

TAXATION LIMITS PASSED BY THREE OREGON COUNTIES

Salem, Or., May 20.—Three Oregon counties, all adjoining, have exceeded the constitutional limitation in their tax levies this year on the face of figures compiled by the state tax commission's office here. These counties are Marion, whose apparent excess amounts to \$33,342; Clackamas, with apparent excess of \$28,688.97; and Polk, with apparent excess over the 6 per cent limit amounting to \$10,264.18.

An excess of approximately \$129,000 was discovered in the Linn county levy also, but this discovery was made before collection of taxes was started, enabling the assessor to hold up and extend the roll, eliminating the excess amount.

In the other three counties a rebate of the excess to taxpayers may be necessary should proceedings be started against the collection of the excess.

Marion's total tax levy, the figures in the office of the state tax commissioner show, is \$1,081,460.76, whereas under the 6 per cent limitation the legal amount to be levied, according to the tax commissioner's figures, is \$1,048,118.79. In Clackamas county the levy totals \$256,035.94, with \$397,397.57 as the legal limitation. In Polk county the levy totals \$448,114.40, whereas the constitutional limit is \$37,850.22.

Responsibility for these apparent excess levies does not rest altogether on the county court, members of the tax department explain. The practice of assessors in extending the taxes on the rolls in even mills or tenths of mills in many cases may account for at least a portion of the excess amounts indicated.

Pioneer Clackamas County Man Dies at Home in Parkplace

Parkplace, May 20.—Theodore Himler, pioneer resident of Clackamas county, died at the family home at Parkplace, Monday, May 16, after a four months' illness.

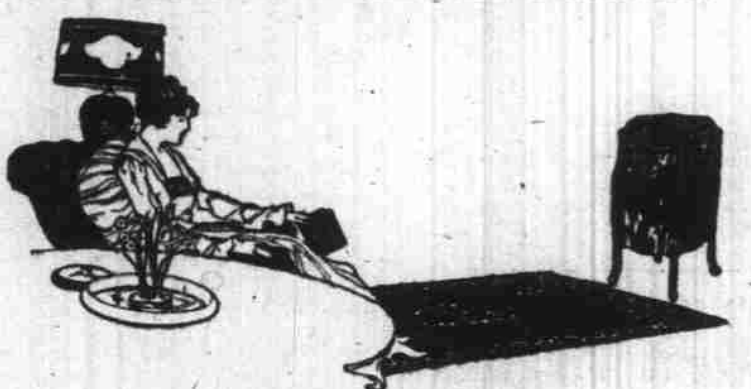
Himler was born in Germany, June 2, 1834, and came to the United States when 16 years old. He followed his trade as a barber while sailing to this country and in the East after his arrival. He arrived in Oregon City in 1865 and after arriving here engaged in business. In 1867 he married Rose Mary Nachand, daughter of an early Clackamas pioneer. Later they moved to Parkplace where Mrs. Himler's parents lived, residing on what is known as the Hiram Straight donation land claim, that has been the home of the family for many years.

Besides the widow, Mrs. Mary Himler, four sons, Henry, Frank, George, and Louis, Himler, and a daughter, Mrs. Pearl Bernier, of Parkplace, survive. Funeral services were held Wednesday at the family home, Rev. William Krazberger of Oregon City, officiating. Burial was in Mountview cemetery and the body was laid to rest in the family lot.

Farm Investigation Favorably Reported

Washington, May 20.—(U. S. S.)—The senate agriculture committee today voted to recommend favorably to the senate the concurrent resolution introduced by Senator Lenroot, Republican of Wisconsin, creating a joint commission of the senate and house to conduct an investigation into the farming industry in the United States.

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FLOOD WATERS BRIM RIVER



Scene at Alder street dock where truck drivers hurriedly unload milk cans from steamer and pull out just in time to prevent disaster to ignition system. Waters here have submerged lower dock levels and mount into runways where wagon traffic meets boat.

26-FOOT RISE LIKELY; DOCKS BEING CLEARED

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fore the crest of this flood is reached," said Wells this morning. "There is no need of alarming people unnecessarily, but the people in the danger zone should have ample warning."

