

TAXES MUST BE WITHIN REASON IF PORTLAND IS TO SUCCEED

Strong Demand Exists Throughout City for a Five-Mill Rate.

RAISE THE VALUATION BUT SPARE THE HOLDERS

Business Men Contend That the Town Can Be Best Advertised by Its Taxation and Its Holdings and Demand Low Rate.

Portland property owners oppose a higher than 5-mill tax levy for city purposes. The city is practically a unit in opposition to every increase save in fire protection, and in regard to this the demand is universal for sincere and intelligent economy.

If the city council adopts the report of the ways and means committee of that body, placing the city levy at 5.8 mills, the course will be in defiance of the strongest expressions given in recent years by property owners to guide their city officials. With scarcely a dissenting voice, the people believe this city should not be burdened with more than 5 mills of taxes the coming year. Never was the city entering upon a brighter season of prosperity. All of the material elements center around it with fostering care, giving to the name of Portland just now pre-eminent favor in the financial world. It is a time when, above all others, the property owner desires to welcome the heavy investor with open arms.

Every one is satisfied with the assessment policy, giving to the city credit for \$131,000,000 of property. Such a valuation at this time will impress upon financial magnates Portland's strength and substantial foundation. But, while applauding the assessor in being so opportune, the same people emphasize that this good work should not be made the medium of increased tax levies. Rather, property owners desire that the levying powers complete the good work by fixing a low rate of taxation. They believe the bare statement in 1906 that Portland has an assessed valuation of \$131,000,000, and pays but a 15-mill tax, would prove of great benefit.

No one protests against absolutely necessary improvements to any service, but all demand that the same economies be observed that would have been necessary had the assessor not increased valuations.

"Suppose that Mr. Sigler had not in-

creased the rating of Portland property," remarked a heavy taxpayer. "The council last year had the levy up to the maximum. Had not Mr. Sigler increased values about threefold they would not have been able to get any more money for fire or other purposes this year, save the slight increase due to natural growth of the roll and revenue from indirect sources. Is it argued that we would have been placed in such terrible condition? I believe not. The crying, pressing need for \$150,000 to \$200,000 more money for city purposes did not arise until the opportunity to get it had been presented."

This argument terminates on the vital point with the assessor. He was not compelled to increase valuations this year. He did it because he thought such a policy for the best, and only after he had been assured that there would be no radical increase in the tax levies. Mr. Sigler's constituents constantly suggested to him the possibility of his policy being followed by real increases in taxes. To all he openly stated that he had been assured, no such increase would be made. Many acquiesced doubtfully, fearful that if the things were unfastened some of the taxing powers would grow rampant. These are quick to rise now with "I told you so." One of the most prominent bankers of the city said yesterday: "I believe in Mr. Sigler's policy of valuations. It is best for all concerned and will equalize the burden of taxation. But I opposed it when he discussed the matter with me for fear that the tax levying powers would seize this opportunity to oppress property owners. I told him that such might result. I knew that with our expenditures this year, when the fair was on, as the basis for our tax next year, we would have plenty of money if proper economies were observed. I believe so yet. Streets are in better shape now than then. We now have a special tax to provide \$117,000 for bridges over the deep gulches in the city, which will remove an important source of expense from above the general tax fund. Our city is growing rapidly, and the indirect revenue will also be much larger, especially with the vast amount of construction work in progress in the city near. Then, I note that a 5-mill levy would give to the city \$40,000 to \$50,000 more revenue from direct taxes than we received last year. This is not being a fair year, we should be able to practice many wholesome economies impossible in 1905. But despite all, I find the council reaching to grasp an additional \$150,000 to \$200,000 more money from direct taxes than last year."

"I feared it, and believed we should never raise the limit in Portland until we had secured another law from the legislature, placing our maximum levy at about 5 mills. But our assessor, act-

ing on his best judgment, has increased valuations, and it is now up to the community to convince the council that we want a no higher levy than 5 mills. If property owners would speak out, their public officials would not disregard their words, if they have any consideration for their future here."

