

# Current Comment---Timely Topics

Will French, Publisher.

Austin Craig, Editor.

Republican in Politics.

Published every Friday at The Independent Printery, Hillsboro, Oregon.

### OFFICES:

Forest Grove: Abbott Building

Phone: Main 93

Hillsboro: Crandall Block.

Phone: Main 165

Circulation guaranteed to exceed 2000.

Advertising Rates: Display, 60 cents an inch, single column, for four insertions; reading notices, always returned (\*), one cent a word each insertion (nothing less than 15 cents); professional cards, one inch, one month; lodge cards, \$5 a year, payable quarterly (notices and resolutions free to advertising lodges).

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1903.

"Where Rolls the Oregon."

The Lewis and Clark Centennial and American Pacific Exposition, Portland, 1905.

The "Ben Hur" performances drew to the Marquam Grand, it is said, a class seldom seen in the theaters, but it is a safe prediction that they will not often return unless a radical reformation is worked in the cities of the stage in Portland. Some Chicago variety theaters put a difficulty under the ban, but in Oregon's metropolis an oath seems to be considered by the actor folk the height of humor. Useless repetition, inane mummings, slang or profanity, is not an indication of mental strength and for that reason to be avoided. Of course there are occasions when emphatic language seems needed and history records with no censure that Washington at the battle of Monmouth swore "like an angel," as General Scott once expressed it, and in more modern times the American public thought no less of their president because in the presence of criminal carelessness which cost a human life he characterized it in unmistakable language, but the man who uses emphasis on trivial occasions is without expression for important moments. As the school girls oft repeated "sweet" sickens so frequent condemnation disgusts, for every veniality is to be anathema and mortal sin would have no adequate punishment.

### AN EFFECTUAL REMEDY FOR "TAX DODGING."

Oregon Law School Journal.

We have for several years studied the subject of assessment and taxation and have observed the effect of many laws enacted by our legislature for the purpose of bringing about a fair listing of all property subject to assessment and taxation in this State. A great many taxpayers, in nearly all stations of life, have talked with us about the prevailing practice of evading assessment, and the consequences that follow. They generally consider that the present method of prevarication in listing assessable property is a mischief that most seriously retards our advancement, and that it more than overcomes all our efforts made at the public expense and by private enterprise to induce immigration to our State. That our tax-rolls show scarcely a tenth of the real value of our property, and as it is upon the amount of this low valuation of property, as shown on the assessment-rolls that our tax rates are levied, our tax rates appear to be high and exorbitant to people coming to the Pacific coast; and as a consequence many are deterred from locating in our State.

If all property were assessed and listed at its true cash value it would not require anyone to pay a greater amount than he now pays; but, on account of new properties which would be added to the roll which now escape taxation, many would not be compelled to pay as much taxes as they do now. Many frankly admit

that they stretch their conscience somewhat in giving in a list of property to the assessor, and that they aim to omit from their list as much property as their neighbor, according to custom, will omit from his assessment. That they would cheerfully list all their property at its true cash value if all other property were assessed in the same manner. That they desire to bear their just proportion of the public expenses, but, under the present practice, if they listed their property fairly, they would be compelled to pay more than their just share. That while they are willing to do their part toward the payment of taxes yet they are determined to do no more. We find the people unanimous in the desire for good government, and that they are willing to pay their just proportion for its maintenance.

This notorious usage of "tax dodging" has become a most virulent ulcer upon our body politic. An Oregon tax-roll is the eighth great wonder of the world. Its study proves to one that conscience has been often discarded, and that many must surely trust that their Maker on that final day of judgment in casting up the final account of their deeds done on this earth will forget to scan these tax-rolls. The reckless manner in which the properties owned are forgotten by many when the assessor calls on them is remarkable. While it is true that people know quite generally that there is a habitual evasion of the assessment laws to a certain degree, yet few have but a faint conception of the extent to which this practice is carried, unless they personally examine the tax-rolls.

