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TAX LEVY OF 18 MILLS PROBABLE

Property-owners Will Have to Produce \$1,000,000 More Next Year Than This.

INCREASES ON EVERY SIDE

Demands of City, School District and County Especially Heavy—Port of Portland Levy Same on Increased Valuation.

Unless the various tax levying boards practice rigid economy, and judiciously prune the budgets of the different departments, taxpayers of Multnomah County residing in the city of Portland are threatened with a tax levy approximating 18 mills. For 1934 on a property valuation in the corporate limits of \$215,600,000, Portlandites on a total levy of 14.3 mills, paid taxes aggregating \$1,061,235.50. This year a possible 18 mill levy will yield \$1,855,013.35 taxes from the property-owners of Portland, whose property is assessed at \$215,600,000. Should the levy for 1934 reach 18 mills, Portland taxpayers will pay in the aggregate \$24,181.74 more taxes than they did this year.

Having carefully estimated the probable tax levies that will be made, the taxpayers of this city will distribute \$1,855,013.35 in taxes among the different departments approximately as follows: State, \$344,000; state school, \$300,000; county, \$300,000; county roads, \$132,369; library, \$27,800; Port of Portland, \$255,000; city, \$1,200,000; school district No. 1, \$1,018,500; initial tax for new Courthouse, \$150,000. These figures represent only the taxes that would be levied on the corporate limits of the city under an 18-mill levy. The total amount of taxes to be levied in the county will be probably \$20,000,000 greater than the sum of nearly \$1,000,000,000 that will be contributed by Multnomah County.

Although this year's assessment roll is greater by \$1,000,000 than that of last year, there is a demand from all the departments of the city and county governments for increased allowances. The Port of Portland is the only corporation that yet has made its levy, which is the same as that of last year, 1.2 mills. Property included in the boundaries of this corporation is assessed for about \$250,000,000, so that the levy will produce \$270,000 taxes, as against \$278,000 for 1933. The levy for the city and county has not been made, neither have the state authorities apportioned the share of the state's expenses. Multnomah County shall contribute in the shape of taxes.

State Requirements About Same. There prevails an opinion, however, that the requirements for state purposes and state schools will not be larger than those of a year ago, when the levy for general state purposes was 1.4 mills, and for state schools 1.4 mills. That levy was based on the needs of the state for the biennial period ending January 1, 1934. The same levy for state purposes on a city property valuation of \$115,000,000 will produce \$244,000. For state school purposes a levy of 1.4 mills will produce \$200,000. Assessor E. D. Sigler reports that since the assessment roll is about \$2,000,000 larger than it was a year ago, it may be possible to reduce the levies for state purposes and for state schools by one-tenth of a mill each.

While there is a general demand for more money for county purposes, Judge Webster says that it may be possible to keep the levy down to that for 1933 taxes, when the levy for county purposes was 1.4 mills, and for county roads .9 mills. But in addition to these two items, the County Court in all probability will decide to levy a small tax to be set aside as a fund for a new courthouse. It is the intention of the members of the County Court to levy a tax sufficient to produce about \$150,000. This plan will be followed annually until enough money is raised to construct such a courthouse as the county needs. A tax of .7 of a mill on Portland property would produce \$150,000, and it probably will be levied.

The Portland Library Commission has requested that the levy for this institution be .13 of a mill, as against .1 of a mill a year ago. This would increase the funds for the library from \$23,500 for 1933 to \$27,500 for next year. Just what the levy for municipal purposes will be can only be guessed. Mayor Lane has declined to make any recom-

mendations on the subject, and has put the problem up to the Council for solution.