The flood situation was complicated further this morning with the report that Eastern Oregon, the one district in the Columbia basin which had not been contributing flood waters, had been visited with a heavy rainfall during the night. A precipitation of half an inch was reported at Baker.

In consideration of the reports from the upper Columbia, Wells believes that the flood recorded in the summer runoff of 1917 will be beaten by this flood. The crest of the 1917 flood was 23.5 feet. By Monday the North Bank and Main street docks will be the only ones on the waterfront with their lower levels clear. All goods have been removed to higher levels. Water began to run into the basements of some of the wholesale houses on Front street this morning, most of them flooding at 18 feet. Everything has been removed from danger level, too.

Captain Spier, harbor master, has requested the masters of all river boats to operate in the local harbor at slow bell to prevent the swell from lifting the planking in some of the lower level docks which are now flooded.

COLUMBIA 32.4 FEET ABOVE ZERO POINT AT THE DALLIES
The Dallis, May 20.—The Columbia river, in the 24 hours ending at 8 o'clock this morning, rose 1.9 feet, attaining a

stage of 32.4 feet above zero. With the rise continuing rapidly at upper river points, it is predicted that the stream will climb another foot within the next 24 hours, after which the rise will be slower.

The crest of the flood will come in a few days, unless hot weather should set in, according to observers. The river is dashing along a yellow muddy flood, and the ferry boat is having trouble meeting its schedule on the Washington side.

A few squatters' houses on the beach are submerged, with only the roofs visible. Another belief is that the amount of snow in the Cascades and Rockies has something to do with the stage of the La Grande river, but this is contrary to fact. There is always enough snow fall in the mountains in winter to cause a spring freshet, provided the spring is cold and is followed by a sudden spell of hot weather over the two watersheds.

There is reliable record of four previous floods. A spring freshet in the '50s, which apparently reached about a 30-foot stage; one in June, 1876, which came 8 or 10 inches above the side-walk at First and Stark; a third in February, 1890, which reached First and Yamhill and Second and Alder, and the "great flood" of 1894.

COLUMBIA RIVER RISES STEADILY AT VANCOUVER
Vancouver, Wash., May 20.—The Columbia river here is more than 15 feet above low water, having risen 1.5 feet during the last 24 hours. Lowlands along the river below the city are covered with water and the river is steadily rising, although not as fast as at first. The lower docks are flooded and the offices of Oscar Johnson, steamship agent, have been moved to the upper dock. The salmon run has stopped, according to local fishermen.

OREGON PLUMBERS IN ANNUAL CONVENTION

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price during the past few months, soil pipe and fittings 50 per cent, water closet combinations 40 per cent, enameled ironware 30 per cent, brass goods generally 25 per cent, and other supplies in like proportion.

Trade extension lectures by J. C. Greenberg of Evansville, Ind., will be one of the principal features of the convention, according to T. J. Rowe, secretary of the state association. Greenberg's talks are illustrated by charts and blackboard drawings and tend to promote efficiency in the plumbing business.

The Portland association is out to capture the national convention of master plumbers in 1925 and is receiving cooperation from plumbers throughout Oregon, Washington and other Northwestern states. Buttons boosting the 1925 fair were distributed for the first time in Portland by the master plumbers at the opening of the convention.

About 250 members of the state association and their wives have registered, according to B. D. Coffey, chairman of the committee on arrangements.

WILL TOUR CITY

Headquarters of the Ladies' auxiliary have been opened on the second floor of the Imperial hotel.

Entertainment features of the convention include an automobile tour of the city at 2 p. m. today, a card party at the Chamber of Commerce at 8 p. m., a shopping tour for women Saturday morning, a banquet at the Benson hotel Saturday evening and a highway trip to Eagle creek Sunday.

