

COOS BAY TIMES

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SETTLE IT.

TO THE average citizen interested in the general welfare of the city it would seem that the city council should settle the North Front street controversy. Why not get the property owners together and agree on some one plan and then push it. The present condition is rapidly becoming intolerable. The council should settle it and then proceed with other municipal business.

WHY TAXES ARE HIGH.

TAX payers, as they come to consider their tax statements, should keep it in mind that increasing levies have not been due entirely to the municipal end of the city government.

The school levies and the county levies have been increased. The city levies have been only slightly increased.

School expenses have been greatly increased in recent years.

Marshfield has been building a high school that is bigger and more expensive than most cities of this size.

Increasing assessments have given more money to every department of the government at the old levies. But in addition to this school and county levies have gone up.

The tax levy is too high in Marshfield. There should be curtailment rather than expansion.

The city council is not responsible for the high levy. But the city council should see to it that the levy is not made higher and that there is no floating debt to discredit the city.

As for the school management that is a problem yet to be dealt with. The Times believes that money could be saved without in any way impairing the service the schools give.

WIFE DESERTION.

THE Oregon legislature failed to pass the drastic measure providing severe penalties for the wife deserted. In this failure The Times thinks the Oregon senators made a grievous error.

There is no more serious offense against society than the offense of wife desertion. As one legislator pointed out, it brings on pitiful suffering of the innocent and even death. Because of a husband's desertion, the County authorities recently buried a half starved babe and carried its mother away to the insane asylum. That is only one case of suffering out of many that might be cited.

As this man said the law cannot deal too severely with men who take women from their parents or relatives, promising to care for them, and bring children into the world, and then desert them and leave them to starve and suffer. Such men have violated every principle of decency and forfeited every claim to consideration. The law ought to deal sternly with them.

WITH THE TOAST AND TEA

GOOD EVENING.

Always say a kind word if you can, if only that it may come in perhaps with singular opportuneness, entering some mournful man's darkened room like a beautiful firefly, whose happy convolutions he cannot but watch, forgetting his many troubles.—A. Helps.

THE CROWNING TEST.

About Ben Edict—may he never die—Awoke one night from dreams of hot mince pie.

And saw a sort of vision in midair, With misty robe and floating golden hair.

"Good gracious me!" Ben Edict said, "who're you?"

The Vision smiled—Ben Edict he smiled, too.

"Sir," said the Vision, with charming pout, "They tell me that romance is dying out.

And so I'm canvassing a little bit, Just to investigate the truth of it. I must be through my task ere dawn arrives.

I write the names of men who love their wives."

"That's me!" cried Abou "put me right up top!"

"Nay, not so fast," the Vision said, "Just stop

And think a minute, sir, for you must own

You sometime speak to her in snappish tone:

You let her do too many household tasks;

You never give her money till she asks;

You throw the Sunday papers on the floor;

And you forget to close the front screen door.

Oh, no, Ben Edict, you're a hopeless case.

I guess I'll go away now from this place."

"Hold on!" cried Abou, "let me have a say!

I like to have her buy hats, anyway."

The Vision stared at him. Then wagged each wing.

And passed away as quick as anything.

But when that list went to the printer's shop

Abou Ben Edict's name was at the top.

—Selected.

THE BACHELOR GIRL SAYS:

"When a man says he loves you, don't ask him 'Why,' because by the time he has found his reason he will undoubtedly have lost his enthusiasm."

M. E. WHITMORE SAYS:

"Too many private opinions are publicly expressed."

A Texas woman 136 years old is reported to be dangerously ill. The news may be important, but certainly it is not surprising.

That eastern doctor who asserts that a bad egg tastes just as good as a good egg evidently hasn't had any experience with bad eggs recently.

Dr. Aked, who says he is wasting his time in a church that pays him \$12,000 a year, runs the risk of being regarded as eccentric by Coos Bay preachers who have to get along on \$600 per annum.

"That man is a Christian who can sit in church for an hour behind a big hat that shuts off his view entirely," comments the Pasadena News. Either that or he prefers to take his nap where he will be unobserved by the preacher.

JAY DOESN'T CARE.

(From Dalles Optimist)

What does Jay Bowerman care if this senatorial labors have ended, and his gubernatorial ambitions have come to naught? Nothing. Not a darned thing, for Mrs. Bowerman has presented him with the finest pair of boys ever seen in Oregon. One was born on the night of February 17th, and he has been named Jonathan Bourne Bowerman. The other was born early on the morning of the 18th, but for his name there is a sort of hesitancy between Daniel Kelaher Bowerman and Oswald West Bowerman.

ROGUE RIVER BILL VETOED

Gov. West Hits Curry County Interests—Body Blow—Hurts Coos Bay.

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 27.—Governor West has vetoed the Peirce fish bill which nullified the initiative law passed by the people last November closing the Rogue to commercial fishing. The veto was in fulfillment of the promise made by the governor not to interfere with popularly enacted legislation. The merits of the measure or the hardships worked by the initiative law were not considered.

