Merit.

BIG TAX BURDEN VOTED

No Official Would Have Dared to Impose Upon City, Says Sigler, as Voters Have Done With Heavy Bonded Debt.

ASSESSOR SAYS EXPERIENCE PROVES INITIATIVE LAW TO BE FARCE.

Assessor Sigler, of Multnomah, says experience proves Oregon's initiative law is vicious and pernicious.

President Kerr, of Oregon Agricultural College, tells Association of County Courts what colleges are doing for farm science.

County Judge Cleeton favors revision of all Oregon probate laws by special commission.

From the storehouse of human experience came another bit of evidence yesterday afternoon that the initiative and referendum law of Oregon is dangerous, when B. D. Sigler, Assessor for Multnomah County, delivered his address upon "Taxation" before the Oregon State Association of County Courts in the convention hall of the Commercial Club. He called attention to the fact that within three years the initiative and referendum had saddled upon the shoulders of the taxpayers of Portland the enormous bonded indebtedness of $7,690,000.

"I wish to say, and I only judge it from my experience as an Assessor," said Mr. Sigler, "that, to my way of thinking, there has been no more vicious, or pernicious, law ever put on any statute than the initiative law as it is being used in the great State of Oregon.

Tax Restrictions Gone.

"I was in favor of the two constitutional amendments recommended by our late Tax Commission and indorsed by the State Grange Association, which were referred to the people at the last election," said Mr. Sigler. "But, 'alas and alack,' these amendments did not have the hook baited to some proposition which would indicate to the voter that he was going to escape paying something. As a consequence they, as you know, were defeated and an amendment which was 'sugar-coated' with the abolishment of the poll tax (which was already done away with) was passed.

"We have thereby taken away all constitutional restrictions as regards assessment and the voters of any county can make their own tax laws, assessing and taxing what seems good to them, and exempting that which is to their material advantage. Of course, there may be some good come out of this Nazareth of ours, but I am much like the Scotchman who said, 'I hae ma doots.' We should have adopted the amendments first mentioned, which were put up to us on the referendum, and should have voted down the initiative measure.

Burden Placed on People.

"After helping to saddle on the city, county or state the burdens which must be borne by the assessable property in the special district affected, many of those same taxpayers who voted for the measure are surprised and indignant when they find the amount of their taxes has increased over the amount they paid one, two or three years ago. As an example, do you suppose that any set of officials have dared, no matter what the excuse, to place a bonded debt burden on the City of Portland of $7,690,000 in three years? I say to you, no. And if they had I am inclined to think that they would have been in the same condition as Gill, of Seattle; the recall would have been invoked.

"The attempted assessment of money and credits is a farce. Mortgage notes, municipal and county bonds or warrants should be exempted. In fact, I do not believe it a good law to assess either money or credits. I have always doubted the wisdom of assessing personal property, but I am a firm believer in the income tax and hope and believe that it will be passed by the Nation, and if it is a good National law it is good enough for any state."

President Kerr, of the Oregon State Agricultural College, spoke on the relation of the agricultural college to the country. President Kerr reviewed the history and the development of the agricultural colleges of the country, and told how they started 48 years ago and had made wonderful growth. He said that there were 66 land grant colleges in the United States devoted to the science of agriculture. The endowment fund now amounts to $119,000,000 and the annual income or expense is $16,000,000. More than 75,000 students are in attendance and the number of instructors is 6000 or 7000. He said with satisfaction that the Oregon College now had an attendance of 1500, and that there were only three or four larger in the United States in enrollment of students. He spoke for a closer relation of the college with the county and felt that the nearer the college got to the farmer the better the institution would grow.

What helped the farmer helped the college, he said. It was simply a work where both must march hand in hand in the ultimate progress of the United States.

Probate Laws Need Revision.

Favoring a complete revision of the Oregon probate laws, County Judge Cleeton delivered an address upon "Probate Work and the Laws Pertaining Thereto." He contended with modern transportation methods 40 days is sufficient instead of six months as now, for the advertisement for claims against estates. Lawyers file semi-annual accounts and then in 30 or 40 days file final account, thus getting additional fees, he said. There should be no administrators' fees on real property for that is fixed in its transfer by law or by the terms of the will. All attorneys' fees should be for service and not the amount involved. There were many features of the present law which work a hardship to the heirs, the speaker said, and his conclusion was that the Legislature should appoint at once a commission of men experienced in probate law to prepare such a codification of such laws as would be satisfactory and meet modern requirements, keeping in view the safeguarding of the interests of the heirs.

