

# CREATION OF PUBLIC REVENUE COMMISSION IS FENTON'S PROPOSAL

Plan Contemplates That Each County Have Committee to Take Over Tax Functions, ECONOMY IS ARGUMENT

Elimination of Waste and Duplications of Expenditures Would Result, Is Contention of Portland Attorneys.

Creation of a "public revenue commission," one for each county of the state, is proposed by W. D. Fenton, in order to give to a single body the power of levying taxes and so divorce the tax levying power from the tax levying power.

Mr. Fenton's plan is outlined in a letter sent Sunday to Herbert Gordon of the Multnomah county board of directors, who is chairman of the house of representatives with request that the committee on assessments and taxation embody his ideas in a bill. The plan calls for a committee of three, one of whom to be a member of a minority party, to take over the tax levying functions now enjoyed separately by county commissioners, school directors, common councils, port commissions, dock commissions, library commissions, and the like.

Central Body Favored.

At the present time these bodies make their own levies and expenditures. Mr. Fenton, however, believes in a central tax levying body, that will have the public confidence, to gather all information relative to public indebtedness and public expenditures.

Such a commission, he points out, will be able to take into consideration the entire levy of a county from all angles and for all purposes, thereby preventing waste and duplication. It will make for greater economy and efficiency in administration.

It will reduce the annual tax levy, he says, and will compel obedience to the 6 per cent limitation law, which he charges is being evaded by many tax levying bodies at the present time.

The creation of these commissions will still keep intact the right of the people to vote special levies for special purposes if they desire, he adds.

Says District Extravagant.

As an instance in point of the abuse of the tax levying power of a single body under the present system, Mr. Fenton points to school district No. 1 of Multnomah county and its intention to levy a tax for the construction of a Franklin High school, although the building will not be needed for two years.

"We have the most expensive and extravagant school district that exists anywhere in the country," he charges. "We have introduced in the public schools of this district all manner of fads, and it is claimed, have at least 300 or 400 teachers and employees who are drawing fairly large salaries, and

who are performing services that could be dispensed with. Mr. Fenton also believes that a public revenue commission will lighten municipal taxes. "Pressure upon each commissioner," he says in his letter of Portland, "under the commission form of government, is so great that the commissioners feel compelled to yield to their better judgment, often times to the unofficial demands of unofficial tax-paying bodies, and in many instances bodies that do not contribute any portion or a very small portion of the public revenues that are to be expended."

Thinks Columbia Highway Is Luxury.

Mr. Fenton raps the Columbia river highway, although at the same time saying that "the people can be trusted when it comes to an exercise of the right of suffrage, as to the expenditure of public moneys." "They may at times, during a moment of enthusiasm, be carried away by the creation of bonded indebtedness for construction and paving of highways," he writes, "as here when our people voted for the Columbia river highway, a highway that is a luxury, which does not bring one pound of freight, or one new homebuilder into the city of Portland."

The public revenue commission, he asserts, will make for systematic construction of highways.

Validity Is Discussed.

Supplementing his first communication, Mr. Fenton today sent Representative Gordon an argument as to the constitutionality of the public revenue commission measure he proposes. Its constitutionality has been questioned in some quarters.

Mr. Fenton supports his belief by quoting the opinion of the Oregon supreme court, handed down by Justice Harris, January 15, in the case of Charles C. Rose, appellant, against the directors, common council, port commission, dock commissions, library commissions, and others, intervenors and respondents.

Doubt has been expressed as to whether the legislature could provide for the levying of taxes by a public revenue commission if the power is vested in a city council, for example, through a charter, section 2, article XI of the state constitution providing that "the legislature assembly shall not enact, amend, or repeal any charter or act of incorporation for any municipality, city or town."

Judge Harris in his opinion, however, harmonizes this section of the constitution with that section having to do with the initiative and referendum, and says, "a painstaking investigation by every member of the court confirms our belief in the correctness of the conclusion that the legislature can enact general laws concerning cities and towns and other municipalities."

# GENTLEMAN CHICKEN THIEF, WHO SPORTS AN AUTO, ROBS ROOSTS

Raids Farmers' Henneries and Carefully Selects the Youngest, Fattest Fryers. SELLS IN THE MARKET

Sheriff's Deputies Vainly Seek the Thieves Who Motor About Multnomah County Leaving Coops.

