

ADVOCATE RADICAL CHANGE IN TAXATION

Oregon Reform Association Wants Levy Abolished on Dwelling Houses, Manufacturing Plants, Farm Improvements, Livestock, etc.—Taxing Industry.

If a proposed constitutional amendment fathered by the Oregon Tax Reform association should be adopted by the people in June, the effect will be to exempt from taxation all dwelling houses, manufacturing plants, farm improvements, livestock, household furniture and workmen's tools. Advocates of the measure argue that taxation of these reforms of property is a tax upon industry. The following circular letter, setting forth their reasons for the adoption of the amendment will be sent out today:

"Dear Friend: Some days ago the Oregon Tax Reform association submitted to you the following proposed amendment to the Oregon constitution: 'Excepting that all dwelling houses, barns, sheds, outbuildings, all other appurtenances thereto, all machinery and buildings used exclusively for manufacturing purposes, and the appurtenances thereto, all fences, farm machinery and appliances used as such, all fruit trees, vines, shrubs and all other improvements on farms, all livestock, all household furniture in use, and all tools owned by workmen and in use, shall be exempt from taxation.' 'We now wish to call your attention to some arguments in support of that proposition.'

Tax on Industry. "First—A tax upon any and all of the things that we propose to exempt is a tax upon industry, and has always been shifted upon labor. We believe that labor should be free from all taxes, because a tax is, in its nature, a fine, and tends to restrict and obstruct improvements that benefit the state, as well as to discourage industry. For example, if a farmer paints his house just before the assessor comes around, his valuation will be reduced anywhere from \$100 to \$500. If at the same time he should fix up his barns, fences and other appurtenances to his farm, the assessor will raise his tax valuation still further; in other words, increase his fine, while his neighbor, with a naturally valuable property, his house and barn, fences and other appurtenances, thereby permitting his farm to become an eyesore to the community, has his farm valued for tax purposes at from 20 to 50 per cent less.

"Second—Our policy under the present policy of taxation, men are discouraged from building good houses, and modern business and office buildings, because they can secure a very large income from shacks and fire-traps, and thereby escape their just proportion of tax burdens. Men who take the lot devoted to tin cans and rocks or worse, occupied with a shack, fit den for brothels, gambling and other vices, and erect in valuation building thereon, they will be heavily taxed, i. e., fined, for their enterprise.

Do Not Improve Land. "Third—If a manufacturer invests a large amount of money in a location where land values are low, at once the land speculator capitalizes the increased value of the land, and the manufacturer loses. These speculators do not improve the land, they simply capitalize its value and hold it out of the hands of the farmer for a valuation of perhaps \$200 a lot, while they hold them at a selling price of \$2,000 or more. If a purchaser erects a \$3,000 house on these lots, he is promptly taxed on a \$5,000 valuation. Note that these speculators do not create the value for the population incident thereto. With this increase of population there is an increase of public expenses, and this value should be taken to meet this increase.

Values Created by People. "Fourth—The railroad corporations, the large timber lands, and the mines, have been granted under a maximum price of \$2.50 an acre; they avoid paying any tax at all for a long period of years, then arbitrarily refuse to sell at the agreed price at all; procure a tax valuation of a few dollars per acre, and hold the land at from \$15 to \$100 an acre. Other large capitalists robble up millions of acres of our best timber land, procure a similar valuation for tax purposes, and for selling purposes hold it at similar prices.

Encourage Improvements. "Then farmers will not be afraid to paint their houses and barns, build up their fences and trim up their hedge rows because of dread of an increase in taxation. At the same time it will result in a less tax burden upon the producing farmer, and will discourage the holding of land for use. The exemption of improvements on farms and residence property, live stock, furniture and workmen's tools, will reduce the taxes on farms and small home-owners in cities at least one third, and will reduce the cost of real and other family expenses, which means better homes. It will also build up our cities, replace the old shacks with decent buildings and substantial office blocks will rise upon business sites now devoted to tin cans and rocks; in short, it will be the beginning of the day when Oregon will govern itself like the foremost place in the sisterhood of states for justice and the square deal to every one, even the humblest of her citizens.