Mayor Lane yesterday submitted to the Council his budget for the year 1934, based on the requests of the heads of the different departments, as to the amount of money that will be needed for conducting municipal affairs for the coming year. In his message, the Mayor, while refraining from making any direct recommendation as to the levy, calls the attention of the Council to the fact, that the estimates, exclusive of the water department, aggregate \$2,272,881.00; while the Auditor's estimates of the disbursements from the same offices and departments for 1933 was \$1,833,775.00, leaving a balance of \$441,906.00 which represents the excess of the estimates for 1934 over the disbursements of 1933. The aggregate of the receipts for municipal purposes in 1933 was \$1,829,653.33 with the result that the city will be confronted January 1, with a deficit estimated at \$272,900.17.

With the demands for increased appropriations for practically every department of the city's service, the agitation for a modern crematory plant and an emergency hospital, jail and municipal courtroom combined, among other things, it is a matter of general expectation that the levy for municipal purposes for 1934 will exceed that of 4.6 mills for 1933. City taxes to the amount of \$301,000, less about \$75,000, being the city's share in the unpaid tax against the O. R. & N. Company for money notes and accounts, have been received this year by the municipality.

With the growing demand for more money for city purposes it would not be much of a surprise if the city authorities increase the levy to 5 or 6 mills. In considering the subject of taxes for municipal purposes recently the Charter Revision Commission recommended that the maximum tax that could be levied for city purposes should be 6 mills. Some of the members of the Council already have expressed their belief in levying a tax sufficiently large to provide some of the improvements that are considered essential to a better administration of the affairs.

Combining this sentiment with the increased demand for funds in the dif-

LET THEM WRITE OR TELEPHONE.

Unfortunate patrons of the various sperm, pillow-top and similar concerns in Portland will confer a favor and aid in rendering a public service by communicating with the managing editor or city editor of the Oregonian, either by letter or by telephone, Main 7670 or A 6605. Publicity of their names is not the object, but the gathering of information only for purposes that will unquestionably be satisfactory to them. The Oregonian has already had several letters on this subject and would like, too, to communicate with the writers.

ferent departments, it is even predicted in some quarters that when the time comes to make the levy the Council may go the limit and levy a tax of perhaps 6 mills. Under the present charter the tax for municipal purposes is limited to 7 mills, but the expression recently made by the Charter Revision Commission on the subject of taxes may be regarded by the Council as a reasonable latitude to take under existing conditions.

A tax of 4 mills on an assessed city valuation of \$215,600,000 would produce taxes to the amount of \$1,294,400, or \$278,900 more than the city received this year, or an increase of about 41 per cent. A levy of 4.6 mills, the same levy as that for 1933, would net taxes to the amount of \$992,000, or about \$74,000 more than was received by the city this year owing to the refusal of the O. R. & N. to pay the tax on its money and accounts. A 5-mill tax on this year's valuation would give the city \$1,075,000, or \$143,000 more than for 1933.

In 1935 the city on a levy of 5.2 mills received from direct taxes \$742,000. In 1927, with a levy of 5.7 mills, \$449,000 was raised, while the levy of 6.5 mills for 1926 would have produced \$51,000, or \$45,000 over the amount raised the year before. But from the total of \$951,000 must be deducted the city's share of the O. R. & N. Company's unpaid taxes, amounting to \$75,000, so that for 1928 the city really received only \$876,000, or \$23,000 less than was collected for municipal purposes in 1927.

The Board of Education already has levied a tax of 4.7 mills, conditional on the probable action of the directors in increasing the salaries of the teachers from 5 to 15 per cent. If these wages are not advanced, the levy for school district No. 1 will be 4.3 mills. The property included in the boundaries of the district is assessed for \$220,000,000, and a 4.7 mill tax would yield \$1,034,000. Of that amount, taxpayers of the city of Portland, who own \$115,000,000 of the \$220,000,000 of property, will contribute \$1,000,000.

FIRE RUINS CHURCH

Immanuel Baptist Edifice Is Badly Burned.

NEW BUILDING NECESSARY

Temporary Repairs Will Be Made, but Damage Is Too Great to Present Structure to Continue Its Use.

