

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

FOR EQUITABLE TAX.

State Commission Proposes Revision of Present Law.

Salem—With a view to securing a more equitable assessment of property in this state, the Oregon Tax commission has recommended a revision of the law governing the equalization of assessments by the county board. In this connection, the commission gives its flat disapproval to the plan often agitated of having the assessment rolls published in the newspapers in the locality in which the property assessed is located.

The proposed revision of the law relating to equalization of the assessment is largely based upon inconsistencies in the present law, but also upon a laxity in the law by which wealthy property owners have been able to coerce county courts into allowing an inequitable assessment to stand. The commission proposes a law which seems to have "teeth in it," and which will be effective if county officers are disposed to do their duty.

The inconsistency in the present law lies in the fact that the county board of equalization is required to meet on the last Monday in August, while the assessor is given until the first Monday in September to file his roll, or until the first Monday in October if the county court makes an order to that effect. At the same time there is no authority of law for an extension of the time of meeting of the county board of equalization.

Assessors usually take the full time to prepare their rolls, and very frequently ask for and are granted the extension of time. Commenting upon this condition of the laws, the commission says that "the board of equalization is thus required to meet perhaps six weeks before the assessment roll is completed, and as its functions lapse when it has been in session a week, it must have passed out of legal existence at a date before the assessor is required to have the assessment roll ready to equalize."

"Under the present system we have practically two boards of equalization," says the commission, "one meeting after the other, and having full power to undo the work of its predecessor. The county board of equalization continues in session one week, and if it does not complete its work within the week, the county court, at its next regular session, completes the examination and correction of the roll."

The new law is to do away with this, making provision for the board meeting after the roll is completed.

This proposed law contains several provisions that seem to be an improvement upon the existing law. In the first place, a taxpayer will not go before the county board of equalization unless he has a real grievance, for the court has power to raise his assessment, and his formal petition will serve to call the attention of his neighbors and the public generally to the representations he is making governing the value of his property. Placing the matter of equalization entirely in the hands of one board instead of two will centralize the responsibility and give time and opportunity for careful and well advised work.

Fire Precautions at Asylum.

Salem—Last friends and relatives of the 1,420 patients confined in the insane asylum may be unduly concerned as to their welfare on account of the recent fire at that institution, an official of the asylum says that none of the patients were in danger, and would not be even in case of a fire serious enough to destroy a considerable portion of the building. The facilities for getting patients out of the building are such that a disastrous fire need not cause the loss of a single life. In this particular the building could scarcely be improved.

Umatilla Canal Contract Let.

Washington—The secretary of the interior has awarded the contract to the Puget Sound Bridge & Dredging company, of Seattle, for the construction of the storage feed canal of the Umatilla irrigation project. The work of the contract involves the construction of 25 miles of canal from the Umatilla river, near Echo, to Cold Springs reservoir, and consists of 700,000 cubic yards of earth excavation, 6,000 cubic yards of rock excavation, 2,300 cubic yards of concrete and 2,600 cubic yards of rip-rap. The bid was \$161,388.

Fire in the Cascades.

Albany—A timber fire in the Cascade mountains near Detroit is spreading rapidly, threatening heavy damage. The fire started near the Santiam river and spread into heavy timber. Two hundred acres of the finest forest in the Cascades is now burning, and the wind is driving the flames into the heart of the mountains, where, if not stopped soon, immense damage will result. Everything is extremely dry and the flames are spreading rapidly.

Wheat Yield About Normal.

Pendleton—The harvest in all parts of Umatilla county has commenced. The threshing up to this time has been too limited to make a very close estimate of the yield, but from what has been threshed on the reservation, and around Athena it is thought the yield in those districts will be about normal, and had it not been for the hot winds the yield would have been at least 25 per cent above the average.

Flour Mills Closed Down.

La Grande—The flouring mills of La Grande, Island City and Union have closed down, having utilized all the old supply of wheat.

LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

Household Goods Not Entitled to Exemption, Says Supreme Court.

Salem—By holding, in a decision just rendered, that the household's tax exemption is unconstitutional, the Oregon Supreme court has declared void a statute that has been in force in this state almost continuously since 1859. Householders' exemptions have been allowed every year except 1904, when the exemption law had been repealed. It was re-enacted by the special session of 1903, but went into effect too late to be applicable to the assessment of 1904.

Approximately \$8,000,000 has been exempted from taxation in this state from year to year, and legislators, county officers and the people generally have recognized the exemption as valid. Now the Supreme court has declared all these exemptions invalid.

This decision will make it necessary for county assessors in many counties to make a reassessment of property in their counties for 1906, for it is the practice of many assessors not to list property that is exempt. In some and perhaps most of the counties the assessors list the exempt property and make the deductions afterward.

Clackamas Farmers Are Happy.

Oregon City—There is an abundant yield of all hay and grain crops in Clackamas county this year that surpasses the average in quality. Early fruits and vegetables yielded heavily, while the vineyard, field and orchard with maturing crops, give the producer every assurance of increased prosperity with the harvest. In celebration of the large and satisfactory crops, a number of harvest festivals have been held and others are being arranged. It has been years since Clackamas county farmers were as prosperous and contented.

Raise Railroad Assessments.

Salem—That railroad property in Oregon was assessed at only \$10,815,915.41, when it had a commercial value of nearly \$70,000,000, is one of the important and interesting features of the report of the Oregon Tax commission, which will be presented for the consideration of the next legislature. These figures relate to valuations in 1904, which was the latest year for which the commission could secure reliable information.

Yields 90 Bushels an Acre.

Weston—A remarkably heavy yield of barley has just been harvested on the farm of O. C. Turner, two miles north of this place. The yield from 14 acres was 529 sacks, or 1,267 bushels, an average of 90½ bushels to the acre. Turner Bros. were expecting a good yield, but did not look for more than 70 bushels to the acre, which is a big yield.

Half Million to Clackamas Roll.

Oregon City—By the decision of the Supreme court on the tax exemption law, Assessor Nelson reports that there will be added to the Clackamas county assessment rolls about \$400,000 additional on which next year's tax levy will be made. Revision will delay the task of completing the rolls which were received from the state authorities ten weeks later than the usual time.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 71c; bluestem, 73c; red, 69c; valley, 71c; new club, 70c; new bluestem, 72c; valley, 71c.
Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$30; gray, \$29 per ton.
Barley—Feed, \$23.50 per ton; brewing, \$23.50 per ton; rolled, \$24@24.50.
Rye—\$1.50 per cwt.
Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$11@12.50 per ton; clover, \$8.50@9; cheat, \$6.50@7; grain hay, \$7@8; alfalfa, \$11.

Fruits—Apples, \$1.50@2.25 per box; apricots, \$1.25@1.35; cherries, 6@10c per pound; currants, 9@10c; peaches, 75c@1.10 per box; plums, \$1.25; Logan berries, \$1.35@1.40 per crate; raspberries, \$1.40@1.50; blackberries, 8c per pound; gooseberries, 8c.

Vegetables—Beans, 5@7c per pound; cabbage, 1½@2c; corn, 15@20c per dozen; cucumbers, 40@50c per dozen; egg plant, 10@15c per pound; lettuce, head, 25c per dozen; onions, 10@12½c; peas, 4@5c per pound; radishes, 10@15c per dozen; rhubarb, 2@2½c per pound; spinach, 2@3c; tomatoes, \$1.25@3 per box; parsley, 25c; squash, \$1@1.25 per crate; turnips, 90c@1 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack.

Onions—New, red, 1½@1½c per pound; new yellow, 1½@2c per pound.
Potatoes—Old Burbanks, nominal; new potatoes, 75c@1.25.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 20@22½c per pound.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 21@21½c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 13@14c per pound; mixed chickens, 13@13½c; springs, 16@17; roosters, 9@10c; dressed chickens, 14@15c; turkeys, live, 15@17c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 20@22½c; geese, live, 8@9c; ducks, 11@13c.