THE OREGON REFORM TAX ASS'N.

All High-Grade Suits, Coats and Waists Reduced

Some Were \$85.00, Others at \$40.00, \$45.00, \$55.00, \$60.00 and \$65.00 Now \$25.00

The Lower Priced Ones Have Not Been Spared. We Give You Your Unrestricted Choice of Any Suit, Opera or Rain Coat, Semi or Tight Fitting Coat, Long or Short Coat for

\$25



These reductions on Suits and Coats will make brisk buying in our store tomorrow. You cannot afford to be without a new suit or coat at these prices. All are the newest and latest fall styles. Every suit is exclusive, as we carry no two suits alike. Some heavily braided, others are strictly man-tailored. It is because we always lead in style and prices that we have made the biggest sacrifice in prices of any sale yet had in Portland. Be sure to see these suits tomorrow.

JACKETS are from 26 to 50 inches. Correct lengths for all women.

STYLES are the popular Military, fitting and semi-fitting, Prince Chap and cutaways; every one becoming models.

MATERIALS are Broadcloths, Worsteds, Serges and Chevots.

COLORS are Black, Virginia, Garnet, Brown, Green, Gray, Pearl, Navy and Copenhagen Blue, light and dark mixtures—just the shades that are worn now. Remember—no two alike and only to be seen in this store.

Matthew Gevurtz

Successor to GEVURTZ & WORRELL
141 Sixth Street, Corner Alder, Opp. Oregonian

A DREAM, A PIPE, A DREAMER'S PIPE AND A PIPER'S DREAM

Portland is now divided into two classes of men—those who received meerschaum pipes for Christmas, and those who didn't.

Pipes of the pretty, pure, white variety and which even look expensive—and their looks are not deceiving—away particularly plentiful for a few weeks following Christmas.

Gradually they disappear. Some are put away in drawers. Others are merely neglected, but the majority of the dear little things meet the fate of all things that are dropped—they are broken.

There is always great excitement when the man of the house finds a meerschaum in his sock on Christmas morn. He hunts up a box of bees and gets some beeswax. Then he looks around town for silk worms, silk, so the enthusiasts say, being particularly fine to cover a meerschaum with, to keep off the finger marks. Or if he doesn't find the silk worms, he looks for goats' hair, and other things of the kind. This is another protection that is fine, say the smokers.

But this is only the beginning of their troubles. Special tobacco must be purchased. And above all, the pipe must be smoked, handled, and attended to just as if it were human.

"I find that a meerschaum is more trouble than a bachelor," said yesterday, a baby in his meerschaum. "Never the other, though."

But yesterday the meerschaum crop



begin to decrease. Now they are going down—down to the pavement—rapidly. Within a few weeks there won't be but a few hundred left. And still they will be dwindling, and becoming less and less, until, until the last one is gone—but not forgotten.

EK WAS EKSTREMELY EKSCITED AS HE EKSECUTED HIS EKSILE PAPER

A surname of two letters, and a front name with only four, total of six in his name—this is the mark that distinguishes Gust Ek among his fellow men. Mr. Ek is feeling exceedingly proud just now because he is a bridegroom. He procured a license yesterday to marry Sigve Elgstrom, whose

surname contains more letters than the entire name of her husband.

By signing his name "G. Ek," the proprietor of the short name can still further reduce and realize a saving, and an adherent of phonetic spelling but it is probably only a coincidence that the name of the bridegroom, which was named for the strenuous exponent of simplified spelling.

RUNAWAY SAILORS RUN INTO UNCLE SAM, DECIDE TO GO BACK

Jean Faverrnac and Reve Pleyber, sailors—what romantic names to be just plain sailors—tired of the jattor life and ran away. In other words, they deserted.

