

### TAX MUDDLE REMAINS AT STANDSTILL TODAY. STATEMENT IS ISSUED

#### County Treasurer Tells Public to Use Own Judgment in the Matter.

### MEETING IS NOW AWAITED

#### Conference Will Be Had Friday Between County Commissioners, Tax Commission and Others.

Absolutely no progress was made today in clearing up the tax collection muddle precipitated by Judge Cleeton's decision that Tuesday in which he nullified some of the more important features of the tax law passed by the 1913 legislature. County Treasurer Lewis refuses to take the responsibility of advising the public how to proceed in the matter of paying the tax. In a formal statement issued yesterday afternoon he warns the tax payers that they must rely upon their own judgment.

Everybody interested in the tax problem is awaiting the meeting called by the county commissioners for Friday afternoon which is to be attended by the county officials and the state commission. At this meeting some definite form of procedure will be agreed upon. That is, it will be decided either to appeal from the decision in the supreme court or make the best of the situation under Judge Cleeton's ruling.

There is no denying the fact that Judge Cleeton's decision is immensely popular with the public, while it is equally unpopular with those officials who are charged with administering the affairs of the various governmental bodies of the county.

That the county, city and school districts will be seriously crippled for the next six months in the event that Judge Cleeton's decision holds good is known to be a fact. For the most part taxpayers are taking advantage of the half payment feature of Judge Cleeton's decision. This is shown by the large increase in the number of half payments made at the tax collecting department yesterday.

**May Avoid Shortage.**  
If the taxpayers generally follow the letter of Judge Cleeton's ruling and make half payments, there need be no serious shortage of funds for carrying on county and city government, but the fear on the part of the county and city officials is that many of the heavy taxpayers will hold off making payments until later in the summer, probably the last half of August.

Under the 1913 statute, Treasurer Lewis is required to pay over to the

state May 1 one-half of the whole amount of taxes due from this county for the year. This amounts to \$755,466, and unless there is a material increase in the volume of tax money to come in before that date, the treasurer will not have anything like that sum on hand belonging to the state. In order to comply with this law, the county treasurer has announced that he will use the county tax money if it is necessary in completing the state apportionment due and payable May 1. At the close of the tax collecting department yesterday, the treasurer had on hand \$228,804 belonging to the state and \$140,391 of county money. At this rate of payment the state's apportionment on May 1 will, it is estimated, be \$200,000 short of the amount due.

In former years from 75 to 80 per cent of the total tax roll has been collected prior to the first Monday in April, the date on which taxes became delinquent under the law of 1907. This year, however, the indications are that less than 25 per cent of the roll will be collected by next Tuesday night, at which time the delinquent under the 1913 statute. Out of a tax roll of approximately \$9,000,000, only about \$3,000,000 has been paid up to date.

**No Escape Seen.**  
District attorney Evans sees no way out of this dilemma except through the appeal of Judge Cleeton's ruling to the supreme court, and predicts that the meeting of county and state officials called for tomorrow afternoon will instruct his office to appeal the case at once.

"My judgment is that the supreme court will nullify Judge Cleeton's ruling," said the district attorney. "The legislature clearly has the right to regulate the collection of taxes, and I have no doubt the legislature of 1913 intended to abolish the half payment plan and make taxes delinquent April 1. The wording of the statute is not as plain as might be, but I believe the intention is there."

The following is a copy of the statement issued to the public last night by County Treasurer Lewis in which he declines to assume the responsibility of advising taxpayers how to proceed and asks them to draw their own conclusions as to the law governing the payment of taxes.

"On account of the present unsettled conditions pertaining to the law governing the payment and collection of penalties with taxes after March 31, we desire to inform the public that all payments of taxes and the time of payment must be left entirely to the judgment of the taxpayer."

**Will Not Advise People.**  
"This office cannot undertake to advise taxpayers of what will be the probable outcome of the present litigation in the courts relating to the payment of penalties, and in view of present conditions we can offer no authoritative information to guide the taxpayer."

"We wish to warn the public that this office cannot be responsible for all payments of taxes and the time of payment at the time of when and what part of the taxes should be paid, and whether or not penalties will attach to all or any part of the taxes not otherwise than as provided in the law passed by the last legislature.

### TELLS ON DEATHBED WHO KILLED THREE G. N. PASSENGERS

#### Nameless Man in Victoria, B. C., Hospital Says Murderous Robbers Two Convicts

### PHOTOS ARE RECOGNIZED

#### Search Is Now Being Conducted for Harry Mathews and George E. Ball, Accused by Dying Man.

Seattle, March 25.—With a bullet wound in his stomach, near death in a hospital at Victoria, B. C., a man whose name is withheld by the authorities, has revealed in a complete confession the identity of two of the bandits who wantonly killed three passengers and robbed others in the holdup of the Great Northern train at Samsib, near Bellingham, February 20.