Hops—Oregon, 1905, 11@12c; olds, 9c; 1908 contracts, 12@15c per pound.
Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 16@20c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@22, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 28@30c per pound.

Veal—Dressed, 5½@8c per pound.
Beef—Dressed bulls, 3c per pound; cows, 4½@5½c; country steers, 5@6c.
Mutton—Dressed fancy, 7@8c per pound; ordinary, 5@6c; lambs, fancy, 8@8½c.
Pork—Dressed, 7@8½c per pound.

DARK HOUR IN RUSSIA.

New Mutinies Break Out as Fast as Others Are Suppressed.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 3.—Nearly 3,000 sappers, sailors, pioneers and miners at Cronstadt mutinied about 11 o'clock last night. They planned to seize the forts and the bridge leading to Fort Cronstadt, but their plans were foiled by the precautions taken by the commander. After a severe fight the loyal troops opened fire on them with machine guns, and as they had no artillery available and the arsenal had been stripped before they could seize it, they had no alternative but surrender. A court martial began sitting this morning, and is sentencing the mutineers to death by hundreds.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 3.—The crew of the armored cruiser Pamyat Azova mutinied off the Estonian coast and is now in full possession of the ship, which has sailed northward in the direction of the Finnish gulf.

Reval, Aug. 3.—The cruiser Pamyat Azova has arrived in the roadstead here in the possession of the loyal portion of her crew. One hundred and fifty of the mutineers have been sent ashore and imprisoned. The mutineers were overpowered by the loyal sailors while the ship was at sea.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 3.—The crew of the Russian cruiser Asia, which was sent to Abo, has hoisted the red flag. The vessel has left in the direction of Sveaborg.

The ministry of marine has confirmed the report that Admiral Birilleff had gone to Helsingfors on board the school ship Asia, whose crew has mutinied.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 3.—Military disorders have broken out at Reval. Details cannot be obtained.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 3.—Although the mutinies at Sveaborg have been ended and the one at Cronstadt has been practically put down, the outlook is still black. The revolutionists, whose hands were suddenly forced by the premature rising at Sveaborg, apparently are undaunted at these initial reverses and intend to persist in their program of calling a general strike on Saturday or Monday.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 3.—On the heels of the other bad news comes the startling statement that the emperor has flatly refused to accept the conditions to which Premier Stolypin agreed in his negotiations with Count Heydon, Alexander Guechoff, Prince Nicholas Lvoff, Paul Vinogradoff and Senator Koni for the reorganization of the cabinet.

There is an increasing apprehension that the emperor proposes to take the final step of turning the country over to the military dictatorship of Grand Duke Nicholas.

The Streets of St. Petersburg are again filled with patrols.

ISLANDS' RICE IMPORTS SMALL.

Ide Says They Produce More, Merchants They Eat Less.

Manila, Aug. 3.—Governor Ide has received reports stating that during the fiscal year ending June 30 the importations of rice to the Philippines decreased 61,072,411 pounds, valued at \$3,084,783 in gold. Commenting on the reports Governor Ide says: "From these reports it appears that the number of pounds of rice imported into the Philippines during the fiscal year of 1906 was something less than three-sevenths of the importations of 1901, and the cash sent out from the islands for rice was less than four-elevenths of the sum sent in 1894. If the same ratio of decrease for a year or even a semester, no more rice will be imported and in two years the islands, besides supplying the home demand, ought to be exporting rice."

The publication of these reports has caused a controversy. The local shippers contend that the decrease of importations is a result of the poverty of the people, who, it is alleged, are not buying rice, but are living on yams and other food. The shippers declare that the Philippines will never export rice.

Catholics for Limited Divorce.

