THE OREGON STATESMAN

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FACTS CONCERNING THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATIONAL BILL

(Contributed)

This bill will be on the ballot at the primary election May 21st. It provides for a levy of two mills on all taxable property of the state for the support of the public elementary schools. Should this bill pass, the tax will be levied in December, 1920, and annually thereafter. It is not retro-active.

This fund will be apportioned on the basis of the number of teachers employed in each county in grades one to eight inclusive. The proposed law does not do away with the present state and county apportionment nor does it change the method of distributing it. The present levy in Marion county for the county school fund is 2.6 mills.

In many cases this law will not impose an additional tax. Most districts now vote a special tax. The millage tax would in many instances do away with the necessity of voting special taxes.

The chief value of the bill is that it is a fairer and more equal method of raising and distributing school money than the plan now used. The county tax produces only about 30 per cent of the present school fund, state school fund about 10 per cent and 60 per cent is raised by district tax. Districts vary widely in the amount of taxable property. Compare two one-room schools—one has 10 and the other 30 pupils. In both cases the cost of equipment and teacher is about equal, but under the census plan of distribution one school gets three times as much funds as the other.

Districts vary widely in valuation—some as low as $30,000, while others, traversed by railroads or containing rich timber lands, have a high valuation. Take for example, two one room schools, districts 28 and 90. The former has a valuation of $60, 133 and a census of 21 pupils. This district this year levied a tax of 9.4 mills which produced $565.25. No. 90 has an assessed valuation of $310,761 and a census of 12, and levied a tax of 1.5 mills which produced $466. The latter district has nearly as much money with 1-6 the rate of tax levy.

This bill will remedy much of this inequality in taxation. There is no good reason why taxes derived from railroads, public service corporation, and timber lands should be paid to a few favored districts. This law is strong in that it places every dollar of taxable property in the county back of the education of every child in the county, basing its apportionment on the number of teachers—the chief item of expense. Oregon is one of seven states that have not a state wide tax for education. Practically all the state have a state tax and apportion a part of it on the teacher basis.

How will the law work in Marion County? A two mill levy on our valuation will produce $84,584. Dividing this by 264, the estimated number of teachers in the elementary grades, we get approximately $320 per teacher. This amount will be apportioned to all one-room schools, thus making it possible for many of them to reduce their special tax levies.

We are informed by the United States Commissioner of Education that there is in this country a shortage of 100,000 teachers; that the doors of 18,000 schools failed to open this year for want of teachers; that there are 41,900 teachers below standard, who could not pass an examination; that last year 143,000 teachers left the profession; that the output of our normal schools has fallen off alarmingly—in many instances 50 per cent; that last year one-fifth of all the children went to school to teachers who have less than a high school education. There is not another civilized people on earth of which this can be said. This alarming condition is nation wide and threatens our own state. Reports on file in the office of State Superintendent J. A. Churchill show that not less than five hundred positions will be vacant next year in Oregon if this bill fails to pass. This means that our teachers are taking up other occupations because the schools do not pay a living wage. It means that we are filling our ranks with the unprepared, the unfit.

This breakdown in our schools comes at a critical time, a time when we need the steadying influence of strong, conscientious teachers in our schools. The passage of this bill will place our public schools upon a good foundation. Remember that not a cent of this money will be squandered but will come back to the various districts to improve the home school. Go to the polls May 21st and vote 314 yes..

What do you know about legumes?

It is mighty important. Tell The Statesman, for next Thursday's Salem slogan pages.

There is no proper place in the United States for strikes, authorized or unauthorized, by regulars or outlaws.

Very soon, sunshine will be needed in the orchard blossoms, and busy bees, too. Pollination is the big thing in the orchards.

But it is not believed that the McNary law will make nary a difference in the price of sugar.—Los Angeles Times.

Since the announcement of Herbert Hoover the professional politicians show a disposition to come up for air.—Los Angeles Times.

Little Delaware killed the equal-suffrage amendment to the constitution. But too much must not be expected of the state that still maintains the whipping post.

"Good Friday" has passed and that resolution declaring peace between the United States and Germany is still on the legislative ways. Another hunch gone wrong.

The federal reserve banks now say that the limit of high prices has been reached and that there will be a gradual decline. That is the same brand of mental fodder that Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer has been feeding us.

Reports as to the railroads of the country show that in development the system as a whole is nearer to a standstill than at any time since the first rail was laid. Also that since 1916 the new mileage acquired has been less than the mileage abandoned, so that an actual decrease is recorded. Eighty per cent of the traffic is carried by dividend-paying companies. The others, being without credit, struggle along as best they can.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Hoover of Salem.

That has a pleasant sound.

The house thinks the war is over.

The senate will no doubt record the same opinion.

But President Wilson likely is of a different opinion, and, while the house can muster a two-thirds vote to override his veto, it may have a different result in the senate.

So we may go on being technically at war with Germany for quite a while yet.

Here is a Washington quiplet: "President Wilson threatens to call a cabinet meeting."

It is no secret that three great fruit manufacturing concerns are seeking Salem as a place to build new plants. They will all come, as soon as our growers raise enough of the raw products—and enough new houses are built in Salem to put roofs over the heads of the workers.

FUTURE DATES.

