

Morning Oregonian

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Comparison of Oregon taxes with
those of other states. The levying
of taxes for the same general
purposes in the several states so
varies in form that the terminology
used here may not mean exactly
the same thing when applied else-
where. The assessment of Oregon
state taxes are highest of all states
is an illustration of the looseness of
talk to which the practice of mak-
ing comparisons lends itself.

Taxes are too high, as everybody
knows, but the condition is not
peculiar to Oregon. Of the 48
several states are a fairly homo-
geneous people. Our needs, wants,
aspirations are about the same. In
the west particularly we move
pretty much in concert, and we
have moved in concert in enlarg-
ing government functions and in
increasing thereby the cost of gov-
ernment.

Now we are indebted to the
United States special census sta-
tistics for 1921 for certain tax com-
parisons. These comparisons were
obviously made with only the gen-
eral use of the per centum figure
in mind and not in furtherance of
any propaganda or political move-
ment. Among nine western states
where basic conditions are com-
parable, the tax levies on real estate
and personal property in Oregon
is exceeded by California, Idaho,
Washington, and Nevada. Oregon's
levy per capita is exceeded by
that of Washington, Colorado
and South Dakota.

For illustration, the tax levy on
real and personal property in
Washington is \$12.82 per capita;
in South Dakota, \$16.10; in Colo-
rado, \$5.81; in Oregon, \$5.57. The
average property owner in Oregon
pays less in direct taxes than in
these other states.

Additional interest is given to
these figures by the disclosure that
although the per centum figure in
Washington is much greater than
that in Oregon, what may be
termed the operating cost of gov-
ernment in Washington is lower
than that in Oregon. The explana-
tion of this seeming inconsistency
is that Washington relies more
fully on taxes on the sale of prop-
erty than does Oregon. The per-
sonal property tax in Oregon
has already discovered addi-
tional sources of revenue which
give it a lower per capita property
tax, although its cost of govern-
ment is higher than that of Ore-
gon.

But the significant thing about
the figures is that despite sensa-
tional charges, Oregon has not laid
taxes on land and personal prop-
erty with a heavier hand than some
other states properly comparable
with it. By "taxes" are meant the
state and all its subdivisions.

One of the confusions in comparisons
is the looseness with which this term
is used. In the restrictive sense
"state taxes" are those levied to
meet the legislative appropriations
and other expenses incurred by the
supreme political entity for the
benefit of the entire common-
wealth. In the broader sense,
"state taxes" are those levied
within the state for all purposes,
including "state," county, city,
school district and other subdivi-
sions.

NOT A NEW PROBLEM.

Superintendent Childs, of the
Hood River horticultural experi-
ment station calls attention to a
situation for which there is ample
precedent in the history of fruit-
growing when he reminds orchard-
ists that the dealer who exports this
season will have the effect of
"causing growers in various parts
of the country to grow lax in the
fight against disease and insect
pests." The fact is that the man
has chosen the wrong vocation who
undertakes the business of fruit
exporting. He is not a dealer, yet
permits himself to be influenced
by the same conditions that would
govern him if he were depending
upon an annual crop, like grain. A
certain capacity for viewing the in-
dustrial philosophically and as a
whole, for considering the future
as well as the present, and an op-
timism which some men come by
naturally, but which others never
acquire, are essential to the orch-
ardist's spiritual equipment.

Men—and women—not so en-
dowed have tried fruit farming and
almost invariably have failed. A
tree is too precious to be uprooted
on every whisper of adversity and
every temporarily unfavorable situ-
ation. It is because of this that
the number of orchard trees in the
United States has not long ago
exceeded the demands of the trade.
If half of the nursery stock ex-
ported annually came into full
bearing, fruitgrowing would have
long ago been overdone. But hun-
dreds of thousands of trees an-
nually die of neglect and disease
or are grubbed out by too easily
discouraged planters, and the in-
dustry in its entirety remains as
promising as it ever has been.

