

# SHERIFF'S HIGH HANDED ACT IN REBATING TAXES

### Glaring Items Come to Light of Enormous Reductions Made in Assessment Rolls Without Formality of Affidavit or Other Conformity to the Law.

That a writ of mandamus to compel Sheriff Stevens to perform his duty and collect full taxes on all assessments approved by the board of equalization should be sued for in the circuit court is the opinion of many taxpayers. Lawyers agree that a writ of mandamus directing the sheriff to collect the taxes in full in all cases would be the proper method of procedure.

Among the largest reductions made by Stevens was in the assessment and tax of Senator Sig Siebel. The senator was assessed at \$20,000 and his tax computed at \$230. On the strength of the senator's signed statement that his assessment was too high Sheriff Stevens took \$15,000 off it, reducing it to \$5,000. He also charged off \$40 of Senator Siebel's tax and collected only \$40 of the \$230 tax from him.

Every case of a reduction is shown on the tax rolls. The assessments are cancelled by a red line drawn through them, and the lower figures written in with red ink. The reductions in the amount of taxes are charged off as errors in red ink, and the alleged affidavits are referred to by number to explain the reductions. Neither the papers signed by Senator Siebel nor any of the other 160 on file, with the exception of half a dozen was sworn to before a notary public, or any other officer authorized to administer an oath.

Many contend that Sheriff Stevens is personally liable to the county for the amount of taxes that he has

charged off for different persons without authority of law, and some believe that the amounts could be recovered from him if a suit were brought for that purpose.

The practice of the sheriff in reducing assessments and swearing off taxes after the board of equalization adjourned was not confined to last spring when the rush of paying taxes was on, but has continued throughout the summer. One of the so-called affidavits was filed and a reduction in the assessment of 1906 made as late as Friday afternoon.

Though the sheriff claims he has authority to make the reductions, he does not assert that the papers he has on file are affidavits. Affidavits are required by the statute, but the papers on file in the sheriff's office are merely signed statements, never having been sworn to by the taxpayers before a notary public or any one before whom an affidavit should be made.

The sheriff explains his disregard of the law in this particular by saying it has never been the custom of the sheriff's office to have the "affidavits" sworn to.

Legal authorities are agreed that the only authority the sheriff has to change the tax rolls is where a property-owner is assessed with items of property he does not own, or the same item is charged against him twice. The sheriff has no authority over the assessed valuation, the court of last resort as to valuations being the board of equalization. Any reduction of valuation made by the sheriff is illegal.

# BANK STAFF FEASTS AT SECOND ANNUAL BANQUET AT SARGENT

The second annual banquet given by the United States National bank to its staff of employees took place last night at the Hotel Sargent. A. M. Wright, assistant cashier, acted as toastmaster.

Among the guests who responded to toasts were F. E. Dooley, who congratulated the officers of the bank upon having such a capable and courteous clerical staff, and Mr. Andrews, Pacific coast representative of the Burroughs adding machines. Messrs. Maris, Sims and Varin, responded to a call for an instrumental number, and Tom Cleland gave a happy rendition of a topical song.

V. A. Holt, assistant cashier, toastmaster Wright and C. A. Kressman, auditor of the bank, were among those who responded to toasts.

The banquet hall was elaborately and tastefully decorated for the occasion.

United States flags, emblematical of the bank, predominated in the decorations. The centerpiece on the banquet table was a miniature draped with flags.

The annual banquet given by the bank to its employees has become a feature of the institution.

The following members of the bank's clerical staff were present: R. W. Schmeer, A. M. Wright, W. A. Holt, C. H. Chamberlain, C. A. Kressman, Paul S. Dick, J. D. Leonard, W. J. Joseph, H. V. Carpenter, H. A. Metschan, G. H. Lewis, T. H. Cleland, A. T. Wolf, W. L. Hay, P. S. McCann, W. E. Gray, J. W. Valin, F. V. Gatterlin, J. E. Sims, O. F. Maris, L. J. A. Pironi, L. A. Milner, George W. Gray, A. F. Wilson, Elmer E. Young, F. W. Powell, E. Unger, R. B. Wilcox, William C. Peterson, T. M. Word Jr.

