

COMING ACROSS

Uncle Sam Will Pay Penalties and Interest As Well as the Taxes.

There has been considerable discussion and uncertainty of late over the question whether the U. S. government would or could be persuaded to pay the penalties and interest on the delinquent taxes on the O. & C. land grant prior to the date the bill providing that the government should take possession of the land and pay those delinquent taxes. Recently the question has been whether the counties to which these taxes are due could recover the amount of the taxes from the U. S. treasury without waiving their claims to the penalties and interest.

Ex-governor West wired the department of the interior to learn the position the government took on this question and received the following answer from the attorney general, which was forwarded to him by the general land office:

"This department sees no objection to the course suggested, provided however, that it be made plain that by entering into such a stipulation the government in no way recognizes that the counties have any further rights in the premises. In other words, while it is entirely satisfactory that the counties may expressly reserve such rights as they have, by agreeing to that, the government does not concede that any such rights exist."

But scarcely had this answer been received when interest in it ceased entirely. For on Monday of this week it transpired that the government came down off the perch and announced that it had decided to pay penalties and interest also along with the face of these taxes.

On Tuesday the Oregonian published the following from its Washington bureau:

Washington, Aug. 27.—Representative Sinnott was advised by Land Commissioner Tallman that the Government had decided after further consideration to pay to the land grant counties of Oregon all accrued taxes, penalties and interest up to the date of the passage of the land grant act June 9, 1916.

No payments will be allowed beyond that date, however, the theory being that by the act the lands reverted to the Government on June 9 last year, and government lands are not taxable.

In the light of today's announcement the Chamberlain bill, which recently passed the Senate, would give to the counties only accrued penalties since June 9, and as these would be penalties against the Government the House public lands committee will not favor the passage of the bill.

This means tens of thousands of dollars more to the treasury of Coos county when these taxes are paid, as they probably will be in the near future as all obstacles to a settlement of this claim, for which Congress over a year ago voted to pay, have been removed.

As to the amount of these taxes now due Coos county on the O. & C. lands the following approximations are all we are now able to obtain from the officials at the court house:

Principal Taxes of 1913	\$50,000
Penalty on same	5,000
Interest on same, 26 per cent	13,000
Principal Taxes of 1914	50,000
Penalty on same	5,000
Interest on same	7,000
Principal Taxes of 1915	50,000
Interest on same	1,000
Total	\$181,000

The penalty is 10 per cent and attaches as soon as the taxes become delinquent. The interest runs at 12 per cent per annum on delinquent taxes. So we have computed interest at this rate from the time the taxes of 1913 and 1914 became due until June 9, 1916, when the government took over these lands and the interest ceased to run against them. On that date the penalty had not yet attached on the 1915 taxes and there was only three months' interest due on the first half of those taxes.

It will be seen that the amount of penalties and interest on these O. & C. taxes, about which the controversy has recently been in progress is more than \$30,000. The payment of the entire \$181,000 by the government will materially ease the financial situation in this county and result in the call of most if not all of our

outstanding warrants. And as the Southern Oregon or Coos Bay Wagon Road land grant is in the same boat with the Oregon & California grant, this means the eventual payment of the still larger indebtedness of that company for taxes, penalties and interest.

Moreover, if the United States is not big enough to get out of paying penalties and interest on the lands it has taken, as well as the back taxes, much less can such smaller fish as the owners of the Kinney tract and the Boutin company expect to pull off any such stunt.

Another thing to which attention ought to be called is this direction is the position our then district attorney L. A. Liljeqvist took in regard to these taxes before Congress had passed the bill to pay them from the national treasury. He said that whatever disposition was made of these lands they would still go charged with these taxes.

And so well posted were Mr. Liljeqvist and Mr. Numer, the district attorney of Douglas county, on the law in this case, that they were selected by the recent convention of district attorneys for the eighteen land grant counties at Salem to prepare the briefs for the counties in support of their contention that the government must pay penalties and interest as well as taxes on the grant lands. The decision of the officials at Washington to the same effect, of course, renders unnecessary any further efforts along that line.

SOUND CATTLE ARE KILLED

C. I. Kime, who had been to Portland with the 35 head of cattle which had recently been condemned as tubercular on the river between here and Myrtle Point, returned last Thursday evening. His report of the result of the inspection made by U. S. officials at the Union Stockyards in Portland of those animals has caused considerable agitation, especially among those who had cattle in the bunch.

Of the 35 cattle slaughtered under the direct supervision of the federal authorities, they declared that only two had the slightest symptoms of tuberculosis, and in each case the lesion was slight.

Mr. Kime says that he staid with the cattle continuously from the time they landed in Portland until they were skinned and dissected, only taking time off to sleep and eat. When he went up there he says he had no idea of how a tubercular affected piece of meat would look, but the federal inspectors insisted on his remaining until they came across a tubercular animal and now he says he could tell it anywhere.

