

TAX AMENDMENT FOR MORE EQUITABLE LAW STRONGLY INDORSED

Measure Submitted to People by Legislature Will Make for More Modern System.

BALLOT NUMBER IS 308

Proposed Amendment Would Enable State to Reach Property Not Now Paying Taxes.

Oregon takes front rank among the states of the Union in nearly all governmental affairs. An exception is its method of taxation, which lags back to the general property tax system adopted for Oregon before it was even admitted to the Union.

At the special election to be held next Monday the voters of the state will have opportunity to approve a constitutional amendment which will be a foundation upon which modern methods of taxation may be adopted through the enactment of laws.

Leading Men Urge Amendment. This proposed constitutional amendment, which is designated as the "Uniform Tax Classification Amendment" and has ballot numbers 308 and 309 no. was referred to the people by the legislature. It is being supported by the state tax commission, Henry E. Reed, assessor of Multnomah county; former Governor West, and many others who are authority on taxation questions.

An affirmative argument on the measure in the voters' pamphlet, which closes with this appeal, "Vote 308 yes. Put Oregon in the column of states whose tax laws are sane, sound and modern," is signed by the following men: Fred W. Mulkey, Portland; A. L. Vesie, Portland; Richard W. Montague, Portland; William L. Brewster, Portland; Robert H. Strong, Portland; Henry E. Reed, Portland; Charles V. Galloway, Salem; J. B. Eaton, Salem; C. L. Hawley, Astoria; Sam Laughlin, Yamhill; B. L. Eddy, Roseburg; John H. Carlin, Medford; W. W. Calkins, Eugene; George Reuner Jr., Roseburg; F. G. Youns, Eugene; Denton G. Burdick, Redmond; Oswald West, Portland; Claude C. McCulloch, Portland; Walter M. Pierce, La Grande.

Modern System Offered. The amendment itself will make no change in the tax laws of the state. It merely offers opportunity for a modern system of taxation, to meet the complex business situation of today, to be adopted through future legislation. This legislation will have to be enacted by the legislature or by the people through the initiative.

It will be impossible for any tax law to be passed and be put into operation without the consent of the people, because under other provisions of the constitution the legislature is prohibited from attaching the emergency clause to any tax measure. If the amendment is adopted laws

German Spy Taken With Many Papers

Maps and Drawings of San Francisco's Fortifications and Bay, Public Works of City Recovered. San Francisco, June 1.—(P. N. S.)—Loaded down with maps and drawings of San Francisco's fortifications; the bay, the public works of the city and its largest buildings; maps of Southern Pacific tunnels and the like, Deputy United States Marshal Thomas Mulhall returned to this city Thursday with Hugo Weber, arrested in Woodland several days ago as a German spy. Weber was lodged in Fort Winfield Scott, where he will be held for trial as a spy. When arrested, Weber freely admitted he was in this country for the purpose of obtaining information, pictures and data to transmit to the German government. He said he considered President Wilson the greatest enemy of the German people.

Worry Leads Woman To Commit Suicide

San Francisco, June 1.—(I. N. S.)—After penning notes to a local newspaper and to the coroner, Mrs. R. W. Howe, wife of a salesman, with a sister residing in Portland, Or., committed suicide Thursday by inhaling gas in her home in Geary street. The notes explained that she was prompted by worry to take her life. Mrs. Howe charged her mother-in-law, Mrs. Louis Howe, with poisoning her son's mind against her. She wrote that her husband recently was given an automobile by his mother, and that increased her sorrow. She was 35 years old. The couple were married about five years ago.

may be passed providing for uniform classification of property for taxation. As an illustration, this means that a classification may be provided for stocks and bonds and other intangible property which will bring that class of property from hiding when the assessor calls and enable that official to put it on the tax rolls, bringing in a much greater revenue than it is now possible to obtain. Everybody knows that this class of property, under the old general property tax system, to a very large extent evades the assessor entirely.

Sane System Provided. Here is what the 13 men who signed the affirmative argument on the amendment say:

"There are many reasons why Oregon should vote 308 yes, and adopt the proposed amendments. First and foremost, Oregon will be given the foundation for a sane system of taxation, which will be attractive both to the investor and the homeseeker. Second, the amendments, with the laws that must be enacted in accord with them, will put an end to the agitations in regard to taxation which have disturbed Oregon for many years and tended to discourage the introduction of capital. From the standpoint of the public revenue, the laws that will be based upon the amendments will bring more money into the treasury than now reaches it, and distribute in an equitable manner the burden of taxation."