# MOTHER GIVES DAUGHTER AWAY TO SAVE HER FROM STEPFATHER

Pleased that her 16-year-old daughter is to have a home of her own and will escape the unpleasantness incident to living with a disagreeable stepfather, Mrs. H. W. Park gave her consent to the marriage of her daughter to Alfred Julian, and labeled it a token of love.

According to the story told to Deputy County Clerk Wilde by the young groom and his best friend, the girl did not get along well at home with her stepfather,

and for the past six months she has been in Portland working for a living in order to be independent.

Young Julian is only 20 years old and his bride, Grace Boylan, but 18. When he presented a written consent from his mother, Julian handed in a similar paper for his bride by which Mrs. Park consented to her daughter's marriage. On the back of the sheet of paper she had written:

"This is for Grace as a token of love from her mother."

# RAILROAD FILES SUIT TO PREVENT SHERIFF SELLING ROLLING STOCK

In order to prevent the sheriff from selling their locomotives, passenger and freight cars for taxes, the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad company yesterday afternoon filed a suit in the circuit court asking for an injunction.

It is alleged in the complaint that the company owns a line of railroads from Astoria to Goble, Oregon, and uses the track of the Northern Pacific from

Goble to Portland. Their rolling stock is assessed and taxed in Clatsop and Columbia counties.

Multnomah county, it is alleged, assessed the rolling stock of the company at \$24,720, computed taxes at \$246.37, and the sheriff undertook to collect them. They became delinquent and the sheriff seized the rolling stock, levied upon it, and unless restrained by injunction will sell it for the taxes.

# PLUMED KNIGHTS TO DRILL FOR HONORS

Oregon Commandery Forms Team to Contest at National Conclave.

Fifty members of Oregon Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar, met last night and organized a drill team to

take part in the national conclave at Chicago in 1910. Officers of the organization have assurance that at least 50 more members of the order will sign up for the team work. Enthusiasm ran high during the meeting and the team will have plenty of support from the 307 members of the commandery.

Following were the officers elected last night to take charge of the organization: Commandant, George F. Robertson; senior warden, D. G. Tomasini; junior warden, Hugh J. Boyd; secretary, Hopkin Jenkins; and treasurer, Byron Nichols.

The second and fourth Mondays were appointed as drill nights and Mr. Robertson will drill the team until the commandery moves into its new quarters in the Masonic temple at the corner of West Park and Yamhill streets. It is expected that the change can be made at the close of the present year and a new drillmaster will be secured from the east early in January.

# Dress Up!

THERE'S no excuse for not dressing as good as the best. Your appearance—in the matter of dress counts for a good bit these days.

The careful, well-dressed man creates a favorable impression in every walk of life—and usually lands the persimmon.

Besides: Genius in rough clothes gets ahead—slowly. Suppose you talk to one of our salesmen today.

We have several hundred styles of nobby Scotch fabrics—imported by us direct—many of these fabrics made especially for us and not to be had elsewhere.

**Trousers \$6 to \$12**  
**Suits \$25 to \$50**

Satisfaction guaranteed in all cases. Garments to order in a day if required. Full-Dress and Tuxedo Suits a specialty.

**Wheeler & Taylor**  
**WILLIAM JERREMS' SONS**  
108 Third Street

# SAYS HUSBAND BEAT HER VICARIOUSLY

Stood by and Whooped With Mirth. Declares Seattle Wife in Her Divorce Petition.

(Special Dispatch to the Journal.)

Seattle, Sept. 28.—Stephen Gugelberger took another man to his wife's apartments and stood by while he urged his friend to beat the woman, according to the complaint filed in superior court today by Mrs. Gugelberger. She applied for a divorce a month ago and obtained an order forbidding her husband to visit her house, as she was in fear of bodily injury.

Gugelberger, forbidden to beat his wife himself, on the night of September 20, it is alleged, took William Colish to his house. Colish attacked the woman viciously and tried to throw her down stairs. Gugelberger stood by laughing and urging Colish to continue his assault.

# MINERS SAVE PLANT FROM DESTRUCTION

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Deadwood, S. D., Sept. 28.—The half-million-dollar mine plant of great Homestake mine was saved from destruction this afternoon by the heroic and hard work of 800 miners and millmen and the local volunteer fire department. The exterior of the main building was badly damaged and the entire structure was doomed to destruction for a time. The fire was caused by a gas explosion.

# REVENUE CUTTER HOODOOED BY 13

Cross-Eyed Sailor Brought Bad Luck to the Manning.

