

NEWS ITEMS

Of General Interest

About Oregon

Arguments in Favor of Three

New Legislative Acts Are Filed

Salem—Arguments in behalf of the proposed tax limitation amendment, rural credits amendment and the amendment to repeal Oregon's Sunday closing law were filed with Secretary of State Olcott this week for inclusion in the official election pamphlet.

The tax limitation argument was submitted by Robert E. Smith, secretary of the Oregon Taxpayers' League, the rural credits argument by the committee in charge of the Oregon Referendum League, and the argument for the repeal of the Sunday closing law by Dan Kellaher and Ben A. Bellamy, of the Independent Retailers' association of Portland.

The arguments for the three proposed amendments in part are as follows:

"Are taxes in Oregon high enough? Shall we limit their further increase to 6 per cent a year? These are the questions in considering the State-Wide Tax Limitation Amendment.

"Oregon's per capita tax is higher than that of any other state in the Union. During the past ten years taxes have increased 37 per cent a year. Taxes have increased five times faster than population.

"As a result, Oregon has been going backward in population and wealth for the past three years. Last year seven families left the state to each new family coming into it. In the face of these discouraging conditions there are those who have plans which will result in still greater increases in our taxes. Unless a limit is provided the legislature and our public officials will continue to increase our taxes as rapidly as they have in the past.

"The amendment limits the increase in taxation to an annual increase not to exceed six per cent unless a greater increase is authorized by the people.

"The farm debt of Oregon, secured by real and chattel mortgages, is conservatively estimated at \$30,000,000. On this debt the farmers are paying an average rate of about eight and one-fourth per cent interest. Added to this the costs of renewal and commissions, the rate paid is probably little under nine and one-fourth per cent.

"The rural credits amendment proposes to take the burden out of the farm mortgage at interest of five per cent. The cost of title searching and appraisal will be from \$10 to \$50, according to the amount of the loan. The farmer must pay off one per cent of the original sum borrowed each year. That is, the payment of six per cent on the mortgage will pay interest, cost of operation and wipe out the debt entirely in a period of 36 years.

"This system would mean to Oregon an annual saving in interest and mortgage costs of \$750,000. It would mean an end to the perpetual worry and expense of mortgage renewing; practically an end to foreclosures, lost homes and blighted hopes; better equipped farms and greater rural prosperity.

"The continuation of the old blue law, which will be enforced if not repealed, simply means putting the people of Oregon in a straight-jacket on Sundays. If not repealed this antiquated law will be enforced strictly, as it is now being done in Washington, Lane, Linn, and other counties in Oregon, where now you cannot purchase a newspaper, a cigar, refreshments, gasoline or anything else on Sunday.

"If enforced it means that all moving picture theaters must close on Sundays; it means that no baseball games can be played on Sundays; it means that all pool and billiard parlors, and bowling alleys or other innocent exercising sports and recreations operated for pay or profit must not operate on Sundays; it means that Sunday newspapers cannot be printed, sold or delivered on Sundays; it means that all pleasure resorts and recreation delights of all kinds, including picnics, must cease on Sundays, if entrance fees or charges are made.

"Ice cream, confections, foods of all kinds, and regular business of any kind except medicines, and medicines only, at drug stores cannot be sold or delivered on Sundays. It means that you cannot get a shoe-shine, that you cannot buy a cigar, or candies, or flowers, on Sundays, unless you can prove them necessities or charities."

School Terms Increased.

The school directors of Clatsop county have increased the length of their terms of school until the short term of six or seven months during the year has been almost entirely eliminated. The annual report of County Superintendent Byland, which has just been filed with Superintendent of Public Instruction J. A. Churchill, shows that last year there were but two districts in the county having six months of school, while more than three-fourths of the remaining districts had terms of nine months.

Prison Employes Quit.

Salem—T. E. Cornelius, head of the Oregon Penitentiary brick yard, has resigned, and his wife, who is matron in charge of the women's ward, will resign at the end of the present month. Mr. Cornelius has been connected with the penitentiary for six and a half years under four administrations and has served as deputy warden, chapel guard, farmer and superintendent of the brick yard. Superintendent Minto said that it was the intention to close the brick yard this month, as the men would be needed in the flax fields.

NORTHWEST MARKET REPORTS; GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS

Portland—Wheat—Bluestem, 79c per bushel; fortyfold, 97c; club, 86c; red Fife, 86c; red Russian, 86c.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, \$23 @24 per ton; valley timothy, \$19@22; alfalfa, \$14@15.

Millfeed—Spot prices: Bran, \$26@26.50 per ton; shorts, \$29@29.50; rolled barley, \$31.50@32.50.

Corn—Whole, \$37 per ton; cracked \$38.

