

Governor Pierce's speech at Portland Chamber of Commerce Monday

A Carefully Prepared Review of the Main Issues That Will Be Fought Out in the Next Primary and Election Campaigns in Oregon, Made from the Viewpoint of the Chief Executive.

(Governor Walter M. Pierce, upon invitation, addressed the Portland Chamber of Commerce on Monday last. His speech is a carefully and ably prepared discussion of the main issues that are bound to be discussed in the forthcoming Oregon primary and election campaigns, presented from the viewpoint of the chief executive and his influential supporters, and for this reason, it will be interesting to a large number of the readers of The Statesman, and more especially to those who are deeply concerned in the probabilities of political dominance in the state after the result of the November election shall have been announced. This may turn out to be the keynote speech of the coming campaign.)

February 8, 1926. Members of the Portland Chamber of Commerce: I am sincere thanks to Mr. Roderick Maclean, your president, for the invitation extended to me to appear before you today and state my reasons for the continued agitation for redistribution of the tax burden. I realize that there are men present here who do not think as I think, men who do not see as I see. I know that it was the money so liberally contributed by men of influence, which brought about the repeal of the income tax law in 1924. I am well aware of the fact that but for your efforts, gentlemen of Portland, the income tax law yet would be a part of our code, and we would now be far along the road in equitably distributing the burdens of government.

lyzed, is sheer nonsense. Who among you would say: "Out off the \$2,169,075.24 collected by the state for primary education? Who in this room is so untrusting to the traditions of our country that would reduce the \$2,169,075.24 levy given to higher education? Who of you Portland business men would deny to the producers of our food and clothing the \$1,034,337.77 expended to construct market roads for marketing our farm products? Again I ask, who among you would vote to repeal the \$642,268.81 taken from the taxpayers for the soldiers who crossed the submarine-infested seas to fight for democracy, the men who have won the hitherto unconquered legions of Germany; the men who felt the cold steel at Chateau-Thierry; the men who drove the black hordes..."



WALTER M. PIERCE

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And yet we have sacrificed agriculture to such an extent that it requires 65 per cent of the farmer's profits to pay his taxes. Mrs. Waldo, whom many of you know, owns 1,000 acres of land within sight of the capitol building. Last fall she leased that farm for five years for the taxes. When she served as a member of the Board of Regents of the Agricultural College, she considered that farm worth \$100,000. She offered it to the state a year ago for \$55,000, and probably would be glad to take less at this time. There are hundreds of instances similar to this in the state of Oregon. That brilliant jurist, John Marshall, never uttered a greater truth than when he said: "The power to tax is the power to confiscate."

With a glad hand, as governor of this state, I welcome every boy and girl into the higher institutions of learning. It will be generally admitted that the state should furnish its youth with the best possible facilities for obtaining a thoroughly practical education. Every boy who drives a team or handles a hoe is far better equipped for his life's work after he has had the training afforded in our agricultural college. Training begets knowledge, and knowledge inspires in the hearts of our young people a nobler devotion to the duties and responsibilities of citizenship.

It is a sad commentary upon the brilliant genius of our timbermen to think of making Oregon's hills as bare as the denuded lands between here and Astoria, and that without profit to anyone. Certainly under those conditions, you timbermen would not object to an income tax, for if your lumber business is being operated at such terrific losses, the man who did contribute to the state through an income tax would be relieved of you part of the burden that is now placed upon your mills and other property.

Every year more new students are asking for enrollment at Corvallis Eugene than there were attending the schools twenty years ago. There are still some economies that can and will be effected, but these will be largely offset by the increasing needs of the various state institutions. Relief from the excessive tax burden on property must come from redistribution.

It is a false statement that the more money the state has the more it will spend. The men who control departments under the governor never worked harder to conserve their private fortunes than they are today laboring to save and economically use state money.

Another cause of increasing taxes is that not only do people demand more things from governmental organizations, but they demand better things than formerly. Better public service, better educational facilities, better public buildings, better health and sanitation regulations, better roads, and better everything that governments are expected to do, just as the individual demands and enjoys better things than he did twenty years ago. A state is but an aggregation of individuals, and in the final analysis, the desires and wishes of a majority of its people are reflected in its government and in its institutions.

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power in government. It is my hope that this chamber will enter the fight with the state treasurer, myself and others, to bring about equitable assessments of all property in the state, and a united resistance to the infamous Dennis resolution, which simply would relieve the rich of their just share of the burden. An increase in the inheritance taxes in Oregon would add materially to the income from that source. Help us create a sentiment that will sustain the various methods of indirect taxation so that Oregon may soon enter that happy position now enjoyed by North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and California, where no state taxes are levied upon property for state activities. It is the trend of the times, gentlemen; it is right; it is just; it will bring business to Oregon; it will keep the farmers upon the farms; it will add materially to the wealth of all.

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Hoarseness
Sore Throat
Cough

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7 FACTS ABOUT POSILAN FOR SKIN-SUFFERERS

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"It heals raw, inflamed skin."
"It clears away pimples."
"Posilan is powerful, yet safe."
"It works quickly and surely."
"A little goes a long way."
"Posilan costs but 50¢—at all druggists."

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Listen to the republican governor of Minnesota.

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