If newspapers of each county would publish a list of each taxpayer's property, as given to the assessor, it would strike many a good and well meaning citizen with consternation, and we would find that the tax-roll of next year would be increased manyfold over that of our present year. Publicity is the only remedy to bring about a true reform in this matter. Adequate laws may be enacted upon any subject, yet if they are improperly enforced or executed they will not accomplish the purpose for which they are intended. If the people are kept in ignorance as to the manner in which an officer performs the duties imposed upon him by law, and the people are also kept in ignorance of the evasion of such laws by those whose duty it is to observe them, then favorites, ward strikers, political bosses, and unscrupulous persons will evade our laws with impunity. Darkne is a most favorable place to breed microbes and foster deadly germs of disease, and sunlight is their deadly foe. So secrecy in our body politic tends to produce an unhealthy condition and creates a most favorable opportunity for the breeding of fraud and corruption, and their unrelenting foe is publicity. Turn the sunlight of the facts upon public abuses and the people will force its perpetrators to desist. The people demand an honest administration of public and private affairs, and fraud and corruption cannot long exist when brought in view for public inspection.

Tweed and his gang bribed judges and legislatures, laws were passed in their interest, public treasuries were pillaged by them and decisions were rendered in their favor, and no such complete and extensive plan of fraud and public spoliation was ever devised in any country, yet publicity brought about the downfall of this powerful ring. It was through the columns of the New York press that this vast system of fraud and corruption was exposed and broken up, and "Boss" Tweed, who was more powerful than any king brought to languish and die in a felon's cell. The newspapers are the moulders of public opinion. It is through the columns of the newspapers that public and private abuses are disclosed, frauds unearthed and great reforms are brought about. It was Napoleon who said, "Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than ten thousand bayonets."

We would, therefore recommend complete publicity as a certain remedy against the practice of "tax-dodging." The assessment of each person liable to assessment in a county should be published as is done in several other states, before the county board of equalization meets, in the leading newspapers published in the county. The state of Illinois now has such a law; and its effect is magical. Each person is made aware of his neighbor's list of property given in to the assessor, and if such neighbor omits any of his property subject to assessment he is compelled to hasten its correction. This law has brought about a revolution in that state with regard to equal and just taxation, and it is almost impossible for one to escape his just proportion of the taxes.

Our state has a law requiring publicity in the allowance of bills against counties. This law was enacted in 1891, and requires that all bills presented to or allowed by a county, excepting where the charges are fixed by law, be published in a leading newspaper of such county. We have observed the practical effect of this law with considerable interest. This law saves every year many thousands of dollars to each county of this state. Exorbitant bills, such bills as political plums for favorites, and bills for other questionable private motives are now scarcely ever presented or allowed. The people keep posted upon the business of the county, and if they discover a bill allowed against the county which they deem to be wrong they institute proceedings to stop its payment. County courts are made more careful in examining and paying bills. A person is made more cautious about the presentation of exorbitant or questionable bills, because he does not like to have it appear in print that he has attempted to defraud the county. But it appears to us that this law does not go far enough, and that it would be more efficient if it required the publication of all bills allowed by a county. The people should know everything for which their money is expended. The exception in this law, that bills in which the items are based upon charges fixed by law need not be published, would seem to include all bills presented under fee-bills. The fee-bill system in the past has been regarded as a source of the greatest drain upon the public treasuries. Without the publication of such bills it allows the officer's construction of the law and the amount of his bill to go unquestioned by the people who pay the taxes to meet their payment. Nearly every county court of this state now points with pride to the reduction of public expenses. Our county courts are almost without exception composed of very competent men but we cannot say that they are in any way more competent than their predecessors in office. We are therefore forced to the conclusion that the publicity required by this law in the presentation and allowance of bills has been the great factor that has brought about the present economy in public affairs.

In conclusion we will say that the newspapers of our State have always shown a public spirit, and gladly furnished their news to their readers. The Legislature can place proper safeguards upon this law which we propose against the evasion of the assessment laws, by prescribing prices for publication, so that but little expense will be entailed in its operations.

Dr. Lowe will be in Hillsboro Dec. 10 and 11. Two days.

### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed administrator of the estate of George Bruder, deceased, by the County Court of the State of Oregon for Washington County, and has qualified. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same at the office of the "Hillsboro Independent" at Hillsboro, Oregon, with proper vouchers and duly verified, within six months of the date hereof. Dated and first published November 6, 1903. DONALD G. WOODWARD, Administrator of the Estate of George Bruder, deceased. Gantenbein & Veazie, Attorneys for Administrator.