Vegetables—Artichokes, 75c@\$1 per dozen; tomatoes, \$1.50@1.65 per crate; cabbage, \$2@2.25 per hundred; garlic, 1c per pound; peppers, 25c; eggplant, 1c; horseradish, 8c; lettuce, \$1@1.25 per crate; cucumbers, \$1@1.25 per box; rhubarb, 1 1/2@2c per pound; peas, 3@4c; cauliflower, \$1.25 per crate; beans, 5@7 1/2c per pound; celery, \$1.10 @1.25 per dozen; corn, 5@6c per dozen.

Potatoes—Old, \$1.50@1.65 per sack; new, 2@2 1/2c per pound.

Onions—California red and yellow, \$3@3.25 per sack.

Green Fruits—Apples, new, \$1.75@2 per box; cherries, 4@7c per pound; cantaloupes, \$2.75 @ 3.75 per crate; peaches, 75c@\$1 per box; watermelons, 1 1/2@2c per pound; figs, \$1@1.50 per box; raspberries, \$1@1.25 per crate; plums, \$1.15@1.50 per box; prunes, \$1.25@1.50; loganberries, 50c @ \$1 per crate; blackcaps, \$1.50@1.75; currants, \$1@1.25; pears, \$2.75@3 per box.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, Exchange price, current receipts, 23 1/2c per dozen. Jobbing prices: Oregon ranch, candled, 25c; selects, 26c.

Poultry—Hens, 14@15c per pound; broilers, 17@18c; turkeys, live, 20@22c; ducks, 12@15c; geese, 9@11c.

Butter—Cubes, extras, no bid; prime firsts, 24c. Jobbing prices: Prints, extras, 27@29c; butterfat, No. 1, 26c; No. 2, 24c; Portland.

Veal—Fancy, 12@12 1/2c per pound.

Pork—Fancy, 10@10 1/2c per pound.

Hops—1915 crop, 8@11c per pound; 1916 contracts, nominal.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, fine, 23@26c per pound; coarse, 30@32c; valley, 30 @33c.

Cascara Bark—Old and new, 4c per pound.

Cattle—Steers, choice, \$7.50@8.30; good, \$6.75@7.25; cows, choice, \$6.25 @6.50; good, \$5.50@6.25; heifers, \$4 @6.50; bulls, \$3@5; stags, \$4.50@6.

Hogs—Prime light, \$8.20 @ 8.80; good to prime, \$7.75@8.10; rough heavy, \$7.50@7.75; pigs and skips, \$6.60@7.10.

Sheep—Yearlings, \$6@6.50; wethers, \$5.50@6.50; ewes, \$4.75@5.25; lambs, \$6@8.25.

Northwest Wheat Crop Estimated at 55,000,000 Bushels

The wheat crop of the Pacific Northwest is estimated by grainmen at from 54,000,000 to 56,000,000 bushels. The remarkable improvement made in the past few weeks justifies them in raising their estimates to these figures. At the present time the weather could not be better for filling out, and glowing reports are coming in from all sections.

As to the future prices, the situation is as uncertain as it ever was, but one thing seems sure that is that the market will be on the basis of Chicago. The tendency now is to get on a parity with the East. The late Chicago bulge put that market up about 7 cents, whereas prices here have advanced only about 3 cents. The coast market is not yet on the Chicago parity, but it is not far from it.

Ship 12 Cars Fruit Daily.

Puyallup, Wash.—With more than 8000 berry pickers in the valley and the berries ripening very fast, President W. H. Paulhamus, of the Fruit Growers' association, said that the association will ship a dozen cars of berries a day for the coming week.

About 2000 pickers can still be used in the valley, Mr. Paulhamus estimates. Ranchers in the vicinity of Puyallup are in greater need of pickers than are Sumner ranchers, because most of the Puyallup berries are Antwerps and Marlboros, and ripen much faster than the Cuthberts.

Umatilla Crop Promising.

Pendleton, Or.—With harvest in Umatilla county a week or two late, predictions are that a much larger crop will be harvested than was expected a short time ago. The cold spring was a great hindrance to growing grain, but recent rains, followed by warm days have brought out the crops wonderfully, especially in the lighter grain sections. Wheat and barley are ripening rapidly. Usually cutting begins in most of the wheat sections shortly after July 10, but it is reported little will be cut this year before August 1.

Hay Harvest Starts on Coast.

Marshfield, Or.—Haying season, which comes later on the Coast than elsewhere in Oregon, is in full swing and the crop is abundant. The ranchers on Coos river have been busy with their mowing machines for the past week, and the Coquille valley farmers are also harvesting their hay. Many Coos county stockraisers depend upon corn ensilage rather than hay and that crop will be gathered later in the year.

Roseburg Shipping Sheep.

Roseburg, Or.—More than 1000 sheep were brought here Sunday by George Kohlhagen, preparatory to being shipped to the San Francisco markets. As many more were shipped to California Saturday by Pelton & Seelmann, local livestock buyers.