Buffalo, Aug. 3.—At today's meeting of the American Federation of Catholics a resolution was adopted defining the position of the federation on the question of divorce. It recommends the enactment of laws granting a separation or limited divorce in those states which have no such laws, and in states which grant absolute divorce the federation asks that the applicant be allowed to ask for a limited divorce on the same grounds under which an absolute divorce is granted. Limited divorce in extreme cases is recommended.

Rates for Irrigation Congress.

Boise, Idaho, Aug. 3.—A telegram has been received by Chairman M. B. Gwynn, of the executive committee of the National Irrigation congress, from Minneapolis, where the Western Passenger association is in session, stating that that organization had granted a rate of one fare plus 50 cents to the meeting of the congress in Boise, September 3 to 8. This rate is expected to assure even a larger crowd of delegates and visitors than had been looked for.

Wilson Will Surprise Packers.

Washington, Aug. 3.—Secretary Wilson left today to pay a surprise visit of inspection to several slaughtering and packing houses in the East. Upon leaving his office the secretary gave instructions that to all inquiries regarding him the answer should be that he is gone away and it is not known when he would return.

IRRIGATION SCHOOL

Big Gathering for Boise for the First of September.

ONLY ONE ON COAST THIS YEAR

Hundreds of Letters Are Received at Headquarters Daily—Special Rates to Be Granted.

Boise, July 31.—The Fourteenth National Irrigation congress, which meets at Boise September 3 to 8, is the only meeting of national importance to be held on the Pacific slope during the present year. Chairman Eben E. McLeod, of the Western Passenger association, has notified the executive committee that rates for the congress will be determined at the Minneapolis meeting of the association today.

Although more than a month will elapse before the congress is to meet, delegates to the number of over 1,000 have been appointed from different sections east of the Rocky mountains, and an average of 100 letters a day are being received at headquarters, asking for general information concerning the congress and the opportunities to be had for learning as much as possible of irrigation methods, size of farms, capital required, character of crops produced, and the revenue to be depended upon by the irrigators.

The Boise session of the congress is to constitute a great school for irrigation. Scientific and professional men will discuss and analyze advanced theories, engineers will give the solution of the many engineering problems that have been worked out, and the practical irrigators will show in a practical way what is accomplished by the results on exhibition.

The general government has loaned nearly \$40,000,000 for the purpose of reclaiming arid lands and providing homes for the people. The loan was made through an act of congress approved by President Roosevelt four years ago. At the Idaho meeting the government is going to be asked to add \$100,000,000 more to the loan made to its citizens for the more rapid completion of the works now under construction. Senators and members of congress are the real trustees of the government in the loans made, and they are coming to investigate the conditions of the security which reclamation is giving to insure its repayment.

Statesmen, capitalists, manufacturers, business men, engineers and irrigators, immigration and colonization societies, home makers and home seekers, all to the number of 2,000 or more, will join in the great movement at the Boise session of the National Irrigation congress.

A special train will be made up at Chicago for the delegates from the Eastern states. Vice President Fairbanks and his party will occupy one of the cars. The special will be known as "the vice president's train."

MOSCOW BAKERS STRIKE.

Want Endurable Life, While Governor Talks of Czar's Burdens.

Moscow, July 31.—A strike has broken out here among the bakers who are striving to obtain a betterment in their working conditions and Sunday for a day off. According to the Council of Workmen, the total number of men on strike in Moscow has reached 18,000, in addition to which the Voskresensky factory today locked out 3,000 employees.

The governor of Moscow has issued a proclamation in answer to the Viborg manifesto of the outlawed parliament and given it a wide circulation here. He declares the manifesto to be revolutionary in character and directed against the emperor. It is time, the governor declares, for the loyal population to come to the assistance of his majesty and lighten his heavy burdens.

France Regrets Killing.

