

EX. STAR EDITORIALS.

AN EXCESSIVE TAX.

The County Court has levied a tax of 25 mills on all assessable property of Lane county for State and county purposes for the year 1892. In Eugene the city and school taxes amount to 10 mills, making 35 mills or 3½ per cent. besides road taxes. This will take all the rent or income, after deducting repairs and other drawbacks, of a good many kinds of productive property, and is very heavy on unimproved and non-productive property. It is the general opinion of taxpayers that a levy of 20 mills for State and county purposes would have been sufficient. There are now about \$80,000 of outstanding county warrants on which the county is paying 8 per cent. interest. This is not an excessive rate of interest, and the amount including the interest is not large in proportion to the population and wealth of the county. This indebtedness has been incurred mainly by the building of bridges, which were washed away by the floods of 1890, and by building of the jail this summer. These things were necessary, and nobody objects paying for them, but they will benefit the people who will come here during the next few years as much as those now here who have already paid for nearly every thing that has been done in developing the country, and it would be good policy to let those who come here during the next few years bear a share of this burden. Last year the tax was 18 mills, which about paid the running expenses, not including the building of the jail. The assessed valuation of property this year is considerable greater than it was last year, so a tax this year of 20 mills would pay running expenses, taking up the old warrants as fast as the new warrants would be issued, and would perhaps pay something on the indebtedness, by liquidating the old warrants a little faster than new ones would be issued. Many taxpayers are paying ten per cent. interest on money, and will be obliged to borrow money at that rate to pay taxes to liquidate the county debt, which is drawing only eight per cent. Incoming taxpayers will get the benefit of this county indebtedness for permanent bridges and jail, and could afford to help pay it. Under a lower rate of taxation than 25 mills the indebtedness of the county could be gradually wiped out and would not be seriously felt by anybody, leaving the increase in wealth and population to pay some of it, instead of dumping it all upon the present taxpayers at a time when it is almost impossible to get money. Under the 18 mill tax, the last call, issued a few days ago, paid off the warrants issued one year and five months ago. This would indicate that with a tax of 20 mills this year, instead of 25, the warrants now being issued would probably be paid in about eighteen months. County warrants are now selling at par or a slight discount and the credit of the county and the condition of its finances did not demand a tax of 25 mills, which is the highest tax ever levied in this county and the highest that is likely to be levied for sometime to come. All the necessary expenses of the county should

be paid, and all of its indebtedness should be paid within a reasonable time, but in order to do this it is not necessary to collect 25 mills in one year, nor to refuse to pay legitimate and proper expenses, merely to make a show of economy and reform, while larger bills at higher rates, and in some instances for services not as necessary or beneficial to the public, are paid in full.—Oregon State Journal.

Gossip comes to the ears of the Herald correspondent that Judge D. R. N. Blackburn, of Albany, will run some of the other candidates a merry race for railroad commissioner. Men are but there to be elected by the legislature and there are candidates galore. The present commissioners, one of whom is Robert Clow, of Junction City, are all in the race again and Frank J. Miller, the clerk of the board, is also mentioned as a likely candidate. Among the others is Dr. W. H. Rich, of Toledo, journey surgeon for the Oregon Pacific. A. Bowman, of Albany, section foreman on the Southern Pacific, is also named as a candidate.—Albany Herald.

Unless all signs fail, the coming legislative season will be enlivened by county-seat contests and efforts to create new counties. It has come to be considered the fair thing to make every town of any size a county-seat, and just as fast as towns get beyond the mere village stage, they begin to scheme for a county division, or else inaugurate a warfare against the county-seat in possession in the hope of superseding it. Every session the legislature has a spasm or two of this kind, and it now looks as if the next one would have more than the average number of convulsions.—Oregonian.

County divisions are again coming to the surface, preparatory to a presentation to the legislature. Probably if the question of county-seat could be eliminated there would be but very little of the division matter heard of. A boom for some aspiring city is the substance of things sought for. Lane county parties are talking it, and lately comes an echo from Curry county to divide upon the line of Rogue river.—Albany Herald.

There is a wonderful difference between France and America. President Carnot seems likely to have to make "a draft to get a cabinet," while Cleveland will have to call out the militia to disperse the mob of Cabinet aspirants.—Junction City Times.

In New York there is a project well under way to get one hundred and sixty people of wealth and leisure to club together and charter a 3500 ton steamer for a seven months' voyage around the world. The cost is estimated at \$3250 for each person.

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