TAXPAYERS' LEAGUE AGAINST PORT BILL

Analysis of All Measures Made in Report.

RISE IN LEVY OPPOSED

Wealth of Statistical Information Compiled in Support of Anti-Arguments.

The Swan island project or port consolidation bill has been put under the ban of the Taxpayers' league along with other measures they have selected as likely to increase taxation without being absolutely wise or necessary. The organization met Friday in the Chamber of Commerce rooms and adopted a set of recommendations prepared by their executive committee setting forth their stand on most of the measures that will be on the ballot November 2.

Their statement is mainly interesting on account of the wealth of statistical information that they have amassed and offer voters in support of their claims. They advise voting against the single-tax amendment, bill fixing the legal rate of interest, additional municipal judge, proposed 3-mill tax measure, and they are in favor of the five-year lighting contract measure, the ratifying measure for the acts of the civil service board and the charter measure that will provide for progress payments for street and sewer work. On the zoning measure they do not make any recommendation. Their report is as follows:

Explanation Is Given.

To the voters:

The Taxpayers' league submits herewith its explanation of certain measures to be submitted to the voters at the election to be held on Tuesday, November 2, 1920, and its recommendations thereon. It also sets out certain statistics respecting the increase in taxation during the last decade. It should be kept in mind that to a large extent the increase in taxation has resulted from the intermittent voting of taxes without the voters being fully advised as to the effect thereof. We therefore earnestly request you to consider with care the figures submitted, and unless sure an increased tax, another office, or an additional bond is necessary, vote against it.

Multnomah County.

	1910	*1920	Pct. Inc.
Population	226,261	275,898	21.94
Assessment	$301,825,649	$356,619,600	11.32
Average levy in mills all purposes in county	21.21	35.62	67.97
Total tax levied all purposes	6,401,427	12,007,732	87.58
Taxes per capita all purposes	28.29	43.52	53.83

*Levies based upon 1919 valuation.

Since 1910 changes in the law removing certain classes of property from the assessment roll and exempting other classes of property have tended to limit the increase in the roll. This, of course, affects the city as well as county assessment.

STATISTICS CITY OF PORTLAND.

	1910.	*1920.	Inc. P.C.
Population	207,214	258,288	24.65
Total assessment	$274,266,035.00	$312,671,785,000	24.65
City levy, in mills	.06	.0141	135.33
City levy, in dollars	1,645,596.00	4,377,405.000†	166.08
Total millage in city, all purposes	36.5	61.2	67.27
Total levy in dollars in city	6,033,853.00	11,506,321.000	90.69
City employes January 1	1,225	1,913	56.16
City employes October 1, 1920		2,221	181.3

*Levies based upon 1919 valuation. †1919, includes dock commission tax, 1.2 mills, providing $575,206.14. Increase over January 1, 1910.

Through loss of receipts from liquor licenses and from other causes, the city received in 1919, $435,325.45 less from sources other than taxes than in 1910. Since 1910, St. Johns, Lents, Linnton, Eastmoreland, Berkeley and a small piece of land where the Peninsula Lumber company's plant stands, have been annexed to the city.

Tax Levy for 1921 Estimated.

The estimated tax levy on the property in the city of Portland for 1921 will be from 42 to 45 mills, which will produce from $13,200,000 to $14,100,000. Of this amount $1.25 per cent, or $10,715,000 to $11,500,000, will be paid by real estate and public service corporations, leaving but $2,500,000 to $2,650,000 to be received from all other sources and all other property. How does the home owner like the prospect? Are you beginning to grasp now why new buildings and new houses are not being built, and why the worker is interested in good and economical government as much as, if not more than, any other person in the community?

The lowest estimated levy will take $7,124,147, or 118.6 per cent, more from the taxpayer than was required in 1910, although the population of the city has increased in the same time but 24.65 per cent.

Retrenchment Is Urged.

Is it not time that government, as well as the individual, should retrench, economize and encourage efficiency? Is it not worth while to consider to what extent home owning, the best guarantee a city can have for stability and character, is discouraged by excessive taxation?

Bonded Indebtedness.

Bonded debt in county, which includes city: 1910, $15,260,489.95; 1920, $34,269,218.72; per cent, 124.56.

Per capita debt: 1910, $67.44; 1920, $124.21; per cent, 84.18.

Total levy in county for principal and interest: 1910, $215,980.29; 1920, $1,402,379.98; per cent, 542.56.