Paris, July 31.—The French embassy at Washington has been instructed to express the deep regrets of the French government at the killing of Lieutenant Clarence England, navigating officer of the United States cruiser Chattanooga, who was mortally wounded at Chefoo, China, July 28, by a rifle bullet fired from the French armored cruiser Dupetit Thouars, while the crew of the latter were engaged in small arms practice. The authorities here are awaiting fuller reports before establishing the responsibility for the accident.

Buildings Can Be Saved.

San Francisco, July 31.—The board of supervisors passed a vote of confidence in the major part of the city hall and also the hall of justice, at its meeting today. A special committee reported that "at least 60 per cent of both buildings can be made use of again, and, within less than two years, they can be completely and economically restored." The board resolved that the debris and wreckage should be cleared away immediately.

Cruiser Washington Turned Over

Camden, N. J., July 31.—The cruiser Washington, built at the yards of the New York Shipbuilding company, in this city, was formally turned over to the government yesterday. The cruiser will not go into commission for several days. No ceremonies marked the transfer.

ERRORS ABOUT VOLCANOES.

Popular Theories About Smoke and Flames Are Not Correct.

The eruption of a volcano is an occasion for the reiteration of fundamental errors concerning volcanic phenomena.

The official despatches and the most serious reports say that the crater "vomits flame," that "black smoke" escapes from the mountain, and that "showers of cinders" are thrown out by the subterranean fires, says a writer in Harper's Weekly. There are as many errors as there are words in these statements. The fact is—and savants know it—that there is no combustion in volcanic phenomena; there is no eruption of fire or flame; a volcano never discharges either smoke or ashes.

Liquid lava is a noncombustion rock which melts at a high temperature. Thus heated, when red-hot, lava burns things, but it never is consumed. This statement may raise an outcry, because every one who has seen a volcano in action has seen the fiery light from the crater. But flames never issue from the crater. What looks like fire is lurid light reflected on the clouds; the reflection of incandescent lava. Lava is often seen through the lateral fissures in the flanks of the volcanic mountains, but it seldom overflows.

The false idea that lava overflows a crater, just as water escapes from an overfull pitcher, is firmly fixed in the human mind. The newspapers recently stated to the world that "a new crater" had formed at the base of Vesuvius. Error! There is no new crater; the simple fact is this: Lava has found its way out of one of the fissures on the slope of the volcano. The lava was in the mountain, and the fissure was there, but until recently the lava had not reached the fissure. "But the smoke!" How do we account for that? No one can deny that Etna's summit is always plumed with black smoke, even when the volcano sleeps, and did not Pliny the Younger compare the smoke of Vesuvius to a gigantic pine cone on fire?

Well, yes; it looks like it! Appearances are against me, but "appearances" (in this case particularly) "are deceitful"—there is no smoke in a volcano, because there is no combustion in progress, and there cannot be smoke where there is no fire. When the ill-informed take for volumes of smoke is cloud formed by vapor—steam escaped from the volcano. Steam escapes from the crater, and when it enters the cold air it condenses and forms minute drops which mass and look like clouds of smoke.

MUSIC BY ELECTRICITY.

Vibrations of Harmony Made Possible Over Wire by Invention.

Although electricity has produced many wonders, they have been mainly of the workaday kind, says the World's Work. Now an invention has been wrought out that proves that electricity is capable of producing—not reproducing, but producing—music of rare beauty and purity. A visit to a shop in Holyoke, Mass., shows a machine that is really manufacturing music.

Dr. Thaddeus Cahill, the inventor, declares that it is as easy to create music at the other end of fifty miles of wire as to send a telegraph message. At a keyboard of his device a performer—or there may be two—lightly presses down the keys, and at receivers, perhaps many miles distant, music pours forth. In pressing the keys the performer throws upon a wire a vibration, or a set of vibrations, which turns into aerial vibrations or audible music, when they reach the diaphragm of a telephone receiver. The vibrations stand for notes and tones, and they scurry along to do their work the instant they are released. The performer is conscious only of the music he produces. He does not necessarily hear it. He need know nothing of the mechanical process he sets in action by the pressure of his fingers on the keys. Yet under his fingers the electrical vibrations act tractably and instantaneously. At will he turns an exhaustless supply of different kinds of vibrations to produce at a distance just the sounds he desires.