Fearing that he is about to die, the man at Victoria is said to have told railroad detectives the men responsible for the crime are Harry Mathews, 26, and George E. Ball, 25.

When the man first came to the hospital to have his wound attended to, he said he had been shot in a logging camp. He at first protested that he knew nothing of the Great Northern tragedy, but later talked to detectives. He said that photographs of the two men were in the New Westminster prison and at the Deer Lodge, Mont. penitentiary.

Special agents of the Great Northern admitted they have secured pictures of the two men and that passengers on the train the night of the killing have identified them as the ones who committed the outrage.

Mathews has a long criminal record, the police say, and was identified recently as the man who stole \$5000 worth of plumes from a San Francisco military store.

Ball has been in San Quentin for burglary and is now wanted by Victoria, B. C., Vancouver, B. C., and Edmonton, Alberta, officials for various crimes. The two men are declared to be drug fiends.

A. R. Adams, a Vancouver business man; Thomas F. Wadsworth, of Vancouver, and R. Lee, a clerk of the Puget Sound navy yard, at Bremerton, were killed in a struggle with the robbers in the holdup of the Great Northern train holdup.

In litigation affecting the payment of penalties is being published in the daily newspapers and we must ask taxpayers to draw their own conclusions and govern themselves accordingly.

### Playground Sought by People of Albina

#### Business Men's Club Appoints Committee to Work for Block at Williams Avenue and Morris Street.

The Albina Business Men's club has appointed a committee consisting of Rev. John Dawson, E. Collins and A. R. Zeller to work for the acquisition by the city for public playground purposes of the block bounded by Vancouver and Williams avenues and Morris and Stanton streets, a resolution favoring this plan having been adopted at the club's meeting Tuesday night.

The club has been informed by Mayor Albee that a little money from the general fund will be available for the aid of the public market which the club will open April 23 on Knott street, between Williams and Rodney avenues. Other markets which may be opened will receive similar aid.

### Woman Dreamed of Raid by the Police

#### So Declares Patrolman Griffith, Who Said Woman Admitted Getting the "Tip" and Hiding Liquor.

Della Harrington, who runs a rooming house at Fourteenth and Washington streets, had a dream recently that her place would be raided by the police. She took the "hunch" and when Patrolman Griffith, in plain clothes, visited the house soon afterward on scouting duty, she told him that she had hidden all the liquor she possessed.

At least this is what she testified in the municipal court yesterday that she had told him. The woman appeared on the charge of conducting a disorderly resort.

Two girls who were found in the place, Edna Ford and Ida Lander, were taken along by the police also, and they, along with Della Harrington, are held to await action of the grand jury.

### Leaves His Home; Threatens Suicide

#### Charles McNair Writes That He Is Crazy and Says He Will Jump Into River; Police Notified.

Mrs. E. H. Morgan, 144 Northrup street, this morning reported to the detective bureau that Charles McNair, who has lived in the Morgan home four years, left yesterday, threatening suicide. Before leaving he took \$25 and a grip belonging to Mrs. Morgan. An hour afterward, the grip was returned, with a note, in which he said he was crazy and would jump into the river.

"Tell my folks they will see me in their dreams," wrote McNair. He is 24 years old.

Journal Want Ads bring results.

### ARREST AUTOISTS ON CHARGE OF VIOLATING NEW HEADLIGHT LAW

#### First Attempt Is Made to Enforce Ordinance Recently Enacted by Commission.

### TEST CASE TO BE MADE

#### Grounds for Resistance is Based on Apparent Conflict With the State Statute.

About 45 automobile owners arrested last night charged with violating the headlight ordinance will meet Friday morning in room 210 of the municipal court building to determine what united action shall be

taken to contest the measure. The Portland Railway, Light & Power company and the Oregon Electric company are also included in the arrests.

This morning the automobile men held an informal conference before municipal court convened, and agreed to meet Friday. W. J. Clemens, of the Automobile club, authorized P. Coffin, special traffic officer of the club, to take action in behalf of the club members. The auto men claim the city ordinance forbidding bright headlights is in violation of the state law, that it is conducive to accidents, if enforced reasonable signals will not be given pedestrians and to shut off such lights would be dangerous to auto traffic. It is upon these grounds, it is asserted, the contest will be made.

The interpretation given the measure by the police is that only small side lights or dim head lights will be allowed. Lights operated by pressure tanks and lights having reflectors come within the objectionable ordinance.

The state law provides that lights sufficient to throw a signal 200 feet shall be on all machines. Under the headlight ordinance, a light throwing a signal more than 100 feet is prohibited. There had been no attempt at enforcement of the ordinance until last evening, when the chief of police instructed all patrolmen to arrest auto motorists having brilliant lights. This order will be in effect until there is an interpretation in the circuit court.

