INDEPENDENT ROSEBURG, SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

TAX ON MORTGAGES.

The way to bring about reforms in governmental affairs is to agitate the question, and it is the duty of the press and of the citizen to point out any and all abuses where they are known to exist and suggest 'measures of reform, in order that the burden of supporting and the benefits derived from the gov ernment may be equal and just to all citizens. That a very grave abuse exists in

our revenue law which operates unjustly against all the agricultural portions of the State, in favor of Portland, frem the fact that mortgages are not taxed in the county where the land is situated and the mortgage recorded, is so apparent that it needs no argument from us to demonstrate. Whilst the legal title remains in the mortgagor the mortgagee owns just such an interest in the property as the mortgage debt bears to the actual value of the farm, and this is recognized by the revenue laws of the State when it allows the indebtedness deducted from the assessment. The injustice of exempting the land and mortgage debt in the county where the land is situated, and allowing the tax to be collected in the cities where the banking and money institutions are owned and operated. becomes so apparent where a large proportion of the land (as is the case in this county) is mortgaged to its assessed value, that no one can gainsay it. An examination of the county records will disclose the fact that here in Douglas county the land is mort gaged above one-fourth the entire as sessed value of all property, and the mortgages owned by banking and money-loan associations, controlled and operated in the city of Portland. Here we have, under our unjust system of taxation, one-fourth at least of the entire property paying direct tribute to Portland, while less than three-fourths propriated the county road. At this bears the entire burden of taxation here. Every solvent person, whose property is assessed for more than his indehtedness, has to pay at least onefourth more in taxes than he would otherwise have to do, while the farm of his impecunious neighbor, which receives equal benefits and protection from the laws, is exempt from all share in supporting the same and pays its tribute directly to the city of Portland. This system of injustice is working a great hardship on our people and abould be remedied by the Legislature which is soon to assemble. It is a matter which directly effects Republicans alike with Democrats. It is an abuse which has long existed in this State and would have been remedied no doubt, long ago, had the agricultural portions of the State been burdened with debt to the same extent at at the present time. The Portland delegations will be expected to oppose, and as they have in the past, prevent action on this ques tion; and being Republicans as they all are, if the guestion is brought be fore the Legislature, as it undoubtedly will be, seek to make it a party issue and thus defeat any legislation upon it We, in common with other members of our last Democratic State Conven tion, were instrumental in having the declaration incorporated in our plat form-"That we favor the taxation of all mortgages in the county where the same are recorded." It was ratified by the entire convention without a dis senting voice. The Republican Convention, which met some weeks after, having had ample time to consider the question in its bearing on the political canvass, although recognizing the justtween this place and Myrtle Creek. ice of the proposition, fearing that their party would lose votes in Portland, if they should favor it, and not daring to come over the dreams of the Standard offend the agricultural portions of the State by opposing it, passed it by in silence, not having sufficient stamma or the saintly Mitchell. The query is honesty of purpose to oppose the meas-

A SUGGESTION.