It would seem as if insect and
other pests were a beneficent pro-
tection of nature against overpro-
duction. Moreover, periods of de-
pression in industry result from
immense causes operate in the
same way. It is less than a decade

since fruit growers were obsessed
with a fury of destruction which
many of them, now replanting their
prune orchards, have lived to re-
gret. Those Californians who
plowed out their thousands of vine-
yards a few years ago wish that
they had them again. Floridians
have a parallel experience period-
ically after some unprecedented
freeze. As to apples, it is well to
bear in mind that Superintendent
Childs, who is on his regular trip
through the middle west that Ore-
gon growers are still far ahead of
others in their methods. In the
northwest alone is apple growing
still regarded as a serious and a
permanent profession. In the long
run this is going to count.

NO Juggling With Figures.

Discussing the advance of Port-
land to second place among Pacific
ports in tonnage of cargo carried in
foreign trade, a Seattle newspaper
accuses the bureau of research of
the shipping board of having
robbed Seattle of its just dues by
juggling the figures. The bureau
said, when a vessel takes cargo
from several ports on this coast,
the entire cargo is credited to the
last port at which it calls, and that
thus Portland or San Francisco
wins credit for Seattle shipments.

The bureau's practice is no longer
in vogue. Totals of imports
and exports at each port on each
vessel are reported by the customs
service to the research bureau, and
each port is given credit for the
part which it contributed to the
total.

That bureau is under the
direction of Meyer Lissner of Los
Angeles, who desires accuracy in
this particular, not only for his own
sake, but because he knows com-
petition among ports to be so keen
that a juggling of figures to fa-
vor one at the expense of others
would soon be detected, to his own
confusion and that of the shipping
board.

Portland ranks second among
Pacific ports because it supplies the
second largest amount of cargo to
ships. Its improved standing is due
to the larger tonnage that comes
from its territory and to the facil-
ities provided for handling cargo,
not to any tricks played with sta-
tistics.

THE CONQUEST CONTINUES.

Estimates by the United States
census bureau study the con-
tention of public health authori-
ties and other agencies that tuber-
culosis is to a large extent eradic-
able. The bureau's most recent
summary and analysis of deaths
from this cause shows 1921 to have
been the country which shows the
lowest rate in any record, and in-
dicates that an even better exhibit
may be looked for when the re-
turns for 1922 have been tabulated.
In brief, it appears that there were
in 1921 a total of \$3,000 deaths from
tuberculosis in the registration
area, on the basis of which it is
calculated that the total number
for the United States was 107,000.

This is equivalent to a tubercu-
losis death rate of 9.4 per
100,000 for the entire popula-
tion. The force of the figures
is that the country which shows the
lowest rate in any record, and in-
dicates that an even better exhibit
may be looked for when the re-
turns for 1922 have been tabulated.
In brief, it appears that there were
in 1921 a total of \$3,000 deaths from
tuberculosis in the registration
area, on the basis of which it is
calculated that the total number
for the United States was 107,000.

The federal annual saving of lives
as the result of eleven years' work
is therefore approximately \$4,000.
No campaign for health has ever
been more obviously productive.
The figures are worth bearing in
mind for the particularly high fig-
ure in the campaign for the sale of Chris-
mas seals, through which the work
of the National Association for the
Prevention of Tuberculosis is
financed, and they fully answer the
question whether the effort is just-
ified by practical results.

ONE-PRICE MERCHANDISING.

John Wanamaker was in many
ways a remarkable man. His emi-
nence he achieved as a mer-
chant, from a humble beginning as
office boy at \$1.50 a week, marked
him as a "typical American,"
though not every American who
starts out at \$1.50 a week becomes
a multimillionaire. The point is
that the typical American has the
opportunity as it exists in America;
the result was the product of oppor-
tunity plus the Wanamaker genius
for business and willingness to pay
the price of success. But in yet
other respects, he was a typical
American business man.

He amassed what even in these times
would be regarded as a very large
fortune, but with him, as with
other wealthy Americans, money
was a means rather than an end.
His plan was to use his money
in constructive enterprises no less
than his more obvious benevolence
entitled him to rank among those
who had a high conception of the ob-
ligations which material riches en-
tail.

