

CORVALLIS GAZETTE



VOL. XLIII.

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1906.

No. 4

A ROUSING MEETING.

Citizens' League Hears Addresses On Important Matters.

There was an enthusiastic meeting of the Citizens' League Tuesday evening, at which time three subjects of much importance to Corvallis and Benton county were discussed.

The first was the subject of fall locks and an open river from Portland to Corvallis, and Mr. Westbrook, general freight and passenger agent for the O. C. T. Co. was present to lay the matter before the League. Mr. Westbrook gave a highly interesting talk, which was of much value, abounding in general information on this very important theme.

The speaker brought to mind that on every ton of freight brought to this section the people are paying 50 cents, not only paying this amount of tax to the locks people but also to the railroads on the same account. It is estimated that on the amount of business that passed the locks last year, the people of the Willamette Valley paid over \$100,000. Figuring from this basis, it would therefore appear that even if the government could secure the locks for \$600,000 it would be a cheap investment, as in six years the people will have paid out that amount in taxation and still not own the locks. The speaker reasoned that new locks might be built on the opposite side of the river for perhaps \$600,000, and that therefore a greater amount should not be paid for the old locks than would build new.

As to the open river, the speaker said that the government last year spent from \$5,000 to \$7,000 on dredging and other work, between Portland and Salem and as a result, boats were run daily between those points the entire year. It was said that the worst part of the river lay between Portland and Salem, and for at least one-third less than the amount spent there, the river could be cleared and kept open the year around from Salem to Corvallis. The principal source of trouble, Mr. Westbrook said, was snags, logs, and bars, the latter being small islands in the stream that divide the current. Could these be overcome and the current diverted into one channel, that a depth of three or four feet might be obtained the desired result could be had. The river, it was stated, was nature's highway and had always dictated freight rates. Not until a daily boat service was inaugurated by the river companies, was a daily freight service put on for Corvallis by the railroads.

It is estimated that on every four sacks of flour landed in Corvallis from Portland, the Valley people pay 5 cents to the locks people in tax. While this amount seems insignificant, taken by the year on the innumerable commodities that are shipped, it amounts to no small sum.

Mr. Westbrook urged the League to be earnest and persistent in their efforts, to keep before their congressman petitions and resolutions bearing on this subject, and he believed that their demands would finally be granted. At the conclusion of his address, a committee was appointed to draft resolutions to send to Oregon's congressman at Washington.

The matter of an electric railroad from Bellefountain to Corvallis was ably presented to the League by Frank Bennett, of the former place. Speeches were also made by E. H. Belknap and Mr. Williams. This road is to tap the Lake Creek district in Lane county, where timber tracts, embracing millions of feet, are to be secured. It is proposed to build this road with the assistance of Corvallis business men and outside capital.

The matter was discussed, but no action taken.

The city council adjourned and appeared before the League, presenting the matter of granting a thirty year franchise to M. Welch of Salem for an electric light and power plant. A two hours discussion was held, but a motion to vote on the matter was laid on the table, it being the opinion of the League that the council, which has made a study of the matter, is better fitted to decide it than is the League, which is less informed.

The meeting was largely attended, 75 being present.

Mid-Winter Meeting.

The January meeting of the board of regents of the State Agricultural College of Oregon occurred in this city Wednesday; of the twelve members of the board seven were in attendance. Governor Chamberlain was not present. The meeting is reported to be a very harmonious one and the usual routine of business was attended.

Perhaps, in fact, in all likelihood, in the future history of this great institution the meeting of Wednesday will figure as a most notable one. On recommendation of President Gatch, a fifth year was added to the course of instruction at the college for those who desire it. There are two courses—Mathematical and applied sciences. The branches embraced are mathematics, chemistry, mining, mechanical, electrical and agricultural. The new degrees conferred will be for civil engineering, mining engineering, electrical engineering, chemical engineering and agricultural engineering.

The fifth year in no wise interferes with the issuance of degrees for the four-year course and the latter will be maintained as heretofore. There has been a great demand for this additional year in the above-mentioned branches and many students have gone abroad on account of not being able to secure degrees for the fifth year's work in case they remained for it. From now on they will receive recognition for their work and new appliances will be added to render the work of a higher order than has been possible in the past. At present there are many students doing fifth-year work at OAC.

The matter of granting a right of way across the college farm to the Corvallis Water Commission for the installation of the Rock Creek system came up before the board and the president and secretary of that body were instructed to negotiate and are further authorized to sign such contract in the matter as may seem fitting to them.

Benton's Weather Record.

We are indebted to H. C. Clemmens, of Bellefountain, this county, for the following report of the weather conditions in his precinct during the past twelve months—days clear, rainy, cloudy and snowing:

1905	CLEAR	RAINY	CLOUDY	SNOW
Jan.	4	14	11	2
Feb.	8	12	8	1
Mar.	3	22	6	1
Apr.	7	9	14	1
May	10	14	14	1
June	10	9	12	1
July	23	1	7	1
Aug.	16	1	15	1
Sept.	6	9	15	1
Oct.	11	17	3	1
Nov.	6	9	14	1
Dec.	6	20	11	1
Total	104	138	150	4

Four Hundred Babies.

St. Vincent's Infant Asylum, Chicago, shelters homeless waifs awaiting adoption, and there are nearly 400 babies there. Sister Julia writes: "I cannot say too much in praise of Foley's Honey and Tar for coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough." Contains no opiates and is safe and sure. Ask for Foley's Honey and Tar and insist on having it, as it is a safe remedy and certain in results. Refuse substitutes. Sold by Graham & Wortham.