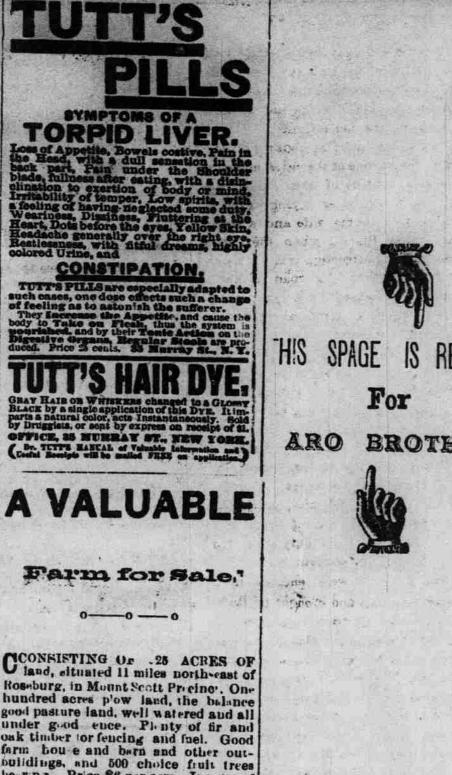
We have always been thankful that

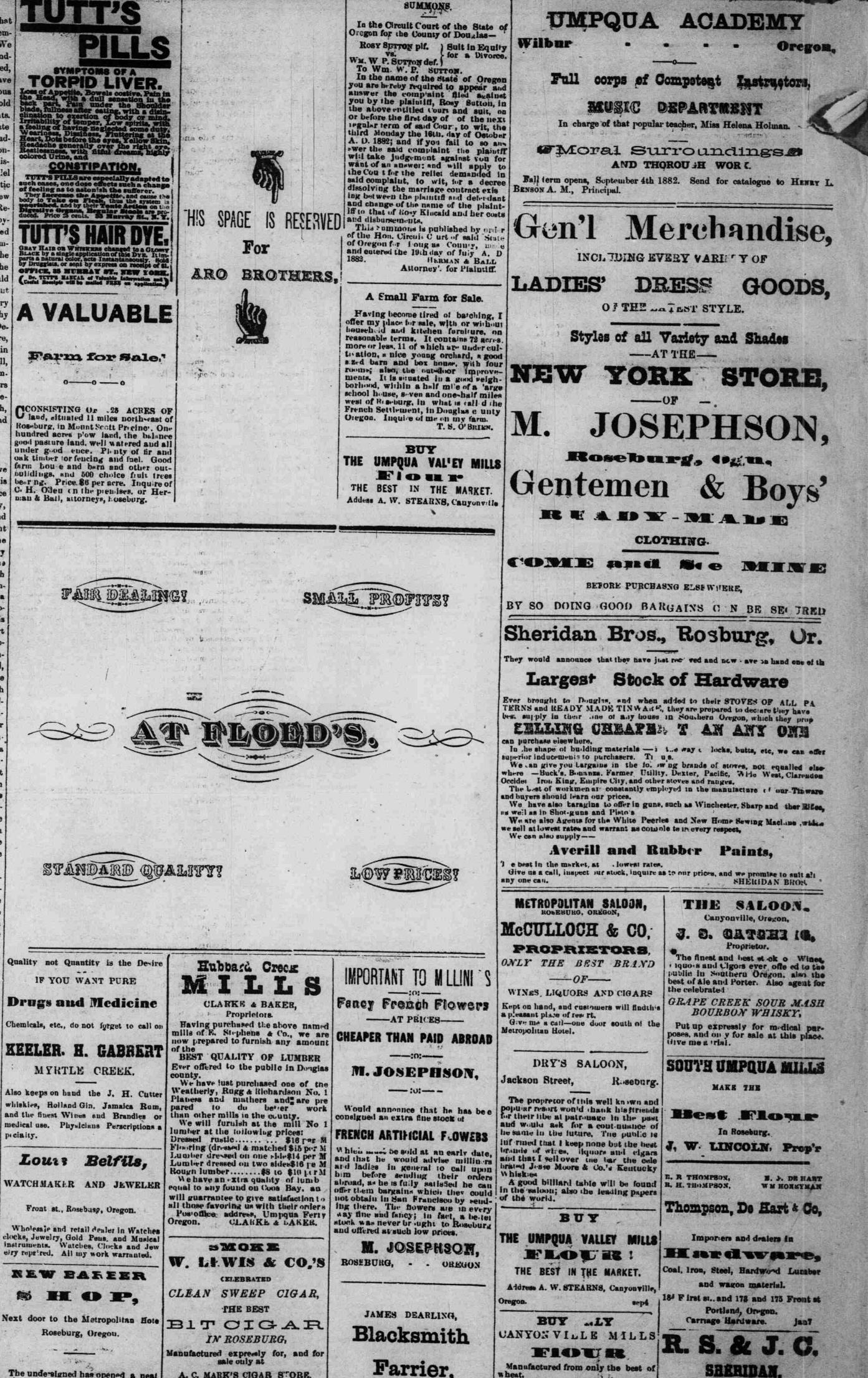
uccess or defeat never wiped the Democratic party out of existence. We have been thankful that notwithstanding the Waterloos it has encountered. the principles which it espouses have been so dear to its leaders, so precious to its rank and file, that the grand old party became dearer to its adherents. But alas it belongs to the young State of Oregon for the party leaders to advise and openly espouse a course inconsistent with our principles and so dishonorable as to scarcely have a parallel in history. The leading Democratic journal of the State, for probably a few