A motion was made to reconsider the resolution of approval of the good roads laws, now before the Legislature and fathered by Judge Webster, but the motion was defeated and another motion appointing each member a committee of one to do what he could for the passage of the bills passed.

Beard Goes Back to Prison.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 17. — (Special.)— Harry Beard, who was paroled from the State Penitentiary on May 28, 1909, has been returned to that institution for violating his parole. Beard was released from the penitentiary on good behavior, but a short time ago he was arrested in Oregon City for forgery. It is said that he passed several checks in Albany on his brother's name and tried to cash one in Oregon City but he was arrested. He was committed to the penitentiary for larceny by bailee and was to serve a term of from one to seven years.

NOLTA RENEWS CAMPAIGN

Agitation for Interstate Bridge Over Columbia Revived.

That an interstate bridge across the Columbia River, connecting Oregon with Washington, at Vancouver, should be built as part of the programme for a highway for automobiles and others up and down the coast to Los Angeles,

G. W. Wonacott, of Roseburg, New President of Oregon State Association of County Courts.

is again being urged by J. H. Nolta, who agitated the erection of this bridge two years ago. At that time Mr. Nolta secured favorable action on the part of the Vancouver Commercial Club, and had a bill before the Oregon Legislature for an appropriation for preliminary surveys and plans. Mr. Nolta then had assurances that Washington would pay its part of the expenses if Oregon would do the same, but the bill was defeated.

"There is greater demand for this bridge now than there was two years ago, when we were asking the Oregon Legislature to give us an appropriation to make surveys," said Mr. Nolta yesterday. "We have a hundred automobiles in Portland and the surrounding country where there was one here then. I can't see how a highway running from Seattle through Oregon down to Los Angeles could be built and leave out this bridge across the Columbia.

"The more I think about this bridge the more its necessity appeals to me. Oregon and Washington can build it and not feel the expense. It will cost, according to engineers with whom I have talked, about $2,000,000."

LUMBERMEN TO NAME FIVE

Oregon and Washington Association Will Pick Directors Friday.

Five directors will be elected at the annual meeting of the Oregon & Washington Lumber Manufacturers' Association next Friday and Saturday. The directors will elect a president and secretary and the meeting will be closed by a banquet at the Commercial Club Saturday night.

The association has 12 directors. Those retiring are F. C. Knapp, C. W. Thompson, J. H. Chambers, C. K. Spaulding and J. P. Miller. The nominating committee has submitted the following names from which the five directors to be elected will be chosen: S. B. Cobb, F. C. Young, F. S. Belcher, C. K. Spaulding, C. W. Thompson, F. C. Knapp, E. B. Hazen, W. D. Plue, F. Russell and R. B. Dwyer. The old board of directors will meet Friday afternoon.

Several have been suggested for the presidency. L. J. Wentworth, who was elected for a second term a year ago after he had asked to be relieved, desiring to retire. W. B. Mackay and F. C. Knapp are among those mentioned. Edward Ostrander, who acted as secretary last year, will be elected secretary.

PRIDE LEADS TO THEFT

Young Man Steals Rather Than Send Home for Money.

Betrayed by marked coins "planted" by detectives for him to steal, Ed Lawton, bank clerk and son of a prominent Pittsburg family, confessed with tears, in Municipal Court yesterday morning, that for weeks he had carried on systematic peculation from the pockets of W. P. Armstrong, of the Portland Business College.

"I was out of work," said Lawton, "and needed money. I could have got it from my people, but was too proud to do so, and thought that I would soon get work. I kept careful account of the sums I took from Mr. Armstrong, and intended to pay them back with the first money I earned. I was never in trouble before."

Lawton was of clean and manly appearance, and won the sympathy of Judge Taswell, who imposed a sentence of 90 days' imprisonment, with a view to straightening Lawton out.

Lawton's attorney said that the prisoner had an uncle who is at the head of a bank in Pittsburg, where young Lawton formerly was employed. His father holds a prominent position with a large mining company in Montana.

FISH LICENSE IS VETOED

Mayor Disapproves Ordinance Said to Favor "Trust."

