

TAX EQUALIZATION IS ISSUE IN IDAHO

Democratic Board Will Meet at Boise Tomorrow to Act on Question.

VALUES TO BE READJUSTED

Radical Action Is Certain to Be Taken Especially With Regard to Livestock Which Has Been Prosperous Lately.

BOISE, Idaho, Aug. 11.—(Special)—The first Democratic board to equalize taxes of the state which has sat at the Statehouse in years will take up its duties Monday. No board of more importance in the government of this state and none has played so prominent a part in politics. The board has unlimited power. During the past years it has been a Republican complexion. This year that complexion has changed to Democratic due to the sweeping changes that followed the last general election. The members of the new board are: Governor Alexander, Attorney-General Walters, Secretary of State Dougherty and State Auditor Van Deusen, Democrats; State Treasurer John W. Eagleson, Republican.

The present war crisis has resulted in a revolutionized property and business conditions in the state of Idaho which, board members say, will call for a readjustment of valuations that certain that in some classes of property High taxes have always been a political campaign issue in Idaho, and the action of a state board of equalization plays no unimportant part in regulating the taxes. It seems to be very certain that in some classes of property the new board will take radical action, especially with regard to livestock, and more particularly sheep. The livestock industry has been enjoying an extended era of prosperity during the past year.

Valuations Are Shown. Preparatory to the meeting of the board the auditors of the 41 counties of the state are sending abstracts showing real and personal property valuations. It seems certain that when the board meets the grand total reported assessed valuation for this year will be no less than it was last year. In 1916 the total was \$202,942,887 for the state. The board reduced this valuation by equalization to \$292,704,199.

Ada County, Boise is the county seat, seems to have suffered the greatest slump in the matter of reported real and personal property assessments this year. The abstract shows a falling off of approximately \$4,000,000.

In 1916 the total valuation of all reported agricultural land in the state was \$109,070,655. Timberland, \$22,161,114; cut-over and burnt timberland, \$4,925,949; mineral land, \$38,863; grazing land, \$18,950,493. Improvements on lands outside cities, villages and townships amounted to \$12,914,726. Business lots had a valuation of \$12,042,205, and residence lots \$19,646,771. Improvements on lands in cities, villages and townships were valued at \$22,492,059. Merchandise in stores, \$7,331,171.

It is not believed that when the board meets there will be a material change in these figures for this year. The abstracts for real and personal property to be made this year, however, may decide to increase valuations along some lines and lower them in others. One of the paramount issues in Idaho politics came up when the state board of equalization met during the administration of James H. Hawley, governor. Hawley declared for a rigid enforcement of the law requiring property to be assessed at its full cash value. An extra session of the legislature was called to bring this about. At that time property was being assessed at about 70 per cent of its value. The stand taken by the Governor and the legislature, the board backing him up created a campaign issue the two years following that did more than any one thing else to retire the then Governor.

Mine Taxation Is Issue. The taxation of mines has always been a live issue in this state, more so in past years than the more recent. The abstracts reported by the mining counties in the state show the net profit on mines to be \$12,829,180. Last year the net profit on mines was \$10,195,244. A comparison of the figures favors the miner. The bulk of this wealth comes from the Coeur d'Alene mining section, famous for its lead mines. Shoshone County alone reports net earnings of \$12,214,441. Custer County adds to the total with \$221,593, and Boise County, \$127,205. Lemhi County reports net earnings of \$146,367, as compared to \$17,364 reported for the previous year.

Some of the larger counties of the state showing assessed valuations are reported for 1916, as compared to the reported valuations of 1915, are interesting. Ada County reports a total of \$25,629,955 for 1916, as compared to \$24,479,660 for 1915. Bannock reports \$16,620,446 as against \$16,491,360; Bonneville, \$11,092,420 as against \$10,570,258; Canyon, \$12,676,776 as against \$12,428,283; Idaho, \$16,811,113 as against \$16,687,736; Nez Perce, \$13,483,535 as against \$14,071,644; Shoshone, \$23,072,866 as against \$22,929,186; Twin Falls, \$13,015,056 as against \$15,507,192; Latah, \$17,062,695 as against \$17,590,273. It will be seen that the loss in Ada County's valuation is picked up by the increase in Shoshone County's valuation, while the loss in Canyon County's valuation is picked up by the gain in Bonneville County's valuation.

Projects Are Investigated. In order that the meeting of the state board of equalization can be held on scheduled time Monday it is necessary for executive state officials to return to Boise before that time. Most of them are out of the city. The so-called "Flying Squadron," composed of members of the State Land Board, the Governor, Attorney-General and Secretary of State, have been spending the week investigating Carey act projects in southern and southeastern parts of the state. They went as far as the Jackson Hole country in Wyoming. They held an informal meeting of the land board at Mackay. State Treasurer John W. Eagleson has been the only executive state official at the Capitol, which has otherwise been in the custody of subordinate employees.

