

TO IMPROVE RIVERS

National Congress To Be Asked for Fifty Millions.

WAR EXPENSES COST FAR MORE

Congressman Ransdall, Chairman of Rivers and Harbors Congress, Makes Startling Statement.

The United States government expends 25 times more in indirectly fostering trade than in doing so directly. In other words this government spends \$500,000,000 annually for war and its effects, which are presumed to foster trade, and but \$19,750,000 for the improvement of rivers and harbors in this country—a direct method of not only fostering, but also creating and up-building trade. This is the essence of a startling statement made by Chairman Ransdall, of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, in a recent address before the Portland Chamber of Commerce. He stated that the national government annually expends \$169,000,000 for the navy, \$100,000,000 for the army and \$144,000,000 for pensions. Congressman Ransdall believes that if the United States can afford to expend so vast a sum annually for war, it surely can make at least substantial appropriations for the improvement of the rivers and harbors. It has been estimated that an appropriation of \$50,000,000 at the coming congressional session will materially improve many of the present rivers and harbors and open others so that they may become navigable and be what at present they are only supposed to be—the main arteries of trade and practical trade reducers. To do this the leading commercial organizations, and, in fact, everyone interested in the welfare of our country, is co-operating so that all forces may throw their influence together and secure this appropriation, the effect of which will necessarily be inestimable.

Able men will head the Pacific Northwest delegations to the National Rivers and Harbors congress which will meet in Washington, D. C., on the 6th and 7th of December. The object of those who compose this congress is to secure a national appropriation of \$50,000,000 for the improvement of the rivers and harbors of this country and with the tremendous influence of this powerful organization there is no doubt of success.

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI CONGRESS.

Speeches and Discussions Cover Wide Range of Subjects.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 22.—Speeches and discussions covering a wide range of subjects took up the time yesterday of the three sessions of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial congress. Improved waterways, insurance and currency reforms, the value of the Panama canal as a means of enlarging our trade relations with the South American republics and the necessity of closer relations between the United States and those countries, the great value to the South of improved levees and the resources and needs of Alaska were some of the topics touched upon.

The principal speakers were J. E. Ransdall, representative in congress from Louisiana; W. D. Vandiver, superintendent of insurance of Missouri; Dr. W. S. Woods, president of the National Bank of Commerce of Kansas City; John Barrett, United States minister to Colombia; Minister Calderon, of Bolivia; Minister Pardo, of Peru; Minister Cortes, of Colombia; Secretary Do Amaral, of the Brazilian legation at Washington; Representative Morris Sheppard, of Texas; John G. Brady, of Boston, ex-governor of Alaska, and Major T. L. Clarkson, of Seattle.

Mr. Sheppard, who is credited with being the youngest member of the national house, made an earnest plea for the upbuilding of the levee system, and won warm applause from the delegates. He began by declaring the levee is one of the most important factors in the economic growth of the United States, and of many other countries.

He took the various arguments urged against levees, especially the claim that they were an interference with the laws of nature, and showed that the arguments were without foundation. He demonstrated that there was no real conflict between irrigation projects and levee enterprises, showing that they were the product of entirely different geographical conditions and had a common aim, the improvement of the productivity of the soil.

Another Railroad Fined.

Denver, Nov. 22.—The Missouri Pacific railroad was fined in the United States District court here today for violation of the safety appliance law. The alleged offense happened at Pueblo, where one of the company's trainmen was compelled to go between two freight cars to pull a coupling pin, which refused to work when the safety appliance was operated. The suit was prosecuted at the instance of the Interstate Commerce commission.

Income Tax Law for Ohio.

Columbus, O., Nov. 22.—Governor Harris stated today that he would recommend in his first message to the legislature the levying of a tax on incomes by the state of Ohio, if a way can be found to enact a law that will stand the constitutional test. The governor also favors a re-enactment of the inheritance tax law repealed by the legislature.

NEED BETTER COMMUNICATION

Would Increase Trade Between North and South America.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 21.—Before the Trans-Mississippi Commercial congress here last night, Elihu Root, secretary of state, delivered his second speech in this city within two days. His speech was the feature of the first day's session of the congress, which convened yesterday morning. As on Monday night, Mr. Root last night dwelt upon our relations with the South American republics, telling of his recent trip through those countries. He said the time had come for the expansion of trade between the countries of the North and South that would result in the peaceful prosperity of a mighty commerce. He declared that the means of communication between these countries must be improved and increased and said the "woeful deficiency in the means to carry on and enlarge our South American trade is but a part of the general decline and feebleness of the American merchant marine."

