

Published every Thursday by
THE PIONEER PUBLISHING CO.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One year.....\$1.50
Six months......85
Three months......50

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION
Entered as second class matter August 29, 1904, at the Postoffice at Madras, Ore., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

THURSDAY Jan. 16, 1908

TAX LEVY AN OUTRAGE

The tax levy of 14.3 mills for 1907, which is only a fraction of a cent lower than the levy last year, is a disappointment to the taxpayers of the county, who had a right to expect a lower rate of taxation with the enormous increase of property values in the county, and by many it is openly denounced as an outrage. During the past two years property valuations have been greatly increased in Crook County, and especially in this section of the county where the principal values lie in farming lands, the assessment of which is 50 per cent higher than it was two years ago. At the present rate of taxation, 14.3 mills, taxes are higher now than they were on the same property two years ago, instead of growing less as might rightly be expected with the greatly increased tax roll of the county.

The assessment upon which last year's tax-levy of 15 mills was based was approximately six million dollars, and when complaint was made against the high rate, it was argued by the county administration that the high rate was necessary on account of the two year's state taxes which had to be paid by the county, and a much lower rate was promised for this year. This year the increase in the assessed valuations of the county is about one million dollars, and yet the levy is reduced only a fraction of a mill. What excuse can there be this year for the continued high rate of taxation?

There was a time in comparatively recent years, and within the memory of even the newcomers of the county, when Crook County managed to conduct all her affairs, pay her bills and keep out of debt, with from \$25,000 to \$30,000 receipts from taxes. This year's levy of 14.3 mills, upon an assessment of about seven million dollars, will produce in round numbers \$100,000. Where does it go? That question will doubtless have a bearing on the elections to be held in this county within the next few months. Crook County has made wondrous strides in the past five years, and her ability to spend money has seemingly grown apace.

CURTAILING THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

In refusing to permit George Putnam, editor of the Medford Tribune, to prove the truth of the statements made by him in the publications upon which were based a criminal suit for libel, the presiding judge, Hoana by name, has set as naught the much-vaunted "freedom of the press". In this case the criticisms by the paper grew out of the failure of the grand jury to indict for a flagrant case of assault by a man named Barnum, upon the person of the mayor of the town of Medford. A suit for criminal libel was instituted against the editor of the paper, and in his defense he sought to prove the truth of the commission of the crime of assault, in defense of the libel suit. Judge Hanna ruled this evidence out, holding that the grand jury was

PIANO LESSONS ARE FREE

EILERS NEW YEARS GIFT TO BUYERS WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SALE NOW IN PROGRESS

SPECIAL VALUES, TOO

\$375 and \$400 Pianos Now Going for \$248 and \$264, Including the Free Music Lessons—Write for Particulars At Once, Before Sale Closes

The head of every home which does not now possess a choice piano will surely be intensely interested in this announcement. Sixty-one of the finest pianos, made by one of the oldest and most reliable piano manufacturers, are being offered far below regular price.

The recent financial uncertainty caught many manufacturers, in practically every line, unprepared. In this particular instance Eilers Piano House secured most unusual concessions by taking eight carloads, 142 instruments, of 200 pianos which had been finished. This advantage in turn is presented to our patrons; 81 have been sold.

The pianos in this sale are known far and wide. They are of the highest standard.

We are not at liberty to mention them by name in the papers in connection with these cut prices. It would hurt their sale at regular prices elsewhere. Suffice it to say the pianos have never been sold for less than \$375 for the plain case and \$400 for the fancy kind. Now they go for \$248 and \$264 respectively.

AND MUSIC LESSONS FREE

Nor is the concession in price mentioned below the only attraction in connection with these pianos. The buyers of these pianos will secure free a term of four months' music lessons from any school or teacher desired.

PAY \$2 A WEEK

These prices mean for all cash, but any reliable person may secure the same on payments of \$16 cash and \$8 or \$10 a month, for the simple additional interest.

Remember, please, that the four months course of music lessons will be supplied absolutely free. The purchaser may select any school or teacher preferred. We pay the bill.

No such proposition has ever been made in this or any other city. We are sure it will never be made again, simply because such an unprecedented financial condition never can again arise.

Please remember, too, that the regular Eilers guarantee—money back if instrument is not in every way satisfactory—accompanies every one of these pianos; also the maker's five years' warrant, which is countersigned by us.

If you live out of town you need not hesitate in securing one of these instruments. We will ship any style desired, fancy mahogany, splendid mottled burl walnut or quarter-sawn oak, subject to inspection and approval, we taking all chances. Write or telephone for full description of these pianos at once, before all are sold.

The free-music-lessons offer applied only to pianos sold before Christmas, but has been extended for a few days longer. It is a double holiday remembrance on the part of Eilers Piano House—a remembrance to the buyer and a remembrance to which ever teacher or school the buyer selects.