Officers of the Portland Association of Master Plumbers, who are hosts to the convention, are: Bart T. Coffey, president; R. D. Rennie, vice-president; L. A. Beard, corresponding secretary; Henry X. Brown, financial secretary; and J. R. Widmer, treasurer. Officers of the Ladies' auxiliary are: Mrs. T. J. Rowe, president; Mrs. W. T. Finnigan, vice-president; Mrs. R. D. Rennie, secretary; and Mrs. Stephen Pollitt, treasurer. Temporary officers of the state Ladies' auxiliary, organized at Salem last year, are: Mrs. T. M. Barr, president, and Miss Mary Schettie, secretary, both of Salem.

Salem Streetcars Lost Money in 1920

Salem, Or., May 20.—A loss of \$16,000 was sustained in the operation of the Salem street railway system during the past year, according to T. L. Billingsley, superintendent of the company, who spoke before the Marion County Realtors' association Thursday noon. In the same period, Billingsley asserted, the company expended \$28,000 in improvements on the system. The loss figures, Billingsley explained, do not take into consideration any return on the investment of the company which, figured at the rate of 6 per cent, would bring the loss up to \$45,000 for the year.

PRISCILLA DEAN'S PICTURE PLAYERS TO RETURN SOUTH

With the exception of Priscilla Dean, the motion picture players, nearly 40 strong, who have been in Portland since Saturday night awaiting a rift in the clouds that would admit sufficient sunshine for photography, will return to Universal City Saturday morning, Stuart Paton, director, and his aides today decided.

There has been no serious consideration of removing the company to British Columbia, because weather conditions there, if anything, are worse than in Oregon, and the only alternative is to trek back to the South and there go about other work until they are sure of good weather here.

"We will return in a body to the studio," Paton said, "leaving Miss Dean here until she fulfills her agreement for personal appearances in one of your theatres. At the studio we will start at once on the interiors of 'Conflict,' which we came here to film."

WANTS 30 DAYS' SUN

"I anticipate the interior work will require about three weeks, of time and thereafter, I am sure, we will return to Portland and complete the picture, which is chiefly an out-of-doors production. We must, however, be assured as nearly as possible of 30 consecutive days of sunshine to make the 200 scenes to be filmed here."

"Weather conditions, of course, have not prejudiced us against Portland and Oregon, for your scenery is unsurpassed, and really this is the only logical setting for our story. Therefore, I am sure we will be back as soon as a real summer weather conditions prevail."

SEEKS REAL LOG JAM

"Our fortune in picking settings in advance seems to have gone awry, too. The log jam scene we had hoped could be staged at Kelso, Wash., cannot be made there. I discovered on my inspection Thursday. The jam there is nothing but driftwood in a stream running through farm lands and as this scene is one of the most important in the story we must have a real old fashioned jam, where the flood will rip the logs out with a thunderous boom that will echo through the heavy timber that must line the banks. Probably nowhere in the West other than near Portland can we find such a setting, and of course, we'll have to come back to picture it."

MISS DEAN TO APPEAR

Miss Dean herself will appear in person at a local theatre before she returns to the studio to take part in the interior scenes that will be made before the company comes back to Oregon to make the greater portion of its picture.

Miss Dean, Paton and other members of the company are loud in their praise of Oregon and the reception and entertainment offered them here. Paton declares that nowhere have they been more splendidly welcomed and adds that it was only the eagerness to manifest his appreciation for the welcome received that he has caused the company to remain as long as it has.

"We can hardly expect a repetition of all the good things that have been done for us," Paton says, "but when we return we'll try to repay by our work the interest that has been taken in our undertaking."

SUN SPOTS ANTEDATE ALL HUMAN RECORDS

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sun completes one rotation at its equator in a little more than 25 days. At the limb one rotation requires about 28 days.

During all these black periods on the

sun nothing more direful has overtaken Mother Earth than a lowering of temperature, disastrous effects on terrestrial magnetism and many beautiful displays of the aurora borealis. These effects always follow sun spots and are more marked in those years showing a maximum of spots.