The foregoing gross bonded debt includes $1,100,000 for the interstate bridge and $6,792,000 for Portland water bonds, which are self-supporting, the one from revenues from the bridge, the other by receipts for water. There are sinking funds to the amount of $3,554,470.80 to offset to this extent the gross bonded debt shown, making the net bonded debt $30,714,747.92.

Summary of Bonds.

Net bonded debt	$30,714,747.92
Bonds authorized but not issued	4,402,100.00
Reserve bonding power for roads authorized by the constitution	17,883,730.00
Bond issue to be voted on November 2, 1920	16,365,125.00

Is it not at least the prudent thing to take our bearings, see where we are, catch our breath, so to speak, before finally committing ourselves to activities that will require many millions more in bonds than are now authorized or even proposed?

Big Taxation Is Cited.

Is it not sufficient to arouse one's just indignation that, if the port consolidation measure is passed, millions of dollars of bonds and taxation may be imposed upon us and made a lien on our property, not only against our consent and will, but by voters outside of the Port of Portland who do not pay and will not be liable to pay any portion of the bonds or any part of the tax? Is not this subverting the principle of home rule and in spirit enforcing a policy of taxation without representation? To say the least, we still have—or should have—the right of self-preservation, both as to life and property. We feel sure that if the people of the state understand our feelings and the fundamental reasons for our opposition to the so-called "port consolidation act," as submitted, they would vote against it.

We desire to emphasize certain facts. There is a frequent comparison of Portland's taxes and expenditures and what it is doing with other communities. Generally, such comparisons are of but little or no value except as warning signs. We should remember that it is our city, county and state with which we are concerned, not some other community. It is the taxes we pay that affect us, not what some person a thousand miles from here pays.

Retrenchment, economy and efficiency are urged by all, but it is too often tomorrow, the next election, not now, that these virtues are to be practiced. Senator Sherman said that the way to resume is to resume. We say that the way to economize and to retrench is to do it, and do it now.

We most strongly urge you to commence now the policy of retrenchment, economy and efficiency by voting against every act that will increase taxation or increase the bonded debt, unless the same beyond question is really necessary for the public welfare.

JOSEPH N. TEAL,
HENRY E. REED,
A. J. GIESY,
HENRI LABBE,
R. L. GLISAN,
F. W. MULKEY,
A. H. DEVERS,
LEO FRIEDE,
L. J. GOLDSMITH,
Executive Committee.

Measures Are Analyzed.

The committe then has taken each measure for analysis and has made the following report on their findings:

State Ballot.

Single tax constitutional amendment. 306 Yes. 307 No.

The purpose of this amendment is to assess all taxes necessary for the maintenance of state and local government upon the value of land until July 1, 1925, and thereafter to take the full rental value of land for governmental purposes. It is a general attack on private property. It is revolutionary and abolishes all taxes, except the tax on land value. If adopted it would destroy the market value of land, wreck municipal credit, and take from bonds and mortgages the security upon which they rest. The league has, in the past, recorded its emphatic protest against legislation of this character, and now renews its protest.

Voters are advised to vote 307 No.

Port of Portland dock commission consolidation bill. 310 yes. 311 no.

This measure will be passed upon by the voters of the entire state, though it directly concerns the people of the Port of Portland, which contains only 209¾ square miles, or less than one quarter of 1 per cent of the area of Oregon. It authorizes the issuance of about $16,500,000 in bonds for the purpose of beginning an extensive and expensive scheme of port development. The whole burden of this debt is placed upon the taxable property of the Port of Portland, but the voters of the Port are denied the privilege, in violation of the home rule principle, of saying what burden they are willing to accept.

No one is more interested in the development of the Port of Portland than are the members of the Taxpayers' league. There is no reason why, in order to provide a deep and safe channel between the sea and Portland, it is necessary for the people to accept this measure on a take-it-as-it-is-or-you-get-nothing basis. The laws of Oregon are not so weak and deficient as this. We are assured that there are perfectly simple methods by which all the money necessary may be provided for port purposes without voting for any such measure as this one, or loading ourselves down with an enormous bond issue, and taxation for a scheme of improvement, which, for the present should not be undertaken. Millions of bonds are not required for the purpose of port development, nor is it necessary to violate the principle of home rule in order to secure either funds or power. For years the people of Oregon fought for home rule, and having succeeded in incorporating it in their constitution, should not now permit it to be taken from the voters of the Port of Portland.

