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East Oregonian

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1901.

THE QUESTION OF TAXES.

The assertion is made that Pendleton does not receive its share of tax from the O. R. & N. Co. If it does not, the mill does not lie with the company, but with the assessor's office. The company cannot be "gravelled at" for this state of affairs, for the assessor is responsible. Doubtless the company would promptly pay the taxes, if they were assessed against it. There is no instance of record when the company has sought an assessment, particularly so, when the assessment was on equality with assessments of similar property in other parts of the state.

The writer was at one time assessor of the city of Pendleton and the two years that he was the assessor, the O. R. & N. Co. contributed upwards of \$40 into the treasury of the city, while at present it is paying \$44, and did so without raising any objection. It would probably do so again, if it were properly assessed at a valuation not in excess of that placed upon other property. But, when the assessor gets to assessing property with equality, the railroad ox is not the only one that will be gored.

There are hundreds of thousands of dollars of property in Umatilla county, assessments under the law, that is exceeding the burden of taxation, in part or in whole, which an equitable system of taxation would include. There are men living in Pendleton and in the county worth all the way from \$20,000 to \$50,000, and yet they are paying taxes on one-tenth, or less, of that for which their holdings could be sold for. Let the taxation agitation be started, and see who first cries Hold, enough!

The truth of the matter is, there is no equitable way of assessing property under the present system, and the more the attempt is made the more will failure be apparent. In brief, the sole focal option in taxation, the right to levy and collect taxes as each county and municipal government may determine for itself, without interference and meddling from the state and the state legislature. This is the first step to take if unjust and unequal assessments are to be remedied and abated. And this is the first step toward true reform in taxation.

THE BETTER PART.

The evidence of profound respect in which Miss Bell Bishop was held in this community bears a useful lesson to all. Her's was a life in which came many elements of suffering and there was lacking some of the things that most people believe are essential to success and happiness. Yet a whole city united in expressions of a feeling of loss irreparable when, after months of suffering, born with patience and fortitude, she passed away with resignation and cheerful facing of the mysteries of the future. Whatever may be held as truth theological, no death of other character can controvert the irrefutable argument advanced by such a life and such a death. It teaches us that there are things more to be desired than wealth and the artificiality of what is commonly called society, that character makes for eternity, and there is a faith that carries out into the coming world without fear or quaking.

DANGEROUS WATER TO DRINK.

A citizen of Pendleton was surprised a few days ago when his pump yielded a can full of worms of various sizes. He stated he could not account for the "wiggler," as the pump was driven in gravel and the supply of water came from a depth of twenty feet.

The fact of the matter is, pump water in Pendleton is unfit for cooking or drinking purposes. The drainage of cellars, cess pools, closets, stables, kitchens, in fact every kind of refuse and filth goes into the gravel and mingle with the pump water, as it flows westward and downward.

Nearly every case of typhoid fever in Pendleton comes from the use of pump water, and the remarkable thing is, people will go on using it when they can obtain a supply of good, pure water from the city for family purposes at \$1 a month through a meter. The \$1 a month to the city is a small amount compared to the cost and burden of sickness, which

heaven has lent him. What the white man has failed to do in his intellectual supremacy, this slave, handicapped by social bonds, limited in resources and cursed by the old prejudices of a vanished social order, sets out to accomplish, alone and almost friendless. Washington is not a politician in the common meaning of the term. He is not a "ward-hopper" nor an aspirant for office, hence the president was not playing any skillful game for popularity. He simply extended a hand to a struggling benefactor of his race. It was not Booker T. Washington, the negro, who sat at that White House dinner; it was a real worker in the great human drama, with Theodore Roosevelt.

In the Industrial Institute at Tuskegee, Georgia, Washington is fighting against untold odds to bring the young generation on to a standard of usefulness. He teaches them all the useful trades, gives them the rudiments of an education, impresses upon them the fact that they are responsible citizens of a great country, and by precept and example is striving to improve his race. The negro knows no other home than America. He is a fixture here. His wife would equal the deportment of the Acadians by the English. His life is grown to soil. His nature is much of our own making. So we must make the best of it. We must recognize the necessity which invites the self-sacrificing efforts of such men as this Washington.

BERT HUFFMAN.

WILL STIR UP THE NAVY.

A special to the Minneapolis Tribune says: President Roosevelt seems determined to cause a shake-up in the inner circles and bureaus of the navy department as a result of the revelations of the Schley court of inquiry.

When Assistant Secretary Hackan suddenly decided a few days ago to resign at once, it was recalled that he had been always an intense partisan of Sampson, and further developments not entirely pleasant for Sampson's particular friends or supporters in the department were looked for. They came yesterday, when it was announced that Rear-Admiral Crowningshield, chief of the Bureau of Navigation, would be superseded before the usual term of four years for which he was chosen expires. His successor will be Rear-Admiral Taylor, and Crowningshield, who took the lead in securing a court of inquiry for Schley, will be deported to Europe there to take charge of the new European station.

It is a current report that when Theodore Roosevelt was assistant secretary of the navy, he clashed with Crowningshield, and this besides his intense partisanship on Schley, set forth as a reason for the bureau chief's removal. It is said Crowningshield flatly opposed bringing the Oregon around the Horn to Cuban waters, while Mr Roosevelt as strongly favored it, and won with Secretary Long's help.

Officials of the navy department undoubtedly say that it is honeycombed with a partisan feeling for Sampson. These admissions, coupled with the Hackett and Crowningshield developments, are what caused the expectation of a thorough overhaul of the navy department machinery from the assistant down—a booming effect of the Schley trial which the prime movers did not look for.

A glance at statistics opens the door of a sphere of thought which appeals to every man who has the interest of humanity at heart. Dr. Du Toit, a negro professor at Atlanta University, in an article furnished the Bureau of Labor Statistics at Washington, gives some startling social facts about the lower class of southern negroes. Of a settlement in Calhoun County, Georgia, which represents the country districts of the south he says: "In these families are 131 persons. One family consisting of father, mother and 19 children. This family is a poverty-stricken, restless, dirty set. The children are stupid and repulsive, they are almost naked, sickly, cross and barbarous, fighting for their food at the table. The dishes remain unwashed on the table from one meal to the next. Now and then the parents engage in a hand to hand fight. In religion they are boisterous and superstitious. The pastor is ignorant and loud mouthed, preaching in his shirt sleeves and spitting tobacco juice on one side of the pulpit, while he works the listeners up to the shouting pitch. The mortals of the community are exceedingly low. Often a girl of twelve runs away and gets married. On the outskirts of the town are numerous 'dives' where the young and old gather to drink, gamble, fight and carouse. Many of the more intelligent negroes become disgusted at such surroundings and the narrow opportunities for advancement, and emigration, idleness, crime and immorality result."

This is a social condition in America. These people have touched ebb for three cent years with the refinement of the growing civilization of the new world. They have imbued its passions without tasting its perfections. It is to improve this condition that this man Washington has determined to devote his life and strength. He has risen above the level of the social law which cries him down. He sees the degradation of his kinsmen—their utter helplessness—and resolves to flash about them whatever little mental illumination

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