

To the Taxpayers of Portland

- Bonds—Improvement Bonds**
- Bonds—Market Bonds**
- Bonds—Park Bonds**
- Bonds—Public Utility Bonds**
- Bonds—Paving Plant Bonds**

Tax levy now is 28.7 mills; if the above bonds pass at the election Tuesday, December 9, it will require additional taxes to pay interest and redeem bonds.

You are now taxed nearly 3 per cent upon assessed value of your property whether it is productive of revenue or not.

100
101

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Section 78 of the City Charter now provides that "The City shall have power to acquire, maintain and operate works, plants and facilities for doing any and all municipal work. It shall have the power to provide payment for the whole or any part of local improvements, constructed or done by the city directly under the provisions of this section by assessment against the property benefited thereby."

CHARTER AMENDMENT: This amendment provides: "The word improvement as hereinafter used shall be deemed to include the opening, extension, widening, alteration or change of any street, alley, avenue, boulevard or other public highway, and the appropriating of any property for that purpose, or for the purpose of laying down and constructing any drain or sewer, or the laying, constructing or reconstructing of any sewer or drain, the constructing or reconstructing of any fill, sidewalk, curb or street pavement, including any and all drains, outlets, manholes, water connections and all other things essential or proper to be done in connection with sewer construction or street improvements."

"The Council shall have power and authority at any time after proceedings have been instituted to provide a fund to be known as the Improvement Fund by issuing and selling improvement bonds therefor, which bonds shall be a general obligation of the City of Portland."

All money paid into the improvement fund shall be subject to warrants drawn against the same for the payment of the cost of any improvement.

ARGUMENT: The fund is created by the sale of bonds which are direct obligations of the city—in other words, for which the property of every taxpayer in the city becomes liable.

Under the proposed method the city assumes risks, to the relief of contractors.

Why should the great area of property which has already stood the burden of special-improvement taxation become further liable for the improvement of outlying districts where fictitious values are established by manipulation?

Under this amendment BONDS may be issued to provide a revolving fund for use of Department of Public Improvements in doing all municipal work direct; it also provides a fund out of which progress payments may be made to contractors.

Ample authority exists in the present charter for making progress payments on contracts for improvements as fast as the work is COMPLETED—it has been done repeatedly. Therefore, why should bonds be issued for either purpose? There are \$14,028,233.51 of such bonds now outstanding, and there are other outstanding bonds to the amount of \$14,412,000.00, or a total of \$28,440,233.51.

VOTE NO.

102
103

CHARTER AMENDMENT: This amendment provides "All municipal officials, except the City Engineer and Superintendent of Parks shall be registered voters of the City of Portland."

ARGUMENT: Is it possible that there are not two citizens of Portland qualified to act as City Engineer and Park Superintendent?

VOTE NO.

104
105

CHARTER AMENDMENT: This amendment provides: "That all appointed officers named in this section shall, at the time of their appointment be citizens of the United States, residents and qualified voters of the City of Portland, except the City Engineer and Superintendent of Parks. If (the Council) shall also fix and may change from time to time the salary of every officer."

ARGUMENT: This amendment is a direct reflection on a large and capable body of Engineers who are citizens and taxpayers of Portland. Many are members of American Society of Civil Engineers, with large experience. Surely the Commissioners do not have to go out of the confines of the United States of America to get men capable of filling these positions; they can be obtained at least in the State of Oregon. Under the above amendment it is proposed to raise the salary of the City Engineer to \$8000 per annum and bring him from—where?

VOTE NO.

114
115

CHARTER AMENDMENT: This amendment provides: "An act to amend that portion of the City Charter of Portland which authorizes the Council to issue and sell public utility certificates for the construction or acquisition of any public utility to be operated by the City, to authorize such certificates to be issued and sold; also for the reconstruction, addition, enlargement or extension of any such utility, or any portion thereof, including such property as may be convenient or essential therefor; provided that property without the city shall be acquired only for municipal purposes."

"Such certificates shall be secured by mortgage."
ARGUMENT: Under the above amendment the Council would have authority to issue public utility bonds WITHOUT LIMIT to acquire any public utility, either within or without the limits of the city. They may purchase and operate quarries, sand dredgers, open gravel pits, buy power sites, take over the gas company, the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, the Telephone & Telegraph Company, or any public utility project. This can all be done by ordinance, subject only to the referendum.