The representatives of Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Brazil and Chile also spoke, following Mr. Root's theme closely, telling of the possibilities of investment of American capital in their enterprises and dealing also with the political aspect of the situation. Mr. Root enumerated the many practical things which must be done both by the government and by individuals before the peaceful prosperity of the new commerce can be secured. Underlying all other considerations, however, said the secretary, was the need for improvement of the means of communication between the two countries. This, he said, affects the mail, passenger and freight service alike. The one and only remedy for the woeful deficiency existing in present trade conditions is the establishment of American lines of steamships between the United States and the great ports of South America, adequate to render fully as good service as is now afforded by the European lines between there and the ports of Europe.

REBATES TAKEN.

Verdict of Guilty Found in Federal Court in New York City.

New York, Nov. 21.—The American Sugar Refining company was found guilty by a jury in the United States Circuit court today of accepting rebates amounting to \$26,000 from the New York Central railroad. The New York Central was recently found guilty of giving rebates to the American Sugar Refining company and fined \$108,000. Joseph H. Choate, formerly ambassador to Great Britain, in his argument for the defense in today's trial, declared that there was no precedent in American law for such an enormous penalty as the statute against rebating provided. It was necessary, he added, to go back several centuries in English law to find an instance in which the penalty amounted to more than \$100,000 had been imposed.

The defense offered no testimony. After Judge Holt's charge the jury took the case and in accordance with the instruction of the court, rendered a verdict of guilty. The jury was out an hour and a half.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS NEXT.

British Premier Promises Adoption of German Idea.

London, Nov. 21.—Replying to the deputations of members of the house of commons from the Liberal and Labor parties, Premier Campbell-Bannerman said the matter of old age pensions would be taken up as soon as time and money permitted. Old age pensions, the premier said, instead of sapping the independence and undermining thrift, do just the opposite.

Speaking to the same delegation, Chancellor of the Exchequer Asquith said there was nothing nearer his heart than to be able to submit a financial plan for such pensions. He favored one altogether dissociated from the poor-law, and assured the deputations that the government considered the question one of extreme urgency.

Will Investigate Welchers.

Washington, Nov. 21.—Secretary McCall, of the department of Commerce and Labor, has directed the commissioner of corporations to make an investigation of the action of fire insurance companies in the settlement of claims for losses resulting from the earthquake and fire in San Francisco and other places in California. George E. Butler, of Ross, Cal., has been appointed special agent to conduct this investigation in California. Mr. Butler, it was stated, has had an experience of 38 years in the fire insurance business.

Narrow Escape From Rocks.

St. Johns, N. F., Nov. 21.—Commander Peary's Arctic steamer Roosevelt, which is still at St. George's bay, N. F., is reported to have had a terrible experience while coming south from Hopedale, Labrador. She had to tie up for 11 days in Battle Harbor, Labrador, on account of a hurricane. In Battle Harbor the Roosevelt carried away her heaviest anchor and several lines had to be run out to keep her off the rocks.

Ten Below in Colorado.

Denver, Nov. 21.—Temperatures below zero are reported today in Southern Colorado and in the mountain regions of the state. One degree above zero is the weather bureau's record in this city, while Pueblo's official report is 8 below. The coldest point in the state was Corona, on the summit of the front range, where 10 degrees below zero is recorded.

Proposed Oregon Tax Law

Following are the joint resolutions for constitutional amendments and bills recommended by the Oregon State Tax commission and to be presented to the legislature at its next session:

HOUSEJOINT RESOLUTION NO. — Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Oregon.

Resolved by the house, the senate concurring: That the following article, as an amendment to the constitution of the state of Oregon, be proposed and referred to the next legislative assembly, and if the same shall be concurred in by a majority of all the members elected to each house thereof, and shall afterward be ratified by a majority of the electors of the state, then the same shall be a part of the constitution of the state of Oregon:

ARTICLE I. That article I, section 32 of the constitution of the state of Oregon, be and the same hereby is abrogated, and in lieu thereof shall be inserted the following: "No tax or duty shall be imposed without the consent of the people or their representatives in the legislative assembly; and all taxation shall be equal and uniform upon the same class of subjects within the territorial limits of the authority levying the taxes."