As to the talk being indulged in that tubercular animals are passed at the stockyards, he is emphatic in the opinion that such is not the case. The heart, liver, lungs, throat and muscles are particularly examined and he is confident that no infected animal can get by.

In connection with this, he stated that the dairymen received a check for their cattle from the Union Meat Co. Tuesday evening, but that, of course, even in addition to the amount paid by the state, does not anywhere near compensate for the loss of \$100 dairy cows. His greatest regret is now that he did not have the federal authorities at Portland give the cattle a tubercular test before they were slaughtered.

Our Water Supply Ample.

There has been no trouble about Coquille's water supply this summer, and since the hours for sprinkling have been restricted there has been no extraordinary amount of pumping required. Neither has the supply become more abundant since irrigation has largely ceased. Of course, the supply from the head waters has grown much lower during the three rainless months we have had, too, so that the pumps are now kept going for nine hours a day. There is no anticipation of a water famine now; still we shall all take a long breath of relief when the rains begin to fall as we have reason to expect they will early in September.

County Agent Smith is making a strong appeal to the farmers of Coos county to bring in the best things they have raised this summer for exhibition at the state fair next month. Coos won the first prize in the coast district last year, and we don't want to fall down this time.

RED CROSS WORK MANY ARE CUT OFF

Coquille Ladies Are Getting Busy Knitting for Our Boys in the Field.

Miss Clara Sherwood, chairman of the Coquille Red Cross Auxiliary, is in receipt of the following letter from Mrs. Carrie M. Corey, of Marshfield, the head of the county organization:

My dear Miss Sherwood: You no doubt have read of the urgent needs in France for knitted goods. The American Red Cross is asking each state for so many sets of knitted articles. Each set consists of one pair of wristlets, one pair of socks, one sleeveless sweater, one scarf. Coos and Curry counties have been asked to knit 250 of these sets by October.

Will you please find out the number of women that can knit and give us an idea of the number of sets your community can make. The yarn and full instructions for knitting will be furnished you. The person doing the work does not have to be a member of the Red Cross. The need is to great all who can possibly help will be asked to do so.

Please let us know as soon as possible how many sets we can count on from your community. The sewing is to go right on. The knitting can be done at home.

There was a meeting of Committees No. 4 and 7, Material and Co-operation, in the Laird rooms last Tuesday evening, at which it was decided to devote every afternoon next week to knitting. Coquille and vicinity is expected to furnish fifty knitted sets consisting of sweater, socks, muffler and wristlets by October 1st.

This is a rush order. These garments are urgently needed before cold weather and every lady who can possibly do so must help in this work. We cannot fail to do our share when the comfort and health of our boys in the trenches is at stake.

Every afternoon next week there will be experienced knitters at the Laird rooms ready to help all who are willing to learn to knit, and they request every lady who can do so to please bring knitting needles of any size and description and odd bits of yarn for practice work. The regular material furnished by the Red Cross association will arrive later.

Whether you are a member of the organization or not, whether you can knit or not, by all means attend these meetings.

Will the ladies in the rural districts please join us in this work as teachers or pupils, any afternoon at any hour. Or if you can't spare the time to stay and work, perhaps you can loan your knitting needles to others. It is almost impossible to obtain the needles just now, but both needles and yarn will be furnished the auxiliary as soon as possible and in the meantime there are many who are anxious to learn to knit. Will every lady try to do her "bit" in this most urgent appeal from our government? The time is very short and we must get busy at once if we accomplish what is expected of us.

Deer Pasture on Beans.

We hear frequent complaints about deer pasturing in bean patches now; and last Sunday afternoon while taking a ride with J. L. Smith we scared up a young buck in the very act over in the Fat Elk district. He watched from the edge of the woods for quite a while for us to go on to resume his interrupted repast, but when we started toward him even without a gun he bounded over a log with all the facile grace of his kind and disappeared in the dense copses.

Poles Are All Delivered.

Manager McKenna informs us this morning that steady progress is being made on the new high power line to Marshfield. The work of distributing the poles as far as Henryville will be finished this afternoon, and that will complete that job. The poles are now set for three miles from Coquille, a mile beyond Cedar Point, and the work of stringing the wires is not very much behind. It is expected that the line will be in working order by October first.

B. E. Rodell suffered a cracked cartilage in the knee joint Wednesday morning at the ferry when he was hit by the cable. Dr. Hamilton attended to the injured limb.

County Court Discontinues Indigent Allowances and Widows' Pensions.

