

The Oregonian

Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-Class Matter, Postoffice No. 107. Published daily, except on Sundays and public holidays. Subscription rates: In Advance, \$1.00 per year; Single Copies, 5 Cents.

Portland, Friday, Sept. 20, 1911.

THE VANCOUVER SINGLE-TAX BUBBLE

At the meeting of the Portland Realty Board the other day Mr. F. W. Mulkey pertinently called attention to the fact that the "single tax" in Vancouver, B. C., which we hear so much about, is unlike the "single tax" proposed by Mr. U'ren for Clatsop county.

Why does not the Fels bureau propose Vancouver's scheme of taxation, if it is such a good thing? The way is open. We can now have any kind of tax system we want simply by voting.

Vancouver's prosperity may as well be ascribed to the concentration of the sources of state and local revenues as to single tax and can be honestly ascribed to neither one nor the other.

Vancouver is the Western terminus of a vast railway system. It is at the foot of a water-level grade. It has the great harbor of the natural Western metropolis of a wealthy nation.

It has as tributary country a region of enormous resources now being developed. These are the things that are making Vancouver, and single tax has not become Vancouver.

Single tax contemplates the taxing of no other thing but land. In Vancouver improvements on land, if income-producing, pay a tax direct to the province. Personal property pays a tax to the province. Every bank, every insurance company, every general enterprise, every telegraph company, every telephone company and express company, every gas company, water works company, electric lighting company, electric power company and street railway company pays a gross tax to the province.

There is in effect in Vancouver the hated poll tax which Mr. U'ren found necessary to repeal the third time in order to "save the way for single tax."

In short, British Columbia has what the voters of Oregon turned down in the last election in the grand referendum—state and local revenues of state and local revenues. Vancouver excludes from local taxation improvements on land and personal property, but the province goes over Vancouver's head and taxes both, the one through an income tax and the other direct.

Oregon does not impose an income tax. Through licensing, it taxes corporations, but in an amount nominal compared with British Columbia's corporation tax. Oregon imposes an earnings tax on express companies, a single tax on refrigerator, car and oil companies. The state has a direct tax on inheritances and so forth.

The U'ren measure would put the burden of state and local taxation largely upon land. Vancouver puts only the burden of local taxation largely on land. This is the chief distinction.

The U'ren bill is not true single tax. It proposes inheritance tax and corporation license tax and provides for franchise taxation. True single tax contemplates none of these.

CONSERVE THE PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. Wiley's argument to the Conservation Congress in favor of a National Department of Health is strong and will command the more attention as coming from a man who has fought as valiantly for the public health. Of what use is it to preserve our natural resources if we neglect that for which they are preserved—to sustain the life and health of the Nation? Of what use to preserve the fertility of the soil, if we allow the products to be made into poisonous compounds for human consumption? Of what use to conserve our forests, if we allow their products to be used in erecting buildings which harbor the germs of disease? We should not stop with the conservation of our natural resources, but should see to it that, when used, they should not be so that they breed and spread disease.

There are several activities of the Government which could well be combined in a Department of Health. Its functions would be the Public Health Marine Hospital Service. To this should be added those bureaus which directly deal with the public health, such as Chemistry and Meat Inspection Bureau of the Agricultural Department.

Parliament. The latter department should limit its activity to production from the soil, while the Health Department could deal with the proper use of products with relation to health. Just as the Agricultural Department carries on valuable research work in the discovery of new plants adapted to the soil and climates, the Health Department could carry on research as to the causes of and cure for disease, and as to the nutritive power and effect of various food products on the human frame. The former work has been carried on with valuable results by the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research, the latter to some extent by Dr. Wiley in the Chemistry Bureau.

The good already accomplished by the Public Health Service is an earnest of what might be done with enlarged powers and resources. The last yellow fever epidemic in the South was averted, not by the state of Louisiana voluntarily surrendering its power in this particular to the Government. It exterminated bubonic plague in San Francisco when local agencies had failed. Let the work done through sick-nurses be extended and the sick-nurses be more fully reduced as to return manifold the sum expended.

STRANGE BUSINESS

The following statement appears prominently in one of the procured organs of Bourne publicity: "Taft's renomination is not only uncertain, it is a queer business. Why the curious pretense that the La Follette campaign has the slightest sincerity or good faith? Why the propaganda for La Follette by interests that have always hated and opposed the Republican party and always will?"

Of course all intelligent observers know that the Taft renomination is assured. Why the impudent assumption that it is not? Why the curious pretense that the La Follette campaign has the slightest sincerity or good faith? Why the propaganda for La Follette by interests that have always hated and opposed the Republican party and always will?

