

Polk County Observer

J. C. HAYTER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER. Published Semi-Weekly at \$1.50 per Year. Strictly in Advance.

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DALLAS, OREGON, OCT. 21, 1910. The way to build Dallas is to patronize Dallas people.



- REPUBLICAN TICKET. Governor, JAY BOWERMAN. Congressman, WILLIS C. HAWLEY. Supreme Justice, HENRY J. BEAN. THOMAS A. MERRILL. GEORGE H. BURNETT. FRANK A. MOORE. Secretary of State, FRANK W. BENSON. State Treasurer, THOMAS B. KAY. School Superintendent, L. H. ALDERMAN. State Printer, WILLIS DUNIWAY. Labor Commissioner, O. P. HOFF. Railroad Commissioner, FRANK J. MILLER. State Engineer, JOHN H. LEWIS. Water Superintendent, JAMES T. CHINNOCK. Circuit Judges, I. H. VAN WINKLE, PERCY R. KELLY. Joint Senator, C. L. HAWLEY. Joint Representative, FRED W. CHAMBERS. Representative, IRA C. POWELL. Sheriff, W. L. BICE. County Commissioner, JOHN B. TEAL. County Clerk, E. M. SMITH. County Treasurer, JOHN L. CASTLE. County Surveyor, B. F. BEZLEY. Coroner, R. L. CHAPMAN.

MORE COLD FACTS. Pursuing its investigations further, in an effort to ascertain true conditions in Polk County under "dry" rule, not seeking to influence any voter's opinion or judgment by its own argument, but simply presenting him the facts, as ascertained from the city and county records, which are at all times open to examination by any person, the Observer comes now to the subject of city taxes and to the answer of the question, "Are taxes higher under "dry" rule than they were under wet rule, or are they lower?"

Polk County was voted dry in the Summer of 1908—twenty-seven months ago. The first tax levy under "dry" rule was made in December of that year. For the purpose of comparison, two wet years in the city, and the last two dry years. Examining the records, we find that the assessed valuation of property and the levy in mills for these four years are as follows:

1906—assessed valuation, \$700,570; levy, 4.1 mills; revenue from taxation, \$2872. 1907—assessed valuation, \$724,710; levy, 6.3 mills; revenue from taxation, \$4565. Dry Years. 1908—assessed valuation, \$727,920; levy, 8.3 mills; revenue from taxation, \$6041. 1909—assessed valuation, \$1,035,000; levy, 8.8 mills; revenue from taxation, \$9108.

The real amount of revenue raised by taxation in this last year was \$10,250, but this latter amount includes the water tax. As the law provides that enough water tax must be levied each year to pay interest charges on the bonds and to retire one-twentieth of the principal, it will be seen that the water tax is a fixed expense, and for this reason it has not been included in the table of figures given above. While property-owners of Dallas paid taxes to the amount of \$10,250 this last year, the amount raised for general city purposes was only \$9108.

It was hoped by the council when this last enormously high levy was made—a levy unequalled in the history of Dallas—that the revenue derived therefrom would run the city through to the next tax collecting time. But it appears that already the officers find the treasury empty, with no more taxes to come in until next April or May. Five months of a "busted" town! And indebtedness piling up at the rate of several hundred dollars a month! Truly, the prospect is not pleasing.

The foregoing figures prove it, and there is not one of us but knows it is true. A few years ago, property-owners found their city tax to be only a fraction of the amount they were obliged to pay as state and county tax. Examination of the writer's tax receipt this year discloses the fact that his city tax was more than his state, county and state school tax combined. He finds that it is only \$3.64 less than his state, county, state school, special school, and special road district tax combined. While this newspaper will never stand in the way of any needed public improvement, no matter what its rightful cost may be, it realizes that there is a limit to public indebtedness beyond which no city may safely go. Crossing that limit means disaster and lifelong regret.

The moment taxation passes the limit of safe business—the moment it becomes cruelly and unjustly burdensome—that moment the town or county wringing such taxation from its people will cease to grow and prosper. That moment it will be avoided by homeseekers and by men with money to invest.