The "gentleman chicken thief" has arrived. He makes his rounds in an automobile, selects the fattest and youngest fowl, then dashes away in the wee small hours of the morning to breakfast on "fryers" at his secret abode, and early next day motors to the city market to dispose of the remainder of his ill-gotten booty.

Farmers of Multnomah county have been the special prey of these nocturnal robbers for a number of weeks, and the thieves have swelled the contents of their purse considerably as a result of their night sallies. Sheriff Hurlburt and a number of his deputies have been at their wit's end trying to apprehend the clever operators. Thus far they have been unable to find any tangible clue to the identity of the guilty parties. The search has been going on nightly along the country roads leading into the city; many machines have been stopped on the main thoroughfares, but no evidence has been obtained thus far. The sheriff's deputies have returned to the court-house morning after morning chilled and hungry because of their long vigil in the game of automobile pingpong with the thieves.

Wednesday night five deputy sheriffs patrolled the trunk roads, keeping a sharp lookout for their quarry, and today three deputies are taking the daylight shift.

Investigations have disclosed that chickens stolen from a farmer have been going on nightly to a market in South Portland.

"These thieves are certainly a discrediting lot of fellows," said one farmer, whose hen house had been raided. "They always go after the best fowls, leaving the skinny ones behind," he added.

# Menefee Mill Cut Most Shingles in Pacific Northwest

The L. B. Menefee Lumber company of Portland has the record for cutting shingles in the Pacific northwest since 1916. The record of the company shows a cut of 250,000,000 feet of red cedar shingles for the year. The nearest competitor of the Portland company is a Raymond, Wash., mill which cut 135,111,000 feet during the year.

The market for shingles is showing a much more optimistic tone, though, while the present price is rather low due to the slack trade during the holidays and the colder weather.

Shingle men expect a large spring demand for their product and indications point to advanced quotations for the near future.

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Hams, an employee of a local furniture store. The amount due was \$92. With the aid of a friend, the employee from the furniture store, the furniture was finally removed. The goods were not obtained, however, until after Mrs. Marbury had attacked J. A. Roberts, the complaining witness, driver of the van. She scratched his face and also shoved Williams nearly out of the house. Attorney Fred Olson, for the accused, made the motion for the dismissal.

Deputy District Attorney Pierce was the prosecutor.

# PORTLAND WOMEN ARE MOTHERS BY PROXY TO FRANCE'S FATHERLESS

They Hear Graphic Tales of Conditions Behind Trenches in the War Zone.

TOUCHING TALES TOLD

A Portland Committee of Which A. L. Mills Is Treasurer Will Carry on Work in This City.

To enable more than 150,000 children who have lost their fathers by war's devastating sword to attend school, and to enable them to trade, and to remain in the home with its natural mother, Portland women to the number of 240 assembled Monday at the Multnomah hotel and some 50 of them became mothers by proxy to France's fatherless.

Outlining a plan of magnificent philanthropy, the Misses Florence Schofield and Elmer Fell, the former an English woman who makes her home in Paris, and the latter a resident of London, graphically told of conditions behind the trenches in the war-stricken zone.

Only One Sad Story of Many.

When these earnest young women told of one little boy who had always stood at the head of his class, and had won all the honors possible to a 6-year-old, suddenly going so far behind as to cause inquiry, all the mothers in the room and a few who were not, leaned forward in their chairs to hear the rest of it. The lady's mother said to the teacher: "Don't scold him. If he doesn't study as he used to, neither does he play. He is always good. Maybe it's because he has seen no breakfast these many mornings past. I give him coffee because he does not so soon get hungry again."

That was only one story. There were so many like it that at the close of the meeting the women present signed up to become mothers by proxy and contribute 10 cents a day to be added to France's 10 cents for the support of these little ones.

Cry Is Heard Everywhere.

Everywhere, the speaker said, the cry is heard of the little boy in Washington, D. C., who is walking to school two miles each day so that he can use the dime which would ordinarily go to his father, to keep "his orphan," as he calls it. "Two other little ones of 7 years each gave 10 new coppers that they might keep a baby one day."

