

# TAXPAYERS' LEAGUE TELLS OF WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

## AGITATION IN FAVOR OF CLEANER STREETS

Public Matters Carefully Considered and Reported Upon by the Executive Committee—Other Matters.

At the meeting of the Taxpayers' League during the early part of last month the following report of great interest to the taxpayers of Portland was read and adopted:

To the Members of the Taxpayers' League—Gentlemen: About two years ago the Executive Committee, through the president, made a full report of the affairs of the league. It is but proper that at this time there should be presented for your consideration a brief recapitulation of the work accomplished since the last report.

**The Telephone Franchise.**  
Early in 1901 the Oregon Telephone Company applied to the city for a new franchise and a special committee was appointed from the league to consider the subject. Until that time our citizens had given little thought to the value of municipal franchises. The report of your committee and the agitation of the question aroused thereby added materially in giving the public a clearer conception of the subject of franchises, and did much to pave the way for the adoption of the excellent franchise provisions in the present city charter. As you will remember, the league stood for a 25-year limit, for adequate compensation, and for other considerations favorable to the city. While all the conditions urged by the league were not incorporated in the franchise granted, our views were substantially adopted and the passage of that franchise marked an epoch in the history of our municipal development.

**Legislation Enacted in 1901.**  
The Executive Committee has noted carefully the operation of the several laws urged by the league and passed by the Legislature in 1901. It looks now as if the law to report that in the main these laws have effected large savings for the city without impairing the public service. The consolidation of the three offices of County Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Recorder did not become operative until July last, but the result is all that was claimed, the savings running into thousands of dollars annually. The law relating to the collection of taxes has also worked admirably, as you know.

**Clean Streets.**  
In spite of the apathy for a long time of those in authority, the league has never ceased its agitation for better and cleaner streets. It looks now as if the work would bear fruit, and as if within a few years poor and dirty streets and dangerous sidewalks would be the exception and not the rule as in times past.

**County Matters.**  
The attention of the County Court was called to irregularities in the collection of taxes, and as a result, presumably of our petition, two experts have been employed by the county to examine its books. As yet their report, if completed, has not been made public. From our investigation, however, it is apparent that some method must be devised to reach other classes of property than real estate and personal property which is directly under the eye of the Assessor. Other bills were introduced in the last session having this object in view, but those affected by their provisions found reasons sufficient to defeat them, claiming for the most part that the bills were too crude or too drastic in their provisions. This act would have overcome most of these objections by giving a commission, specially chosen, ample time to consider the subject. However, the bill failed even to get reported back, notwithstanding the earnest efforts of some of our members and the instructions of the committee to whom it was referred. The next session of the Legislature certainly will pass some laws on this subject and it is recommended that a commission from the league be appointed to study this subject and prepare suitable laws for submission at the next session of the Legislature.

**House Bill No. 57.**  
This act passed. It provides for a payment to the State of \$10 per month, where the immediate relatives are able to pay, for the care of a patient in the Insane Asylum. At present there is no way by which payment can be made, however much the friends of a patient might desire to recompense the State.

**House Bill No. 56.**  
This act passed. It was approved by the Executive Committee and provides for the fireboat for Portland.

**House Bill No. 55.**  
This act passed. It makes the County Auditor an auditor in fact as well as in name. His disapproval of bills now becomes a matter of some importance. The bill also prescribes the character of the Auditor's reports. This is a very important measure and was passed to supplement and strengthen the act passed at the same purpose at the session of 1901.

**House Bill No. 57.**  
Failed to pass. It facilitated the collection of taxes on personal property and fixed a definite time for closing the rolls. It was reported back but never acted upon.

**House Bill No. 242.**  
Failed to pass. It changed certain of the Sheriff's fees and produced additional revenue. It was reported favorably but was never reached on the calendar.

**House Bill No. 205.**  
Was referred to the delegation from Multnomah County and indefinitely postponed. It provides for a county official newspaper, as is provided for the city, in which all official advertising must be done. The contract for the county printing and publishing the delinquent tax list was to be let to the lowest bidder after due advertisement. This measure was a good one; the arguments making an official paper necessary for the city apply with equal force to the county. The action of the delegation on this bill is difficult of comprehension.

