

JUS WHAT BRIDGE TAX MEANS TO CITY

Correspondent Asks Journal What Tax Is Doing for Development of City and Receives Answer—He Believes Portland Need Not Act on Advice of Some Municipalities.

Fred C. Denton writes to The Journal in relation to the bridge tax and the "free water" amendment as follows: "The people of Portland have given their confidence to The Journal because it has sought to do fairly by the interests of the community and not truckle to any predatory combinations of special privileged classes when public questions came up for discussion and settlement."

"Now, whatever mistakes have been made in the drafting of the free water ordinance, it is before the people and a reconsideration of the city council can affect that fact. The Journal in its discussion of this measure is expected by its thousands of readers among the working and home-owning classes to be fair and to give both sides without side-stepping or veiled deception. Therefore they are asking in their conversations questions of the following purport: 'Why does not the Journal publish the charter section in full which provides for the two-mill bridge tax? Is it a fact that this section gives the city council power to build bridges for the street railway and charge them with the cost? And is it a fact that the city council is using this section to build its bridges? No on your life!'

"What have the men composing the water board done with the sums of money collected by them from the householders? Is it a fact, or not, that many thousands of dollars have been taken to build water mains through tracts of vacant lots at no expense to the owners, yet to the manifest enhancement of the values placed on those lots?"

"Will The Journal give us these facts? It has given them in the past, and it can be depended on to do so again, can't it?"

"Does the free water amendment provide for the doing away with such grafts and will it enable the citizens of Portland to get the best water furnished any city in the United States at cost without being made to pay for mains extended to friends, favorites and addition boomers?"

"If the two-mill tax is necessary The Journal will show us and if the free water proposition is evil in itself The Journal will show wherein that evil lies. What harm will come to the man of small means, the man with a rented flat or a little home in the city, if his water bills are reduced three-fourths by reason of the funds collected no longer being devoted to extending the mains in \$50,000 clips to property owned by men empty able to pay for the service? What would The Journal say to a proposition to have the city taxed to extend the gas mains for the gas company? Let us play fair. If there is merit in the free water amendment the people can be fooled at best but two years. If the much-talked-of two-mill bridge tax is a dirty scheme to get something from the people or to get a party in power, let us play fair. The Journal will show us and if it is not a graft and is actually necessary for the development of the city it is a good thing. What will you do next city election after the coming one?"

Portland Ahead of Others.

"Oregon has stepped ahead of other states and Portland ahead of other cities in bringing the sewerage closer to the people. The water of like size and situation have not had free water and their governing bodies think it impractical and cranky is no reason against it. Some years ago Oregon adopted direct legislation which any grafting set of officeholders in the country would have pronounced to be a most foolish and chimerical piece of machinery. In Oregon to take advice from Philadelphia which grows and wallows in graft with the delight of a hog in a wall trough? Are we to listen to the notoriously corrupt Glasgow beggars? That we ask for the Ruef gang of confessed hoodlers in con-

TAFT IS NOT HIS MOTHER'S CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

(Journal Special Service.)

Seattle, April 27.—A special to The Times from Los Angeles, says: "I do not want my son to be president; he is not my candidate," smiling declared Mrs. W. F. Taft, mother of Secretary of War Taft. "The supreme issue before me is my ambition for him. His is a judicial and, you know, and he loves the law. Added to these are good health and an unflinching good nature."

Mrs. Taft is a tall, graceful matron of some 70 years with whom traces of early beauty still remain. She is proud of her son's mental achievements, and tells of his innate love for the law, which causes her to see for him as her highest ambition a supreme justiceship in preference to the highest position in the United States.

"To be president is a dreadful responsibility and a very trying position for it. I know that he himself does not want it, that his views are the same as mine," continued Mrs. Taft. "He is the oldest of a family of four. He will be 40 years old in September. I have three other children, Henry W., a lawyer of New York; Horace D., who conducts a preparatory school for boys in Connecticut; and Mrs. W. A. Edwards of Los Angeles."

"I lived in Cincinnati 30 years, and all my children were born there. They are true Buckeyes. Their father came from Vermont, and I came from Worcester county, Massachusetts, but never the less they are true Obionsians."

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OREGON DEBATERS VANQUISH OPPONENTS AT SALT LAKE



(Journal Special Service.)
Salt Lake, Utah, April 27.—F. V. Galloway and J. C. Veach, the University of Oregon debaters, won the decision in debate at Barrett hall last night over the University of Utah team. The vote of the judges was two to one.
The question was: "Resolved, That the fifteenth amendment and section 2 of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States should be repealed, it being conceded that the difficulty in the way of repealing shall not enter into the discussion."
The Oregon debaters supported the negative. Galloway came out with extraordinary strength and drew from the audience of strangers and adherents to his opponents a tumult of applause. President James T. Kingsbury of Utah university acted as chairman. The judges were Judge H. P. Henderson, ex-chief justice; R. N. Rankin and Parley L. Williams, general attorney of the Oregon Short Line.