Today the women will speak to the students of the city, and they will meet guests of Mrs. Helen Lund Corbett at her home in Sixth street, and Wednesday will carry their message south, stopping at a few of the more important cities en route to San Francisco, but the work in Portland will be looked after by a local committee, of which A. L. Mills is treasurer.

# Postmaster Myers Goes to Washington

Problems Concerning Management of Portland Office to Be Taken Up for Solution With Department Officials.

Postmaster Myers left this morning for Washington, D. C., on his annual visit to the department. The solution of problems relative to postoffice matters can be facilitated, he believes, by direct contact with the officials in Washington. Among those problems which he will take up are the extension of city delivery service to Lents, and the delivery of mail on an equal basis with Seattle, or in other words, try to have army transports call at Portland.

Myers will also do all in his power to have future bids for the quartermaster's department specified to include Portland delivery on an equal basis with Seattle, or in other words, try to have army transports call at Portland.

# BOTH SECRETARY AND DEFENDER WILL GO UNDER CIVIL SERVICE

Civil Service Board and City Council Reach Agreement as to Regulation.

EXAMINATION IS FIXED

Ordinance Creating Board Will Be Amended to Provide That the Secretary Shall Not Be a Member.

Both the public defender and the secretary to the board of motion picture censors are to be placed under civil service regulations, according to an understanding reached by the city council and the municipal civil service board.

Examinations for these two positions had been scheduled in the past, only later to be canceled when City Attorney La Roche ruled that the two positions were not necessarily within the classified civil service list. The civil service board is to fix the scope of the examination at its meeting Thursday and both examinations will be held early in February.

That no question can arise as to the position of secretary of the board of motion picture censors being under civil service, the ordinance creating the board and the position of secretary is to be amended to provide that the secretary shall not be a member of the board.

La Roche had also ruled that the position of public defender was in the nature of a "special" position and that the council had the power to create the place and make the appointment. Members of the civil service board have taken a different view, however. David Robinson now holds the position of public defender and Mrs. E. B. Colwell is secretary of the board of motion picture censors.

charges by machines operating under a zone system. Primarily, they were adopted to preclude the "taxi-lits" from operating under a zone system, but now, according to the complaint of those rejecting the cards, they also preclude the regular taxicabs and for hire cars from operating under a zone system. All drivers and taxicab owners are now filling under cards on the hourly or mileage basis.

After Saturday, Commissioner Dick says he will ask the mayor to have the police arrest all drivers who are not operating under the hourly, mileage or some card systems as prepared by his office.

**Majestic**

TODAY

Pathe News

With Scenes of Milwaukee Wreck

**VIRGINIA PEARSON**

in

**BITTER TRUTH**

2-Reel Foxfilm Comedy

"Brainstorm"

TODAY

**Majestic**

Coming!

**THEDA BARA**

in

"The Darling of Paris."

Unquestionably her finest picture.

# 2 Days More

This bill de luxe offers every opportunity for divorce enjoyment. As a critic remarked, "he is a hardened grouch that can't find a laugh in this show."

Jensen & Von Herberg.



also—  
an educational  
Canadian scenery and  
irrigation projects—  
and a bird feature

# Douglas Fairbanks

The laugh man at his happiest—in American Aristocracy—a clever fling at American Society—Fairbanks as Bug Hunter, is bitten by a kissing bug, then the fun and complications start—it's the snappiest and happiest of satires

# Columbia

# Assault Case Against Woman Dismissed by Judge Bell

Charge of assault, preferred against Carrie Marbury of East Ninth and Grant streets was dismissed by District Judge Bell Monday on the ground that the woman had a right to defend her home against a "forcible invasion" of deputy constables who were bent on serving a writ of execution on furniture.

The hearing brought out the fact that Deputy Constable Mahoney, armed with a writ of execution, had forced his way into the residence after the occupant had refused admission. The execution was obtained in behalf of F. F. Williams.

# Anti-Japanese Bill Stirs Samuel Hill

Says He Knows the Friendly Feeling of Japan Toward Us and Thinks It Is Sanity to Antagonize Them.

