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I. F. SETTLE - Weston



## SOMETHING TO CROW OVER

However, we'll let Mr. Rooster do what little crowing may be necessary. We merely wish to say that we will appreciate your patronage in our line and do our best to earn your good opinion. Rolled Barley, Oats and Wheat; Baled Hay, Millstuffs and Chicken Feed. We're local agents for Pevco Flour and Blatchford's Calf Meal. Phone 281.

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## WESTON LEADER

CLARK WOOD, Publisher

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES Strictly in Advance

The Year ..... \$1.50  
Six Months ..... 0.75  
Four Months ..... 0.50

### ADVERTISING RATES

Regular, per inch per insertion ..... 12 1/2c  
Transient, per inch per insertion ..... 20c  
Locals, per line per insertion ..... 5c

FRIDAY ..... OCT. 20, 1916

Entered at the postoffice at Weston, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.

## NORMAL SCHOOL HISTORY

In supporting the bill for a normal school at Pendleton the esteemed Portland Oregonian says:

"A few years ago in Oregon there was a vigorous and successful protest against the Normal School combine, and it led to abolition of them all, with later restoration of a single school. The basis of attack on the normal schools was mainly their political methods. The educational machine in Oregon was a powerful factor in its legislation and politics; and it had to be broken. It was broken. Now the old method of barter and trade for school appropriation, corrupting and demoralizing every Legislature, is gone."

The Oregonian is better acquainted with normal school history than the above quotation would indicate. It knows but doesn't choose to give the real reason for the abandonment of the normal schools in 1909.

The schools were then left by the state senate to die on inanition for the reason that Weston gave an adverse vote to a certain republican candidate for governor—a Pendleton man—who failed to realize his ambition largely for the reason that he ran for office in the republican party too soon after leaving the democratic party, thus incurring the enmity of the stalwarts in both of these organizations. Weston, we say, refused to support

him, as it did not relish the methods of his henchmen in the primaries. In 1909 he practically controlled the state senate and in order to punish Weston he induced that body to close not only the Weston Normal but the Ashland and Monmouth Normals.

The Oregonian was bitterly wroth because of this gentleman's defeat. It hammered the normal schools relentlessly and ceaselessly and created a prejudice against them that led to their undoing. Prior to the legislative session of 1908-9, the Oregonian predicted that the state senate would be organized with a view to dealing with the "normal school nuisance." How the schools were dealt with by Jay Bowerman, then president of the senate, and his following—which included Senator Cole of Pendleton—became one of the bitterest chapters in normal school history.

The schools did "log roll" at every session of the legislature. They were compelled to in order to preserve a precarious existence from one session to another. But the Oregonian should reflect that many a successful bill is the result of "trade and barter." Such methods are quite common, but only the stricken normal schools were held up to derision, and they because the town in which one of them was located had offended a political boss.

## SINGLE TAX AGAIN

That the owner of land will suffer the confiscation of his property, while the man who rents land will not be benefitted by the adoption of the "Full Rental Value Land Tax and Homesteaders' Loan Fund Amendment" is one of the points emphasized by Henrich in the stalwarts in Multnomah county. By analyzing the results of this single tax meas-

ure Mr. Reed proves that should it be adopted, all land rentals must be paid as at present, with the state as universal landlord. He also shows why, with this amendment's remarkable provisions enforced, land will not have any selling value.

In speaking of the certain results of this measure, which is on the November ballot, Mr. Reed recently said:

"The value of land, when not speculative, is only its net product—or rent—capitalized at the rate per cent which the community regards as a fair investment on real estate investments. The amendment aims to take, through taxation, all of the rent and pay it into the state treasury.

When such a special and exclusive permanent tax as this is imposed, the present value of it falls for all time to come upon the present owner. The capital value of the land is at once reduced to nil—confiscated by the taking of the entire ground rent. Manifestly, if there be no ground rental, there can be no capital value remaining in the hands of the possessor of the title, no matter what the extent or value of his holdings.

The total or use value of the land, will neither be increased nor decreased by the tax; it will remain the same whether the tax be high or low. What will occur is that the total value will be transferred to the state; the owner will retain the shell and the state will take the kernel.

Land will not have any selling value. Rent will not cease, but will be paid to the state as universal landlord."

C. E. Spence, master of the State Grange, has taken a strong stand against this Single Tax measure and in an interview the other day he said:

"This measure would not benefit the farmer in the least. In fact it would injure every enterprising farmer severely.

"It amounts, practically, to confiscation of all land by the state. Now, if they start in to confiscate land, the next step will be to confiscate improvements on the land.

"What recourse would there be for a farmer, renting land under the provisions of this bill, if he found himself unable to keep up his payments on the land after he had spent his money and labor for many years in improving it?"

"He would lose the land, of course, but how could he save his improvements? He couldn't take his barn with him, nor his irrigation ditches nor drainage ditches, nor even his fences.

"This bill is another form of Single Tax. The people have rejected Single Tax in this state repeatedly.

"All farmers who have their own interests and the interests of the farmers as a class at heart should vote against this bill."

Many people still confuse this "Full Rental Value Land Tax Amendment" with the state rural credits measure. The land tax amendment is Nos. 306 and 307 on the November ballot.

Weston laughs at the Pendleton profession of friendship toward the Weston Normal. Pendleton men, years ago, went to Salem to lobby for a bill to remove it to Pendleton. Pendleton men were instrumental in closing it. It always had either the covert or open opposition of one of the Pendleton newspapers—The Tribune. Such hypocrisy is nauseating.

Having one of the very best sheriffs in seventeen states, it isn't likely that Umatilla county will replace him with an inexperienced man just for the sake of "making a change."

The saddest words of tongue or pen: "We're going to press, but can't tell when."

## HOMER I. WATTS

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ATHENA - OREGON

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