

TAX BULGE TO BE INVESTIGATED

League Issues Circular Giving Bare Figures in Round Numbers.

COMMENT IS RESERVED

Advice to Voters Will Be Contained in Pamphlet to Be Printed Before Large Bond Issues Go Before the People.

With an increase in the assessed valuation of the City of Portland of \$144,000,000 in 1910 to \$192,500,000 in 1911 and the amount of taxes collected in 1906 of \$2,000,000 and in 1911 of \$6,300,000, the Taxpayers' League in a circular asserted that it was imperative that steps should be taken to advise the voters as to all pending measures so they could act advisedly thereon. The circular is signed by F. W. Murray, president, and L. J. Goldsmith, secretary.

It is pointed out that the taxation for city and school purposes has increased very rapidly. In 1906 the city required for its government only \$626,000 and the schools \$216,000, but in 1911 the city required \$1,450,000 and the schools \$1,750,000. This remarkable increase is to be given careful attention by the league and in a few days an address will be made to the voters of the city upon the various measures which have been submitted to the voters for consideration. The circular issued yesterday was as follows:

Result of Mass Meeting.

"In view of the fact that at the coming city election to be held on June 5, 1911, a large number of measures involving the creation of additional bonded indebtedness, increased taxation, as well as matters of public policy of importance, will be submitted to the voters for action, a meeting of the Taxpayers' League was called, in accordance with its usual custom, to consider what action it would take thereon.

"After hearing the reports it was the unanimous conclusion of the league that it was imperative that steps should be taken to advise the voters as to all pending measures, so they could act advisedly thereon.

"It was also suggested that a brief statement of the situation as outlined at the meeting be printed and sent to each member of the league, and that in connection with taxation it should always be borne in mind that generally speaking the burden is not relatively so onerous on the large taxpayer as on the small taxpayer. To the former it may mean less net revenue, but no hardship; to the latter it may, and generally does, mean an actual deprivation of his property or pleasure or his family might have otherwise had or enjoyed.

"It should also be borne in mind that in a rapidly growing city such as Portland additional revenue is needed and expenditures increase very rapidly, hence it is important they should all be closely examined. In this circular we do not comment on the figures or measures set out, but will in our address and advice to voters, to be issued later. The figures, however, are sufficiently significant to cause every citizen to give heed and thought to them. Figures are in round numbers:

Year	Assessed Value	Levy	Total
1906	\$144,000,000	14.5	\$20,980,000
1911	\$192,500,000	22.9	\$44,082,500

Taxation for city and school purposes

Year	Assessed Value	Levy	Total
1906	\$144,000,000	14.5	\$20,980,000
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Amount raised by special tax for taxation for city, school and bonded indebtedness

Year	Assessed Value	Levy	Total
1906	\$144,000,000	14.5	\$20,980,000
1911	\$192,500,000	22.9	\$44,082,500

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS.

City of Portland—
 Outstanding and unpaid \$3,716,500
 Authorized and unpaid \$1,100,000
 Port of Portland—
 Outstanding and unpaid \$200,000
 Authorized and unpaid \$100,000
 School District No. 1—
 Outstanding and unpaid \$150,000
 Authorized and unpaid \$100,000
 Grand total—
 Outstanding and unpaid \$4,166,500
 Authorized and unpaid \$1,300,000
 Total \$5,466,500

Of these bonds, \$5,120,000 are water bonds, the interest on which is largely paid by water rates. The remaining revenue derived from charges for the use of some of the bridges, the drydock and for towing. However, cost of maintenance, depreciation, etc., as well as interest not paid by direct revenue from the use of these utilities, has to be provided for by direct taxation.

Of the bonds issued about \$235,000 are in sinking funds and for other purposes.

"No account is taken of improvement bonds, of which there are outstanding over \$6,000,000. The following measures will be submitted to the voters:

- #### ORDINANCES.
1. Respecting improvement of streets and providing for the construction and operation of a municipal paving plant, and a bond issue of \$1,000,000.
 2. For constructing a high bridge across the Willamette River from Woodward Avenue to Monday Street, bond issue \$1,000,000.
 3. For municipal garbage system, and authorizing the sale of \$75,000 in bonds to purchase the plant.
 4. For purchase of Council Crest, and a bond issue of \$250,000 therefor.
 5. For constructing an auditorium, and to provide for the issue of bonds to the amount of \$600,000.
 6. For building a municipal jail, court, headquarters for police department and emergency hospital, and authorizing the issue of \$200,000 in bonds.
 7. To create a pension and relief fund, and to provide for the payment of the same to certain other persons to be made by the beneficiaries.
 8. To provide for the payment of \$100,000 on each dollar, it provides that when the fund reaches \$200,000 no levy shall be made, but when it goes below that amount the levy shall again be made.
 9. To provide for the pension and relief fund. This is on the same basis as the former relief fund.
 10. To establish street cleaning employee's pension and relief fund, and providing for the same.
 11. To authorize the issue of a levy and collect a tax not exceeding one mill on the dollar, to provide for the maintenance of the street cleaning and sprinkling department.
 12. Fixing the compensation of the city attorney at \$5000 a year, the number and compensation of deputies to be fixed by the Council.
 13. Fixing the salary of the city engineer. The salary shall be determined by the Council, and shall not be less than \$3000 per annum.
 14. To create a public service commission. This commission to have charge and control of all the public service corporations doing business within the City of Portland. The ordinance provides for a license of 5 per cent upon the gross receipts of electric and gas companies. This commission consists of three members. Each commissioner receives a salary of \$5000 a year. They have power to name a secretary and fix his compensation, and to employ such other clerks, inspectors, experts, attorneys and other assistants as they may deem necessary. The Council is required to include in the annual tax levy, whenever the general

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Federal Land Grant in Oregon Imperiled and Southern Pacific Hard Hit.

INTENT OF LAW CONTESTED

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(Continued From First Page.)

FENTON SAYS LAND POOR

Southern Pacific Attorney Discusses Decision.

Timbered Portion Only Is Worth Fighting for, He Says in Discussing Question.

Two-thirds of the 2,300,000 acres involved in the government's suit to cancel patent are rocky and not fit for cultivation, and the other third is timber land, according to W. D. Fenton, counsel for the Southern Pacific Company. Mr. Fenton said last night that about 10,000 persons from Maine to California claim they have a right to become actual settlers on this land, and to acquire title upon payment of \$2.50 an acre.

"The idea is broadcast," he continued, "that the land is valuable for homes and that the railroad company is obstructing the development of the state. As a matter of fact the largest part of the land is not valuable for homes. Two-thirds of it could not be sold for \$2.50 an acre, because there is nothing on it except rocks and chapparal.

"In Jackson County alone, of the 5000 acres probably a third is not fit for settlement.

"For the first 20 years after the land was granted to the railroad company it was offered to the public at less than \$2 an acre. It did not sell. Then the price was raised to \$2.50 an acre. Nobody wanted it. Those who did buy were timber speculators and they don't want anything but a few acres to put their sawmills on. The rest of it is valuable for the timber.

"The only question there is for adjudication is whether or not the railroad company is entitled to the land grant as a condition subsequent or a covenant. We have eliminated the so-called settlers, and we have a good deal of rubbish for the case.

"We have taken 90 days in which to file our answer to the government's suit. The government has asked us whether to go to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals on the demurrer to the complaint or to answer. If we file an answer we will take testimony in the case before an examiner and the transcript will go to the higher court. We have no testimony which would change the position of the government. Of course we are disappointed because of the decision. But there are 12 men who are yet to pass upon the law question. They will take testimony in the appellate court and the nine justices of the Supreme Court.

Arthur I. Moulton, associated with A. J. Lorton as counsel for the cross-complainants, said last night: "We intend to keep our record clear in the case and to appeal it. We will delay our appeal, however, until the whole case goes to the higher court. We feel that the decision is really a victory for our side, for if the Government ever acquires legal title to the land again, the rights of actual settlers, who are sure, will be protected, if not by the courts, by Congress itself. The 45 actual settlers we represent ought not to be abandoned. We do not think they will be. We do not represent any of those who have filed their intention to settle, but who have not done so. Our suit is against the railroad company, and we feel that our action was one of the causes leading the Government to cancel the patent of the railroad company for non-compliance with the provisions of the law granting the land."

MIL TOWNSEND IS JUBILANT

Attorney-General's Assistant Contradicts Fenton's Statement.

When shown W. D. Fenton's statement last night that a large percentage of the railroad company's land is unfit for settlement, R. D. Townsend, representative of the Attorney-General, said: "The even-numbered sections of land between Portland and the Oregon-California line, which were disposed of to homesteaders by the Government, are supporting settlers, and there is no reason why the odd-numbered sections should not also support settlers.

"It is ridiculous to assert that half the land in Western Oregon is unfit for human habitation. It has been a well-known fact that for many years the policy of the railroad company has retarded the development of the industrial and commercial resources of both the even and odd-numbered sections contributory to the line of the railroad.