One of the most pronounced critics of a bill introduced in the state senate for the exclusion of Japanese from River counties relative to alien's acquiring real property is Samuel Hill, one of the foremost advocates of better trade relations with Japan.

Speaking of the Wilbur bill today, he said:

"I have just heard that some member of the legislature of Oregon has introduced a bill for Japanese exclusion. I would recommend that he be given a keg of powder and a box of matches and be allowed to go off somewhere alone and amuse himself."

"Having recently visited Japan, and being in touch with things Japanese, I know their friendly feeling toward us. I also know of their preparedness on the Pacific ocean, and our unpreparedness. The people wishing to provoke Japan to war must be insane, but their insanity should not be allowed to injure this coast."

# Lang Syne Society To Dine Wednesday

Men Prominent in Early Life of Portland Will Hold Annual Reception and Banquet at Multnomah Hotel.

The fourth annual reception and dinner of the "Lang Syne" society will take place at the Multnomah hotel Wednesday evening, from 5 to 7 o'clock. At seven the oldtimers will form and march to the ballroom, where dinner will be served. Governor Withycombe has accepted an invitation to be present. General Charles F. Beebe, president of the society, will preside.

A short program of interesting speeches has been arranged, including addresses by the governor, Robert Livingston, Theodore E. Wilcox, General Anderson, Rev. Dr. Morrison, and others. George H. Himes, historian of the society, will display lantern slides, showing scenes in the early life of the city. The exercises will be interspersed with instrumental music and selections by the Boyer quartet.

# Guardsmen Will Be Given Employment

Washington, Jan. 22.—(U. P.)—The United States employment bureau today announced that it has completed plans with the war department to obtain employment for National Guardsmen returning from the border who may be out of work.

Large numbers of the guardsmen recently ordered home, known as "border boys," are now unemployed as a result of existing in the guard. The government feels a certain responsibility for this, and has consequently agreed to assist them.

"There are more jobs than there are men to fill them," Commissioner Cammett of the bureau of immigration, in charge of the employment service, said today.

# JOHN MASON & ALMA HANLON

**THE LIBERTINE**

THE MAN WHO CAN AFFORD TO PLAY THE GAME WHILE HIS VICTIMS BEAR THE BURDEN OF SHAME—ALONE

# Pennsylvanians Will Create "Smoke"

The next dinner of the Pennsylvania club will be held next month to celebrate the founding of Fort Pitt, or what is now the city of Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh contingent of the club will have charge of the affair and will create some "smoke." Pittsburgh products will be one of the features of the dinner, which will be presided over by Charles J. Schmechel, toastmaster. Arrangements are being made by which Mayor Armstrong will exchange felicitations by long-distance telephone from his office in Pittsburgh with the banqueters here. Each member will be allowed to bring one guest. It is proposed to make it a stag affair. The officers of the club are J. A. Curry, president, and Linn L. Relst, secretary.

# Money for Medical Department Opposed

The Taxpayers' association, at a meeting last night, adopted a resolution opposing an appropriation for the medical department of the University of Oregon, and today forwarded it to the chairman of the ways and means committee of the legislature, together with a certificate that more than 300 persons had attended the meeting.

The Taxpayers' association is not to be confused with the better known Taxpayers' league, whose name it closely imitates. W. T. Vaughn, chairman of the association, and L. D. Mahone is secretary.

# Wasn't Elected But Sits in the House

Olympia, Wash., Jan. 22.—(U. P.)—Although the recount showed W. A. Cameron, Democrat, and W. A. Duncan, Republican, tied for representation of Lincoln, the Republican house nevertheless accepted the recommendation of the committee to permit Cameron to retain his seat. Duncan accepted the decision. The committee's recommendation was based on the proposition that Cameron has already received his certificate of election and has served two weeks in the house.

# Sewer Is to Receive Misbranded Liquor

Four hundred and fifty-six quart bottles of whiskey will be emptied at noon today by U.S. Marshal John Montag and his contents poured into the sewer. The liquor represents a single shipment received at Coos Bay in the late spring of 1916 from California, which was misbranded "beer." There were 19 cases of 24 quarts each, and were advertised by the government officers for claimants, none, however, appearing.