At the August meeting of the County court the indigent allowance of John Frombrilliant was increased \$7.50. The following allowances from this fund were cancelled: Louisa Jordan, \$20 per month; Louisa J. Corbin, \$15; Lillie Perry, \$15; O. C. Ochiltree, \$10; Lona B. Morehouse, \$20; Elizabeth Willie, \$15; Julia Allen, \$10. The latter had just married.

The following widows' pension allowances were cancelled and discontinued: Ida P. Patterson, \$10; Alice J. King with three children at home over three years of age, \$25; Florence M. Ferrari, \$25; Amanda Vols, \$25; Sarah E. Randeman, \$10; Mary Smith, children being older, \$10; Helen Haguinster, no living children, \$10; Margaret Black, \$10; Amanda Vowell, \$25; Lola M. Stanford, \$25; Pearl Ellis, \$25.

An allowance of \$25 a month was asked for Irene Rees. An allowance of \$10 month was made to Emily Wirth, of Cooson.

An appropriation of \$250 was made in aid of road improvement on the road at the foot of Maple street at the Myrtle Point depot.

An allowance of \$10 per month was made to Mrs. Thomas Rookland, of Bridge.

The salary of Norman Wilson, ferryman at Bullards, was raised to \$150 a month, on account of running until 12 o'clock.

An order was made refunding \$102.95 to the Coos Investment Co., on account of the erroneous assessment of property.

Hans L. Christensen took a redemption of lots 14 and 15, block 11, in Edmonson's second addition to Marshfield.

B. H. Cashun, of Seattle, was given a tax refund of \$23.12 on account of double assessment.

A further appropriation of \$300 was made for the road work at Upper Two Mile south of Bandon on the recommendation of Roadmaster Murdoch.

Jensenus J. Freeze, of Powers, who has been suffering from an overdose of furniture polish, has been returned to the insane hospital at Salem. E. J. Loney, of Powers, has been appointed guardian of his estate.

August 23 an additional appropriation of \$1000 was made for the rock work job at the Cooper bridge.

The cases of J. D. Carl, of Arago, and others for a hearing of their claims for indemnity for diseased cattle killed, were set for hearing by the court on Sept. 5.

Still After the Deer.

The fact we mentioned last week that the deer season had been closed Aug. 21 by Governor Withycombe's proclamation until Sept. 1 was so little advertised that but few of those out hunting heard anything about it. Consequently those who have been violating the law meanwhile are being treated with the greatest leniency. Whether the closed season will be continued beyond tomorrow probably depends upon weather conditions, but just now we expect the bars will stay up.

Go To Conference Tuesday.

Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Law and children expect to leave here next Tuesday to go up to Conference at Portland. They will not return here and expect to be transferred to the San Francisco district.

Mr. Law and his estimable helpmeet have made many friends in this city and the neighboring section during their two years' residence here, and their departure will be very much regretted.

The Appeal Brings Fruit.

The appeal for canned fruit for the Louise Home and the Albertina Kerr Nursery home in Portland, which recently appeared in the newspapers of Oregon, has excited considerable interest here. The local W. C. T. U. with the cooperation of other Coquille ladies, will respond with a donation as soon as possible. All who wish to contribute may leave fruit with Mrs. S. V. Epperson or Mrs. H. L. Johnson. It is thought that one quart jar from each housewife will be sufficient.

Calling cards 100 for \$1.00.

Some Fine Yields.

J. L. Smith has on display at his front street office now a fine bunch of the new "Canary Grass," about which there has been so much talk, from M. T. Clinton's place at Arago. Where tested it proves wonderfully well adapted to low, moist ground and grows very tall and rank. It has been tested for several years and makes good pastures after the long-est drouth. Other ranchers who are growing it are D. C. Kranz, Albert Fish and S. L. Lafferty.

D. E. Lewis on the North Fork near Gravel Ford brought in a sample of the oats and vetch from which he filled a 9x27 silo off of seven-eighths of an acre. This is at the rate of 85 tons to the acre. They were sown in February. Mr. Lewis says that where he had applied 2300 pounds of lime on three-fourths of an acre the crop of oats and vetch was three times as good and that he harvested six tons of hay from that amount of land.

The samples of Canadian field peas and bald barley grown together that Mr. Smith has on exhibition are nine feet tall, and Mr. Ray says that he fed 19 cows for two weeks on less than an acre of this forage crop. It was run through a silage cutter and fed green.

Judge Harlocker furnishes a splendid bunch of oats five feet tall which looks mighty good for the dry season we have been having.

TRAVEL WITH AN OX TEAM

On Tuesday Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Dingman and daughter arrived here from Glendale, Douglas county, in a prairie schooner loaded with their household goods, and stopped for a visit with Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Gardner, of the garage, of whom they are old acquaintances. The remarkable thing about their outfit was their team which harked back to older times. It consisted of a couple of oxen fat enough for beef and weighing about 1500 pounds apiece. They were en route to Delmar on the Marshfield road where they will spend the winter.