Explaining that the sale of fish by transient vendors would be prohibited if the measure as adopted by the Council were approved, Mayor Simon yesterday afternoon vetoed the ordinance fixing a license fee of $20 a day or $100 a month for such dealers.

The Mayor believes the ordinance would be unjust, not only to transient dealers, but also to the people who might buy from them at a moderate price. As soon as it was published in the newspapers that such an ordinance had been passed by the Council, charges were made by those opposed to the measure that it was designed to protect the "fish trust."

Edlefsen delivers at present sootless hard coal for $19. East 303, C 2303.

BERTH RATE LOWER

Reduction to Be in Effect After February 1.

NEW SCHEDULE GENERAL

"Uppers" Now to Cost 20 Per Cent Less Than "Lowers"—Cut in Prices Is Material and Extends Over Entire Country.

NEW PULLMAN CAR RATES OUT OF PORTLAND.

	Present	New rate.
Chicago	$14.00	$12.00
St. Paul	12.00	10.00
San Francisco (probable)	5.00	4.50
Seattle and Tacoma (probable)	2.00	1.50
Weed, Cal. (Klamath Falls junction)	3.00	2.75
Medford	2.50	2.00
Roseburg	2.00	1.75
Eugene (upper berth)	1.50	1.25

All upper berths 80 per cent of lowers.

Reduced sleeping-car rates with upper berths costing 20 per cent less than the "lowers" will go into effect February 1, according to an official order issued by the Pullman Company yesterday. This is in accordance with the intent expressed by the company at the hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission in Chicago a few weeks ago.

The new schedule of prices will be general in its scope, covering the entire country. It applies to all lines upon which the Pullman Company operates, but it is expected that the three great railway systems—the Great Northern, the Milwaukee, and the Canadian Pacific—that operate their own sleeping-cars, will meet the prices.

While the order makes the price for upper berths 80 per cent that of the "lowers," it is stipulated that the minimum charge shall be $1.25 and $1, for standard and tourist car berths, respectively. The price for seats in parlor cars will remain virtually the same.

The new fares will apply on all tickets sold for use after midnight of January 31, and Pullman conductors are instructed to issue certificates entitling passengers to refunds of the difference between the old and the new rates on all tickets purchased at the present rate.

The fares between Portland and Chicago and between Portland and St. Paul have been cut materially. As travel to and from those two points is quite heavy this item alone will result in a considerable saving to Portland people.

While no announcement has been received with reference to the new fare between Portland and San Francisco, it is predicted that it will be cut from $5 to $4.50 for lower berths, which will place the price of "uppers" at $3.60. Proportionate reductions are made to points between Portland and San Francisco.

The price to Puget Sound points—Seattle and Tacoma—always has been $2. It is expected that the new schedule will provide for a fare of $1.50.

Heretofore the rate in standard sleeping-cars never has been split to quarter-dollars. Tickets have been sold at figures ending in "00" or "50." The new rate will give rates of "25" and "75" as well. The 80 per cent rule will place the price for "uppers" at any odd amount ending in "5" or "0."

LIQUOR LAW IS SIGNED

BEST, ON WHOLE, THAT CITY HAS HAD, SAYS MAYOR.

Some Things Might Be Improved, Mayor Thinks—Severe Penalties Are Feature.

Believing that the new "model liquor ordinance" was an improvement over the previous liquor laws of the city, Mayor Simon yesterday afternoon signed it, and it will become effective April 1.

"There are some things about the ordinance which I think could be improved, but I think, taking it as a whole," said the Mayor, after signing the ordinance, "that it is an improvement over the laws now in force."

Efforts have been made at various times during the last few years to have all the liquor laws combined into a new ordinance, but each effort, until last Wednesday, met with defeat, owing to wide diversity of opinion among the Councilmen.

The new law will not permit the number of saloon licenses to be increased until there is not more than one for every 1000 inhabitants. There are now 419 saloon licenses. A careful estimate of the revenues to be obtained under the new law shows that the city can expect to realize about $10,000 more a year under its provisions than under the former laws.

Another feature of the new law is the severity of its penalties. Under the laws now in force, a saloon man violating the liquor laws would be fined not to exceed $500, as the court might determine, but the new law provides that three convictions of violation will forfeit a license automatically. It also makes the fine a definite amount in the first conviction, being exactly $250, and for each subsequent conviction an increased amount.