Voters are advised to vote 311 No.

Constitutional amendment fixing the legal rate of interest in Oregon. 314 yes. 315 no.

This amendment fixes the legal rate of interest at 4 per cent, but on contracts 5 per cent may be charged by agreement of the parties. This is a dangerous piece of freak legislation. If, by any chance, it should be enacted, it would drive a large part of the active capital of Oregon to other and more friendly fields of investment. It would increase the arts of lending and make money dearer to the borrower. The borrower of moderate means would be hit hardest of all.

Voters are advised to vote 315 no.

Charter amendment authorizing the appointment of an additional municipal judge. 502 Yes; 503 No.

The adoption of this amendment would mean another judge, with additional clerical and other personal service, night sessions of the municipal court, and an increase in city expenses. The creation of additional offices at this time is neither necessary nor advisable.

Voters are advised to vote 503 No.

Charter amendment authorizing the council to enter into five-year contracts for lighting the streets and public buildings of the city. 504 Yes; 505 No.

The council should have the power which this amendment proposes to grant. Under the present charter, contracts may not be made for a longer term than two years. The prospect of a five-year contract would justify present contractors in making a larger outlay for plant in order to supply the city's needs effectively, and would justify other companies in making similar investment in the event they should be awarded contracts. The amendment promotes competition, tending towards lower cost of service.

Voters are advised to vote 504 Yes.

Charter amendment ratifying all acts of the civil service board in reinstating civil service employes since July 1, 1913. 506 Yes. 507 No.

In the past seven years the board has reinstated a large number of former employes who have returned to the service of the city. It has been generally supposed that the board possesses power to reinstate such employes without a new examination, but competent legal authority has decided otherwise. The amendment does not create any new positions. It merely puts the stamp of approval upon acts of the civil service board in reinstating capable workers.

Voters are advised to vote 506 Yes.

Charter amendment reauthorizing the city to levy annually an additional tax of not to exceed 3 mills on the assessed valuation for the payment of general expenses. 508 Yes. 509 No.

The city charter fixes the levy for the general fund at 8 mills on the assessed valuation. This is manifestly insufficient under existing conditions.

We believe that the conduct of the city government would be seriously handicapped were the general fund restricted to an 8-mill tax.

We doubt if all the money that would be produced by an additional levy of three mills is needed for the general fund. We are in favor of covering into the general fund such additional amounts above the yield of an 8-mill tax, and no more, as may be necessary for the efficient conduct of the city government.

However, we cannot indorse the re-enactment of section 190-A of the charter as proposed by the pending amendment. Section 190-A, as amended November 12, 1919, empowers the city government to levy not t oexceed three additional mills for the general fund. Said section is a part of the organic law of the city, and will continue to be until it is repealed or invalidated. It contains all the authority which the city of Portland requires to raise additional money by taxation for the general fund. The pending amendment is therefore superfluous and unnecessary.

Voters are advised to vote 509 No.

Charter amendment authorizing the transfer to the Port of Portland of substantially all the property of the dock commission.

510 Yes. 511 No.

Explanation.

This is a companion measure to the bill on the state ballot bearing the numbers 310 Yes and 311 No. The transfer of property may be made upon the assumption by the port of all outstanding dock bonds. When this has been done the dock commission will go out of existence.

Up to the present time the property of the city of Portland has been bonded in the amount of $9,960,000 to provide docking facilities for our commerce. It is now proposed to hand over the property represented by this large expenditure to the Port of Portland, which is asking authority to issue $16,500,000 of bonds in violation of the principle of home rule. The arguments advanced against the Port of Portland dock commission consolidation bill apply with equal force to this charter amendment.

Voters are advised to vote 511 No.

Charter amendment authorizing progress payments on street and sewer construction work. 512 Yes. 513 No.

Explanation.

This amendment permits partial payments to street and sewer contractors on work properly done as the work progresses. Payments will be made by the issuance of 6 per cent warrants to the extent of 80 per cent of the work performed. The warrants will be drawn on the special fund for the particular improvement, and the interest will be charged as a part of the cost of the improvement. The proposed amendment avoids the unnecessary and unreasonable delays in paying contractors what they have earned. It will increase competition for public work and justify and promote lower bidding by contractors.