Jean—pronounced the same as in Olga Netherole's "Sapho"—and Reve—pronounced Ra-ve—were on the French bark Jugene Schneider. Think of a French ship being called Schneider! No wonder the two fellows deserted.

Anyway, as it was being said, Jean and Reve ran away. The captain of the French vessel with the German name took the matter up with the French consul. The French consul consulted the United States marshal.

Result—deputy marshals were soon patrolling the waterfront in search of Jean and Reve. They heard the two were on another vessel somewhere along the waterfront. So the deputy marshals and it cured them. Applied it to an old sore and it healed it without leaving a scar behind." 25c at Skidmore Drug Co's Reform.

And there they—Jean and Reve—were, all ready to go to work.

In tow Jean and Reve were taken. The deputies piloted them to the county jail. And there they are yesterday. Jean and Reve were before the United States commissioner. He ordered that the Schneider sails Jean and Reve will be aboard.

Such is the international law.

COMPANY'S NAME A JAW BREAKER

Something new in names was sprung or has been sprung with the filing of articles of incorporation papers of the Jorgarug Investment company. The word "Jorgarug" is made up from the first syllables of the names of each of the incorporators, C. P. Jordan, T. A. Garbade and C. L. Rogers. The capital stock of the company has been fixed at \$30,000.

Articles of incorporation have also been filed by the Columbian Hospital association, which has been organized by H. H. Newhall, Hamilton Meade and William A. Roberts.

The California State Federation of Labor will hold its annual convention in Vallejo, beginning January 8.

Even if the men were put to work they could not labor for the city until they had passed a civil service examination which would require a rigid physical test. In addition they would

CITY CANNOT AID ALL UNEMPLOYED

Street Cleaning Fund Not Sufficient to Give Work to All Who Ask.

No action has been taken in the matter of placing idle men at work in the city street cleaning department because there are already more men at work in the department than there are positions. There are also 15 on the waiting list of the civil service commission to fill any vacancies as soon as they occur.

While Mayor Lane would like to see every man in Portland who is out of work placed on the street with pick, shovel and broom, he realizes that such action cannot be taken without spending nearly the entire appropriation of the street cleaning department in the first few months of the year. Not only are these facts stumbling blocks in the way of putting a large army of men at work, but the city council has not yet made an appropriation for the department.

LET CONTRACT FOR NEW CONCRETE BRIDGE

Sullivan Gulch Will Be Spanned at East Twenty-Eighth Street.

Members of the city executive board will meet in special session next week to let the contract for the concrete bridge across Sullivan gulch, at East Twenty-Eighth street. The bid would have been let yesterday, to Backus, Gleibisch & Joseph, had the company filed their specifications along with their bid.

City Engineer D. W. Taylor estimated the cost of the bridge at about \$31,000 and the company's bid was \$77,000. Efforts were made to have the contract awarded Friday, but Mr. Taylor and Mayor Lane objected, stating that if the award should be made without specifications, the city might be liable for "extras" which the same firm of contractors tried to compel the city to pay on other work.

L. T. Peery, member of the board, wanted the contract let without specifications, subject to the approval of the city engineer. Mr. Taylor refused to take the responsibility and the contractors will have to submit their specifications at next week's meeting.

This is the bridge the Portland Railway, Light & Power company refused to pay one fourth of the cost, according to the terms of its franchise. Both the council and executive board believe the company will pay rather than have its franchise revoked.

WORD FILES HIS INITIAL PAPERS

Ex-Sheriff Now Full Fledged Runner for County Office.

"Try to do better than I did before" is the declaration of principles that ex-Sheriff Tom M. Word has placed on his banner in his campaign for the Democratic nomination for sheriff. His declaration of candidacy was filed with the county clerk yesterday. Two years ago his motto was "Try to do better than I have in the past."

Besides the terse inscription which will appear on the ballot, Mr. Word has adopted a declaration of principles that follows the exact wording of his announcement of two years ago. It reads: "If I am nominated and elected, I will during my term of office perform my duties as a public official in a careful and business-like way, as I have endeavored to do in the past."