VEHICLE TAX PROPOSED

Council Will Endeavor to Comply With Supreme Court's Views.

For the first time in years, Portland has no ordinance preventing vehicles from serving the public of Portland without being required to carry licenses. This condition results from the recent action of the State Supreme Court in declaring void the last ordinance for taxing vehicles, but a new ordinance which will conform with the law as interpreted by the Supreme Court is being considered by the Council and probably will be passed at its next meeting.

The taxation of vehicles forms an important source of revenue for the city, but for the last three years a determined fight has been made against the method.

The Council in 1907 passed a law taxing vehicles, but its opponents spoiled its effectiveness by starting proceedings to have it annulled by a referendum vote. Then the Council passed another under the emergency clause, which prevented a referendum vote, and an injunction was obtained. But the Council kept passing ordinances to avoid the complaints made. The last ordinance was passed early last year, but a new fight was started against it, resulting in an adverse decision by the Supreme Court.

The flaw in the last ordinance, according to the decision of the Supreme Court, was that it did not include all vehicles which use the public streets, and thus the new ordinance will be drawn so as not to omit any kind of vehicle.

SURE DEATH HIS DESIRE

Suicide Asks That Chloroform Be Given if Bullet Fails.

Two cases of suicide, in both of which a revolver was used, were reported to the Coroner yesterday morning, having been committed during the night. John Christianson, a janitor, killed himself by sitting in front of a mirror and shooting off the top of his head, at 110 North Sixth street, and a man whose identity was not known in the neighborhood was found with a bullet in his head and his right hand gripping a revolver, in the yard of the Pacific Hardware & Steel Company, at the foot of North Twenty-second street.

The body of Christianson was found yesterday morning by Victor Johnson, a clerk for the Ausplund Drug Company, 110 North Sixth street, in his room at that address. He left a note asking that chloroform be given him if the bullet failed to act fatally. The note further said:

"I wish to give $10,000 to the party that within a year from date can make the Chief of Police compel houses of ill-fame, named lodging-houses, bear a proper sign."

FORESTRY BILL INDORSED

Chamber of Commerce Favors Provision for Protection.

Because only $250 a year is expended by the state to protect the forests from fire, when the sum should be thousands of dollars, the trustees of the Portland Chamber of Commerce yesterday gave unqualified indorsement of the forest fire measure presented to the Legislature by the Oregon State Conservation Commission.

F. C. Knapp said that Oregon was the only state in the Union which permitted its forests to stand in such danger from fire. The resolution urges the representatives in the Legislature to provide for a well-equipped state forestry office, with a liberal appropriation for forest fire prevention so that "Oregon may compare favorably with other states that have progressive forest policies."

MILKMAN FINED HEAVILY

Adulterator Says He Cannot Make Money With $125 Penalty.

"This man is a thief at heart and ought to go to jail," said Deputy City Attorney Sullivan in Municipal Court yesterday morning when Adolph Stribel, a dairyman, admitted that he had "doctored" his product with water and coloring matter. Asked to plead to the charge, Stribel said, "Yes; I put in a little water and a little coloring, but they all do the same." He affected to think that his offense was venial, but City Chemist Smith declared that the "little" adulterated amounted to 30 per cent of the whole.

For weakening the milk, Stribel was fined $75 and for coloring it, $50. "That is too much," he said. "Other men have been fined $10 to $25. I cannot make any money at that rate."

Chemist Smith declares that the penalties inflicted in these cases are too low. "Most of these offenders are Swiss," he said, "and in their country they are fined $250 for the first offense. Coming over here and finding the fines so low, they think that it is an easy matter to come into court once in a while and confess judgment. Until they are more severely dealt with the quality of the milk supply will continue poor."

Schools to Be Inspected.

On request of the Board of School Directors, Fire Chief Campbell and Deputy Fire Marshal Roberts will make an inspection of all the city's public school buildings to ascertain if the pupils are properly protected against fire. The stairways, exits and basements where the furnaces are located will be examined and recommendations made for any needed improvements.

Edlefsen's coal satisfies. C 2303, E. 303.

When The Stomach Stops

Working Properly, Because There Is Wind in it, Use Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets to Set It Going Again.

A Trial Package Free.