# JOHNSON & SON

THE

## Brick Livery, Feed and Sale Stable

Finest Rigs Best Horses Good Drivers

See our ad. in the T. P. A. Guide. Drummers' trade our specialty. Our 'Bus meets all trains. Carries U. S. Mail. Baggage and Freight called for and delivered.

Corner Main and Pacific Ave. Forest Grove, Ore.

# S. E. Hines

CITY BAKERY

South Side Square,

Pies and Cakes, Canned Goods, Confectioneries, Fruits in Season, Cigars, etc.

Lunches and Meals

Forest Grove

### SOUTHERN PACIFIC TIME CARD.

16 00	4 50	7 30	0	Lv. PORTLAND	Ar.	5 50	8 25	4 30
7 40	8 38	8 18	11	Beaverton	Ar.	4 59	7 40	3 25
7 50	8 43	8 22	12	St. Mary's	Ar.	4 52	7 25	3 07
8 10	8 52	8 31	18	Reedville	Ar.	4 44	7 27	2 52
8 15	8 56	8 35	17	Witch Hazel	Ar.	4 39	7 23	2 37
8 25	8 10	8 40	19	Newton	Ar.	4 34	7 19	2 30
8 44	6 06	8 44	21	Hillsboro	Ar.	4 29	7 14	2 20
9 03	6 15	8 54	24	Cornelius	Ar.	4 17	7 05	1 50
9 30	6 21	9 00	28	Forest Grove	Ar.	4 12	6 59	1 30
9 45	6 25	9 05	28	Dilley	Ar.	4 07	6 55	1 05
10 00	6 31	9 11	30	Gales	Ar.	3 59	6 49	12 45
10 15	6 36	9 16	32	Gaston	Ar.	3 55	6 45	12 35
12 35	7 27	10 00	50	McMinnville	Ar.	3 06	5 58	10 50
1 05	7 30	10 00	54	Whiteson	Ar.	2 56	5 50	10 10
2 58	11 00	7 6	76	Independence	Ar.	2 05	5 00	8 09
4 20	11 45	9	9	Ar. Corvallis	Lv.	1 20	5 00	6 59
4 50	5 05	7 30	0	Lv. PORTLAND	Ar.	3 32	9 30	8 25
5 50	9 12	13	13	Tualatin	Ar.	1 55	8 40	8 25
5 58	9 37	15	15	Clipole	Ar.	1 30	8 32	8 25
6 04	10 08	17	17	Sherwood	Ar.	1 10	8 25	8 25
6 08	10 25	19	19	Middleton	Ar.	12 58	8 22	8 25
6 18	10 42	20	20	Frank	Ar.	12 40	8 13	8 25
7 40	7 30	1 05	10 20	7 05	5 50 48	Ar. Whiteson	Ar.	1 20

(Light face figures denote A. M.; dark face figures denote P. M. Stop signal. Will carry passengers holding Supt. permit only. \*Daily.)

W. E. COMAN, General Passenger Agent.

Portland, Oregon.

LOCAL AGENTS.

Beaverton ..... F. W. Cady  
 Reedville ..... J. B. Imlay  
 Hillsboro ..... H. A. Hinchlaw  
 Cornelius ..... D. J. Barrett  
 Forest Grove ..... N. L. Atkins  
 Dilley ..... A. S. Briggs  
 Gaston ..... C. W. Hudson  
 Tualatin ..... C. A. Krim  
 Sherwood ..... Dora Smock

# Van Coelen & Saelems

## Meat Market

Here to stay and to sell you the

Choicest Meats. Always handle the

Best. Beef, Mutton, Pork, Salt

Meats of all kinds. Lard, Sausage

and Fresh Fish. We guarantee Satis-

faction and nice treatment. Call an

us. West Side Square.

Main Street - - Forest Grove

# APLIN MILLS COMPANY

Buy and Store all Kinds of Grain

Manufacture

All Kinds of Grain Products, Chop, Stock Feed and Flour

Silver Dust Flour Best Oregon - A blend of choice hard wheat and soft valley wheat, making the best of flour.

Farm Feed Chopping a Specialty.

# APLIN MILLS COMPANY

CORNELIUS, OREGON

# BALDWIN BROS.

J. W. Baldwin, Plasterer.

G. H. Baldwin, Brick Layer

O. Baldwin, Carpenter

Lime, Sand and Cement  
 always on hand

Forest Grove, Or.