THE POWER TO ISSUE BONDS SHOULD BE RESERVED TO THE PEOPLE OPERATING THROUGH THE BALLOT—by any other method you lose your property rights. Power is given to

mortgage the property of the Water Company. If this amendment is passed, can you look for any further investment of capital in this city? We want more people and more capital.

VOTE NO and keep the power to issue bonds in your own hands.

122
123

CHARTER AMENDMENT: This amendment provides: "The Council of the City is authorized to issue bonds to an amount not exceeding \$50,000, known as 'Municipal Paving Plant Bonds,' the life of such bonds not to exceed ten years, principal and interest to be paid for out of the general fund of the City of Portland; the Council is authorized to levy and collect tax for the redemption of such bonds in case the general fund should be insufficient. The proceeds of the sale of the bonds shall be expended in the acquisition, construction, enlargement, extension, equipment, conduct, maintenance and operation of a plant for the construction, reconstruction and repair of street improvements, and for making any kind of street improvement in the City of Portland, and is authorized to lease, purchase all property, machinery and equipment, and to purchase all supplies, and to employ all labor necessary, and assess the cost thereof against the property especially benefited."

ARGUMENT: THE PRESENT TAX LEVY IN THE CITY OF PORTLAND IS 28.7 MILLS—DO YOU WANT TO STILL FURTHER INCREASE THIS ENORMOUS TAXATION BY PURCHASING A PAVING PLANT FOR WHICH THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO DEMAND AT THIS TIME?

The present price of hard-surface pavement in the City of Portland are materially less than in any other city of the same size in the United States.

The estimates furnished the press by the Commissioner of Public Improvements show that during the year 1914 there will be only 94.54 square yards of pavement laid upon which the contractors' maintenance has expired; there will be less than ten days' work for a repair plant in 1914, and less than 30 days' work in 1915.

If you vote yes on this amendment, and the city acquires the right to purchase a plant, the Commission could, if it desired, lay hard-surface pavement at expense of the taxpayer. Who can determine the cost of depreciation and other incidental expenses which the average business concern has to figure on in continuing its business, and which is never taken into consideration by municipalities?

Do you property owners who have paid for street improvements prior to this time want to burden yourself with cost of paving plant which will not benefit you, but only be of benefit to outlying property, which does not now need pavement, and probably will not warrant any for years to come?

The main thoroughfares of the City of Portland (except in the outlying districts) are all paved, the total amount of hard-surface pavement constructed to date being approximately 310 miles.

The municipal ownership of public utilities, paving plants, etc., aids in the forming of a political machine maintained at the expense of the taxpayer. Therefore, why vote for this large appropriation for a paving plant which is not a necessity at this time?

Maintenance of plant, depreciation, and interest charges are large items in cost of pavement.

VOTE NO.

124
125

CHARTER AMENDMENT: This amendment provides: "An act to amend the Charter of the City of Portland by adding thereto a new section providing for the issuance and sale of bonds not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars, to provide a fund for the establishment and maintenance of a public market or markets in the City of Portland."

THE ADOPTION OF THE ABOVE AMENDMENT MEANS MORE BONDS AND HIGHER TAXES. How much land and what kind of a market can be built for \$25,000? Some comprehensive plan should be adopted showing location, extent and kind of market to be established before voting BONDS.

VOTE NO.

126
127

CHARTER AMENDMENT: This amendment provides: "The Council of the City of Portland, Or., is hereby authorized to issue and dispose of bonds of said city to an amount not exceeding Two Hundred Thousand Dollars; such bonds shall be known as 'Park and Boulevard Bonds of the City of Portland, Or.' The proceeds thereof shall be applied to the improvement of existing parks and playgrounds, and for the improvement of existing boulevards and parkways. There is expressly reserved to the Council the right to assess lots, blocks and parcels of land in any district, or districts, specially or peculiarly benefited thereby for the cost of acquiring property or improving the same for park and other purposes designated in this section, and the Council is hereby authorized and empowered to prescribe the method of making such assessments."

ARGUMENT: This amendment, apparently, gives Council power to buy park property without limit, and assess cost to lots, blocks and parcels of land in any district or districts especially or peculiarly benefited, in addition to expending \$200,000 as provided in improving existing parks, etc. Money would be better expended in acquiring more playgrounds, rather than in improvement of those we now have.

VOTE NO.

FRANK KIERNAN,
434 Hall St., Portland, Or.