"In any event the question involved in this case is a legal one and not an industrial one. If these lands are not susceptible to settlement, that was no reason why the railroad company should assume unto itself the right to violate the law simply because it was profitable to do so.

"Judge Wolverton's decision is sweeping in its character and apparently will be conclusive of the right of the Government to enforce forfeiture of the un-sold lands of the grant. As to the statement that the lands involved are not susceptible to settlement, those best acquainted with the lands assert that some of the best homes upon the Pacific Coast have been denied to American citizens by the policy which has been enforced by the railroad company for the past seven or eight years.

"It is all very well to say that for 20 years the railroad company offered these lands to settlers. But the fact remains that for more than eight years they have denied them to settlers.

"The litigation in this case will take its usual course and proceed to a full enforcement of all the rights of the Government.

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WOMEN of the CAESARS

The great Italian historian, Ferrero, who has made ancient Rome live again in his books, begins in this May Century a wonderfully illuminating series of six articles on Roman women. Did you know that they enjoyed the greatest social and legal liberty of all women of the ancient world? They could even retain their own property on marriage if they wished to do so, and they had a conventus matronarum—which was Latin for "woman's club!"

"Women and Marriage in Ancient Rome" is the title of this opening article in the May number.

"THE CLANDON LETTERS," something more than an unusually good novelette by Baroness von Hutten (author of Pam), and "The A B C of the Tariff Question" by Andrew Carnegie, are among other good features of a wonderfully good May number.

Two Other Suits Pending.

It will be seen that Judge Wolverton's decision is against both the 65 cross-complainants and the 500 or more intervenors.

B. D. Townsend, who has worked upon the big case for the Government for several years and who instituted the suit, was much pleased with the decision. He pronounced it a masterpiece, saying the judge had gone exhaustively into all points urged by both parties to the controversy. He is confident it will be sustained by both the Appellate Court and the Supreme Court.

Other suits are pending, one by the Government against 45 purchasers of parts of the big grant. They hold about 400,000 acres, and purchased more than 1000 acres each. These suits were much pleased with the decision. He pronounced it a masterpiece, saying the judge had gone exhaustively into all points urged by both parties to the controversy. He is confident it will be sustained by both the Appellate Court and the Supreme Court.

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SECOND DAILY TO APPEAR

Eugene Lorton to Publish Newspaper at Vancouver Soon.

YANCOUVER, Wash., April 24.—(Special).—This city is to have a second daily newspaper, the first issue to appear Monday afternoon, May 8. Eugene Lorton, formerly publisher of the Evening Bulletin, at Walla Walla, and more recently member of the State Board of Control under the late Governor Congrove, will be editor and publisher.

Mr. Lorton, who has been in Vancouver for several days conferring with political leaders and business men, announced tonight that he had made all preliminary arrangements. Two typesets have been ordered and a telegraph service secured.

The new evening paper will be known as the Vancouver Spokesman, and will have a Sunday morning issue.

Oyster-Spawm Season Is On.

SOUTH BEND, Wash., April 24.—(Special).—The open season for taking

young-growth oysters from the state reserve beds is now on in this bay and the vicinity of those reserves presents a sight well worth seeing. There is a great fleet of bateaux, scows and houseboats anchored at the state beds and another fleet of launches and sloops busily engaged in toying the scows and bateaux from the reserves to the private beds, where they are emptied. The oyster business is growing so rapidly that oystermen predict that there will not be nearly enough young growth this year to satisfy the demand.

Don't Grow Old Too Fast

"A man is as old as his arteries." Old age is merely a hardening of the arteries—and hardening of the arteries comes from excessive eating of high-protein food such as meat and eggs. Cut down the high-protein diet for awhile and eat Shredded Wheat. It supplies all the body-building material in the whole wheat prepared in a digestible form. Of course

SHREDDED WHEAT BISCUIT

will not "cure" appendicitis—nor will any other cereal food. The excessive eating of indigestible foods, however, gradually brings on stomach and bowel disorders—and these can be prevented by a daily diet of thoroughly cooked cereals. Shredded Wheat is best for this purpose because it is steam-cooked, shredded and twice baked, retaining the bran coat, which is so valuable in keeping the bowels healthy and active.

Heat the Biscuit in the oven to restore crispness and serve with hot or cold milk and a little cream, adding salt or sugar to suit the taste. It also makes delicious combinations with stewed or preserved fruits. Two Shredded Wheat biscuits with stewed fruit makes a wholesome nourishing meal.

The Only Cereal Breakfast Food Made in Biscuit Form

Made only by The Shredded Wheat Company Niagara Falls, N. Y.