Governor West signed Eggleston's H. B. 184, prohibiting the sale of steelhead and trout caught in the Rogue river or its tributaries, and also prohibiting the sale of salmon during closed season. As under the initiative bill, the entire year is closed season, the bill prohibits the sale or shipments of fish, no matter how caught.

The Peirce bill was fathered by the Hume interests and passed the legislature after a most vigorous fight.

Governor West stated that he had not vetoed the Eggleston bill, as erroneously reported, and that he had had no intention of vetoing it. Seven of these game bills he was reported to have vetoed, he has permitted to become laws.

The bills are: H. B. 217, by Chatten, regulating fishing on the Willamette river; H. B. 249 by Lieneweber, to prohibit propagation of Dolly Varden trout; H. B. 354, by Douglas county delegation relating to fishing on Umpqua river; H. B. 184, by Eggleston, prohibiting sale of Rogue river fish; H. B. 267, by Chambers, relating to shooting birds from skiff; S. B. 253, by Herriman, protecting salmon in Klamath river and S. B. 80, by Merryman, protecting wild geese.

Gov. West's Views.

He says the people have expressed themselves without qualification on the Rogue River matter and left nothing for the legislature or himself to do other than follow their will. In the message accompanying this veto he says:

"The purpose of this bill is to nullify a law passed by the people of this state at the last general election, whereby the Rogue river was closed to commercial fishing. The commercial fishing on the said river has for years been controlled by one man who through riparian ownership, has maintained a complete monopoly upon the industry. Through the enjoyment of this monopoly he grew wealthy and was absolute dictator so far as that stream was concerned. Deriving his revenue from Oregon, he spent it in California, where his family resided and his supplies were purchased. The money he spent for the propagation of fish he spent because it would ultimately add to his revenue.

"Such streams as the Rogue and fish therein are given by the laws of God to the people for their common use and benefit but this one, through the favoritism of man made laws, was given over to the sole use and benefit of this one man. For every dollar expended in equipment and propagation hundreds were taken in profit. Therefore the charge that the closing of the stream is unjust and confiscatory is without foundation. If, through laws passed by the legislature one man was permitted for years to enjoy a monopoly, which, while making him rich, retarded the growth and development of the country, his heirs have no right to complain when the people see fit, through the passage of another law, to break the said monopoly and place the control of the stream back in the hands of all the people, where it rightfully belongs."

MANY ARE VETOED.

Gov. West Applies the Ax to 64 Measures.

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 27.—Of the 725 bills that were introduced in the two houses of the legislature, 275 of them have been allowed to become laws. The legislature itself failed to pass or indefinitely postponed 384 bills or more than half the number introduced and the governor by the exercise of his veto power, stopped a total of 64 bills, which is the largest number of bills of any one session that has ever been vetoed by a governor of this state.

TEN TO GO ON 1912 BALLOT

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 27.—While standpat members of the legislature were ready at all times to complain of the overburdened ballot, and Senator Jay Bowerman took great glee in referring to the "nine foot ballot," the completed record of the late session shows the legislature has done its share toward loading the ballot for the next election.

No less than six amendments to the constitution have been ordered submitted to the people in 1912. Besides these the legislature gave its approval to resubmission of the woman suffrage question by a formal joint resolution, and it named a committee to frame and submit initiative laws on the subject of taxation, from which it may be expected that two or three bills will emanate. Eight or ten propositions on the ballot in 1912, therefore, will owe their position upon it directly to the legislature of 1911.

Most important of the amendments are the three dealing with taxation, one of which repeals the amendment carried at the last election, whereby counties may adopt their own tax systems and experiment, if they choose, with the single tax idea. The other two submit to the people once more what were known as the grange amendments, defeated last November. These are based upon the Wisconsin law and permit the classification of property for tax purposes, though preserving the requirement that taxation must be equal and uniform.

The legislature thought well of the two bills introduced by Representative Beals, imposing increased taxation upon gifts, legacies and inheritances. The house passed both of them, but they were halted in the Senate, where certain features were objected to and where it was decided the better plan would be to let all tax bills, as distinguished from constitutional amendments, be framed by the special legislative committee.

If the Beals bills had been passed, they would still have required submission to popular vote, under the amendment adopted last November. Thinking the Beals measures were defective in some respects, the senate yielded to the argument that they should be defeated and the special committee given a free hand in framing comprehensive legislation.

The only other important measure affecting taxation was the bill imposing a tax of one-half of one per cent on mortgages. As Senator Calking, one of the strong champions of this bill, is a member of the special committee, this may also find its way to the ballot one year from next November.

Miscellaneous Items for Ballot.

Aside from the three tax amendments ordered submitted, the people are certain to vote on the following questions, because the legislature has so determined:

Creation of the office of lieutenant governor.

Making stockholders of state banks liable to depositors for twice the amount subscribed, the same as stockholders of national banks.

Requiring a majority of all votes cast at an election to carry a constitutional amendment, instead of a majority of those voting on the particular question at issue.

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