It was Schwabe, at that time an unknown German apothecary, who was the first to discover that sun spots invariably occur in regular cycles of a little more than 11 years. Other students of solar physics have confirmed Schwabe. For seven and a half years after a maximum of sun spots there is a minimum, then for three and a half years they gradually increase until they reach their 11-year maxima again, when they return through their period of minima. This (1921) is not an 11-year sun spot period, but is the beginning of a term which may lead to that period. Hence there will be no cause for alarm if sun spots periodically dim the solar disc during the next three years.

MANY WILD GUESSES

Sun spots brought many wild and fantastic guesses from early day astronomers. The astute Galileo mistook them for clouds in the sun and even the mighty Kepler, who harnessed the planets to harmonic laws, asserted that one giant spot was due to a transit of a comet over the solar disc. Others have blamed Mercury for sneaking over the sun out of his t.u.n. Venus and Mercury do make solar transits, but their transits are now known years in advance and are predicted to the fraction of a second.

Many theories have been advanced to account for sun spots occurring in 11-year cycles, but all have been disregarded after observation has shown them to be untenable. There is an almost unanimity of opinion as to the cause of sun spots, even if their 11-year habits have eluded analysis. Most astronomers are of the opinion that spots are great cavities temporarily torn through the surface of the sun by terrific convulsions from the interior, where every element is vaporized by the unimaginable heat. Strange to say, the spots occur in areas rich in faculae, a term given to the brightest spaces on the sun.

EXPLOSION IS OBSERVED

Carrington and Hodgson, two British observers, had the good fortune to witness an explosion in faculae and the consequent creation of a new sun spot in the old group. Flammmarion describes it thus:

The two men were observing the sun independently of each other, the first on a screen which received the image, the second directly through a telescope, when, in a moment, a dazzling flash blazed out in the midst of a group of spots. The light sparkled for five minutes above the spots without modifying their form, as if it were completely independent, and yet it must have been the effect of a terrible condensation occurring in the solar atmosphere. Each observer ascertained the fact separately, and was for an instant dazzled. Not here is a surprising coincidence. At the very moment when the sun spot occurred in the faculae, the magnetic instruments at the Kew observatory, near London, manifested a strange agitation; the magnetic needle jumped for more than an hour as if infuriated. Moreover, a part of the world was on that day and the day following enveloped in

the fires of an Aurora Borealis, in Europe as well as in America.

CAUSE OF AURORA

It has been held, in all probability, that the Aurora Borealis is the result of one of these incomprehensible solar explosions projecting itself into space as far as the frontiers of the plane of the earth's orbit.

These stupendous eruptions perhaps act and reflect on the myriad particles which pursue a tireless orbit round the sun and thus give us the brilliant flashes of the aurora. All of this matter is doubtless electrical in nature.

Many students of solar physics contend that sun spots have a vast influence on mundane weather, despite positive assertions to the contrary by the weather bureau at Washington. Flammmarion is authority for the statement that sun spots radiate only 80 per cent as much heat and light as other unaffected areas of the sun and that a lowering of temperature is almost an inevitable result of sun spots that continue over any appreciable period. The great Herschel was positive that the sun and the sun spot periods were responsible for high or low temperatures, as the term might be, and that abundant or deficient harvests were ruled by the same law. Many others, to a greater or lesser degree, share these opinions. It seems reasonable to suppose that a sun spot whose diameter measures many times that of the earth and which permits only 80 per

cent of the normal heat of its area to escape to the earth would have a positive effect on our atmospheric conditions. The fact in meteorology, so often slandering in its predictions, has not kept pace with astronomy, which never errs so much as a fraction of a second in its forecasts.

Two Palates Found In Mouth of Baby Left on Doorstep

"Agnes," the tiny baby left on the doorstep of J. H. Neubauer's home, 333 East Thirty-fifth street, early this week, has two palates, which fact explained the note that was left with the baby saying: "Look in her mouth."

Dr. J. B. Bilderback, physician of the Waverly Baby Home, says a slight operation will enable the baby to speak in its proper time without impediment, but such an operation probably will not take place until the child is at least a year old. It develops that the mother gave up the child in the hope that it would be given proper treatment to correct the infirmity. Her identity has been discovered and she will be given an opportunity to take her baby back.

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