E. B. Madden, the new secretary to the Governor is rapidly becoming familiar with his duties. He was named secretary following the appointment of C. O. Broxon as state insurance manager by the last Legislature. This is a \$6000 job good for five years. Manager Broxon will leave in a few days on an extended tour over the state to meet employers of labor and make them familiar with the provisions of the workmen's compensation act, particularly with relation to insurance they must carry to protect their employees. Secretary Madden is one of the

EUGENE MAN INVENTS LOCK WHICH DOES AWAY WITH KEY

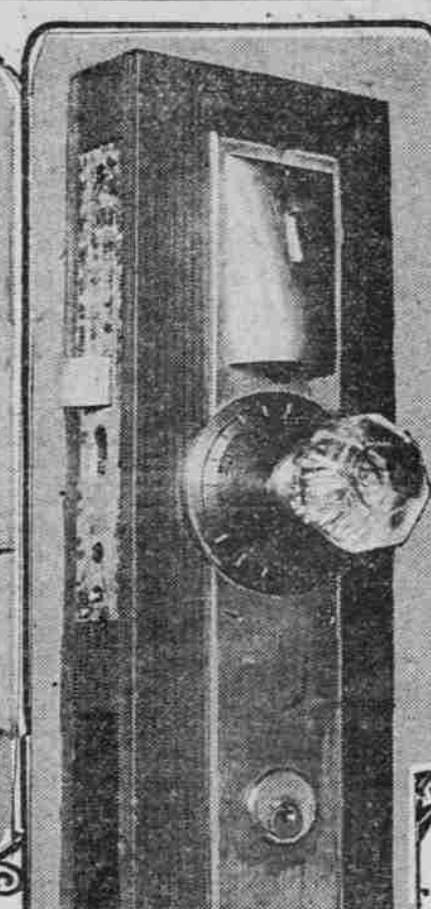
N. O. Billings, Who Has Made Violins for Oregon Musicians for Number of Years, Turns to Inventing, After Losing \$4000 in Similar Device.



N. O. Billings and His New Invention.

EUGENE, Or., Aug. 11.—(Special)—N. O. Billings, who for more than 40 years has been making violins in Oregon and who carved out many of the instruments now in use by musicians of the state, has turned inventor and believes that profits he is soon to receive from a combination lock will make him a wealthy man. Uncle Sam has approved his model by issuing him a patent and men who have spent their lives handling locks declare his product of unusual merit.

Billings became interested in locks not because he was a genius with tendencies in that direction, but because he put \$4000 money earned making violins, into a lock which looked good on paper when in the hands of a clever salesman, but which would not work when a model had been completed. Billings' combination lock is not intended to make the strong boxes of banks more secure, but is designed to eliminate keys from the doors in every home. The purpose of the lock in which Billings invested was the same, but it was a great, complicated affair, operated by electricity. Billings has not only eliminated electricity from the operation of the lock, but has constructed a lock of unusual simplicity, the combination of which is controlled by three small brass discs and in which there are no tumblers to betray the secret of the combination to an expert. Its operation is noiseless until the combination is complete, when a little bar



Another View of Lock.

falls down and, as the knob is turned, draws the bolt back, opening the door. Billings made his first lock of wood similar to that used in the manufacture of the class of 1917, and was popular with everybody who knew her.

WAR DEMANDS COIN

Senator Simmons Concludes Talk on War Tax Bill. M'CURBER TO SPEAK NEXT

BERRY PRICE RECORD

HOOD RIVER GROWERS HAVE BANNER CASH YEAR.

Net Returns Are \$26,000 Greater Than in 1916, Although Shipments Are 19,000 Crates Less.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Aug. 16.—(Special)—Officials of the Apple Growers' Association say the strawberry season just closed has been the most successful in the institution's history. The sales organization reports the season's average, net to the association, at \$2.90 per box, as compared with \$1.79 last year. The sum of \$4.50 was received for all berries sold on June 1 and 2, when the first express shipments were made. The first express was made on July 27, nearly a month later than usual. Despite the lateness of the berry harvesting season, the association will distribute the returns to growers several weeks earlier this year than usual.

The following is the list of the various pools showing the dates and the average price realized, this price being absolutely net to the association after paying all brokerage and selling costs, and does not include any railroad claims but is the actual net money received and which is being distributed to the growers.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Price. Rows include June 1-2, June 3-4, June 5-6, June 7-8, June 9-10, June 11-12, June 13-14, June 15-16, June 17-18, June 19-20.

BRUSH FIRE IS CONTROLLED

Flames Sweep Small Area Near Baseline Road.

A crew of a dozen men is fighting a brush fire on the Baseline road near Rockwood, about eight miles from Portland. Sheriff Burdick was called to the scene late yesterday and succeeded in rounding up enough men to put the flames under control. The fire is on the south side of the road and the Northwest wind carried it over a area 100 yards wide and a quarter of a mile long before it was checked.

WAR DEMANDS COIN

Senator Simmons Concludes Talk on War Tax Bill.