The Observer asks the people of Dallas to carefully study the figures here presented and to honestly ask themselves the question, "How much further will it be safe for us to go?" The Observer would respectfully ask its readers to consider this question: Who are the more interested in the welfare and prosperity of Dallas and Polk County, the editors of the Dallas newspapers or the traveling speakers who visit the town to speak on the respective sides of the prohibition question? The publishers of these newspapers are residents of Polk County. All the money they have invested here. They help to pay the taxes; to support the schools, the churches, and every other worthy institution. Not only do they pay their money to help these institutions, but they give hundreds of columns of newspaper space every year to the up-building of churches, schools, free libraries, and all else that helps to make Dallas a more moral and a more prosperous city. And it must be remembered that every line in a newspaper costs the publisher money. On the other hand, the traveling agitator has no interest here whatever. He has never seen the town before; he never expects to see it again. He is paid for what he does. Do not lose sight of that fact for an instant. Which, then do you think has your best interest the more deeply at heart—the editor of your home newspaper, who digs up his own money every week of the year to help your city and your business, or the stranger who comes to talk to you, because his expenses are paid and he gets a salary for doing it? Which is the more likely to be careful to tell you the truth? Which will you believe?

Christian Church News. Last evening Prof. Caldwell's orchestra met to practice with the choir for the first time. The result was far more satisfactory than the expectations of the most sanguine. The choir left with singing and the entire front row occupied by players with instruments. The music was simply fine. With the practice they expect to have from time to time it will make the church services a most gratifying one to music lovers. The orchestra makes its first public appearance at the Christian Church Bible School 10 a. m. Sunday next. Everybody will be there and you are welcome. Sermon 11 a. m. "The Lord's Supper." Christian Endeavor 6:30 p. m. Sermon 7:30 p. m. "The Laboring Man and a Square Deal." All are invited. Laboring men especially urged to be present. LEON MYERS, Minister.

Now Is the Time. Now is the time to have your photos taken to lay away for Christmas remembrances. Any friend will love you better if you give them a fine photo of yourself. Nothing appreciated so much, or kept longer. Looking at a large photograph of an absent one makes the heart grow fonder. Mr. Cherrington certainly makes the fine ones. F. H.

Has Good Record. Tracy Staats has lived in Polk County practically all of his life, and his record as teacher, Deputy Assessor, Deputy Sheriff and bookkeeper are easily obtained. He has always satisfied his employers, dealt honestly with his customers and been gentlemanly and courteous to every one. If elected to the office of County Treasurer, the people can rest assured that he will again make good, and that his records and accounts will always be neat and correct. (Paid Advertisement.)

For Sale Cheap. Set of harness, good as new, also one high wheel wagon, at a bargain. L. R. Thompson, Monmouth, 10-21-21.

Percy R. Kelly of Albany, Oregon

Republican Nominee as one of the two Circuit Judges to be elected November 8, 1910, is forty years old, has resided in Albany, Oregon, thirty-nine years, is a graduate of Albany College, has practiced law more than eighteen years, served as a State Senator from Linn County in the sessions of 1898, 1899 and 1901; was Chairman of the Judiciary Committee during the Session of 1901 and is at this time, City Attorney of Albany, Oregon.

All voters should remember that there are two Circuit Judges to be elected in the Third Judicial District. Vote for Two.

MAYOR SHOULD TELL ALL

LETTER GIVES PART OF TRUTH, BUT NOT ALL OF IT. Observer Will Supply Missing Figures by Printing City Recorder's Certified Statement.

Glancing over the pages of the Independence Enterprise, cunning attention is attracted by a column of argument for a continuation of "dry" rule in Polk County. This is the column in which it is asserted that "men are coming from wet cities to work in the Dallas mills in order to get the protection from liquor afforded them in dry towns." As this mis-statement of fact has been effectively squelched by Manager Gerlinger, of the Dallas mills, we will not refer to it further. Reading on down the column, we come to a signed statement by Dr. J. P. Wallace, Mayor of Albany, telling of desirable conditions in his town. This statement bears no date, but somehow it has a familiar sound. It reads very much like the statement that was used by the "dry" forces in the campaign two years ago until it was worn "slick." However, we are not certain about it, so we will reprint it and see if any of our readers recognize it. It reads as follows:

"The building activity has been much greater since our city went dry. The closing of the saloons has not retarded in the least the growth or development of our city. We have paved with bituminous pavement fourteen blocks of our streets, and have under contract more. We have also laid about eight or ten miles of cement walk since we went dry. The tax rate before the saloons were closed was eight mills. We were then receiving \$5000 for saloon license, but the municipality was ruined by the saloons and our public debt was increasing. Since the saloons are closed, we have raised our assessment values, and have put our tax rate at six, seven and eight mills respectively each year, but we have also paid all running expenses and applied \$5000 to the reduction of our public debt, and this year we will spend at least \$10,000 in public improvements. (Signed) Dr. J. P. Wallace, Mayor of Albany."