Many of the leading business men and property owners were interviewed by The Journal this morning. With but two exceptions every one approved a higher than 5-mill levy. In selecting a list, every class of business was included. The following expressions are among the mildest:

E. L. Thompson, of Hartman, Thompson & Powers, in our business we are prone to study the impression our city makes upon the outside investor. It needs no iteration to convince any one that an assessment of \$131,000,000 gives a more hopeful prospect for the many seeking a strong permanent place to invest his money, than an assessment of \$56,000,000. While you can explain that the lower valuation is but a third of the real value of city property, it is always room for an argument. Likewise with the high levy. When we had a 40-mill levy, you could explain the low valuation of property, but it was never fully satisfactory, especially in view of the fact that business was done in large cities assess at a cash value. I mention this to express my approval of the new policy, and show its worth to those seeking to interest outside capital. In regard to the proposed levy and its uses, I naturally favor anything that will tend to better our fire department, as the loss in Portland this year was excessive. But expenditures of this character should be made carefully, and when the equipment is to be added it should be with careful study of the most urgent points needing it.

Rufus Mallory, of the legal firm of Dolph, Mallory, Simon & Gearh, a 5-mill levy is ample for city purposes. That is as much as the people of Portland ought to be asked to pay. I am not in sympathy with the notion that seems to be prevalent in the council that it is good policy to get all of the money that it can out of the taxpayers, simply because certain people of the city argue for it.

Sylvester Farrell, of the firm of Everding & Farrell—it seems that when city officials get too much money they are a little more extravagant. The fire department ought to be increased where it is really needed, but in such expenditures, as in all others, it is the duty of the officials to be very careful with their money. I do not think that any other needs of the city require any increase, and am not prepared to say that these improvements will use all of the money asked.

Benjamin I. Cohen, president of the Portland Trust Co.—I oppose giving the city officials opportunity to increase the tax levy, for fear that any opportunity would be seized. It seems to me that such is being witnessed already. I do not oppose keeping the fire department up to a high state of efficiency; in fact, I know that it is necessary to do so, but cannot see wherein the city can properly use the amount of money indicated. If the police was made more efficient, there need be no more money expended there.

L. J. Goldsmith—I was a member of the Taxpayers' league committee that called on the ways and means committee of the council, and there expressed to that body my opposition to any increase above 5 mills levy this year. I believe 5 mills is sufficient for the present year.

Watches Given Away Free to Everybody!

Who on Saturday, Dec. 23, Comes to

TWO DOORS FROM YAMHILL ST. **172 THIRD STREET** **TWO DOORS FROM YAMHILL ST.**

WHERE THE BIG SIGNS ARE

And Buys Either a Suit, Cravenette or Overcoat

OPEN UNTIL 12 O'CLOCK P. M. SATURDAY NIGHT

Free! Free! Free!



SATURDAY—A BEAUTIFUL WATCH, stem winder, stem setter, beautiful colored dial, will be given away free to every customer that visits our sale Saturday and purchases one of our Suits, Overcoats or Cravenettes.

THESE WATCHES are not toys; every one is guaranteed by us to keep accurate time for two years. We have had a splendid business the past few weeks and propose to give these Watches as a Christmas token of our appreciation.

FREE FOR YOU!

In addition to these watches we are giving away, we have cut the price of every garment in the house to the last notch. FOR AN ILLUSTRATION as to how we are selling our superior winter Suits, Overcoats, Raincoats, Cravenettes, Shoes, Hats, Furnishings and Holiday Gifts

READ THIS PRICE LIST

We are going one better on our Men's Furnishings than any store in town. Grasp the opportunity.

- ### Furnishing Good Department
- Golf Shirts, values to \$1.50. **.69¢**
 - Golf Shirts, values to \$1.00. **.49¢**
 - Golf Shirts, values to 75c, go at **.19¢**
 - A1 heavy fleeced Underwear, regular 75c values. **.37¢**
 - Extra heavy ribbed Underwear, regular 75c values. **.34¢**
 - Extra heavy wool Underwear, regular \$1.50 values. **.69¢**
 - Silk web Suspenders. **.5¢**
 - Men's heavy working Suspenders, good wearers, formerly 50c, go at **.8¢**
 - Woolen Hosiery, in all shades and colors, 25c values. **.11¢**
 - Men's black and fancy colored Hose **.7¢**
 - Men's Four-in-Hand Ties, 50c value **.6¢**
 - Windsor Silk Ties. **.9¢**
 - 50c Silk Hose. **.23¢**
 - 50c Lisle Hose. **.21¢**
 - Men's Working Shirts, 65c grade **.23¢**
 - Men's Working Shirts, 75c grade **.33¢**
 - Men's Dress Ties. **1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 5¢**
 - Fleece Lined Underwear **.28¢**
 - Waterproof Collars **.5¢**
 - Linen Handkerchiefs, cheaper than washing them. **.3 for 10¢**
 - Beautiful all wool blue Flannel Overshirts, regular price \$2.50. Our price. **.89¢**
 - Men's Sweaters, former price \$1.50. Our price. **.49¢**
- These are very heavy for winter wear.

- ### CLOTHING DEPT.
- Men's fine Suits and Overcoats, in chevots and Scotch plaids, worth \$15 **\$5.98**
 - And a watch thrown in.
 - Men's splendid Suits and Overcoats, in velour finish cassimeres, all sizes; positively worth \$18 or your money back. **\$6.83**
 - And a watch thrown in.
 - Silk and satin lined Dress Suits and Overcoats, in plain checks and striped colorings; they are positively worth \$22. **\$8.98**
 - And a watch thrown in.
 - Men's extra fine Dress Suits and Overcoats, in all the latest styles and shades, heavy silk and satin lined; equal to the finest \$40 tailor-mate-to-order garments. **\$11.23**
 - And a watch thrown in.
 - Men's finest Waterproof Overcoats (maker's guarantee ticket on every coat); worth \$20 to \$35. Saturday price. **\$9.98**
 - And a watch thrown in.
 - Men's Melton Overcoats, in gray, black and blue, Saturday price. **\$7.23**
 - And a watch thrown in.
 - Men's and Youths' Ulsters, in all the latest shades. Saturday price. **\$6.98**
 - And a watch thrown in.
 - Men's fine Dress Pants; worth \$3.50 or your money refunded. **.98c**
 - Men's fine Trousers for Sunday wear, in woads and fancy stripes, at (Positively worth \$5, \$6 and \$7 or money refunded.) **\$2.39**
 - Boys' Suits and Overcoats; worth \$4.50. **\$2.98**
 - Boys' finest Suits and Overcoats; worth \$5, \$6 and \$7. **\$2.49**
 - (Thousands of Children's Suits to choose from.)
 - 1,000 Pairs Boys' Knee Pants; worth \$1.00. **.15c**
- We have thousands of Suits and Overcoats to choose from—this season's popular styles and patterns. And a watch thrown in.

- ### Men's Hat Dept.
- \$1.50 and \$2.00 Hats. **.49¢**
 - Men's black stiff Derby Hats **\$1.23**
 - Men's \$5.00 Hats. **\$1.98**

SHOE DEPT.

- ### Ladies' Shoes
- \$2.50 welts and turned sole Shoes **\$1.39**
 - Regular \$2.00 and \$2.50 values **\$1.29**
 - Regular \$2.50 and \$3.00 values **\$1.69**
 - Ladies' Dress Shoes. **\$1.39**
 - Ladies' vici kid, worth \$2.50 **\$1.49**
 - Ladies' heavy Shoes for rainy weather **\$1.63**
 - Children's Shoes **.49¢**
 - Misses' Shoes **.89¢**

- ### Men's Shoes
- Men's Shoes, regular \$2.50 and \$3.00 values **\$1.69**
 - Box calf and vici, all styles, regular \$2 and \$3 values. **\$1.69**
 - Box calf and vici, all styles, regular \$2.50 and \$3 values. **\$1.69**
 - Men's patent leather \$5.00 Shoes **\$2.68**
 - Men's Shoes **\$1.23**
 - Mens' Dress Shoes. **\$1.49**
 - Men's patent leather Shoes, worth \$5 **\$2.15**

This Store is at 207 First Street Between Taylor and Salmon

We Thank Our Friends

For the splendid patronage of the year now almost gone and just now pause a moment to remark that in

Men's Clothing and Men's and Women's Shoes!