Perhaps his most conspicuous
service to the people as a whole,
however, was his contribution to
the reorganization of the entire
spirit and structure of retail mer-
chandising. Like Alexander T. Ste-
wart, who was in the heyday of his
business glory about the time that
Wanamaker was starting in busi-
ness for himself, he was a pioneer
in the establishment of the one-
price system, which began to super-
sede the cruder method of haggling
and barter in a period well within
the memories of people still living.
With the abandonment of the grand-
fathers of the present generation
the purchase of even the most trif-
ling commodity was apt to be a
matter of prolonged dickering and
every trade a battle of wits. The
maxim, "Caveat emptor," went
hand in glove with the assumption
that the dealer would exact the
highest price he could induce the
individual customer to pay. In
Wanamaker's youth goods were
habitually marked with at least
three prices—one representing cost,
the second a nominal sale price, and
the third the lowest figure. The
salesman was authorized to accept
not infrequently a particularly
shrewd and insistent customer suc-
ceeded in doing better than even
the last figure. The effect of the
system was to put a premium on
deception in trade, and the result
was that the customer was left
puzzled, and the dealer was left
famous, but which has largely gone

out of fashion in other lands. It
was not only time-consuming, but
it was otherwise wasteful. It
demoralized business, fostered the
sense of injustice and in the end
operated to exact extortionate
prices from customers deficient in
the instinct of trade.

This was the universal practice
until Stewart and Wanamaker and
others who patterned after them,
when it became apparent that mod-
ern merchandising demanded a
better method, started a revolution
in retailing by treating all custom-
ers precisely alike. It would be
difficult to overestimate the effect
of this innovation of about half a
century ago upon the ethics of
business as a whole. The new
method was adopted wherever it
was adopted, and it served measur-
ably to standardize and add dignity
to the profession of merchant. It
is now the practically universal rule.

Within the period of Mr. Wanamaker's
active career, and partly as
the direct result of these
methods, other revolutions in busi-
ness practices hardly less signifi-
cant have taken place. Commer-
cial integrity and good will have
become assets to be counted as
wealth. The customer has been
dreamed of in the sixties and sev-
enties. A multitude of additions to
service have put business on a new
plane. The "truth in advertising"
movement is one of the products of
the larger trend in which Wanamaker
was a pioneer. The customer is
pioneers, and pure fact and honest
label laws are collateral phases. The
result, for which Mr. Wanamaker
is entitled to a liberal portion of
credit, has been altogether in the
interest of the ordinary consumer.

That trend is under the
direction of Meyer Lissner of Los
Angeles, who desires accuracy in
this particular, not only for his own
sake, but because he knows com-
petition among ports to be so keen
that a juggling of figures to fa-
vor one at the expense of others
would soon be detected, to his own
confusion and that of the shipping
board.

TIMELY, YET TOO LATE.

"The Oregonian on December 4
carried an excellent editorial deal-
ing with lynching and mob violence
and the Dyer anti-lynching bill,"
observes the Portland Advocate
(colored). "The editorial, while
timely, came too late to influence
those in power to put the bill over.
We wonder why such influential
papers as The Oregonian wait until
the horse is out of the stable be-
fore closing the gates."

We wonder a little on our own
account. We wonder how an article
can be timely and yet too late. The
advocate, thinks the influence of The
Oregonian is so potent with the in-
fluential that it is not surprising
that Dr. Nansen contemplates
they simply have been driven from
their former residences by well-
founded fears of massacre and per-
secution in other forms. But we
are a long way from this possi-
bility of adopting a minority to
voluntary resettlement and natu-
ral exchange. Peoples are not de-
tached so easily from the land that
bred them and which, however in-
clement it may be, they know as
home. The Zionist movement has
made no appreciable headway to-
ward transplanting a noteworthy
minority from Russia, even with
the high incentive of domestic per-
secution, to a land which it might
some day hope to call its own, and
which it did not presently re-
sist the temptation of a bonus
paid, how were the funds raised? If
by bonds, can you tell me where the
same were sold?

Before the close of the war Cana-
dian soldiers honorably discharged
for war reasons were given mon-
etary assistance on a length of ser-
vice basis for periods ranging from
one to three months. This was
known as post-discharge payment.
The system was later extended to
include all ranks returning to Cana-
da with the discharge of the Cana-
dian government. An order of
December 21, 1918, established the
war gratuity, a cash bonus on a
sliding scale based upon the length
and place of service.