**Senate Bill No. 184.**  
This act passed. It limits the county expenditures to the amount raised by the levy. It should serve to prevent a further increase of the county's indebtedness. The county has warrants outstanding in excess of \$500,000, most of which were issued by former County

passed the Senate unanimously but was not reached on the House Calendar.

**House Bill No. 2.**  
This act provides for the payment to the state of organization fees and an annual license tax by all corporations, domestic and foreign. This act passed and is a step toward a more equitable plan of taxation and of relieving real estate of a part of the burden of state taxes.

**House Bill No. 22.**  
This act passed and amends the present law providing for the purchase of supplies. By it all county supplies must be purchased publicly after due advertisement, except that in cases of emergency supplies for immediate use, not exceeding in the aggregate \$100, may be purchased without advertising.

**House Bill No. 23.**  
This failed to pass. It provides that the County Commissioners should receive compensation for each day actually given to county business. At present the commissioners receive a per diem for every day in the year, regardless of whether time is given to the county's business or not. The bill was referred to the Multnomah delegation and never reported.

**House Bill No. 55.**  
As prepared and as it passed the House, this bill required parents or guardians, when they were financially able, to pay \$10 per month for the care of their children in the Reform School. It was amended in the Senate, the requirement for payment stricken out and all that was saved was that the power of commitment was vested exclusively in the County Judges. As drawn, it would have resulted in a considerable saving to the State. As adopted, it takes from Judges of the county purposes and then Judges \$100,000 or more of warrants in excess of what the levy will liquidate must be apparent to all. The effect of this law should be to prevent the further piling up of the county indebtedness to be cared for in the future in some mysterious way.

**Senate Bill No. 307.**  
This act passed the Senate unanimously but failed in the House, receiving, it is said, only four affirmative votes. It was endorsed and its passage urged by the Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer.

It created a State Examiner of Accounts, whose duty it was to establish a uniform system of bookkeeping in all counties, to examine into the accounts of all officials and institutions, to ascertain the character and standing of all bondsmen of state and county officials, to verify the character and amount of all assets and securities held by officers for public account, etc. When it is remembered that at present there is no regular method prescribed for doing any of these things, no officer whose particular duty it is to look after them, and the investigations, such as they are, are conducted hurriedly by legislative committees, often too late in the day to save the state from loss, the necessity for some such law is apparent. The vote of the House can be accounted for only on the ground that more important subjects to them individually occupied their attention, or they feared some unscrupulous colored gentleman in the woodpile and did not take time to investigate.

**House Bill No. 41.**  
While the League took no official action on this bill the inheritance tax law—many of the members warmly supported it and aided so far as they could its enactment.

A summary of the legislative work of the League in this session is as follows:

Eleven bills introduced in the House, of which five were introduced and one as amended, while five failed to pass.

Of the Senate measures two passed, one was not reached on the House calendar, and one was defeated in the House.

From the foregoing it will be seen that in the last session a great deal of beneficial legislation has been secured by the League and, with what was accomplished in 1901, the League has done much for our community in the way of better laws. But good laws alone will not accomplish what we desire; the laws must be wisely administered. Though the League takes no part in politics, it should be the purpose of every individual in it to use all honorable means to get good, capable, trustworthy men in office and to assist such men by advice, by commendation, and by every means possible in the discharge of their duties.

Before leaving the subject of legislation I desire to call your attention to the great assistance rendered by Senator R. A. Booth of Lane County, and Hon. B. L. Eddy of Tillamook, who for two sessions have aided in every way in their power the enactment of remedial legislation. To the Hon. F. L. Dunbar, Secretary of State, the entire State owes a debt of gratitude for his continuous and intelligent efforts in the same direction. It is but right that you should know and realize that our work is receiving copious support from others besides those residing in Portland.

**Election of New Committee.**  
It is now time to elect a new committee and new officers. Since the formation of the League your officers have been the same and the personnel of the Executive Committee has changed but slightly. It has ever been the aim of the committee to adhere closely to the principles and purposes for which the League was formed and to refrain from any acts of a political or partisan nature. By so doing the League has established for itself an enviable reputation throughout the State. Similar

## TORIES FEAR THIS LEADER OF LABOR



WILLIAM CROOKS

The election of William Crooks to a seat in Parliament from the same district Lord Charles Belfrage recently represented points to a growth in the strength of the labor party which is causing alarm to the Conservatives. Mr. Crooks is a poor laboring man and was once an inmate of a poorhouse. His rapid rise to political position is due entirely to his own talents. He promises his constituents important revolutionary reforms.