SCENE IN A NATIONAL GUARD CAMP



REGIMENT OF NATIONAL GUARD IN CAMP



REGIMENT OF NATIONAL GUARD ON THE MARCH



REVIEW OF CAVALRY REGIMENT



SIGNAL CORPS TELEGRAPHER



Bird Expert Pickpocket.

W. J. Trench, agent for the Santa Fe, a year ago left his overalls hanging on a peg when he went for a visit. In one pocket was a valuable key with a string attached to it. The string dangled out of the pocket. When Mr. Trench returned he found his overalls, but no keys. He has just found the string and the key when he kicked a wren's nest while stepping over a bunch of cactus.—Mentone (Cal.) Dispatch, San Francisco Chronicle.

LEARNING HOW TO DIG A TRENCH



STOCK POOLS OF OTHER DAYS

Financial Giants Involved in Questionable Transactions in 1882 Gave Entertaining Testimony.

Stock pools of the present day have nothing on the pools and corners of a generation ago in either magnificence or picturesqueness. Certainly there has been in recent years no such naive and entertaining testimony regarding such operations as that brought out by a state senate investigating committee in 1882, with Jay Gould, Rufus Hatch, a big speculator, and Henry Ward Beecher as the star attractions. They asked Jay Gould if he was familiar with corners and he told how his brokers started buying Chicago & Northwestern at about 80 and bought more than there was. "I paid what I thought it was worth," he said. "It resulted in carrying the price up very high. I did not pay over 80. The stock fell back after the corner to about 80. I think it went up to about 250. I think I was induced to part with some at about that price." Mr. Gould's matchless generosity, however, was not shared by Rufus Hatch, according to his testimony when asked if he was opposed to stock watering. "I am," he replied promptly, "unless I am in it." Henry Ward Beecher added to the entertainment of the investigation—he did not know why he had been called—by supposing that in a general way he understood the system of dealing in futures. "It is a part of my profession," he said, "to deal in futures." His dealings in stocks, however, were limited to two occasions. On the first occasion he bought at 400 and sold at 100. "I thought it a good stock to lay up," he observed, "but found it good to lay down."

CONTENT IN SIMPLE THINGS

Pity, Affection and Love, for Instance, Lead to Rich Contentment and Serene Peace.

You may choose not to ignore the evils of life, but you may study them, just as the physician and the surgeon study all the morbid growths of mental and corporeal life.

By a close study of the dreadful foe you may in the end master the secret of his destructive power, and, perchance, you may come upon this discovery, that the evils of life do not flow from the nature of things, but from human blindness, from human selfishness, from precisely that lack of cohesion among the various members of the human family which alone can raise them to higher levels of culture and happiness.

If men were more sensitive to each other's feelings, if they could understand one another better, they would cease to deplore their own sufferings and find that life in the larger sense, a corporate life of consenting human individualities, contains within itself potentialities of real happiness.

Quite elementary and simple things, like pity and affection and love, supply us with materials, not for walling and misery, but for a rich contentment and a serene peace.

A White House Fete.

I know nothing more impressive in its dignity, more complete in its way, than the White House, en fete. It embodies our best tradition of hospitality and cordiality—of perfection without ostentation. Then there is something in the atmosphere which hangs about it—especially during the days of a closing administration, which makes one think of that serenity that seems to cling around the woods of Mount Vernon, and which appears there almost like a material reflex from the calm and tempered ripeness of its owner's soul. There is, I imagine, an affinity, a certain likeness in the magnanimity of all generous, wise and simple men whether of ancient or modern times. Alas! too hard for our generation of egotists to follow or even respect. The only ideal which is preached nowadays is "one's duty to oneself."—From "Pieces of the Game," Countess de Chambrun's book.

Beautiful Flag Flower.

Among the stateliest and proudest of the members of America's flower family none excels the larger blue flag, which also wears the names of blue iris and fleur-de-lis. Ruskin calls it the Flower of Chivalry, which has a sword for its leaf and a lily for its heart. Longfellow pronounces it "a flower born in the purple, to joy and pleasure." It blooms in the wet, rich marsh and meadow, from May to July, and finds its home from Newfoundland and Manitoba to Florida and Arkansas. The flag flower must look to the insect world entirely for its propagation, particularly to the bees as its pollen carriers. So it puts forth a flower that is blue tinted, for its experience has taught it that a bee can be wooed with blue better than with any other color.

Two of a Kind.

The visitor claimed to be a good pianist with unusual ability in reading music at sight. Seeing a sheet of music on the piano rack, she sat down and began playing, pounding the keys with little regard for correctness of time. Observing the small daughter of the household watching her earnestly, she would-be admired player pressed harder on the loud pedal, lifted her hands higher, and ended with a flourish.

Whirling around on the stool, she bestowed a patronizing smile upon the child, who looked up and naively remarked: "I can't play that, either."—Woman's Home Companion.