FREE USE OF CITY'S STREETS OPPOSED BY P. R., L. & P. COMPANY

Patrons Urged to Vote Down Amendment Which Is Backed by Jitney Interests.

CONDITIONS ARE REVIEWED

Company Holds Amendment If Passed Would Deprive Council and People of Right of Regulation.

Calling attention to the fact that the proposed "free use of streets" amendment to the charter to be voted on Monday, deprives the people and the city council of all right to regulate the use of the streets except for railway purposes, the Portland Railway, Light & Power company has sent a letter to its patrons urging them to vote down the measure.

The letter calls attention to the fact that the company is operating many of its lines without profit and a considerable number of them at an actual loss and that if some form of fair regulation is not imposed on the competing jitneys, the whole system will be imperilled financially.

Regulation Is Asked. The appeal states that the company has never asked that the operation of jitneys in Portland be prohibited, but only that there be imposed regulation which shall be comparable to that demanded of the street car company. The company declares that this "free streets" amendment proposes to amend the charter in such a way as "no such principle of government has ever been adopted in any city."

The letter is as follows: We address you as a resident of Portland and a patron of the service of this company. Street railways in all American cities operate on the basis of a single fare regardless of the distance a passenger is transported. In Portland there are more than 100 distinct railway lines, all connected, however, by a transfer system. By reason of the length of haul more than two-thirds of these lines are so expensive to operate that they furnish no net return and quite a few of them operate at a very material loss.

Earnings Are Discussed. In any system of street railway transportation the long and unprofitable lines of railway can be maintained and supported only by the better earnings of the shorter lines running through the more populous sections of the city and if the shorter lines of street railway are unable to support themselves and also the long unprofitable lines, the system, as a whole, must fail. That condition is now facing us.

Jitneys in Portland compete with the street railway only for the short haul business. No competition is offered on the long haul unprofitable lines of street railway in Portland operating without any regulation worthy of the name and, to prevent any possible future regulation, the jitney interests have caused to be placed upon the ballot to be voted on next Monday a measure known as the "Free Use of Streets Amendment to the City Charter." The purpose of this amendment is to amend the charter so that neither the council nor the peo-

Portuguese Commits Suicide Over Draft

Anxiety to Serve Country, Then Dread and Love Affair Cause Him to Jump Off Roof of Building.

San Diego, Cal., June 1.—(P. N. S.)—First anxious to serve his country as a member of the United States marine corps and then fearful that he would be one of those selected for service in the new army, Joe Panosch, a Portuguese, 24 years of age, Thursday jumped from the roof of the Cabrillo club building, five stories to a passageway in the rear of the structure, death being instantaneous.

Panosch about two weeks ago visited the local recruiting office of the marine corps, and at that time filled out preliminary papers for enlistment. Later, however, he asked for the withdrawal of his papers.

Tong Murderer Is Sentenced to Hang

San Francisco, June 1.—(P. N. S.) For the first time in the history of long wars in San Francisco, a Chinese, Wong Hing, was sentenced Thursday to hang for a murder committed as a tong gunman. Wong will be executed in San Quentin. The date will be set later. He was convicted of shooting Ng Yee, a Chinese underkeeper, Wong was gunning for Yee's uncle and shot him by mistake.

Regulation Main Issue

The amendment goes further in that it would deprive the council of the power to regulate the use of streets for any business other than the operation of streetcars. No such principle of government has ever been adopted in any city.

We have never asked that the operation of jitneys be regulated in a manner, as to the regulations of service, responsibility and compensation to the city comparable to the regulations and burdens imposed upon street railways. In other words, that the competition be placed on a fair and equitable basis. The adoption of the free use of streets amendment would absolutely prevent such an any regulation of the jitneys.

As one interested in the welfare of Portland and in the maintenance of good transportation service, as well as in the principles of the square deal, we urge you to vote against the adoption of this free use of streets amendment. To do so you should mark your ballot 107 X No.

Very truly yours,
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