Fire, which started in the roof, from causes unknown, virtually destroyed the Immanuel Baptist Church, southeast corner of Second and Mead streets, at 8 o'clock last night. Damages by both fire and water are estimated to be about \$5000, of which \$2000 is covered by insurance. The property is valued at about \$5000. Two alarms were sent in. One came from the corner of First and Mead, rung in by someone near the fire box, who saw the flames spouting from the roof of the church, and another, but a moment or two later, was sent in from the corner of Second and Sheridan streets by one of the neighbors living across the street from the church, and who thought he was the first to discover the blaze.

But half an hour before the flames were seen to burst from the roof, S. F. Gunn, the father of the sexton, had been in the building to look after the fire in the furnace, and had found everything in good order. As the flames were confined entirely to the upper part of the church, it is thought that sparks from the chimney probably caused the blaze. Large quantities of water were poured into the building, ruining the carpet, piano, organ and the furnishings. The firemen were busy for three-quarters of an hour before they put out the blaze. At one time the flames shot up in the air, and attracted attention from all parts of the city.

Rev. A. R. Minaker, the pastor, who lives at 1928 First street, was notified by telephone, and hurried to the scene. He summoned the members of the board of trustees, and at a meeting held by the ruins of the church, arrangements were perfected to hold the regular services today in Jones' Hall, corner of Front and Gibbs streets, at 10:30 o'clock, to be followed by the Sunday school.

The Immanuel Baptist Church was organized 23 years ago. For five years its services were held in a little house on the southwest corner of Second and Mead streets, which is still standing, and is now used as a dwelling. Twenty years ago the building which burned last night was erected, and five years ago a substantial addition was made to it. Plans for the future of the congregation are not definitely settled as yet. A meeting of the board of trustees has been called for Monday morning by W. S. Hale, chairman, when plans will be considered and decided upon. It is



"And the eye catcheth in an instant what the ear shall not learn within an hour. Thence is the potency of travel, the precious might of its advantages."

Dr. Thompson, who recently returned from abroad, was for two years practicing in the various eye clinics of London, Paris, Berlin and Vienna. He has seen hundreds of marvelous operations performed by the greatest oculists of the world. It was in Paris that he made his discovery for instantaneous sight-testing that startled the medical profession of Europe.

Dr. Thompson is now demonstrating his new method, by which he is able to correct impaired vision and cure permanently by the use of properly fitted glasses, headache, eyestrain, nervousness, blurring of vision and other ailments resultant upon eyestrain. Difficult cases solicited.

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WHEN YOU SEE IT IN OUR AD IT'S SO

MOYER THIRD AND OAK 1st AND YAMHILL

thought, however, that temporary repairs will be made to the partially destroyed building, it being beyond repair for permanent use, and that a new building will be erected on another site and the present property sold.

Before the decision to meet in Jones' Hall had been completed, Rev. J. Whitcomb Brougher, of the White Temple, invited the congregation to join with his at worship today. While this offer was deeply appreciated, it was thought best for the church to meet under its own identity in the hall.

Absent Too Long; Will Be Tried. PORT TOWNSEND, Wash., Dec. 19.—The third courtmartial of a fortnight among the officers and crew of the Revenue cutter Thetis will be held during the coming week. William Hink, warrant officer rating as a ship's writer, is accused of desertion in charges preferred by Captain A. J. Henderson. Hink has ten years of service but overstayed a recent short leave.

RICHARDSON'S Xmas Gifts for Men

- Smoking Jackets, Walking Sticks, Hats [Foreign Domestic], Bath Robes, Lounging Wraps [English American], Dinner Coats, Dress Suits, Business Suits, Shirts [Custom Ready], Fancy Handkerchiefs.

- Neckwear [London Paris], Night Shirts, Collars, Caps, Gloves, Toilet Requisites, Gloves [Imported Selected], Sweaters, Hosiery [Silk Lisle], Waistcoats [Day Evening], Suspenders [Silk Lisle].

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