Commissioners regardless of the income of the county. The absurdity of our Commissioners fixing a total levy of 8 or 9 mills for county purposes and then levying \$100,000 or more of warrants in excess of what the levy will liquidate must be apparent to all. The effect of this law should be to prevent the further piling up of the county indebtedness to be cared for in the future in some mysterious way.

Leagues have been organized in several of the cities of Oregon and Washington and all are working for the betterment of their local conditions. A majority of the present Executive Board have served four years and are entitled to be relieved of the burden they have carried so long. They have done much work for the community, how well or ill you best can judge, and is not always pleasant; faithfully performed it is bound to cause irritation somewhere, but it should not be allowed to stop. Gratuitous public work by the individual citizen is absolutely necessary to progressive good government, in fact, without such work good government would not exist; yet those public-spirited citizens who undertake it must not expect a grateful public will rise up and call them blessed, on the contrary, the individual or official on whom they tread will rise up and call you anything but blessed.

I cannot refrain from one more word on the necessity of maintaining this organization. We have accomplished reforms; much remains to be accomplished. The League, like most organizations of a similar character, was forced into life by existing circumstances; it must be continued to prevent their recurrence. The ounce of prevention is always worth more than the pound of cure. Generally speaking, associations like ours are short lived. While in existence they are the bane of the professional politician, who, like the poor, is always with us, resumes his vocation undisturbed by the rocks of political activity; we have escaped this difficulty, but we may perish of dry rot unless our members come forward with enthusiasm and continue to be a thorn in the flesh of the officeholder who disregards his duty to the public.

**Membership.**  
The membership of the league is somewhat larger than at any time in its history, although no efforts have been made to obtain new members. Sympathy with our work has brought about the increase.

**Finances.**  
During the past two years there has been collected, including the balance on hand, the sum of \$783.51, and during the same time there has been paid out, as per statement attached, the sum of \$766.45, leaving a balance due the treasurer of \$17.06. To the secretary there is due \$29.10 for money advanced and now the secretary is waiting for the money to be paid to him. Each member can judge for himself whether the cost of maintaining the league has been excessive and whether he has received value for his contributions.

In closing I wish to call your attention to the fact that the city is expanding in all directions and the spirit of improvement and advancement is in the air. It is at such times and under such conditions there come to the front those who advocate plunging the city and county into all sorts of extravagance. Let the members of the league remember the bitter experience of one recent past and use their every effort to protect the city and public from wasteful extravagances. Let the league stand for conservative progress. Fortunately there is in the city today a force work-

ing for true civic improvement. There is many of a feeling of personal responsibility, more homogeneity, more unanimity of action than Portland has ever experienced before. To some extent the league has aided in bringing this about, and to that extent its members have a right to feel gratified. To the members of the league the Executive Committee desires to express its thanks and appreciation for the cordial and unanimous support given it in its work by the members at large.