In 1919 the soldiers' settlement
board was organized to assist eligi-
ble and qualified soldiers to settle
on farms. Loans were authorized
for the purchase of equipment, etc.
February, 1919, an order was
passed granting a cash bonus to re-
turned men for agricultural lands
in any province, subject to
regulations requiring previous prac-
tical farming experience in Canada.
To qualified soldiers loans may be
granted up to \$7500 at 5 per cent in-
terest, repayable on the amortiza-
tion plan in six annual payments,
in case of loans for stock and equip-
ment, and in annual payments, in
the case of land and buildings. Also
all domestic lands within a radius
of 15 miles of any railway were
reserved for returned soldiers. In the
three prairie provinces where do-
mestic lands were available every
eligible returned soldier was en-
titled under the act to a soldier
grant of 160 acres, and in addition
to the soldier grant he was free to
acquire additional land right to a home-
stead of another 160 acres.

More detailed information can be
had from reference works in the
public library.

MR. WEST NOT EVEN RECEPTIVE

Would Not Accept Place on High-
way Board if Tendered.

PORTLAND, Dec. 12.—(To the
Editor.)—Your correspondent, Mr. J. T. Ford, quotes with approval from
your editorial, "A generation bred
in the way of science is waiting to
be convinced," that spirits do com-
municate with man on earth. I have
no quarrel with this quotation, in
fact commend it as expressing the
state of mind of that great number
of intelligent persons who rest con-
fidently in material science simply
because they have formed the
habit. But a slight change in the
wording of that statement would
seem to improve it. "A generation
bred in materialism is hating to be
convinced."

But there is more than the dislike-
ing of change in methods and con-
cepts; it appears impossible to some
minds. This is illustrated fre-
quently by the posting of rewards
for the capture of a spirit. Your mate-
rialist thinks he can purchase spiritual
commodities with money just as he
can buy oil and hardware and wheat.
History tells of one man of this
kind who was sternly rebuked with
the words: "Thy money perish
with thee."

It is true that this generation
will accept anything in the name of
science simply because they have it
in their hands. And this is true
at all strange for it is simply hu-
man nature. The spiritists do not
the same thing. A man who has
been told that he can communicate with
the dead by means of a spirit box
(testable proof in communication is
in danger of relaxing his scrutiny of
additional phenomena).

For a man to believe in believing or
disbelieving according as it jibes
with our fixed states of mind is
well illustrated in two recent dis-
cussions. The astronomer Plummer
has told us of his finding that a
mere speck in the heavens is in
reality two immense suns, 50,000,000
miles apart and 10,000 miles apart
from the earth, and then to work
still further on our imagination he
says that one of them is 20 times
the size of our sun and 15,000
times as bright. No one seems to
question this announcement and yet
not one person in a million is able
to believe it.

But when Dr. Crawford, Schrenck-
Notzing, Bission and others announce
to the world their discovery of a
medium called ectoplasm, which is
drawn from the body of a medium
and used by the spirit to build up a
materialized form in which to func-
tion for the moment, how few are
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WHY MANY DENY SPIRITUALISM

Proof Demanded That Conforms to
State of Mind.

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tion for the moment, how few are
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Every stick of furniture in his
establishment was consumed in the
Astoria conflagration last Friday.
Mr. Alfred A. Ross is now in Port-
land, at the Benson, ordering a new
stock of goods. He has owned and
operated a big furniture store a few
months ago. Much of the stock was
covered by insurance, but there is still
a loss of about \$10,000. He expects
soon as a location can be found Mr.
Ross expects to resume business. He
says that the townspeople who had
subsidized the stock in the new
hotel will undoubtedly go through
with the subscriptions, as they
realize that Astoria now, more
than ever, needs a modern, fire-
proof hotel.

CANADA'S AID TO VETERANS

Money Gratitudes, Land Entries and
Loans Offered Soldiers.