Among those arrested last night were Drs. Percy and James Wiley, "Bud" Anderson, the Vancouver pugilist; N. P. Sorenson, timber man; Dr. F. C. Coffey, E. J. Ferguson, J. H. Haney, A. Brandies, F. W. Clark, Willie Whelan, J. C. Bawley, George Nelson, William Tinker, C. A. Kaurio, Jean Adams, J. M. Taylor, N. Clark, Roy Haskell, Harrison Allen, H. Paulsen, Louis Thompson, M. F. Houser, J. D. Peters, Fred Lincoln, C. B. Williams, George Johnson and H. A. Morrison.

Lewis I. Thompson, 475 Twenty-first, was taken to the station for having a bright headlight, but he explained to Captain Circle how he had screened his light to keep it from glaring and there-by saved himself from arrest.

W. J. Clemens, president of the Portland Automobile club, said today that the club did not support the ordinance but instead had opposed it and has asked Mayor Albee not to sign it.

**Will Free Rioters.**  
Vancouver, B. C., March 25.—Advises received today are to the effect that the governor general at Ottawa will sign the release of 22 mine strikers convicted of rioting at Nanaimo last summer.

Marriage is never a failure—but one or both parties to it may be.

### Youths Appearing Before Grand Jury

#### Boys Asked Regarding Purchases of Liquor From the Legal Saloons and Saloons—Students of Schools.

Seventeen boys are waiting in the grand jury waiting room today while one after another is taken before the grand jury to give information regarding allegations that they have purchased liquor from legal saloons and saloons of the city without question.

The boys range from 15 to 19 years old and are students of public high schools and private schools of the city. The Hill Military academy authorities first appealed for assistance in stopping the sale of liquor to their boys and investigation proved boys of other schools were buying liquor also. Deputy District Attorney Robinson is handling the cases before the grand jury.

**Spanish Railroad Strike Threatens.**  
Barcelona, March 25.—A railroad strike threatened today on the Spanish railroads. The men are dissatisfied with their pay, hours, working conditions and the industrial and political situations generally.

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<p>85c Glass and Tooth Brush Holder, for bathroom. To clean up, special... 77c 90c Tumbler Holder... 71c Dy-It Dainty Glass Colors for window hats, price... 25c Easter Napkins, pkg... 10c Desk Blotter, assay colors, ea... 10c 450 Typewriter Paper for practice work or 2d sheets, pkg... 37c 50c Correspondence Card... 39c 31 Party Invitations, box... 69c Easter Novelties... 25c to \$1.00</p>	<p><b>Soaps</b></p> <p>1 bar Floating Castle Soap... 25c 1 bar Cottle Castle Soap... 69c 25c Woodbury's Facial Soap... 15c 10c Wood-Lark Asst. Soap, 3 for... 25c</p>	<p><b>Sweet Grass Baskets</b> <b>Dont' Forget the Place.</b></p>
<p><b>CEDAR POLISH</b> Price \$1.00</p> <p><b>DUNCAN POLISH MOP</b></p> <p>1 QUART Duncan's Polish Mop... \$1.50 1 qt. Cedar Oil... \$1.00 Both—Special Price... \$1.48</p>	<p><b>Hair Brush</b> \$1.25 Natural Ebony, solid back, 11 row Hair Brush, special... 98c 25c Scrub Brush... 14c 50c and 30c Tooth Brushes, special... 19c 15c Pocket Comb... 9c 35c Men's Comb... 18c</p>	<p><b>"Reliable Prescription Service"</b> has been the key-note to our already established and growing business.</p>
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<p><b>"Wood-Lark" Pure Spices</b></p> <p>"Wood-Lark" Pure Spices, Pepper, Allspice, Sage, Cloves, Ginger, Cinnamon, Regular price 10c, now... 7c</p>	<p><b>Art Department</b> <b>ARTISTIC PICTURE FRAMING</b></p> <p>One Fourth Off on All Framed Pictures</p> <p>LANDSCAPES—COLONIALS AGE OF INFANCY MADONNAS FRUIT AND FLOWERS DEN PICTURES</p> <p>Values \$2.50 to \$3.50, your choice, special \$1.39 each.</p> <p>THE OLD MILL THE DOCTOR ANGELUS KINGLITY FIREBIRD FANCIES SILVER PLATE A GOOD SHEPHERD</p> <p>Reg. Values \$1.50—Special 49c</p>	<p><b>The Men</b></p> <p>Who wait on you here are responsible, if you seek skill, accuracy and experience, we give it.</p>
<p><b>Pyralin Ivory</b></p> <p>A NEW BREAK TO SELECT FROM</p> <p><b>25% OFF for 2 Days Only</b> FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH 27 AND 28.</p>	<p><b>Delicious Lunches</b></p> <p><b>Wood-Lark Famous Soda</b></p> <p>Every Help for a Sound Body Here</p> <p>Shoulder Braces... 75c up Trusses, all good kinds... 75c up</p>	<p><b>This Universal Lunch Box</b></p> <p>With Universal Vacuum Bottle, warranted to keep contents hot for 24 or cold for seventy-two hours. Price... \$2.25</p>

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