(The two joint resolutions presented are identical in every detail, the only amendment being the substitution of "the people" for "the electors" in the first sentence of the article.)

HOUSEJOINT RESOLUTION NO. — Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Oregon.

Resolved by the house, the senate concurring: That the following article, as an amendment to the constitution of the state of Oregon, be proposed and referred to the next legislative assembly, and if the same shall be concurred in by a majority of all the members elected to each house thereof, and shall afterward be ratified by a majority of the electors of the state, then the same shall be a part of the constitution of the state of Oregon:

ARTICLE I. That article IX, section 1 of the constitution of the state of Oregon, be and the same hereby is abrogated, and in lieu thereof shall be inserted the following: "Taxes shall be levied on such property as shall be prescribed by law. The legislative assembly shall provide by law for uniform and equal rate of assessment and taxation upon the several classes of subjects of taxation within the territorial limits of the authority levying the taxes; and shall prescribe such regulations as shall secure a just valuation for taxation of all property taxed, except property specifically taxed."

A BILL.

For an act to provide a more efficient and equitable system for the assessment of property for taxation; defining property subject to taxation; defining the duties of the assessor; defining the manner of making the assessment of property by him assessed for the purposes of taxation; requiring all persons, and the managing agent or officer of any corporation or association liable to be assessed by him, to furnish the assessor with a list of property liable to taxation; and prescribing a penalty for failure to do so; and to amend sections 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Be it enacted by the people of the state of Oregon:

(Of Property Subject to Taxation.)

(Real and Personal Property to Be Assessed Uniformly and Ratably.)

Section 1. That section 3037 of the Codes and Statutes of Oregon, compiled and annotated by Hon. Charles B. Bellinger and William W. Cotton, be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

All real property within this state, and all personal property situated or owned within this state, except such as may be specifically exempted by law, shall be subject to assessment and taxation in equal and ratable proportion. The general laws of Oregon, special session, 1903, to repeal sections 279, 279.1, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

(Real Property)—How construed.)

Section 2. The terms land, real estate, and real property, as used in this act, shall be construed to include the land itself, whether laid out in town lots or otherwise, above and under water, all buildings, structures, subststructures, superstructures, and improvements erected upon, under or above, or affixed to the same, and all rights and privileges thereto belonging or in any wise pertaining; and all franchises and privileges granted by or pursuant to any law of this state, or municipal ordinance or resolution, owned or used by any person or corporation, other than the right to be a corporation; and all mines, minerals, quarries, fossils, and trees in, under, or upon the land.

(Personal Property)—How construed.)

Section 3. That section 3038 of the Codes and Statutes of Oregon, compiled and annotated by Hon. Charles B. Bellinger and William W. Cotton, be and the same hereby is amended to read as follows: The terms personal estate and personal property shall be construed to include all things in action, household furniture, goods, chattels, moneys, and gold dust, on hand or on deposit; all boats and vessels, whether at home or abroad, and all capital invested therein; all debts due or to become due from solvent debtors, whether on account, contract, note, mortgage or otherwise, either within or without this state; all public stocks; all bonds, warrants, and moneys due or to become due from this state, or any county or other municipal subdivision thereof; and stocks and shares in incorporated companies, and such proportion of the capital of incorporated companies liable to taxation on their capital as shall not be invested in real estate; and all improvements made by persons on lands claimed by them under the laws of the United States, the fee of which lands is still vested in the United States.

or poverty, may, in the opinion of the assessor, be unable to contribute towards the public charges.

8. The personal property of every household to the amount of \$200, the articles to be selected by such household.

(R. & C. Comp., section 3039, was amended by laws 1903, page 276, and laws, special session, 1903, page 28. The section proposed makes the following changes from the present law: 1. Makes lands belonging to the state taxable when held under contract for purchase, the attorney general having heretofore held such lands exempt as "property of this state under contract." 2. Lands of public corporations, sim-ilarly held under contract of purchase, made taxable; 3, 5, 6, 7, no change. 4. Exemption of crematory property copied from laws 1903, page 276, section 8. The same as clause 4 of section 203, except the exemption is reduced from \$50 to \$20, omitting the specification of particular articles which may be exempted. The flat exemption is believed to be more just than the present exemption of specific varieties of property to a total of \$50, which is in practice found to be both arbitrary and unequal. A dairy farmer