PORTLAND, Dec. 12.—(To the
Editor.)—Please tell me if the Cana-
dian government has made any ad-
vances in the way of money grati-
tudes, land entries and loans to
soldiers of the world war and if so
was it a flat sum or an amount
based on a sliding scale or was it a
bonus? If it was a bonus, how
paid, how were the funds raised? If
by bonds, can you tell me where the
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Those Who Come and Go

Tales of Folks at the Hotels.

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J. H. Beckley, prominent stock-
man of the Klamath country, re-
turned from Washington, D. C.,
where he appeared before the
interstate commerce commission
on the Southern Pacific and the
Central Pacific emmerges. Speaking
of the action of the Klamath cham-
ber of commerce favoring present rail-
road conditions there, Mr. Beckley
expressed surprise that an organiza-
tion of that kind desiring to see
the country developed should pre-
fer to remain under control of the
Southern Pacific when a competi-
tive line into that country is of-
fered. "Competition has always been
a dominant factor in building up
a country," says Mr. Beckley. "I am
a producer of that country, believe I
can come more nearly voicing the
true sentiment than has the Klamath
chamber of commerce. People of
Klamath first of all desire completion
of the Naiton cutoff, giving them
a route to Portland, Seattle
and the northern markets, and
they want a line built from Crane
west, connecting at Odell with the
Naiton line, which will give them
an outlet to the coast. They want
this line built and controlled by a
competitive line of the Southern Pacific.
The Southern Pacific has been
immediate building of the line west
from Crane and finish the Naiton
line, providing the Central Pacific
chamber of commerce from the South-
ern Pacific and joint usage is accorded
them. The Southern Pacific also
agrees to complete the Naiton line
and the proposed Modoc branch to
central Texas. Not common in north-
ern states. In southern states the
road reaches line inches or a
shade over."

Does the bluebird have any
enemies among the other birds?
At nesting time it is likely to be
aggressive. It will attack and
steal the bluebird's hole for a nest;
and the wren also troubles the nest,
times puncturing the eggs, appar-
ently with its beak. It is a
rival brood out of the food
market.

PORTLAND NEEDS MAIN STREET

Park and West Park Plus Inter-
vening Property Offer Solution.

PORTLAND, Dec. 12.—(To the
Editor.)—One need not be a prophet
to foretell that within the next 50
years there will be five or six cities
on this coast having populations of
from two to five millions. These
coast cities are all in the making
and it must be determined if
Portland is to be one of the big
cities or will it be a big town with
beautiful homes, charming people
and a delightful climate. Portland
has its problems and many are
fundamental, but not impossible. Its
greatest need at present is a main
street. We need a main street for
a village. Our business district is
constantly shifting, but finds no per-
manent home. It is a city in the
making and it must be determined
where they should be permanent
or increasing. No traffic regulations
will be satisfactory or of lasting
benefit. The city must have a main
street at present for business ex-
pansion to meet the demands of an
increased population. Our blocks are
now so wide that the width of the
streets and make smaller the blocks
will intensify the trouble.

When the late H. S. Rowe was
mayor he favored the purchase by
the city of the property between
Front street and the river from
Giles street to Madison street, the
widening of the street, the
construction of docks for river boats.
This would divert some of the traf-
fic north and south from the streets
west. Our city engineers are again
recommending this and it should
be done.

About 1893, when we were just
getting used to consolidation, our
first expansion project was the
building of a city, a number of the
officials were in the city hall—then
in the Bickel building on Second
street, between the city hall and
Astoria, and this same subject of
narrow streets was under discus-
sion. It was suggested that the city
should buy the property between
blocks between Park and West Park
streets and that from Hoyt street
to the hills, the main street be made
into a real main street.

The idea was prophetic because
no one could anticipate present
conditions. It was considered vision-
ary and impractical. No business
would ever go so far west.
Now it seems the most plausible and
desirable thing to do. Such a street
would give us a setting for a city
on the west side will stabilize val-
ues and greatly increase the values of
property between it and the river.
It will give us a setting for a city
of half a million people. It will
save life and make the transaction
of business easier, quicker and
cheaper. It will pull out protest and
opposition, but there is no opposition
to consolidation, to Bull Run water,
to municipal docks, to the Lewis and
Clark fair and every other move
for progress. There will be no
opposition, but, even so, there will
be forward movement.