We have the newest of the new! We have the most fashionable of the fashionable! We have the cream of the cream! Our prices are the lowest of the low! and our dealings with the public are as "Square as a meeting house."

WE HAVE THE BEST \$9.50 SUIT A TAILOR EVER SEWED

And some immensely stylish fabrics exquisitely fashioned and superbly tailored at

\$14.85 the Suit

We have acquired a great business, because it is well known that FEST IS CONTENT WITH THE SMALLEST OF THE SMALL PROFITS ON HIS GOODS.

The AMERICAN GIRL \$2.50 SHOE

Comes in 60 different makes and is the equal of any \$3.50 and \$4.00 shoe sold anywhere else in Portland. They are strictly up-to-date—absolutely fashionable—have stylish French heels when desired, and may be had in patents, too. We have sold these shoes for years and will warrant perfect satisfaction in every case.

WILLIAM FEST

207 FIRST STREET BET. TAYLOR AND SALMON

COUNTY PROPERTY VALUED AT \$144,766,877

Multnomah's Assessment Roll for This Year is Issued by County Clerk Fields.

County Clerk Frank S. Fields this morning issued a statement of the 1905 assessment roll for this county, showing the gross value of all property to be \$144,766,877, with property valued at \$906,619 exempt from taxation. The greatest single item of value is town and city lots, which are placed at \$67,703,782. The lowest item mentioned in the summary is the valuation on sheep and goats grazing within the limits of Multnomah county, which are said to be worth \$2,342. The summary follows:

Acres of land, 200,553 acres	\$ 2,342
Improvements on deed or patented lands	1,890,260
Town and city lots	67,703,782
Improvements on town and city lots	27,951,265
Mines and railroads, including \$90,000,000	2,906,978
Miles of telegraph and telephone lines, 279.1	690,000
Railroad rolling stock, 205	1,177,700
Steamboats, sailboats, stationary and manufacturing machinery	4,208,785
Merchandise and stock in trade	12,535,463
Farming implements, wagons, carriages, etc.	203,064
Money—Notes and accounts	7,267,643
Shares of stock	2,302,845
Household furniture, watches, jewelry, etc.	2,167,953
Horses and mules	265,145
Cattle, 6,067 head	182,530
Sheep and goats, 1,781 head	2,342
Swine, 3,272 head	7,065
Gross value of all property	\$144,766,877
Exemptions	906,619
Total value of taxable property as finally certified by the board of equalization	\$144,860,258

OLD SAILOR DIED FOR PORTLAND GIRLS

In the account of the steamship Senator's hard experience between here and San Francisco, two well-known Portland girls are mentioned. They are Miss Katherine Hazelgrove and Miss Emma Strueta, who were for a long time in the employ of Swetland's candy house, Miss Hazelgrove as cashier. It was in an effort to rescue them from a flooded cabin that the old seaman, Ned Milander, lost his life.

The young women started for San Francisco on a vacation. A wife from one of them announcing their safety after the stirring adventure also proclaims that they will "return by rail."

Price of Slippers Cut in Two.

Baron's Shoe Store, 230-232 Morrison street, between First and Second, has had a terrific Christmas sale of slippers, and to accelerate the rush today reduced prices from one third to one half all along the line. This is a genuine reduction, too—not a promise but an absolute cut. For example, ladies' \$1.50 fur trimmed slippers are reduced to 90c, and men's fine \$1.25 kind to 80c. There's a cut that means something, and it extends to boys' slippers, too.

We Have the Goods to Back Up Our Statements. Everything We Advertise You Will Find Here. The Store is

172 THIRD STREET

Don't Forget to Get Your Watch Here Saturday Morning FREE.

Mail Orders receive prompt attention at 172 Third street.

TWO DOORS FROM YAMHILL ST.