SWEDES TO OBSERVE THEIR NATIONAL HOLIDAY, MAY FIRST

(Journal Special Service.)
A Swedish First of May celebration will be held at the Swedish Lutheran church nineteenth and Irving, according to old national customs. The different churches and societies will be represented on the program. It is a movement of the Swedish people in Portland as a whole. The movement also includes interest in Danielson and Nelson, the two Swedes convicted of the Lindgren murder, and the funds derived from the celebration will go towards defraying the expenses of their defense. This is the first united move of all the Swedish people in Portland for the observance of their national holiday.

NEW RULES FOR BUYING LANDS

Commissioner Will Not Permit Sale of Isolated Tracts for Speculative Purposes.

Washington Bureau of The Journal.
Washington, April 27.—Commissioner Ballinger of the general land office has issued instructions to registers and receivers of the local land offices in the public land states and territories changing the procedure which has heretofore obtained in the matter of the sale of isolated and disconnected tracts of public lands.

MUST SWEAR WANTS LAND FOR OWN USE

May Not Buy More of Isolated Tracts of Public Lands Than Will Aggregate 160 Acres—To Benefit Home Seekers.

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FORECAST OF NEWS OF THE COMING WEEK

Naval Department to Begin Trials to Determine Best Style of Submarines.
A handsome equestrian statue of General George B. McClellan will be unveiled in this city next Thursday in connection with the annual meeting of the Society of the Army of the Potomac.

TAFT TO ADDRESS YALE MEN AT CINCINNATI

(Journal Special Service.)
Cincinnati, Ohio, April 27.—One thousand graduates of Yale university, members of the Yale Association of Yale Clubs, gathered in Cincinnati today to renew acquaintances and to sing the praises of their alma mater. Business sessions of the association were held last morning and afternoon at the Sinton hotel. Tonight the meeting closes with the annual banquet, which promises to be a notable event. Secretary of War Taft, as president of the association, will act as toastmaster. President H. W. Hildreth of Yale, Frederick N. Judson of St. Louis and other speakers will be heard.

RAILROAD MAGNATE SHOOTS HIMSELF AT SEA

(Journal Special Service.)
New York, April 27.—Captain Langranter of the North German Lloyd steamer Barbarossa reported last night that David Wilcox, former president of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad company, had committed suicide by shooting himself while at sea last Wednesday. Wilcox had gone aboard to regain his health, and after being abroad for a time called his resignation as president of the Delaware and Hudson because his health had not improved. The Barbarossa arrived last night from Naples. When the boat went into quarantine it was reported that Wilcox had died of heart failure, and the announcement created no surprise, as it was generally known that Wilcox's health was poor. Subsequent investigation, as according to Captain Langranter's report, developed the fact that Wilcox had shot himself.

MRS. HAYWOOD AT TRIAL IN CARE OF A NURSE

(Journal Special Service.)
Denver, Col., April 27.—Under care of a nurse guard detailed by the Western Federation of Miners, Mrs. W. D. Haywood, an invalid, and her two small daughters left this morning for Boise to attend the trial of her husband.
Eastern Star Leader Killed.
Peoria, Ill., April 27.—Mrs. Kate L. Chester of Chicago, grand secretary of the Order of Eastern Star, fell through the elevator shaft at the Mayeur hotel this morning and was killed.

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DRIVERS RAISE POLITICAL DUST

Mann Objects to Indorsement and Move for Zimmermann Also Fails.

Politics came near causing heat in the meeting of the Riverside Driving association held last night. The office of the Rural Spirit was used as a meeting place and a large number of the members of the association attended the meeting. After most of the routine business had been transacted, A. C. Lohmire brought up the name of John M. Mann and asked that the association indorse his candidacy for councilman for the sixth ward. Mr. Mann objected to the indorsement, but the association was not to cast its vote on him anyway when some one amended the original motion by including Louis Zimmerman as a candidate for mayor.

President Drake stated that he did not think it would be good policy for the association to indorse Mr. Zimmerman because Dan Kullback and City Auditor Devlin were also good members of the organization. After a deal of discussion Mr. Mann requested that no action be taken and on the motion it was dropped.

The association took a snap at the board of county commissioners because it had granted a franchise to an electric railway to operate a road on the Riverside drive, Base Line road and Linton road. A resolution was introduced by C. Lohmire asking that a committee of three be appointed to draft resolutions censuring the board for its action. The association was unanimous in indorsing the action and A. C. Lohmire, John M. Mann and M. D. Wisdom were appointed as the committee.

A series of spring meets has been arranged for by the association and the date of the first meeting having been fixed for June 15. The other dates so far arranged are July 4 and 27.

A smoker will be held by the association in the clubhouse on Broadway hall next Thursday evening, May 2.

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DELEGATES START FOR CONVENTION AT ROME

(Journal Special Service.)
Boston, Mass., April 27.—A contingent of America's foremost Sunday school educators 225 strong left this port today on the specially chartered steamship Romanica en route to Rome. The party will attend the fifth world's Sunday school convention, which is to assemble in the Italian capital on May 18. Because of the large number of Americans who are to attend the gathering, it has been found necessary to charter two vessels especially for the use of the Sunday school pilgrims. In addition to those leaving on the Romanica about 300 delegates will depart on the steamship Necker leaving New York today. At Rome the two companies will meet, remaining together during the convention and tour about Rome.

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