

The Oregonian

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Portland, Friday, August 9, 1912.

NINE TAX MEASURES.

In 1910, when the county option tax amendment, or single tax wedge, was under discussion, The Oregonian asserted that if the amendment were adopted it would induce submission of a large variety of tax measures, with the possibility that several of conflicting character would be approved and a chaotic condition in the revenue-producing laws of the state would be the result.

It is reasonable to suppose that of the eight state measures the one presented by the State Tax Commission exempting household furniture and wearing apparel would be adopted.

It is reasonable to suppose that the single taxers themselves contend should not be taxed and its justice appeals also to those who are opposed to single tax.

Studying the household exemption bill, we find that it is for the most part negative in its provisions.

On the other hand, the proposed single tax constitutional amendment declares that no personal property or improvements shall be taxed.

The constitution now also authorizes and empowers counties to regulate taxation by the method of taxing their borders subject to any "general law" which may be enacted.

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Oregon that the only safe course is to approve the measures that are the product of men working for the good of the public and for personal profit.

A constitutional amendment authorizing the taxation of incomes. A law to exempt from taxation household furniture, wearing apparel and similar nonproductive personal property.

MR. SELLING'S STATEMENT.

The dominant note in the statement Mr. Selling issues to the public is its sincerity. He has an undoubted right to appeal to this record for proof of his progressiveness.

Mr. Selling's political service has always been as a Republican. He has proved that progressiveness is synonymous with the Republican name, and that the highest and best results may be obtained by work within the Republican party.

INVADING THE IDAHO PRIMARY.

The Boise Statesman is worried about the operation of the direct primary in Idaho, chiefly because it finds that the walls dividing the parties have completely broken down, and the voters pass cheerfully from one to the other.

There is no disposition anywhere to go back to the antiquated convention system which is the rule in most of the states.

Mr. U'Ren, McCallister, Cridge, Eggleston and one or two other chosen disciples of revolution—a fine assortment of upstarts—had succeeded in getting a meeting in the name of the so-called People's Power League, and decided on some new and startling innovation in government and law.

The free use of the names of its non-participating members has been the common practice of the League from its inception.

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Cridge, Eggleston and the other ministers and sponsors of Federalism, would uphold, but forward the ingenious plea that Mr. Selling approved the measure and therefore they had a right to attach his signature.

The Senate committee has seriously weakened the bill by proposing a substitute for the House provision relating to railroad-owned ships. Whereas the House provision forbids any interest of railroads in water lines, the Senate simply excludes railroad-controlled water lines from the canal when engaged exclusively in the American coastwise trade.

AUTOMOBILE REGULATION.

City Attorney Grant has made a painstaking and laudable effort to solve the problem of street locomotion. Automobiles are to be regulated. Pedestrians must look out if they cross streets anywhere but at intersections, and then of course they must, and should, look out anyhow.

Traffic regulations are solely in the hands of the police, and the police alone make trouble where the speed limit is exceeded.

YOUR TRICKY EYEIGHT.

Casual study of optical illusions in this corner of space and time should be made by everyone and particularly by residents of rural districts whose faith in human nature is apt to be too fully developed.

One of the residents thereof had accumulated for some time the sum of \$1500, which betrays an altogether laudable degree of intelligence, industry and thrift.

Now if the Dallas man had been versed in the subject of optical illusions, or even had he varied the notation of his money-getting career by an occasional newspaper, it is possible that the sequel would be a large, affable, genial, apparently open visitor to Dallas would not have ripened into a \$1500 test of the seeing-believing platitude.

CANAL TOLLS A CAMPAIGN ISSUE.

The vote in the Senate retaining in the Panama Canal bill this provision of section 7, "no tolls shall be levied upon vessels engaged in the coastwise trade of the United States," puts that body in agreement with the House on one of the principal points which have been in controversy.

European countries pay tolls to ocean liners. Great Britain has often exercised her option of using liners as transports in her numerous wars, big and little.

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It appears that the House provision goes a little too far, the Senate provision not nearly far enough. Railroad and ship are natural competitors.

It has developed that John D. Rockefeller, Jr., established a dive in New York's bath lands in order to help get evidence against bribe-taking police officials.

Secretary MacVeagh is kind in providing Government transportation to the states for an indigent family, but the curious-minded will ask how the man ever got into Alaska with a wife and eleven children and why they went.

If it were Roosevelt making profane sappy jokes about the tariff, people would not wonder; but more or less dignified from the experience of two former Alpine climbers who nearly lost their lives in an effort to reach the summit of Mount Rainier.

Note with what tenacity the Senate holds on to those pension agencies and with what virtuous persistence the House, whose members have no part in filling the offices, demands their abolition.