At first glance, this would seem a remarkable statement. But when one investigates all facts connected with taxation in Albany, there is nothing remarkable about it. Desiring to ascertain the true conditions for himself, that he might give them to his readers in return, the editor of the Observer wrote to Albany the first of the week for information. Last night he received a sworn statement from the Recorder of that city, setting forth the figures as shown by the city records. This statement shows that Dr. Wallace did not give all of the facts in his rather glib letter. It shows that he did not say anything about an 8-mill levy raising \$9462 in 1905 and the same levy raising \$22,863 in 1909. But let us give the Recorder's sworn statement:

Recorder's Certified Statement. "Albany, Or., Oct. 19, 1910. "This is to certify to all whom it may concern, that the assessed valuation of all property in the City of Albany, Oregon, as per the assessment roll for the year 1905 is \$1,131,530; tax 8 mills. "The assessment roll for the year 1906 is \$2,568,620; tax 6 mills. "The assessment roll for the year 1907 is \$2,602,110; tax 7 mills. "The assessment roll for the year 1908 is \$2,722,940; tax 8 mills. "The assessment roll for the year 1909 is \$2,982,900; tax 8 mills. "In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Albany, affixed this 19th day of October, A. D. 1910. (Seal) F. M. REDFIELD, Recorder of the City of Albany." There you have it complete. An 8-mill levy 1905, (a wet year,) raised \$9462, while an 8-mill levy in 1909 raised the enormous sum of \$22,863. In other words, Albany is taxing nearly \$15,000 a year more out of the pockets of its people than it did in 1905, and it is doing it with the same 8-mill levy. How does that look? Just like Dallas and other cities do it by raising the valuation of property when making the assessment. For instance: Suppose the assessor comes along and assesses your house and lot at \$500. An 8-mill levy on that valuation would cause you to pay a tax of \$4. But, suppose that he comes along and tells you he is going to assess the same house and lot at its real cash value, and puts the valuation down at \$2000. What would an 8-mill levy cause you to pay then? It would cause you to pay \$16. Just four times as much tax as under the old method of assessment, without changing the number of mills in the levy.

That is exactly what has been done in Albany. Property in that city was assessed at \$1,131,530 in 1905. Last year it was assessed at \$2,982,900—nearly three times the old valuation. It is probably true, as Dr. Wallace indicates, that Albany has made a good growth in the last four years. But it is not true that it has grown to be three times as large as it was four years ago, and every sane man knows it. The great increase in valuation of property is accounted for by the new method of assessing property at its cash value—a method adopted by Linn, Polk, Benton and every other county in the state. The Mayor of Albany was careful to quote figures in showing that the tax levy in mills is no higher under dry rule than it was under wet, but he was just as careful to suppress the figures showing how much money that levy is raising under the new method of assessment.

Let's fight fair. Let's get the facts, and then, when we vote, we can vote intelligently. Our readers will note that the Observer is not forcing its own views and private opinions on them in this campaign. It is giving them the truth, and citing the books and records where such truth may be found. Let us stick to facts.

A Good Position. Can be secured by ambitious young men and ladies in the field of "Wireless" or railway telegraphy. Since the 8-hour law became effective, and since the Wireless companies are establishing stations throughout the country there is a great shortage of telegraphers. Positions pay beginners from \$75 to \$80 per month, with good chance of advancement. The National Telegraph Institute of Portland, Ore., operates six official institutes in America, under supervision of R. E. and Wireless Officers and places all graduates into positions. It will pay you to write them for full details. 104-21. The Farmer's Fire Relief Association of Butteville, Oregon; J. D. Wines, agent, Buena Vista, Oregon. If Legal blanks for sale at this office. (Paid Advertisement.)

Try an Observer "Want Ad."

The cost of an advertisement in the Observer's "Wanted" and "For Sale" column is small—and the farmers tell us they bring results. BUSINESS LOCALS. (Advertisements under this head are charged at the rate of 1 cent per word, first insertion; 1/2 cent per word for each insertion thereafter; 30 words or less, \$1 per month. No advertisement inserted for less than 15 cents.)