PRISON POLICY VINDICATED

The Oregonian finds this illuminating item stowed modestly away among the various notices of the features of the Daily Statesman. West yesterday was Jovius over the success of the penitentiary authorities in catching all the men all in time, said the Governor, and it won't be long before the same success will be achieved in the prison. If you will notice, at the time something serious at the prison, I don't know whether my presence or not, but every escape that has been made, I am glad the man who ran away the last time was located, and my policy is not injured under such circumstances."

Runaway convicts. What runaway convicts? Do convicts run? Honor convicts? Parole convicts? Convicts who have given their word to our confiding Governor that they would never, no, never, violate their parole, their sacred word of honor, the solemn trust reposed in them when he released them from prison and turned them out to live on their parole? Convicts who have given their word to our confiding Governor that they would never, no, never, violate their parole, their sacred word of honor, the solemn trust reposed in them when he released them from prison and turned them out to live on their parole?

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suffer many of the consequences of revision. That industry has been declared the citadel of high protection and if the citadel were taken, the smaller forts would soon follow. But the President is accused of departing from his own theory in making the reciprocity agreement with Canada. The facts in regard to Canada were already well known and needed no Tariff Board inquiry. Industrial conditions there and in the United States are substantially the same. Knowing this to be the case, the President offered Canada free trade. When Canada declined this offer, there was nothing to do but make the best bargain possible. The conviction that a low and his purpose in retaining any tariff was to retain something to bargain with.

It is purely an assumption that reciprocity was adopted to repair the blunders of the Payne-Aldrich bill. The agreement was made in accordance with opportunity since Mr. Taft has advocated free duty Canadian wood, pulp and paper, which is not taxed for export. This admits free duty Canadian wood, pulp and paper from Canada, but not from wood grown on crown land and is taxed by the provinces and therefore subject to duty in the United States. Pressure may now be expected in Canada to induce the provinces to remove the tax on the other, and to American investments are being made in Canadian wood land and the whole paper industry in that country is being stimulated. In the United States there will be pressure to repeal the section as a retaliation, but the section was adopted in our own interest and its repeal would injure us by hastening the depletion of our own wood supply.

Pinchot, like Fisher, has discovered by experience the beauty of Conner's section. He is having trouble in him on the truth of Mark Twain's saying: "Don't prophesy unless you know." If he had gone to Alaska before denouncing President Taft for letting Ryan take part of the water of Conner's section, which is a water right, he might have indorsed the sentiment that, if Ryan wanted the plugged mud flat, he was welcome to them. The chief difficulty about the Alaska question is that two many opinions are based on ignorance and misinformation.

Exactly what amount of cantankerousness or general cussedness, makes a man a public nuisance Judge McGinn does not undertake to decide, but when the condition has been attained he takes judicial cognizance of it. He discards technical distinctions and matches the law a little, perhaps, to order a man not to make an ass of himself, but certainly the intention is laudable.

To the lay mind it does not appear to be a serious crime for a nurse to rise at 4:30 A. M. when the rules say an excellent time, but perhaps it is carrying severity too far to debar a young woman from earning a livelihood for a mere formal offense. In our opinion there is as much room for common sense in a nurse's training school as there is anywhere else.

Their last chance to reap a harvest this season being near, the Yukon transportation companies have made another "great discovery" and started another stampede. It's easy to get into the Yukon Valley this time of year, but hard to get out again when the heavy ice has cooled the stampede's enthusiasm.

Though Director Newell complains that not enough farmers are taking up land on Government irrigation projects, a new company is not afraid to invest millions in irrigating land along the Snake and Columbia rivers. The confidence that buyers will take and cultivate it.

General good nature is a valuable asset to Dr. Grant Lyman. It not only enabled him to separate investors from \$50,000 of their money, but to win the confidence of the hospital trustees to which an alfa-grass have been donated. Tribes which were then settled on farms have taken to a wandering life. In fact, the general condition of the region has deteriorated. The Italians could not make a fortune worse and would rather be poor than to make the matter better. It is noteworthy that the native inhabitants refuse to take sides with the Turks in the present difficulty. The chances are that they prefer to pass under the control of Italy, which has done so much to improve conditions in Turkey. There is a natural reason for the desolate state of Tripoli. Although the climate is notably drier now than it was in ancient times, there is still subterranean water enough to irrigate extensive tracts and in many sections of the western part living streams reach to the desert occasionally reaches the Mediterranean sea and agriculture is out of the question, but there is a large area bordering upon Egypt, known as Cyrenaica from the ancient city of Cyrene, where the soil is fertile and would be an abundant crop if it could be irrigated under civilized conditions. All this territory formerly belonged to Carthage. In those times it supported a very large population, though now it has only two or three villages to the square mile. The remains of great irrigation works constructed by the Carthaginians are to be found everywhere, while the sea-coast is strewn with the ruins of the cities they built.