A. L. MILLS, President.

**Treasurer's Report.**  
Disbursements, April 1, 1901, to March 1, 1903—

|                                            |          |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| May 7—Printing the president's report..... | \$22.75  |
| Postage.....                               | 1.00     |
| Expense to Salem.....                      | 5.00     |
| May 27—Minneapolis charter.....            | 3.00     |
| Dec. 20—Stenographer.....                  | 25.00    |
| 1902                                       |          |
| Jan. 15—Postal cards and stamps.....       | 5.00     |
| Mar. 6—Bauer & Greene, attys.....          | 50.00    |
| Apr. 6—Bauer & Greene, attys.....          | 50.00    |
| May 6—Bauer & Greene, attys.....           | 50.00    |
| May 16—Bauer & Greene, attys.....          | 39.25    |
| June 7—Bauer & Greene, attys.....          | 39.25    |
| July 7—Bauer & Greene, attys.....          | 39.25    |
| Aug. 13—Bauer & Greene, attys.....         | 50.00    |
| Aug. 25—Expressage.....                    | .75      |
| Sept. 13—Bauer & Greene, attys.....        | 50.00    |
| Oct. 27—Bauer & Greene, attys.....         | 50.00    |
| Nov. 3—Bauer & Greene, attys.....          | 50.00    |
| Dec. 24—Bauer & Greene, attys.....         | 50.00    |
| 1903                                       |          |
| Jan. 20—Bauer & Greene, attys.....         | 57.00    |
| Feb. 27—Bauer & Greene, attys.....         | 50.00    |
| Total.....                                 | \$766.45 |
| Receipts, April 1, 1901, to March 1, 1903— |          |
| 1901                                       |          |
| Apr. 1—Balance on hand.....                | \$158.16 |
| May 27—F. M. Warren.....                   | 5.00     |
| 1902                                       |          |
| Jan. 5—Fifth assessment.....               | 235.00   |
| Mar. 16—Sixth assessment.....              | 235.00   |
| 1903                                       |          |
| Feb. 15—Rebate clerk's fees.....           | 5.55     |
| Balance due treasurer.....                 | 25.24    |
| Total.....                                 | \$766.45 |

**Secretary's Disbursements.**  
Telegrams.....\$ 5.14  
Telephone.....2.35  
Letter book.....1.61  
Two trips to Salem.....50.00  
Due stenographer.....25.00  
Total.....\$39.10

## YOUNG MEDICS TO GRADUATE

Exercises Will Be Held in High School This Evening.

The graduation exercises of the Senior Class of the Medical Department of the University of Oregon will be held this evening in the assembly hall of the High School. Out of the class of nine, five are girls. The names of the graduates are: George Lee Biggers, Mary Diana Egan, Harry Hammond Franklin, Katharine C. Madison, A. D. Morrison, Hugh Stevens Mount, Mary Ellen Parker, Mary Dorothea Skinner, Eunice Eleanor Van Alstine.

The following is the program of exercises: Music, "Chant sans Paroles"; Tchaikowsky Music, "Intermezzo"; Herbert Must address; E. L. Campbell, A. B., President of University of Oregon; Music, "Gypsy Airs"; Thomas Conferring degrees; Prof. E. L. Campbell, A. B. Music, "Theme and Variations"; Haydn Presentation of Baylor medal; presentation of anatomy medal; Prof. E. F. Tucker, M. D. Music, "Waltz"; Rubinstein Charge to graduates; Prof. R. A. J. Mackenzie, M. D. Music, "Lauder"; Lange Music, "Lauder"; M. D. Music, "Lied"; Nessler

## SUING FOR ELLIS ISLAND.

(Journal Special Service.)  
TRENTON, N. J., April 1.—Back of a suit which came up for preliminary hearing in this city today is a story dating back to roystering days. The action is brought by the "descendants of the original proprietors of the lands in the Province of East Jersey," and is to regain possession of Ellis Island, Robbins Reef, and Oyster Island, all contained in New York Bay. In the early colonial days the dividing line between the ownership of public lands by East and West Jersey was drawn sharply across the state from Delaware Water Gap to Little Egg Harbor. This organization has been kept up to the present day. In the present suit the complainants aver that the Immigration Commissioner has no right to Ellis Island, that it does not belong to New York State, but to New Jersey, and that Ellis Island is their property.

## STRANGER THAN FICTION.

A Remedy Which Has Revolutionized the Treatment of Stomach Troubles.

The remedy is not heralded as a wonderful discovery nor yet a secret patent medicine; neither is it claimed to cure anything except dyspepsia, indigestion and stomach troubles with which nine out of ten suffer.

The remedy is in the form of pleasant tasting tablets or lozenges, containing vegetable and fruit essences, pure aseptic pepsin (government test), golden seal and diastase. The tablets are sold by druggists under the name of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets. Many interesting experiments to test the digestive power of Stuart's Tablets show that one grain of the active principle contained in them is sufficient to thoroughly digest 3000 grains of raw meat, eggs and other wholesome food.

Stuart's Tablets do not act upon the bowels like after-dinner pills and cheap cathartics, which simply irritate and inflame the intestines without having any effect whatever in digesting food or curing indigestion.

If the stomach can be rested and assisted in the work of digestion it will very soon recover its normal vigor, as no organ is so much abused and overworked as the stomach.