(Hearst News by Longest Leased Wire.)

San Francisco, Sept. 28.—With her keel rent and torn so badly that the fact she has no sunk before this surprises all on board, the revenue cutter Manning lies in the bay preparatory to going into drydock for repairs that will take about two months and cost a large sum. The crew for the first time in a month breathe easy and recall the dangerous and thrilling experiences they went through when the vessel went on the rocks between Latouche and Middleton islands, at the southern entrance of Prince William sound.

Though the officers and men feared the worst they maintained such a cool exterior that 63 prisoners, captured while seal-poaching, were restrained from jumping into the sea during a wild panic that seized them at the time of the collision. Every boat that was available was lowered and the prisoners landed while those of the crew who remained on board worked like Trojans to build life rafts from the trimmings

# PEOPLE CAUSE HIGH PRICES

Big Packer Declares Finicky Consumers Will Not Eat Cheap Meat.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 28.—Patrick Cudahy of the Cudahy Brothers company declares the American people are living too fast. They want the best of everything and are surprised when dealers have to charge high prices.

"I believe an explanation of present conditions is to be found in the law of supply and demand," said he. "The average American wants nothing but porterhouse steaks or choice meat. Out of 500 pounds net from a beef they buy 100 pounds of the best portions and leave the rest. The butcher has to sell the rest for what he can get. They must charge high prices for the desirable parts. Cheap grades are not in demand because housewives have deteriorated as cooks. The cheap cuts are as nutritious as the best but the women do not know how to make them palatable. The people themselves cause the high prices."

# LYON AND M'DONOUGH HEARST CANDIDATES

Prominent Men Nominated to Bench by League Headed by Editor.

(Hearst News by Longest Leased Wire.)

New York, Sept. 28.—Reuben R. Lyon, of Bath, and John T. McDonough of Albany, ex-secretary of state and former judge in the Philippines, were nominated for associate justices for the court of appeals by the independence league state convention at Carnegie hall tonight.

The nominations were characterized by the greatest enthusiasm and came as a climax to a remarkable demonstration for William Randolph Hearst and Attorney-General Jackson, who delivered speeches to the convention, declaring that the people and not the trusts should name the control of the state's judiciary. In Mr. Hearst's address to the convention, he advocated an honest judiciary and declared that the people have a right to criticize a judge's acts and to reward or punish a judge. He also said that the present New York city administration was the most infamous of its predecessors.

The Prohibitionists of Maryland have nominated William Gierrell, a business man of Baltimore, as their candidate for governor.

# DEAFNESS CURED

By New Discovery. "I HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT DEAFNESS CAN BE CURED." DR. GUY CLIFFORD POWELL.

The secret of how to use the mysterious and invisible nature forces for the cure of Deafness and Head Noises has at last been discovered by the famous physician-scientist, Dr. Guy Clifford Powell. Deafness and head-noises disappear as if by magic under the use of this new and wonderful discovery. He will send all who suffer from deafness and head noises full information how they can be cured, absolutely free, no matter how long they have been deaf, or what caused their deafness. This marvelous treatment is so simple, natural and certain that you will wonder why it was not discovered before. Investigators are astonished and cured patients themselves marvel at the quick results. Any deaf person can have full information how to be cured quickly and cured to stay cured at home without investing a cent. Write today to Dr. Guy Clifford Powell, 1214 Bank Bldg., Peoria, Ill., and get full information of this new and wonderful discovery, absolutely free.

There is a belief among many of the residents of Maryland that that state will furnish one or the other end of the Democratic presidential ticket next year, and thus raise the banner which ever since Appomattox has barred out southern men from any of the prizes of the national convention.

SEMBRICH MELBA CALVE  
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**VICTOR II \$30**  
Other styles \$10 to \$100

All that's best in music is yours on the **VICTOR**

It is the only instrument that the most celebrated artists find worthy to bring their voices into your home. Surely, then, no other but the Victor, with its unequalled, loud, clear, sweet, musical tone-quality, is good enough for you!

Ask your dealer to play the VICTOR for you, and to tell you how you can buy it on easy terms.

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Pacific Coast Agents Steinway Pianos Pacific Coast Agents Victor Talking Machines

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PORTLAND SEATTLE TACOMA SPOKANE EVERETT BELLINGHAM SAN FRANCISCO

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