County Clerk Fields will file his announcement of candidacy for renomination at the hands of the Republican party tomorrow. He had intended making his formal entry yesterday, but was so busy that he did not finish his day's program. He will adopt the same platform as he used in the last campaign. "Honesty, efficiency and economy."

PROSPECTOR GETS JUDGMENT AGAINST WOMAN RANCHER WHO SIGNED CONTRACT

It required just 12 minutes for a jury in Judge Bronaugh's department of the superior court yesterday to determine that Mrs. Fannie T. Montgomery should pay F. H. Hazard \$116 for prospecting for black sand on her ranch in Coos county.

Mrs. Montgomery is having a discouraging time in the courts, for only day before yesterday she appeared as prosecuting witness against Will Patton, while he was locating a timber land claim for her. The jury acquitted Patton, and today Hazard realized the full amount of his claim.

Hazard went to Coos county and spent about three weeks investigating black sand on the land of Mrs. Montgomery and on adjoining land. It was reported that the sand was rich in gold. He produced a contract, from Mrs. Montgomery promising to pay him \$2 per day for the time he was gone. Mrs. Montgomery claimed the investigation did not amount to anything and refused to pay.

Specimens \$1 at Metzger's.

WILLING TO ESCHEW CHEWS TO LIVE HERE

Texas Chewing Gum Manufacturer Likes Portland Better Than Business.

F. S. Steiner of Dallas, Texas, and his brother, G. S. Steiner, of Salem, are at the Hotel Portland. Mr. Steiner of Texas travels in the south for the American Chicle company and is here merely on a "pleasure trip." After the San Francisco fire the American Chicle company began manufacturing chewing gum here. The Salem Mr. Steiner is a retired merchant.

"The people of this country haven't stopped chewing gum for a second, it seems," the Texas man said last night. "Our business hasn't been injured in the least by the currency famine which passed over the country a few weeks ago. In fact I believe that our business, speaking of my territory in the south, has been better off late than ever before. People seem to think and chew more during currency famine than at any other time."

Mr. Steiner was in Portland during the Lewis & Clark exposition. He may locate here some day.

"If I just had a little home up on those hills," Mr. Steiner said, "speaking about making his future home in Portland, 'I feel that I would be happy.' I would even forget about the national gum business, and everything else, I just during the summer nights I would be lulled to sleep by the music of delicate breezes drifting through the dear old Oregon pines. Then wake up in the morning with five great snow-capped mountains in the distance. Great! And best of all, one would be in Oregon and in Portland."

The Prohibitionists are the first in the field in respect of settling where their nominating convention will be held, having fixed upon Columbus, Ohio, at a date to be announced by the national committee. The Prohibitionists are said to feel very much encouraged by the progress of prohibition legislation in the south, and expect to roll up a landslide vote for their presidential candidate.

A wood-working and building firm and trim making mill owned and operated by the carpenters' union of Portland is being seriously considered by the district council of carpenters in that city.

SOUGHT FOR GOLD ON COOS BAY RANCH

Prospector Gets Judgment Against Woman Rancher Who Signed Contract.

At the close of the first week of registration two years ago the total reached only 1,087, a gain this year of 741.

Rush for Registration.

If the present rate of registration is maintained, 24,000 voters will be on the lists during the 12 weeks that they are open before the primaries. This is just about the number that is expected to register within that time.

Although Thursday was the day of heaviest registration, the stream of voters yesterday was little less. The total for the day was 304, of whom 242 were Republicans, 50 Democrats and 6 miscellaneous.

County Clerk Fields has prepared for still further systematizing the work of registration. Two rollings have been placed in position to avoid confusion and to enforce the rule of "first come, first served," and there will hereafter be separate counters for the east side and west side voters. The bookcases have likewise been divided so that one set of clerks will handle the east side and another squad will accommodate the men of the west side.

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