M'CURBER TO SPEAK NEXT

Farmers Are Declared Ready to Bear Their Share of Expense of Carrying on War in Defense of Nation's Honor.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—The \$2,006,970,000 war tax bill as the unfinished business of the Senate again today was the subject of debate in that body.

Senator Simmons, chairman of the finance committee, which re-wrote the House bill, resumed his speech in further explanation of the measure.

"I believe this is a righteous war made necessary by every consideration of National honor and safety," Senator Simmons said in speaking of the bill's heavy tax levies. "I know that money is as essential to its successful prosecution as armies and navies and I believe that every citizen should pay for its support according to his ability."

On the liquor section, Senator Simmons said the Senate committee accepted practically all of the House rates imposed on intoxicating beverages and that changes made were due to the passage of the food-control bill and the necessity for raising a larger amount of money through taxation.

"Undoubtedly the prohibition of the manufacture of spirits for beverage purposes," he said, "and the commanding powers of the President will give to the owners of the stock of spirits now in bond and in stock a practical monopoly of the market and prices will be greatly increased."

The higher tax on beer and wines, he said, was deemed necessary because there would be an enlarged market for them.

Senator Simmons declared that the farmers were willing to bear their share of the war taxes and that no request for exemption from the provisions of the bill had reached him from them. He told the Senate that the farmers had received returns for their products on the average beyond their most optimistic dreams, and that they would continue to reap a splendid net return until the peril had passed.

Senator McCumber had planned to discuss the bill, but as Senator Simmons did not conclude until late, he postponed his speech until Monday.

—only four days starting today

PEOPLES "A Portland Institution" Alder at West Park

Gail Kane

at the head of a wonderful company in the most appealing, powerful, compelling production we have had in this theater in many weeks—a soul-stirring drama in which love batters down international hatred.

"Souls in Pawn"

Besides this remarkable five-act dramatic success, our programme includes a ludicrously funny two-reel "Lonesome Luke" comedy entitled

"Luke, Messenger"

and, for good measure, another Peoples Theater news scoop, photographed in Portland yesterday,

Bathing Girls at Columbia Beach

See Portland's Bathing Suit Contest—Scores of Pretty Girls

A GUARANTEE

The management unhesitatingly assures you that you will enjoy this programme as much as any ever shown; usual prices.

—only four days starting today

DEATH CAUSE REVEALED

ACUTE ALCOHOLISM BLAMED IN DR. HUGH SMITH'S CASE.

Elimination of Fire Hazards at Salem Is Profitable.

SALEM, Or., Aug. 11.—(Special)—James McCune, secretary of the Oregon Insurance Rating Bureau, conferred with State Fire Marshal Wells relative to elimination of fire hazards that have been made by a number of Salem business men following the investigations of the state fire prevention committee, and promised that in cases where hazards included in rate charges have been removed, credit will be given by a lowering of the rating.

Representatives of the bureau will re-check the business district within the next 30 days. The readjustment will not be general in nature because fire and water equipment in Salem is said not to justify general application throughout the city.

WILLIAM C. HINDMAN DIES

Ex-Resident of Baker Succumbs at Los Angeles, Cal.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Aug. 9.—(Special)—William C. Hindman, 96, died here today at his home, 471 West Forty-seventh place. Services will be held here tomorrow.

The widow, Mrs. W. W. Hindman, an attorney of this city; Frank Hindman, of Alberta, Canada; Mrs. Phila A. Kaiser, of Weiser, Idaho, and Miss Grace Hindman, of Oakland, Mr. Hindman was a former resident of Baker, Or., where he was engaged in cattle raising for many years.

Campbell Hotel

Twenty-third and Hoy Streets. Phone Marshall 881. 4:30 to 6:30 P. M.

600—SUNDAY DINNER—60c

August 12th, 1917. Loganberry Punch. Sliced Cucumbers, Sliced Tomatoes. Olives. Vegetable Soup. Fried Spring Chicken with Country Gravy. Top Sirloin Steak, Mashed Potatoes. Buttered Fresh Peas. Scotch Scones, Home-Made Jam. Fresh Loganberry Pie with Whipped Cream. Pinocchio Ice Cream and Cake. Crackers. Cheese. Coffee.

Campbell Hill Hotel

741 Washington Street. Phone Main 7584. 5 to 7 P. M.

September First

New Houston Hotel. Sixth and Everett Streets. Four blocks from Union Depot. Near business center. Fireproof and Modern. Rates 75c to \$3.00. Chas. G. Hopkins, Manager.

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IT'S NOW OR NEVER

if you expect to benefit by the astoundingly low prices which prevail here in

FURNITURE

No less than 300 pieces assembled for final selling, many of which we could not replace today at the prices at which they are now offered. Fine mahogany chairs, luxuriously upholstered Davenport, Art Mirrors, Tables, Bedroom and Dining-Room Pieces.

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J. G. Mack & Co.

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