

ASSESSORS URGED TO MAKE ASSESSMENTS AT FULL CASH VALUE

State Tax Commission Points Out That Assessors Should Remember Their Oath.

FAIR SYSTEM FOR ALL

No Fast Rule Prescribed but Requirement Is That Officials Must Make Every Effort to Obey Law.

Salem, Or., March 2.—That all property assessments for taxation purposes should be made this year at full cash value, is the order sent by the state tax commission to the county assessors of the state. The commission points out that each assessor is required to take an oath that he has, to the best of his ability, assessed all property in his county at full cash value, and the tax commission takes a similar oath on assessments made by it.

The allowance must, of course, be made for the many problems and difficulties the assessor encounters in seeking to apply this standard of valuation to particular items and classes of property. At the same time there is no justification for known and intentional violations of the plain letter of the law.

Wearer, the Fairer. "The nearer an assessor comes to full cash value in all his assessments, the fairer and more equitable will the assessments become as between individual taxpayers. Deliberate undervaluation of property always tends toward inequality and injustice in taxation.

The time worn statement that increased valuations result in increased taxes, on account of abatement of taxes being correspondingly reduced, has been negated by budget laws, by the tax limitation amendment to the constitution, and particularly by a recent enactment requiring that all tax levies shall hereafter be made in dollars and not in mills.

Also, under the plan of equalization between counties now in effect, it is no longer true that a high county valuation increases, and a low valuation reduces, the proportion of state taxes to be paid by any county.

No Fast Rule. "The tax commission does not attempt to prescribe any hard and fast rule for assessors, but it insists that each assessor should make an earnest effort to obey the plain mandate of the law and record such assessments that he can take the oath required of him without subterfuge or mental reservation.

Can we not mutually hope that the year 1917 will see higher general average of valuations and a nearer compliance with the requirements of both law and common sense in assessments for taxation?"

U-BOAT POLICY LOOKED UPON AS KEY TO VICTORY

(Continued From Page One.) be gladly willing to take further care of this affair. "All the speakers yesterday declared that the breaking off of relations with the United States was regrettable. No doubt it would be still more regrettable if there would be war with the United States. Between both countries there exists the old friendly relations. There is no political antagonism between the two countries, and in the economic domain they more or less depend on each other. One could even say that they ought to be economic allies.

Therefore, it is wise to understand that the government took care to avoid everything which might intensify the conflict and cause war with America. From the standpoint of these consid-

erations we examined the suggestion. From the very outset, we were absolutely certain that our part in the submarine war ought in no way be limited by concessions. Obviously our wish to come to an understanding with America only can be accomplished so far as it does not conflict with our declaration of barred zones, which we are firmly determined to maintain against our enemies under all circumstances.

"Last and Best Weapon." "Only after long consideration we decided to use our sharpest weapon. You know the course of our negotiations with America and our honest, sincere peace effort and the jeering rebuke of our enemies. To our attempt at reconciliation, our adversaries opposed their will to annihilate and thus nothing was left us but to take the last and best weapon.

"If we took this decision, obviously, no backward step was any longer possible. We regret that neutrals have to suffer by it, but we cannot help that. From the standpoint of these considerations, in my answer to America I only said that Germany, now as before, is ready to negotiate under conditions that the establishment of barred zones against our enemies be not impaired.

"We only hinted at our readiness to enter into more detailed negotiations with America about the admission of passenger ships. This is ministered at Washington transmitted our communications and thereupon received from Mr. Lansing a note in very polite terms.

Canceling of Order Impossible. "Lansing says he is authorized by President Wilson to say that the government of the United States will negotiate with Germany very gladly if Germany cancels her decision of January 21. This being absolutely impossible, the negotiations had to be considered as a failure before they really had begun."

Foreign Secretary Zimmerman's statement to the Reichstag is the official admission that Germany did suggest to the United States the admission of passenger ships to the barred zone as a basis for further negotiations. Earlier dispatches from Berlin asserted that the Swiss minister was acting on his own responsibility, and not under instructions from Berlin, when he made this proposal to Secretary Lansing.

Feast of Purim Will Be Held on March 8

The Feast of Purim, or Lots, a joyous minor festival of the Jews, and which falls this year on March 8 (corresponding with the 14th day of Adar of the Hebrew calendar), is celebrated by them in commemoration of their auspicious deliverance from imminent destruction as narrated with fine dramatic power in the Book of Esther in the traditional scroll. In an atmosphere more social than religious, its observance in the synagogue is limited to the reading of the Book of Esther from the traditional scroll. In an outside of the home, masquerades, plays and other entertainments make up the celebration.

Training Camp May Be Placed at Omaha

Captain Clesard McLaughlin, U. S. A., formerly in command of the Third Oregon, is in Omaha, Neb., on special service. It is likely that if any large body of volunteers is called out, an immense training camp will be established near Omaha.

Howard Again on The Barber Board

Salem, Or., March 2.—Governor Withycombe today reappointed Samuel H. Howard of Portland a member of the state board of barber examiners.