Continued rains during August help vegetation, which is already doing very well, but will damage the grain in stack and field. The old settler never saw the like.

POLICY IS DISCORD, NOT PEACE.

HERMISTON, Or., Aug. 7.—(To the Editor.)—The discussion with "One Voter," also the many other Roosevelt correspondents, by The Oregonian, is interesting and valuable. It enables us to arrive at some conception of the mental state of the adherents of the new party.

"The cure for love is love," is an axiom. Like cure like where other remedies fail. Since it is so plainly evident that these modern apostles of righteousness have to use whatever for the true and tried methods of arriving at truth, and since vituperation and ridicule are the methods they have substituted in the place of logic, may it not be well to apply the "like-cures-like" remedy to their disease?

There were 1978 seats in the convention. Every known trick and contrivance was resorted to by the Roosevelt contingent in order to ascertain and develop the full strength of their party.

Suppose that he had allowed every one of the votes which he showed in the test and you would have 529 votes, or exactly 11 short of a majority.

Does not this appear at least a trifle difficult for a virtuous aggregation whose political motto is "let us have every charge and counter-charge they have set forth in it has for its foundation exactly the same old and worn-out charge that they were cheated out of the nomination at Chicago.

Let us apply the cure of "like cures like." If we can get rid of the decalogue and the words of Abraham Lincoln, there is strong hope that they may yet see the error of their way.

NOT SORE; JUST SYMPATHETIC

PORTLAND, Aug. 8.—(To the Editor.)—The writer pleases to note that the Auto Club is opening war on the unjust police officers.

It is time something were done to do away with the condition worked on honest auto drivers. You may think I have been arrested and therefore a sore-head, but not so. However, I was riding on a bicycle along the coast, when the driver was unjustly arrested by a police officer, for he was not speeding but was going along at a leisurely pace.

Governor Wilson has gone to New York to have his portrait drawn for campaign pictures. Doesn't he like the camera's version?

VALUES, AND SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

Single Taxer Denies That All Wealth Is Produced by Labor.

WESTPORT, Wash., Aug. 8.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian, August 5, appears an article by E. L. McClure, of Medford, on the supply and demand of land and labor. It is an argument there is a similarity to the single taxers' view, only the single taxers think that each source of all wealth is land and labor, land meaning all natural resources on the Mother Earth.

Mr. McClure states that all wealth is produced by labor, but he will doubtless recede from that position on second thought. The value of any form of wealth, of course, follows the law of supply and demand.

Now suppose this same thing has been occurring all over the United States. People are buying property in California. At the end, the faster people buy, the faster the price advances beyond the real value, because the demand is being excited by increased prices.

Just how that could be managed and what material could be used, it is turned down. Everybody gets wise all at once that prices are out of line with values and then the panic is the real thing.

Mr. Guilford admits that commodities which are personal property are held from use by speculators. So also is land. Yet he would tax the land into use, but not tax the commodities into use.

Dogs Out of Place in City.

PORTLAND, Aug. 8.—(To the Editor.)—In the wake of remarks by ministers and housewives as to the dog nuisance and the possibility of its abatement, would it not be in order to suggest that the muzzled or unmuzzled, have no place in a city?

LEAVES.

Leaves from life's great volume Sealed with the stamp of time. Some of them stainless, pearly. Some of them black with grime.

SOCIALIST'S OPINION ON VALUES.

Supply and Demand Do Not Affect Them, He Asserts.

He says "value is created by human necessities and desires and fluctuates with the intensities of and the difficulties in satisfying human necessities and desires."

In defining socially necessary labor, as that which creates all values, I wish to make plain that the socially necessary labor is not the labor of an individual, but the labor of a community.

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LEAVES.

Leaves from life's great volume Sealed with the stamp of time. Some of them stainless, pearly. Some of them black with grime.

Leaves that are held most sacred. Voicing the poor heart's scope. Holding the buds and blossoms. Holding each vanished hope.

Leaves that are pressed in the memory. Leaves that shall live when we die. Making the book of memory. Held by the angels on high.

SUNDAY FEATURES

- City Playgrounds—An illustrated full page on the work of character-building as carried on at the public playing places.
Freaks of Nature—Experts make a detailed investigation of this subject, and their interesting findings are embodied in an illustrated page article.
Experts Rule a Nation—And no less a nation than Germany. A half page which again proves that the pen is mightier than the sword.
A Human Cash Register—It rings up billions without misplacing a cent. An account of United States Treasury operations.
Batting—An absorbing baseball article on an important phase of the game. Written by an expert.
Seven Wonders—A page, with photos, is devoted to America's natural wonders that are to be preserved for posterity.
Two Short Stories.
New Color Comic Comedies and MANY OTHER FEATURES.
Order today from your newsdealer.