TAX CODE BILL.

Petition in Circulation May Result in New Law.

Blank petitions attached to copies of the new tax code proposed by the tax committee of the Willamette Valley Development League, were sent out by the president of that body, January 1st. Those allotted Corvallis arrived Tuesday. The plan is to get 7,500 signatures to the petition in order that the bill may be submitted to the voters at the election in June. There are but little more than three weeks in which the required number of signatures may be secured.

The bill not only proposes new forms of taxation, such as an increase of the tax on insurance companies, taxes on the gross earnings of express, telephone and telegraph companies, taxes on Pullman, oil-tank and re-tractor-car companies, but also revises the general tax laws now in force.

The bill proposed would increase indirect taxation so that levies for the state revenues the first year under its operation would be reduced one-half and each year become less until there shall be no state tax levied.

In order to accomplish a complete revision of existing legislation relating to assessment and taxation, the committee has compiled all laws related to the subject, omitting many duplications and obsolete sections, and making minor and clerical changes required to make the whole harmonious, that the end sought might be attained, shifting the revenues required to carry on the state government, and all its departments and institutions, to intangible sources, which the assessor and tax collector hitherto has not levied upon.

The committee has deemed it best not to repeal any existing laws for raising revenues, remembering that such legislation compelled a special session of the legislature, but has left undisturbed the present method and modus operandi of assessment and collecting, existing as noted herein:

Transfer the \$1 county poll tax to the road fund and collect same as road poll tax is now collected. This is not a new tax. At present it is charged up and added to the property assessment, but in case of persons who pay no property tax it is seldom collected.

Reduce the penalty on delinquent taxes from 10 per cent to 5 per cent, and the rate of interest from 12 per cent to 6 per cent.

In the section providing how the amount of state taxes paid by each county shall be estimated, it is declared that the same is based on current expense, excepting only expenses for roads and bridges. There are added expenses for "county buildings and repairs thereof." It is manifestly wrong in policy to penalize a county for its enterprise in erecting and maintaining courthouses, jails, infirmaries, etc.

The committee adopted the Illinois plan of requiring publication of the assessment roll before it is acted upon by the county board of equalization. The enforcement of this provision has resulted in greatly increasing the total assessments by bringing the amount of property, real and personal, given in by each person to the attention of his neighbors and the general public. The publication will be made in the newspapers in each county nearest the property by precincts.

The committee has raised the taxes on the gross premiums of insurance companies from 2 to 3 per cent. It is a fact that 26 states collect a higher tax on insurance companies than Oregon.

This bill levies a 2 per cent tax on the gross earnings of the

express and telegraph companies and 1 per cent on telephone companies. It will not affect farmers' mutual telephone lines.

The committee found it necessary to revise the inheritance tax so that it will come nearer to filling the purpose for which it was intended, the production of revenues from inheritances. We have provided that the state as an interested party shall be represented at the first appraisalment of all estates of over \$10,000 by the local attorney of the State School Land Board, and by abolishing all limitations so that all heirs will pay the small sum of 1 per cent on the amount of property inherited. Heirs of the second degree of consanguinity pay 2 per cent on the amount inherited, and all others pay 3 per cent, including bodies corporate, and for sums over \$10,000 and as high as \$100,000 a graduated tax until 10 per cent is reached.

The committee adopted the Iowa law for the assessment and valuation of railroad property, by creating the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer a state executive council and giving them authority to ascertain and determine the value of all railroad property in the state, based on reports of earnings and other information required under the decisions of the supreme court. Under this system a railroad is treated as a continuous piece of property, and the assessed value per mile is the same for the entire length thereof. This is the law of California and nearly all of the other states.

Imperfect Digestion.
Means less nutrition and in consequence less vitality. When the liver fails to secrete bile, the blood becomes loaded with bilious properties, the digestion becomes impaired and the bowels constipated. Herbine will rectify this; it gives tone to the stomach, liver and kidneys, strengthens the appetite, clears and improves the complexion, infuses new life and vigor to the whole system. 50 cents a bottle. Sold by Graham & Wortham.

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silverware we ask no more than you would expect to pay for far inferior goods. We want you to feel able to afford the best, whether it be for your table, side-board or dressing case. So we make a specialty of fine silverware moderately priced. We have sets and single pieces. Standard and special patterns. Every piece is fully warranted to wear for years. We shall be very glad to have you look at the collection any time.

Albert J. Metzger
JEWELER

Occidental Building, - - - Corvallis



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Now that the holiday rush is over we have time to do your repair work with neatness and despatch.

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The diamond ring drawing will come off Jan. 6, 1906. A ticket with each dollar's worth purchased until that time. Everything desired in the jewelry line is carried by us.

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E. W. S. PRATT, Jeweler and Optician.

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Both one year for \$2.55

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For cash we will make special prices on
**Dining Chairs and
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during the month of January as follows

\$17.50 couches	\$16.65	\$1.50 chairs	\$1.30
14.50 couches	12.05	1.10 chairs	.95
13.25 couches	11.85	.90 chairs	.75

This is the best opportunity ever offered to save money on these goods.

Our goods are marked in plain figures and you will find prices as quoted. Come and see.

HOLLENBERG & CADY, Corvallis