"Peddler Car" Rates to Stay. Washington, March 2.—(I. N. S.)—The Interstate Commerce commission today refused to permit the trunk line railways of the country to increase freight rates on "peddler car" shipments. These shipments are mostly foodstuffs in small lots, dropped off at various points.

PRESIDENT FOSTER PROTESTS AGAINST TERM OF 'TRAITOR'

Declares Lawyers, Without Knowing His Views, Had Called Him a "Traitor."

STOOD BY THE PRESIDENT

Believes One Should Serve His Country in the Event of War, but Do All Possible to Prevent It.

William T. Foster, president of Reed college, in a letter to The Journal, protests against being designated a "peace at any price traitor" by individuals at a meeting of the lawyers recently. He asserts that it is the duty of every citizen to serve his country to the fullest while war is raging, but that, prior to war, it is also his duty to give the public the benefit of his opinions, regardless of public sentiment.

The journals were not one of the newspapers Dr. Foster complains of as having condemned him for utterances, but publishes his letter, which reads: "I am glad to see that you are standing by the President. The Portland newspapers of today condemn me for heading a delegation to work for peace at any price, and report that a body of lawyers, acting solely upon hearsay evidence and without hearing my views, have called me a traitor. I venture, in this connection, to ask space for five brief remarks:

First—I did not call on the mayor with the delegation condemned by them. Second—I have never had any communication of any kind with the mayor on this subject or any subject connected with it. Third—I am not, and I never have been, in favor of peace at any price. Fourth—I believe that the president of the United States in every step he has taken and every utterance he has made since the war began, and I have so declared myself in more than 40 public addresses.

Fifth—If you agree with me that it would be common justice to publish my own views, in plain English, and chronously have been ascribed to me I shall be glad to provide you with a signed statement. WILLIAM T. FOSTER. Would Serve Country in War. Dr. Foster appends an extract from a speech made by him to the Central library as summing up his actual views on the questions involved in the present international emergency:

"I believe that it is the duty of every citizen of the United States to serve his country to the full extent of his power, after a war has been declared. I believe that it is just as great a duty of every citizen, before a war has been declared, to express his honest convictions fully, without fear of public opinion, in obedience to his conscience and his God.

"I believe that in the present world crisis, the only great nation of the world that is still free from the frenzy of war should consider first the durable welfare of mankind in all lands. From the evidence at present available, I am forced to the conclusion that these permanent interests of humanity would be jeopardized rather than safeguarded by the present participation of the United States in the European conflict.

Serve Interests Without War. "I believe that all the great interests of neutral nations can be most honorably and most securely served for the present by abstention from war. These are my convictions, as repeatedly expressed in public; they are so far as I know, the convictions of the president of the United States, in whom I have every confidence; and by these convictions I shall abide, regardless of those who condemn me as a peace-at-any-price traitor. Nor shall I retreat in the same spirit of intolerance by condemning all who disagree with me as peace-at-any-price traitors."

Wickersham to Get Certificate. Juneau, Alaska, March 2.—(P. N. S.)—If not enjoined by the courts today, the election canvassing board will issue the certificate of election as Alaska delegate to James Wickersham, incumbent. It is highly improbable that such legal action will be taken.

Finger With Ring Is Lost in Collision; Thief Gets Litter

Los Angeles, March 2.—(U. P.)—The police today are seeking a daring thief who, after seeing Mrs. Philip Lober, wife of a Spokane capitalist, lose a finger in a collision between a streetcar and an automobile last night, hurriedly picked up the dismembered digit and left. The finger was found a block away, minus the \$500 ring on it when it was severed. Mrs. Lober was in the automobile, which crashed into the side of a streetcar.

SENATE TO ACT ON BILL GIVING WILSON POWER

(Continued From Page One.)

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TO WEARERS OF ARTIFICIAL EYES

It is possible to secure an artificial eye which perfectly matches the natural eye in every other respect. You need not endure the discomfort of an ill-fitting eye nor the embarrassment of one that is conspicuous and repulsive. We are bringing Prof. Kohler to our Portland store, March 5th to 11th, because his work is absolutely without a flaw; he makes an artificial eye with the wearer sitting before him and does not consider his work finished until the match and the fit are perfect — not only to his satisfaction, but to the satisfaction of the wearer.

Please do not neglect this opportunity, as we do not know when we shall ever be able to secure Prof. Kohler again, and the supply of good artificial eyes in this country may soon be entirely exhausted, as the European war has stopped importation.

Prof. Kohler's hours will be from 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M., March 5th to 11th, inclusive, and appointments should be arranged with us immediately.

Columbian Optical Co. 145 Sixth Street Telephone Marshall 819 Floyd Brower, Mgr.

VELVET isn't "the smoothest smoking tobacco" just because we call it so. It is the smoothest smoking tobacco because of its two years' mellowing in wooden hogsheads.

But don't take our word for it. Try VELVET and take your own.

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Portland in 300,000 Class by Directory

Portland's population approaches 300,000, according to estimates made from the number of names in the new city directory, which will probably appear within a month. The estimate is made by multiplying the number of names by 2.4 to account for the women and children not listed, which is the conservative way of figuring. Vacant houses are found to be fewer and residence districts are more filled up.

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