Voters are advised to vote 512 yes.

Recapitulation

State.

Single tax constitutional amendment. Vote 307 No.

Portland dock commission consolidation bill.

Vote 311 No.

Four and five per cent interest amendment.

Vote 315 No.

City.

Zoning ordinance, no recommendation.

Additional municipal court.

Vote 503 No.

Five-year contract for lighting.

Vote 504 Yes.

Ratifying civil service reinstatements.

Vote 506 Yes.

Additional 3-mill levy.

Vote 509 No.

Transferring dock commission property to Port of Portland.

Vote 511 No.

Progress payments on street and sewer work.

Vote 512 Yes.

THE TAXPAYERS' LEAGUE,
By J. N. TEAL, Executive Chrmn.
L. J. GOLDSMITH, Secretary.

BANKER POOL PLANNED

Corporation to Finance Foreign Trade Approved.

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—John S. Drum of San Francisco, recently elected president of the American Bankers' association, arrived here today to confer with New York bankers on a plan approved by the association at its Washington convention last week for a nation-wide foreign trade financing corporation.

Bankers, Mr. Drum declared, are fully alive to the need of maintaining and developing foreign markets for American products not required for domestic use and will do their part as a national service.

The executive council, he announced, has designated the commerce and marine committee, which formulated the financing plan, as the association's new commerce and marine commission.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

CAMPAIGN CENTERS ON SENATE PLACES

East Looks to Oregon to Elect Stanfield.

WISCONSIN IS IN DOUBT

Harding Will Carry State by Large Majority; La Follette Backers Behind Senator.

BY WALTER L. TOOZE JR.

CHICAGO, Oct. 24.—(Special Correspondence.)—The last days of the 1920 campaign are at hand, and they find the republican leaders exerting every effort to assure a working republican majority in the United States senate. With Harding's election a matter of counting the votes only and announcing officially the result, the senatorial situation offers the big objective of the battle.

In all the states where the contest is close a hot fight is being waged by the republicans to elect the senator. Oregon is one of the states being looked to by the national party leaders, from Senator Harding down the list, for a gain of one senator. Recent reports from Oregon indicate a growing sentiment in favor of Stanfield, and this favorable assurance has been received with much rejoicing at republican national headquarters.

One of the keenest contests in the country is being staged in Wisconsin. In the primaries there Senator Lenroot defeated George H. Thompson, the La Follette candidate, for the republican nomination for the senate. When the state convention met it adopted a platform in which the nonpartisan league is condemned in no uncertain terms, and Alvin B. Peterson, pre-primary campaign manager for Lenroot, was elected state chairman.

Blaine Runs for Governor.

John G. Blaine, in a field of five candidates, and with the indorsement of La Follette and the non-partisan league, captured the republican nomination for governor. After the state convention met, William Morgan, republican nominee for attorney-general, publicly stated that he would not support any republican nominee who would not subscribe to the state platform. This was a shot at Blaine, and, Blaine refusing to run on the platform adopted by the state convention, Morgan indorsed the candidacy of colonel McCoy, democratic nominee for governor.

This led La Follette to bring out Thompson, defeated primary candidate, as a candidate running independently against Lenroot for the senate. The democratic candidate is Paul Reinsch. And so the stage is set for the most bitter local fight in the history of the state of Wisconsin. Colonel McCoy, the democratic candidate for governor, has a brilliant war record, having served with the 32d division in France. He is well liked, and in Milwaukee practically every business man, regardless of politics, is behind McCoy.

Though the entry of Thompson into the senate race as an independent rather complicates the issue in Wisconsin, and casts considerable doubt over the final result, still to the careful political observer it appears that this move on the part of LaFollette is really of benefit to Lenroot. With the race confined to Lenroot and Reinsch, the LaFollette strength, which includes the non-partisan league strength, would have largely gone to Reinsch, and against Lenroot.

Voters to Down Berger.

The combination might have been great enough to encompass the defeat of Lenroot. But with this vote now divided between Reinsch and Thompson, it would appear that Lenroot would be the winner. However, the situation in Wisconsin, so far as the senate fight is concerned, is giving the senatorial campaign committee considerable worry, and this accounts largely for their earnest desire to win a senatorship away from the democrats in states like Oregon where no local strife marks the campaign. From the writer's own observation, he predicts Lenroot's reelection, but under the circumstances existing in the state which produced LaFollette and Berger, there is no telling. But people must not judge Wisconsin wholly by LaFollette and Berger. The great majority of Wisconsin people are of the best type of American citizenship, patriotic and loyal, and during the war Wisconsin stood toward the top in her war work.

