

JUDGE ABLY DEFENDS COURT

Monday's Meeting Best Yet Held by Taxpayers' League.

A crowd of seventy-five or eighty persons attended last Monday's regular meeting of the Eastern Clackamas Taxpayers' League, which met at Ely's hall in Currinsville. Among the audience were several women, besides a number of taxpayers from Boring, the Swede Settlement and Oregon City and local delegations representative of all parts of Eastern Clackamas.

County Judge H. S. Anderson, who, although not in physical condition to have made the trip in the inclement weather, was present and delivered the main address of the afternoon.

The Judge ably defended the actions of the County Court and explained to the local taxpayers, many hitherto misunderstood questions. The subject of the Judge's talk, was "Taxes and Taxation" and in part he said, "I do not come here as an instructor or advisor in any sense, but for the purpose of learning something more of the purpose of your organization.

Our taxes are not to be looked upon as an evil to be shunned, or the payment of them, as an unpleasant duty, to be evaded if possible; but on the other hand, the money we pay as tax upon our property is the best investment we make from year to year. It might be a good plan for those who deery taxation to ponder a little on the condition of things as they must necessarily be, were there no taxation.

Such a system would take us back to a primitive state of existence, where each individual lived to himself and for himself alone. Not many of us look with favor upon Socialism, as that term is usually understood, yet nevertheless, most, if not all of us are socialists to the extent that we do not wish to stand entirely alone, but feel to a greater or less degree our mutual dependency upon each other and the community of interests which ties us all together. To say that we will cast off this tyranny of taxation, would be to say that we will go back to the Stone Age, if not farther.

When we study taxation, we must take into effect our modern mode of life, we become so accustomed to our present mode of life, that we perhaps do not think of its complexity. Our system of government reaches from the capitol at Washington to our humblest home and touches every transaction. We pay for a record of our birth and our death; our taxes school the youth to more successfully fight life's battle and if he is defeated and age or infirmity disable him, our taxes give some degree of comfort to his helplessness.

By means of our taxes, we employ servants to guard our property interests by carefully record-

ing and preserving our records and to maintain courts to protect our rights, without which our deeds and mortgages and bonds and securities and even our money would be worthless.

That the authority to levy tax has been abused, is not doubted and I suppose it is one of the objects of taxpayers' leagues to correct these abuses. It is for that purpose that the law passed by the Legislature in 1913, known as the Budget Law, was enacted. This law provides that no tax shall be levied without an estimate having been made of all items of expenditures to be met and these estimates published and also a time set for a meeting for the taxpayers to discuss the same.

This law, as at first passed, referred only to counties, but was amended or rather extended in 1915 to apply to "all tax levying bodies," which makes it apply to all municipal, road and school districts.

Now it would seem that the people's interests were pretty well protected and yet it is impossible to get a full and fair expression of so large a body as the taxpayers of Clackamas county, in a mass meeting, and one can only judge the sentiments of the whole taxpaying body of the county by the general temper of the assembly.

The budget law is good but difficult to carry out fully and somewhat expensive to operate. Difficult, because it demands an item of every expense for the coming year, which would require a prophetic foresight on the part of those who prepare the estimates.

The cost of the different county offices can be pretty closely estimated provided no unusual demands are made upon them, but the wisest cannot foretell when the unusual will occur.

By looking back over the expenses of the Circuit Court, a pretty good guess might be made at the amount necessary to run it for a year, but there have been single cases in the Circuit Courts which would exhaust the entire estimate for the ordinary year. In this, as in many other matters, the County Court is between the "Devil and the Deep Sea." Liable on the one hand to be grilled for making an estimate larger than necessary and to suffer the penalty on the other hand of spending more than the amount named in the budget "and ten per cent thereof."

To scale the estimates for the different offices down to the last known dollar of expense, will always cause a deficit somewhere, for the unexpected is always happening. And just here, is where the County Court of Clackamas County made a painful blunder this year, for the different county officials scaled down their estimates as low as they thought possible; partly to provide for emergencies, the County Court made a pretty liberal estimate for its own

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New Books For Library

The Estacada Public Library was this week increased by the addition of about fifty new books, which the Civic Improvement Club purchased.

About one-half of the new books are for boys and young folks, with the balance being good standard fiction.

With the increasing demand for books from the library, it is not likely one of the new books can be obtained for weeks yet, except as reserved in advance.

To Open Broadway Store

Allen & Samson of Estacada, in order to facilitate the handling of their growing flour and grain department, have decided to segregate that part of the business from the lumber and building material.

To accomplish this, they expect to open up in a short time, a salesroom and warehouse on Broadway, between the depot and 2nd St., in the building, formerly occupied by Waterbury & Chapman, continuing to operate their lumber business from the present quarters.

School Supervisor Here

County School Supervisor Brenton Vedder is spending this week in this part of the county, attending to his duties at the various rural schools.

Mr. Vedder, being the only county school supervisor, has jurisdiction over about 135 schools and consequently cannot cover the entire field, oftener than about three times per year.

County School Superintendent, Calavan also attends to similar work, when his other duties will allow.

Tax Assessors Here

Someone has wisely said—"Death and Taxes are ever with us" and it is the truth right now, as the assessors began this week to round up the valuations for next year, while the Sheriff's office is still making life miserable with the collection of the current taxes.

Assessor Jack has announced the following named deputies, who are now in the field, with others to follow later: W. H. Holder, Chas. Thompson, Jerome Avery, Wm. Avison, E. W. Randolph and J. O. Staats.

ESTACADA TROOP FORMED

National Boy Scout Movement Underway

Through the efforts of Rev. Spiess, the Estacada Troop of the Boy Scouts of America is being formed. Already sixteen or eighteen boys are practicing marching and learning the rudiments of the drill.

The formation of this troop is not in any ways a denominational or purely church matter, being open to all boys between the ages of 12 and 18 years in this community, who are willing to apply for membership in the Boy Scouts of America and who promise to do their best to keep the Scout Oath and Scout Law at all times.

Application blanks for membership may be had on application to Rev. Spiess, whose official title is Scout Master.

In further conformation to the laws regulating the movement, it is necessary that a Scout Council of older men be formed and the following persons have been asked to act temporarily in that capacity:—Dr. H. V. Adix, Dr. R. Morse, F. B. Guthrie, Wm. Dale, Irwin D. Wright, Lee Bronson and R. M. Standish.

The furtherance of this national movement in this vicinity is one of the best actions that can be taken for the good of the boys and young men, as the methods of work, coupled with the high ideals of living and the honorable code of morals, called for on the part of each scout, makes directly for better citizenship and better, cleaner manhood.

Infant Son Dies

Linn Albert, the year old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Kitching of Currinsville, died last Friday, following a short illness, incident to stomach trouble.

The funeral services were conducted by Mr. A. Demoy, Sunday afternoon at the M. E. Church, with interment in charge of Undertaker Henthorn, following at Lone Oak Cemetery.

Dog License Law To Be Enforced

For sometime past, the Estacada City Council has shown especial leniency in the matter of the collection of dog license moneys, but on complaints recently made, the marshal has been instructed to proceed at once to collect the licenses or destroy the animals.

As there are a number of worthless, stray dogs in town, the enforcement of this law will probably meet with popular approval.