April 9 and 10, Friday and Saturday—Marion County Sunday School convention, Salem.
April 18, Sunday—(Tentative) Blossom day in Salem.
April 11, Sunday—Baseball, Salem Senators vs. Moosejaw.
April 17, Saturday—Debate between Willamette university and College of Puget Sound.
April 20, Tuesday—Registration for voters closes.
April 21, Wednesday — Willamette Glee club concert at Grand Opera house.
April 22, Friday — Howard Evarts Weed, landscape architect of Portland, to address Salem Art league at public library.
April 23, Friday—Debate between Willamette university and Pacific university.
April 28, Wednesday—Boy Scout entertainment at armory under auspices of Salem Elks.
April 30, Friday—Debate between Willamette university and McMinnville college.
April 30 and May 1—"Awakening of Spring" pageant Opera House, hospital benefit.
May 1, Saturday—May day and junior week end at Willamette university.
May 3 to May 6—Second annual Oregon Jersey jubilee.
May 6, Thursday—Banquet of Jersey cattle breeders at Marion hotel.
May 14, Friday—Debate between Willamette university and Oregon Agricultural college.
May 11, Tuesday—Intercollegiate debate, Willamette vs. O. A. C.
May 14 and 15—Nineteenth annual convention of Oregon State Association of Master Plumbers, in Salem.
May 29, Saturday—William Howard Taft speaks at armory.
June 14 to 17—Officers' schools for Oregon National Guard at Vancouver and Fort Stevens.
June 19 and 20—National gypsy-tour motorcycle events in Salem.
July 6 to 20—Annual encampment of Oregon national Guard, infantry and engineers at Camp Lewis, artillery at Fort Stevens.
June 22, 23 and 24—Imperial conclave of Mystic Shrine in Portland.
June 23, Wednesday—Imperial conclave of Mystic Shrine to visit Salem.
June 24, 25 and 26—Portland Rose festival.
July 22, 23 and 24—State Elks convention in Salem.
September 27 to October 2—Oregon state fair.

OREGON MILLS OPERATING AT FULL CAPACITY

Production for Week Varies Only Slightly from Normal Output

CAR SHORTAGE IS FELT

Latest Calculation Shows Stocks at Mills Somewhat Below Usual

Lumber mills in the northwest are operating at practically full capacity to keep up with the persistent demand for lumber that comes from all parts of the country.

At 126 typical mills in western Oregon and western Washington the production for the week ended April 3 was 91,476,124 feet according to the report of the West Coast Lumbermen's association which represents more than 90 per cent of the mill capacity in the territory west of the Cascades. This volume was only 976,876 feet on 1.06 per cent below normal for the week.

Inadequate car supply keeps shipments substantially below production and prevents the mills from accepting all the business offered them. The total shipments for the week were 74,605,976 feet of which 58,020,000 feet moved by rail, 7,299,266 feet went to California by water. 4,637,863 feet was exported and 4,648,847 feet was delivered locally.

New business accepted by this group of mills was 80,046,384 feet, or 5,440,408 feet more than they shipped.

The mills contributing to this report still have 10,822 cars or 324,660,000 feet of unfilled rail orders on their books besides 61,735,647 feet of domestic cargo orders and 52,504,905 feet of export orders—an aggregate of 438,900,552 feet.

Latest calculations show that stocks at the mills is somewhat below normal.

Seven Portland Police Discharged After Death

PORTLAND, Or., April 9.—Seven of the local police force were dismissed from the department today, the action of the chief of police, Jenkins, being the result, he announced of the alleged accidental killing of Wayne Cason, 19-year-old boy, when he was placed under arrest last Sunday.

POPULAR SALEM GIRL IS CALLED

Lois Jory Smith Passes After Short Illness at San Diego Thursday

The announcement which reached Salem yesterday telling of the death of Miss Lois Jory Smith of this city, which occurred in San Diego, Cal., late Thursday afternoon, cast a gloom over a wide part of the city for Miss Smith was one of the most popular members of the younger set and her lovable disposition won for her many friends. Miss Smith had not been ill long, and her passing came as a shock. She was 16 years old and is a native of Salem, spending her entire life here. Her mother, Mrs. Earl Jory, died when she was only a few months old and she has since made her home with Dr. and Mrs. J. N. Smith.

She was a junior in the Salem high school and while there was very active in the school activities and a popular student, grading high in her class studies. She was a member of the Cecilian Musical club and a member of the First Methodist church.

She leaves her father, Earl Jory, of this city, her uncle and aunt, Dr. and Mrs. J. N. Smith, with whom she has made her home since infancy, three brothers, one sister, and one cousin, Mrs. Warren Powers of Seattle.

Dr. and Mrs. Smith left San Diego with the body last night for Salem and will probably arrive here Sunday. As yet no funeral announcements have been made.

ADITORIAL

Old methods and old policies have become obsolete.

This is an age of "specialization," and "practicalized cooperation."

It is an age where one must measure up to the required standard of Citizenship or pass on, as one, not an American. It means, "FAIR PLAY" and "SQUARE DEALING." It means "YOUR HOME TOWN FIRST, in every thought and act.

We believe in Salem; recognize its wonderful possibilities, and are most enthusiastic at the outlook.

Salem deserves the best and every resident should strive to give the best in whatever activity they function.

We shall give our best, carrying only the Highest Quality of Merchandise, that we may forever retain the name of the "Good Goods" Store.

We shall give Salem a SERVICE second to none in the country, for COURTESY, PROMPTNESS, and INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION.

We shall "specialize" on "GOOD GOODS" and "SERVICE" and COOPERATE with Salem in all enterprises that will develop our beautiful city, making it the best City, in the best State in the Union.