Creeks' Medicine Man.

The medicine man of the Creeks will not eat anything scorched in cooking; in treating a gun or arrow shot wound he, as well as the patient, will fast four days, only drinking a little gruel. He will not allow a woman to look at his patient until he is well or dead. If his patient dies the medicine man takes a lot of medicine himself in order to cleanse himself from the fumes or odor of the dead. The pallbearers, as we might call those assisting in the burial, also take the same cleansing process. And again, when an Indian committed murder, even in self-defense, he went to the medicine man and took the cleansing remedy, claiming the remedy absolved the crime and the trouble to his mind. The medicine man has a horror of women, keeping out of their company as much as possible. At the full of each moon it was the custom of the bucks to drink medicine made by the medicine man to cleanse their systems. In camp the Indian killed nothing which was not eatable.—Indian Journal.

Seditious Occupation of Mamma.

Dick (at club)—Does your mother-in-law sit up for you nights? Tom—Yes. But her daughter, heaven bless her, stands up for me next morning.—Boston Transcript.

Limited Income in Japan.

The average monthly income in Japan after recent advances in wages is officially stated at less than \$8.

NORWAY'S CROWN PRINCE IS A HUSKY YOUNGSTER.



THE CROWN PRINCE OLAF.

Crown Prince Olaf is said to be the most popular child in Norway. He is received with every evidence of delight by the people whenever he appears on the streets of Christiania. This little son of King Haakon and Queen Maud is a grandson of King Edward of England. He is a healthy youngster, and the sea-kings, his future subjects, are pleased with the prospects before him.

LION LAZY AND LAMBLIKE.

Young Englishman Has a Surprising Experience in Nigeria.

That the lion is not always the roaring, tearing beast of legendary description may be seen in the following extract from the diary of a young Englishman who is at present serving his country in Northern Nigeria:

"I had just topped a long incline and was walking my pony, when, on coming around a corner of the road, hidden by some trees, I saw, seventy yards in front of me, basking in the sun on an open patch of burned grass, a magnificent full-grown lion. The sun was not strong, and he was very, very lazily flicking his tail from side to side. He had a short mane and his eyes were a lovely amber red in the weak sunlight."

"My first sensation was one of astonishment, profound amazement and delight at seeing such a fine beast. He was a beauty, and it seemed impossible to realize that he was really wild as he lay on one side, looking at me with his head raised as a dog does when he hears his master's footstep. He was fat as butter, sleek coated and glossy. "My pony, as the breeze was coming from the other direction, did not wind him and went steadily on without so much as pricking up his ears. My dog was walking on in front, about ten yards, and luckily did not notice him. It was not until I was actually passing him, which I did within twenty yards, that I realized that if the lion took it into his head to fancy a bit of white man I should be unable to dispute his right."

"After I had proceeded some 150 yards the lion got up leisurely and followed along the road behind me, but after going about 100 yards, he turned into the bush at the side of the road."

"PRINCESS ALICE" ABROAD.

Congressman Longworth and his bride, photographed on board the ocean liner St. Louis while en route to Europe.



MR. AND MRS. LONGWORTH.

They were formally presented to King Edward and Queen Alexandra. Mrs. Longworth was cheered by the crowds as she rode through the streets and returned the greetings. The picture is from London Black and White.

Asked and Answered.

"Here, here!" cried the Rev. Mr. Goodley, happening upon a gang of bad boys playing craps, "what are you playing that game on the Sabbath for?"

"Why, for keeps," replied one of them. "Wat'd yer s'pose?"—Philadelphia Press.

There is one thing the great Sherlock Holmes, with all his genius, never found out: From a man's own lips if he was to be married.

When you hear who is about to sue for a divorce, Slater, you will put on your bonnet and run right over.