This is the secret, if there is any secret, of the remarkable success of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, a remedy practically unknown a few years ago and now the most widely known of any treatment for stomach weakness.

This success has been secured entirely upon its merits as a digestive power and simple because there can be no stomach trouble if the food is properly digested. Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets act entirely on the food eaten, digesting it completely, so that it can be assimilated into blood, nerve and tissue. They cure dyspepsia, water brain, sour stomach, gas and bloating after meals, because they furnish the digestive power which weak stomachs lack and unless that lack is supplied it is useless to attempt to cure by the use of "colonics," "pills" and cathartics which have absolutely no digestive power.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets can be found at all drug stores and the regular use of one or two of them after meals, will demonstrate their merit better than any other argument.

The most delightful trip across the continent is via the Denver & Pacific Grande, the scenic line of the world. Apply at 124 Third st., Portland, for rates.

**\$1.95**

**Last Month**

we had a special sale of these \$3.50 Bookcases at \$1.95, but before half of our customers had been accommodated our stock was exhausted and we promised to place them on sale again this month. The cases have just been received and will be on sale tomorrow. Just the thing for home, office or small room—saves lots of space. They are well made and nicely finished, size 54 inches high, 29 inches wide, five shelves and brass curtain rod.

**TO Suit Your Requirements**  
We have another line of Bookcases just like the one above, only one size larger, and which sells regularly for \$5.00, our special price is **\$3.50**

**Here's Another Nice Case.**  
We have still another very convenient case made of selected ash, finely finished, 55 inches high, 30 inches wide, adjustable shelves and brass curtain rods, sells regularly at \$7, special at **\$4.50**

Our stock of Ladies' Writing Desks is unusually large and includes many new ideas. All prices. Come and see them.

**IRAF. POWERS**  
**FURNITURE COMPANY**  
190 FIRST STREET

**DO YOU RIDE A**  
*Racyle*  
**Bicycles**  
**\$40 \$50 \$60 and \$65**

The **RACYLE** is the only bicycle that is fitted with a magazine self-oiling crank-hanger.  
The **RACYLE** is the only bicycle that has an absolutely dust-proof Crank-Hanger bearing.  
The **RACYLE** is the only bicycle made today that has a bearing on both sides of large sprocket.  
The **RACYLE** is the only bicycle made today that has a chain pull between the hanger bearings.  
The **RACYLE** is the only bicycle that CAN USE SUCCESSFULLY large sprockets.

All make of bicycles repaired. TIRES and SUNDRIES for sale. Second-hand bicycles for sale at all prices—\$5.00 and up

**RACYCLES SOLD ON INSTALLMENTS**  
**FRANK M. JONES**

Sacramento  
San Jose  
Oakland  
Los Angeles  
343 Washington St.  
Portland, Oregon.

**PREPARING FOR "THE MESSIAH"**

(Journal Special Service.)  
LINDSBORG, Kan., April 1.—The one cherished day for the Swedish colony of 3,500 families living in and about this place is Easter, and the chief glory thereof is "The Messiah." This great musical festival out on the prairies, which will continue through the whole of next week, will bring together thousands of people from all parts of Kansas and from Nebraska, Minnesota and other states where Swedish colonies exist.

The Lindsborg colony was founded in 1889, and with it Bethany College. In 1879 Dr. Olaus Olsson visited London and heard "The Messiah," and he at once planned to have it produced at home. Now the week preceding Easter each year marks the greatest musical festival in all the West. Five hundred men and women are in the chorus. The chorists of the Lindsborg colony, the male chorus 50, the ladies' chorus 50, the orchestra has 50 instruments and the band 30. The renowned military band of Fort Riley is expected to take part in one of the concerts this year. The men of the chorus appear in black, the women in pink and white, the costumes making vivid contrasts.

**Mothers! Mothers!! Mothers!!!**  
**Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup**  
has been used for over SIXTY YEARS by MILLIONS OF MOTHERS FOR THEIR CHILDREN WHILE TEething, with PERFECT SUCCESS. IT SOOTHES THE CHILD, SOFTENS THE GUMS, ALLAYS ALL PAIN; CURES WIND COLIC, and is the best remedy for DIARRHOEA. Sold by Druggists in every part of the world. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind. Twenty-five cts. a bottle.