The doctors call it flatulency, but unprofessional folks know it as "wind on the stomach," and a most distressing state of things it is. It is a serious condition of this great motor organ. Always annoying and painful in the extreme, at times often leading to bad and fatal results. The stomach embarrassed and hampered with wind, cannot take care of its food properly and indigestion follows, and this has a train too appalling to enumerate. The entire system is implicated—made an active or passive factor in this trouble and life soon becomes a questionable boon.

All this is explained in doctor books: how undigested food causes gases by fermentation and fomentation in which process some essential fluids are destroyed—burnt up—wasted by chemical action, followed by defective nutrition and the distribution through the alimentary tract of chemically wrong elements and as a consequence the stomach and entire system is starved. Plenty of food, you see, but spoilt in preparation and worse than worthless.

A deranged stomach is the epitome of evil; nothing too bad to emanate from it, but the gas it generates is probably its worst primary effect and the only way to do away with this is to remove the cause. Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets go to the root of this trouble. They attack the gas-making foods and render them harmless. Flatulency or wind on the stomach simply cannot exist where these powerful and wonderworking little tablets are in evidence.

They were made for this very purpose to attack gas making foods and convert them into proper nutriment. This is their province and office. A whole book could be written about them and then not all told that might be told with profit to sufferers from this painful disease, dyspepsia. It would mention the years of patient and expensive experiment in effort to arrive at this result—of failures innumerable and at last success. It would make mention of the different stomach correctives that enter into this tablet and make it faithfully represent all.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are not alone intended for the sick, but well folks as well; for the person who craves hearty foods and wants to eat heartily and run no risk of bad effects, they act like a charm and make eating and digestion a delight and pleasure. They keep the stomach active and energetic and able and willing to do extra work without special labor or effort. Don't forget this. Well people are often neglected, but the Stuart Dyspepsia Tablets have them in mind.

A free trial package will be sent any one who wants to know just what they are, how they look and taste, before beginning treatment with them. After this go to the drug store for them; everywhere, here or at home, they are 50 cents a box and by getting them at home you will save time and postage. Your doctor will prescribe them; they say there are 40,000 doctors using them, but when you know what is the matter with yourself, why go to the expense of a prescription? For free trial package address F. A. Stuart Co., 150 Stuart Building, Marshall, Michigan.

THE WILEY B. ALLEN CO. CREATES

SENSATION IN PIANO CIRCLES

The First Week of the Wiley B. Allen Co.'s Fire Insurance Adjustment Sale Will Go Down in History as the Greatest Money-Saving Piano Event Ever Heralded in the West

Prospective profits disappear before the very eyes of piano dealers and the loss of these profits causes the dealers who are "skating on thin ice" financially to make a mighty effort to do something—anything to stop this wholesale slaughter of high-grade pianos and player pianos.

But when the facts are learned it will be seen it is not through any intention to injure the musical trade or the high standing of the pianos offered that The Wiley B. Allen Co. makes such unprecedented reductions.

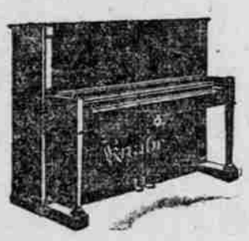
It is simply because the amount of these reductions has already been paid to us by the insurance companies for good reasons not hurtful to the pianos, which will be explained when you call.

Some instruments received only slight injury to the varnish work on the outside of the cases, while others were jammed when being moved to places of safety during the great fire in our building.

There is no loss without some gain—this time it is the insurance company's loss, and a double gain for the public, as it affords a chance to deal with a conservative business firm whose guarantee is a bond of absolute protection, and to buy world-famous pianos and player pianos at a price so low that it almost makes one doubt the quality of the instruments.

Nothing can be done to stop this slaughter, and the sale of

MASON & HAMLIN	KNABE	HOBART M. CABLE
HARDMAN	HARRINGTON	FISCHER
KRAKAUER	WEBER	EMERSON
MILTON	CHICKERING	PRICE & TEEPLE



and many other well-known makes must continue just as long as there are any slightly damaged instruments left in our warerooms.

There is absolutely no excuse for any one not owning a piano or player piano when such exquisite instruments can be purchased at such reduced prices and on such easy terms.

Store Open Evenings During This Sale

304 Oak Street

The Wiley B. Allen Co. PLAYER PIANOS

Bet. 5th and 6th Sts.

Crescent

Egg-Phosphate

Baking Powder

At All Grocers 25c lb.

Raises the Dough