Though there is doubt about the senatorial situation in Wisconsin, there is no doubt about the electoral vote. Harding will carry the state by a large majority. Though Senator LaFollette is saying nothing in the campaign, still his supporters are supporting Harding and Coolidge, and of course the other faction is conducting not only the state, but the national campaign as well, hence there is considerable unity in the support being given the republican nominee for president.

Seven States Believed Doubtful.

In his various letters the writer has predicted a republican landslide in the east and middle west. Most of these predictions have been based upon personal observation and investigation, the writer having covered most of the middle western territory during the past two months, and portions of the east. Knowledge of western conditions have been gained from various reports received personally and through others active in the campaign. From information thus obtained, the writer has arrived at certain personal conclusions with reference to the outcome of the campaign from a national standpoint. The following is submitted as his judgement of how the vote will go on November 2.

Republican.

California	13
Connecticut	7
Delaware	3
Idaho	4
Illinois	29
Indiana	15
Iowa	13
Kansas	10
Maine	6
Massachusetts	18
Michigan	15
Minnesota	12
Nebraska	8
New Hahpshire	4
New Jersey	14
New York	45
North Dakota	5
Ohio	24
Oregon	5
Pennsylvania	38
Rhode Island	5
South Dakota	5
Vermont	4
Washington	7
West Virginia	8
Wisconsin	16
Wyoming	3
Total	331

Democratic.

Alabama	12
Arizona	3
Arkansas	9
Florida	6
Georgia	14
Louisiana	10
Mississippi	10
Nevada	3
North Carolina	12
Oklahoma	10
South Carolina	9
Tennessee	12
Texas	20
Virginia	12
Total	142

Doubtful.

Colorado	6
Kentucky	13
Maryland	8
Missouri	18
Montana	4
New Mexico	3
Utah	4
Total	56

Of the doubtful states set forth above, the republicans have at least an even break in Colorado, Missouri and Utah. It would not be at all surprising to see Harding carry all of these doubtful states

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"Trailed by Three," Chap. 13
Comedy Scenic

Gordon for Mayor

Gordon Against Three Mill Levy

HERBERT GORDON, candidate for Mayor, basing his judgment on a careful investigation of the city's affairs, announces that he is opposed to the extra levy of three mills, upon which the voters must pass on November 2, the city election date.

Mr. Gordon served as chairman of the ways and means committee of the house in the Oregon Legislature in 1919-20 and by his efforts in that position saved the taxpayers of the state hundreds of thousands of dollars—without slighting any deserving institution and without reducing salaries of the state personnel. This record was generally praised.

If elected Mayor, Mr. Gordon will apply himself to the task of reducing taxation and of placing the city on a business basis, and that he will do it without injuring the public service. He favors good salaries for efficient work, but will tolerate no unnecessary expenses.

Mr. Gordon for Civil Service.

Mr. Gordon stands firmly in favor of civil service and declares that, if elected Mayor, he will adhere to rules that will protect the public and the employe. He does not favor placing favorites in any bureau or department for political purposes on the pretext that there has been no civil service examination and no eligible list is available. He says he will rehabilitate civil service, if elected, and will play no favorites.

Progressive Measures Are Favored

Believing that business is better than bluster and not being so much of a talker as a doer, Mr. Gordon has been engaged in building cottages and apartments to relieve the housing situation, which, as is well known, has been and is in very bad condition. This is not generally known, but is nevertheless true. If elected, he will endeavor to assist all worthy enterprises, the bringing of capital into Portland, and will favor progressive measures designed to upbuild and to benefit all of the people. It is worthy of mention that, while a certain official was signing "proclamations" written by newspaper men during the recent "Own your home" campaign, Herbert Gordon was building small homes and doing his utmost to be of real help in the direction of home owning.

Mr. Gordon Indorsed for Mayor.

Mr. Gordon has been a resident and taxpayer of Portland for nearly 14 years now and has been active as a member and official of the Sunnyside Methodist church, where he and his family attend. Knowing his sterling qualities of character so well, the members of Sunnyside church have passed a resolution favoring him for Mayor.

(Paid Advertisement—Gordon for Mayor Club.

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