dollars, advocates the cause of a Republican bigamist, a humbug, a lobbyist, a machine politician; for United States Senator. A distinguished Democratic State Senator asserts that he will vote for the same individual. The Democrats in the Legislature should vote for a pure, consistent, intelligent Democrat for Senator, and a man every way worthy of the compliment, worthy to be considered the leader of the Democracy of Oregon, and whose pure, spotless public and private life are in strong contrast with Hipple Mitchell, is the Hon. W. D. Fenton, of Yam. hill. Let the Democratic Legislators vote for such a man and let the Republicans elect Mitchell, if they wish, and then see which party would stand higher in the public opinion.

A WORD OF WARNING.

The death of Pitzer Smith, which we publish elsewhere in our columns, is the direct result of criminal negligence on the part of the Railroad Company, in the manner in which the road and railroad are constructed at the point where the accident occurred. The Company has taken the old military and county road at this point for the railroad, and, under an agreement with the old board of County Commissioners, agreed to build and construct a good and safe road wherever they appoint, where the road makes a short curve, a point or strata of rock protrudes from the hillside and the Company, instead of making a legal road. have cut a narrow track over this ridge or point of rock, barely wide enough for a team to pass over, whilst the railroad is cut through the rock with almost a perpendicular wall, twelve or fifteen feet below. The way the county road is constructed there is quite a short raise in going south before reaching the narrow pass, with an abrupt wall on the one side and a precipice on the other. Owing to the curve in the road it is impossible to see an approaching train before reaching this eminence and point of danger. Should a train be met at this point and a team become frightened, nothing short of a miracle could prevent an accident. So obvious is this to the casual ob server, that it has been frequently remarked in the short space o? time the road has been in operation, that some person would be killed there. When the Railroad Company took the public highway at this point for their roadbed, and undertook to construct the highway, they were under a moral as well as a legal obligation to make it safe and passable, where human life would not be constantly in danger. If our County Court were so remiss in their official duties as not to provide for the reconstruction of the public highway, in such a manner as to prevent the loss of life, justice and humanity would dictate that our present Court should take measures to have the road constructed in such a way as to prevent the further loss of life, and before other casualties occur, as there are many equally dangerous places be- pecialty.





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Something strange seems to have man. He has undoubtedly experienced a change of heart in reference to wha, was the color of the argument

used by Villard and his heachman, During the canvas we took occasion Dolph, that wrought this conviction? to talk with many of our Republican Had the chattel mortgage roecorded in friends who are tax-payers in this Bristow's name, anything to do with county, upon this question, who with the change of sentiment? We can out exception, admitted the justice of have nothing in common with an apolthe proposition and the necessity for ogist for an attorney who will prosti-Legislative action, but claimed that it tute his official position to rob innocent was not a party measure. The action children of their patrimony. If Mr. of the coming Legislature will demon- Noltner will read the official record instrate the fallncy of this position. The troduced in evidence in the trial refer-Damocracy are fully pledged to the red to in his issue of the 29th of Au. measure, and if defeated it will be by gust, and then continue to apologise The undersigned has opened a neat and comfortable barber shop at the the united action of the Republican ma- for the robbery, we will admit that it p ace above described, and having long II A II)

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A. C. MARK'S CIGAR S"ORE.