Mr. Dingman says he emigrated from Phillips county, Kansas, and came to Spokane, Wash., with an ox team 30 years ago. The oxen he was driving here are six years old, and he says that they have done all his work on the ranch where he lived in Glendale for the past three years. He did not use the old-fashioned yoke but had a complete outfit of harness for them, even to the cruppers, with brass knobs on their horns and each of them carrying a small American flag on his head to attest their owner's loyalty. The oxen bore the Hereford colors, but one of them was a Durham and the other a Jersey half breed, though the Jersey was scarcely inferior to the Durham in size.

The pilgrims were enjoying the attention which their novel team attracted and said that during the first day of their journey, on the Pacific highway, fifteen autos stopped to enable their occupants to kodak the outfit. Several pictures were taken here. Although the oxen regularly made three miles an hour in going to town, Mr. Dingman said they had already been thirteen days on the road, taking the trip very leisurely and stopping over for three days at one time.

See Here, Ladies.

Are you helping with the Red Cross work? If you are not it's time you were! You do not have to be a member of the organization to help with this work and right now there is crying need for assistance in making warm clothing for our boys at the front. Don't wait till they freeze to death—it will be everlastingly too late then. Act now! Meet with the ladies next week at the Laird rooms any or every afternoon.

Candy Sale Tomorrow.

The Girls of the Honor Guard are going to have a big sale of home-made candy on Saturday. In the morning the girls will have it for sale in the Busy Corner, The Racket, The Bazaar and Robinson's store. In the afternoon they will canvass the town with it. The object of this candy sale is to raise funds for the Honor Girls' subscription to the Red Cross fund. Buy some of their candy, it has been made here this week and is absolutely fresh.

INTO THE ANNEX

Sheriff's Office Is Moving And Oddy's Force Will Soon Follow.

The sheriff's office has been all torn up in business for the past two days. Yesterday the work of removing the steel counters and shelving in the old office in the court house to the second story in the annex began and today they are all in place there, as well as the books. So no more taxes will be paid in the old office, but it is expected to have the new one all ready for business next Monday.

The big safe in the old office is a problem, however. It weighs about 7,000 pounds, and is thought to be nearer burglar proof than any of the vaults in the annex. The question is as to the cost of moving which it is thought might prove prohibitive. It was not originally expected that it would be necessary to put any safes in the Hall of Records.

The steel furniture for the sheriff and clerk's offices in the Hall of Records is all on the way and a couple of carloads are still "expected tomorrow," as they have been for a week.

George Zurr and Andy Holman, of Portland, and W. H. Rickard, of Corvallis, are here to set it up for the contractors, Bushong & Co., of Portland. It comes, however, from Canton, Ohio, and is manufactured by the Berger Manufacturing company of that city.

While the sheriff's office is now being transferred to the new building the force in the County Clerk's office will continue to do business at the old stand for several weeks to come as there is no steel furniture to take out of there.

Earl to Go to the Front Soon.

Mrs. H. A. Innes received a letter from her son, Earl, Wednesday evening in which he said he was to leave for France at once. Earl has been in the hospital corps ever since his enlistment, more recently being stationed at American Lake. He has been making a fine record in his work and this opportunity for early departure to the front is evidently a reward of merit. He and another young man have been selected as hospital men to accompany a company of engineers, and will be associated with a Serbian doctor who has already seen a year's service in the great war. Earl enjoys the work and is tickled to death with the opportunity for early service.

To Our Rural Friends.

The ladies of the Red Cross earnestly request your presence every afternoon next week to help in the work of preparing warm clothing for our soldiers in the trenches.

There is very great need for this, so please come and meet with us. We will be glad to have you, and you will be glad you came. Bring your knitting needles and odd bits of yarn, as we are giving our attention to knitting now. Kindly read Red Cross Notes.

Tell all your friends and urge them to join you—and us—next week at the Laird rooms.

Two Important Ordinances.

The city council will hold its regular monthly meeting for the auditing of bills next Monday night. There will be two new ordinances to act upon. One of these provides for carrying out the decree of the Circuit court and the further agreement of the council with the First street people in the paving case. The other is a bootlegging ordinance. Under the present ordinance in regard to the bringing in and possession of intoxicating liquors, if there is less than a gallon involved there will be nothing doing; but under the state law if there is even no more than a teacupful or even a good swig the mill grinds. So the new ordinance has been drawn to conform to the state law, like those of most other cities.

Will Cut More Spruce.

John Aasen, of Coquille, was here yesterday trying to arrange to buy some of the equipment and donkey engines of the Gray Logging Co., which recently closed its camp on South Coos River. If he gets it, he will probably open another logging camp in the Boutin timber near Beaver Slough, having arranged for more spruce acreage there.—Coos Bay Times.