Salesrooms are open every evening. Eilers Piano House, 353 Washington, corner of Park, Portland, Or.—The House of Highest Quality.

the best judge of whether an assault had been committed. That they evidently were not, either because of bias or other influence was the very fact that the editor of the Tribune complained of, and common sense would seem to indicate that the truth of the editor's charges would be of the highest character of evidence. However, people of Oregon have learned that "judicial learning" and "common sense" are not always synonymous terms.

Courts, grand juries or trial juries are not above criticism, when that criticism is just, and the certainty of criticism by the public press should they fail to do their duty is one of the strongest incentives to the strict performance of their duties by men occupying official positions. Public opinion has always been a mighty good policeman, and the press is its best exponent.

Harry K. Thaw is being tried a second time in New York for the murder of Stanford White. Delmas and the "braia storm" are missing, and Thaw's attorneys will this time try to prove merely ordinary insanity, of the neck-saving kind.

DANCE AT FISHERVILLE—There will be a dance at the new hall at Fisherville Jan. 24, also Feb. 14. Tickets 75 cents, lunch included. j16-1

Dance Schedule

Following is the schedule of dances for this district during the next few weeks:

Lamonta, Feb. 14
Madras, Feb. 22d

This space reserved by the managers. Keep your eye on it and be informed



MADRAS MEAT MARKET

A. LARSEN & COMPANY

FRESH AND CURED MEATS
Fish, Vegetables and Country Produce

MADRAS,

OREGON

A Good Place to Trade

FRANK IRVINE

ANTELOPE, OREGON

GENERAL MERCHANT

Now offers you a splendid assortment of General Merchandise at prices that will make you happy, cause you to call again, and induce your neighbors to come with you to

FRANK IRVINE'S AT ANTELOPE

The Store That Gives Satisfaction

CLASSIFIED LOCALS

LOST, STRAYED OR STOLEN—A blue-brindle shepherd dog. Reward of \$10 for return to its owner, Louis Volrath, Madras, Oregon.

RUGS—Our Xmas stock of rugs and new furniture arrived late. We are closing them out at almost your own price. Loucks Bros., furniture. j16f

If you want to buy a ranch or town property, or rent a house in Madras, see Osborn & Wilson.

Try our Imperial washing machine, it is the best. McTaggart & Bye.

MONEY TO LOAN—I have money to loan on good deeded farm lands. Apply to Max Lueddemann, Madras, Or.

UNDERTAKING SUPPLIES — We have ordered a complete line of coffins and undertaking supplies, and will be able to supply anything in that line promptly. Loucks Bros., furniture, Madras, Oregon. j16f

STEAM ROLLING—Have your grain steam rolled or dry rolled. I have good new equipment, capacity 15 tons daily. Prices: Steam rolling, \$2.50 per ton; dry rolling, \$2.00 per ton. J. C. Wayhore, Madras, Or. o24f

A complete supply of legal blanks for sale including warranty and quit claim deeds, real, chattel and crop mortgages, etc. Justice court blanks and justice court work a specialty. Notary Public.—F. J. Brooks.

ALFALFA RANCH FOR SALE—440 acres in all, well improved, 100 acres in alfalfa, 200 acres can be irrigated; on Crooked River near Prineville. We have for sale all kinds of farming lands in large and small tracts. If you wish to buy or sell see Osborn & Wilson, Madras, Oregon.

FOUND—Last Wednesday, between the Pinkerton and Dove ranches, a gold ring engraved with initials. Owner can have same by proving property, Anton Batalgia, Madras.

WE HAVE

— A Big Line Of —

HEATING STOVES

See them if you need one

LOUCKS BROS.

DEALERS IN FURNITURE
MADRAS, OREGON

J. W. French, Pres. H. A. Moore, Vice-Pres. F. T. Hurlburt, Cashier

EASTERN OREGON BANKING COMPANY

FOREIGN EXCHANGE BOUGHT AND SOLD
DRAFTS ON ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

Capital Stock, \$25,000
Deposits, \$250,000

SHANIKO, OREGON

Trout Creek Sawmills

ASHWOOD, OREGON

NOT IN THE TRUST

Mills 14 miles from Haystack. Rough Lumber \$11.00 per thousand at the mill. Flooring and finishing lumber \$30.00 per thousand. Other prices in proportion. Address GEO. R. LEE, Mgr., Ashwood, Oregon.

A. M. WILLIAMS & CO

DEALERS IN

Dry Goods, Clothing,

Furnishing Goods

BOOTS AND SHOES
HATS AND CAPS

THE DALLES

OREGON MADRAS,

ELK DRUG STORE

Carries a good line of fresh drugs and patents. Prescription work and family recipes made a specialty

T. A. LONG
Physician and Druggist

MADRAS TRADING COMPANY

Can Save You Money

2 cans peaches..... 45c
Coffee..... 15c and up
Prunes..... 5c lb

These are not special prices in order to get cash or a clearance sale, but are a few of our regular prices. All other goods in proportion

C. E. ROUSH, Manager
Madras, Oregon