The name Tripoli comes from a "triple" of large towns which in the western part of Carthage. The city of Tripoli still occupies the site of one of them. This place is important at present because it is the outfitting point for caravans crossing the desert to Lake Tchaud. There is a species of "Chinook" jargon of lingua franca which is understood all the way from the Mediterranean to the interior of the Sudan and one may hear it commonly spoken on the streets of Tripoli. Since French influence is predominant around Lake Tchaud it is important to their interests that the caravan route should be secured from savagery. Hence France is expected to favor Italian rule in Tripoli. Of course Germany, if it has anything to say, will incline toward the Turk party because of opposition to France, but more because of its great investments in Western Asia. Still there is little reason to look for German intervention to stay the Italian advance in Tripoli. England would naturally prefer to see the region civilized, since it merges into Egypt on the east without any natural boundary.

There is a story afloat that England will permit Turkish troops to pass through Egypt into Tripoli, but this is incredible. For one thing there is a warm friendship between Italy and Great Britain, while the latter would be welcomed by the latter which would tend to revive dormant Ottoman claims in Egypt. The probability is that Tripoli will pass into the possession of Italy. Since France now has a free hand in Morocco, this will bring the whole of Northern Africa under civilized influences and perhaps restore to that long-suffering region something of the prosperity it enjoyed in Roman and Carthaginian times.

Major John R. Lynch, the ranking negro officer of the Army, who has just been retired on reaching the age limit of 64 years, was the center of storm in the Republican National convention of 1894. The organization proposed Russell Clayton of Arkansas as temporary chairman, but Henry Cabot Lodge, now Senator, proposed Lynch. A terrible battle on the race issue followed. Clayton being a Southern while Lynch a Southern negro, but Lynch won by a majority of 40. Lynch was supported by Theodore Roosevelt.

How subtly the automobile has invaded the field of commercial transportation is shown by the announcement that within a few days a caravan of touring cars will start on a trans-continent journey from New York to Los Angeles, carrying two score passengers who have paid their fare for the journey in exactly the same way as they would buy a railroad or a steamship ticket. While it is true that coast-to-coast journeys have been made before, they were private enterprises. But the coming tour is conducted by a touring agency and the participants will neither be chosen by invitation nor will they go to earn their salary.

Three young men in a boat, to say nothing of the rest of the outfit, are floating down the Mississippi River on a month's journey to St. Louis, when a Fall term opens a little more than a week hence, says the St. Louis Republic. A. L. Partridge, A. Sidler and E. Dixon have made the trip before, and they think the rigors of a 1000-mile trip by canoe is just the sort of thing to train them for a Winter's study. It was in the middle of August that the students began their journey near the headwaters of the Wisconsin River. Their canoe was fitted out with everything needed on the long and arduous trip and experience had taught them that their larder needed to be well stocked.

Railroads are urged by Alice Bennett, in the Railway Age Gazette, to encourage the creation of small Italian farm colonies along their lines, where labor on the road can invest in small farms and continue to work on the railroad. Italians have worked in this way until the farms were paid for and then gave up work on the railroad, but they attracted others to begin in the same way. She says: "Not infrequently it has been true that a whole town in Italy was evacuated as the result of a letter from a fellow townman, who had seen the glowing account of the opportunities in this country." She says that the railroads already begin to feel the danger of a labor famine, and suggests that they choose an Italian of practical farm experience, who will choose a gang from his own community. They will establish a farm colony which will draw others from the old world.

The hurricane of August 27 and 28 off the South Carolina and Georgia coast is taken by Walter L. Moore, chief of the Weather Bureau, as the text of a bulletin calling attention to the need of wireless weather reports from coasting steamers. These would make possible reports of a hurricane three or four days before it reached the coast and enable people to take precautions which would save life and property. Moore observed that the vessel was observed to be forming as early as August 22, according to entries in vessel logs, but these reports only reached the Weather Bureau by mail. No wireless reports were received from vessels at sea in the region traversed by the storm, although a number of vessels equipped for sending such reports were in the area. This type of report is most difficult for the forecasters to handle in the absence of reports from the sea. No information whatever is at hand until the shore stations are within the influence of the storm. Mr. Moore says in his bulletin: "That this storm is full intensity should have been observed at least four days before any indications of its presence were observed. The value of daily reports by wireless telegraph from vessels at sea is evident. If such reports were at hand, it would have been possible to have given a more accurate forecast of the storm several days previously. In the absence of such reports the forecasters have to rely on the indications shown by the clouds and other atmospheric conditions. Such indications are not shown until the storm has reached the shore. The value of reports from vessels at sea is evident. If such reports were at hand, it would have been possible to have given a more accurate forecast of the storm several days previously. In the absence of such reports the forecasters have to rely on the indications shown by the clouds and other atmospheric conditions. Such indications are not shown until the storm has reached the shore. 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