Wanted. Wanted, energetic young man residing in Dallas to act as our local representative, selling fruit and produce to the dealers in Dallas, on a commission basis. Address Page & Son Portland, Oregon. 10-21-11.

Rooms With Board. I can accommodate two men with board and rooms. Mrs. F. Whitney, 809 Levens Street. 10-21-11.

Harness Repairing. For all harness repairing, come to Farnham's shoe repairing shop at 508 Main street, Dallas. Satisfaction guaranteed. L. R. Wilson. 10-21-11.

For Sale. Good home two blocks from Court's house; plenty of fruit—will pay the taxes; five-room house; corner lot 75 x 100 feet. One-half cash. Ed. C. Dunn, Dallas, Oregon. 10-21-11.

Mare for Sale. For sale, bay mare, with foal; weight 1500 pounds; nine years old, sound and true. A. H. Craven, Monmouth, Oregon. 10-18-21.

For Sale. Pony for sale; automobile broke; children can ride or drive. Lee Smith, Dallas. 10-14-11.

Phonograph Records for Sale. Seventy-five Edison Standard phonograph records for sale at only 15 cents each. Splendid selection; in excellent condition. Apply at this office. 10-11-11.

For Rent. Fifteen acres of land, with improvements. Good house and barn; good garden land; two miles of Dallas. Inquire at this office. 10-11-11.

New Photographer. Portraits, views, postcards, copying and enlarging. Eaton the Photographer, Burns Building, Dallas, Oregon. 10-11-11.

Kindergarten Teacher Wanted. Wanted, teacher to take charge of Kindergarten in Dallas; probably 12 or more pupils. Good opportunity for right person. Apply at Observer office. 10-11-11.

Strayed. Strayed, from the Oliver Smith farm, southeast of Monmouth, one brown colt, three years old, no marks or brands. A reward will be paid for any information. Phone Oliver Smith, or A. E. West, Falls City. 10-11-11.

For Sale. Clean vetch, rape, clover hay and gray oats; also, baled clover hay for sale. Ralph Davidson, Phone 55x, Independence, Oregon. 9-30-11.

Female Help Wanted. Wanted, a girl or woman to do general housework. No washing; good wages. Write or apply to Mrs. N. Selig, Falls City, Oregon. 9-27-11.

For Rent. For rent, the Francis Wrightson place of 240 acres, in Pedee precinct. Oscar Hayter, Agent, Dallas, Oregon. 9-23-11.

Wanted. All kinds of iron, rubber, brass, copper, zinc and hides. Highest cash prices paid. A. N. Halleck, Monmouth, Oregon. 9-12-11.

Men Wanted. By the Willamette Valley Lumber Co., for mill and yard work. Telephone No. 401. Both phones. 419-11.

Your Winter's Wood. Order your slab wood now and be sure of having a good dry supply for Winter. I can sell you either slabs, blocks, or trimmings. Can furnish any other kind of wood desired. Plenty of good oak and fir. Send in your orders by either phone. Mutual, 1194 Bell, 442. AUGUST BOMAN.

W. L. BICE



THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE FOR THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF OF POLK COUNTY. I respectfully solicit the support of the voters of Polk county and promise, if elected, to give the people of Polk county a clean, impartial and business like administration of the office of Sheriff, with fairness to all, but favors to none, and hope to become acquainted with as many of the voters as my time will permit before the election on November 8, 1910. Yours respectfully, W. L. BICE. (Paid Advertisement.)

Houses Wired For Electric Light At Actual Cost

This Offer Good For 30 Days Beginning October 20

The use of Tungsten Lamps has reduced the cost of electric light, bringing it within reach of all. 75 per cent of the families in Dallas are now using Electric Light. The only reason why ALL are not using it is because many houses are not wired.

Therefore, in order to assist the owners of these houses in wiring, we have made arrangements to wire houses AT ACTUAL COST as per the following instructions:

- Proposition A. A five-room house, wired complete with five drop cords, 16 candle-power lamps, and three ornamental glass shades, Special Price \$12.00. Proposition B. A six-room house, wired complete with six drop cords, 16 candle-power lamps, and three ornamental glass shades, Special Price \$13.50.

You can have a wall switch installed on any of the above lights for a small additional cost. Prices on application for fixtures installed complete on either of the above propositions. The wiring will be installed in a first-class manner by thoroughly reliable workmen. Larger and more elaborate installations at proportionately low prices. For further particulars call up our

New Business Department, Phone 24

NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION