WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

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DO YOU WANT SINGLE TAX?

How It Would Effect Taxpayers in Washington County, by Benton Bowman.

I wish to call attention to the constitutional amendment to be voted upon at the June election, amending Sec. 1, Art. IX, of the State constitution so that "all dwelling houses, barns, sheds, outhouses and all other appurtenances thereto, all machinery and buildings used exclusively for manufacturing purposes, and the appurtenances thereto, all fences, farm machinery and appliances used as such, all fruit trees, vines, shrubs and all other improvements on farms, all livestock, all household furniture in use, and all tools owned by workman and in use, shall be exempt from taxation."

All property devoted to municipal, educational, religious, or charitable purposes is already exempt.

This measure is proposed by the Oregon Tax Reform Association, and seems to be the single tax theory of Henry George and others. They claim that the property to be exempted is comparatively small, and to this I wish to call particular attention. Let us see how it will affect our own county, alone:

A summary of the assessment for 1907 is as follows:

Tillable lands	$5,272,110.00
Non tillable lands	6,596,838.00
Improvements of deeded or patented lands	1,236,350.00
Town and city lots	462,050.00
Improvements on town & city lots	492,475.00
Improvements on lands not deeded or patented lands	6,625.00
Miles of railroad bed	562,620.00
Miles of telegraph and telephone lines	24,775.00
R. R. rolling stock	34,000.00
Stationery engines and manufacturing machinery	172,695.00
Merchandise & stock in trade	307,400.00
Farm implements, wagons & carriages	174,010.00
Money, notes & accounts	226,685.00
Household furniture, watches, jewelry	232,160.00
Horses and mules	420,095.00
Cattle	320,230.00
Sheep and goats	36,220.00
Swine	15,236.00
Dogs	200.00
Total	$16,592,774.00

Now if this wholesale exemption were in force all improvements on lands, except business houses (estimated at $242,475) engines and manufacturing machinery, farm implements, wagons, etc, household furniture, watches and jewelry, horses, cattle, mules, sheep, goats, swine, and dogs, with a total assessment of $2,286,296.00, would be exempt from taxation and its share of tax would be piled up on the land and the few other items left. This amounts to over 17 per cent of the total assessment, or nearly one fifth. The total tax to be collected is $194,451.31, and any one can readily see that tax loss would run into the thousand.

Now who is to be benefitted by this change? There is just as much money to be raised, and what is taken off in one place must be put on another. Every sawmill, every flouring mill, and every factory building and its machinery, will be exempt; all livestock goes out, and every man who owns a foot of land or a piece of business property, will have to foot the bill.

For instance: This county has two milk condensing plants. The one at Forest Grove is assessed with $14,000 on buildings and $35,000 on machinery, a total of $49,000, ALL EXEMPT. Its taxable property is assessed at $16,000. The Hillsboro establishment has an assessment of $34,000 on improvements and machinery, ALL EXEMPT, and only $1000 subject to taxation. So this one company would have a total exemption but of $83,000, and a taxable assessment of $17,000, and the patron who wades the mud to furnish the milk helps to make up the deficency.

An immense volume of taxable property in Portland would escape the assessor. According to late reports, the Swift Packing Company is buying lands near the city, for a three and a half million dollar packing establishment, and all this (except the bare land) would be exempt, and the poor employee who buys a lot on the installment plan, probably, for a home, would feel the "raise." Who would think that the beef trust needs any more favors or concessions?

All fruit trees, vines, shrubs, &c. are to be exempt. So the high priced and productive orchards of Hood River or Medford would pay no more than the adjoining land pastured or sown to grain. The same is true of hop ranches and prune orchards.

It is proposed to assess land values (not acres) and to discourage speculative holdings. Timber lands have commanded high prices, and the assessment was raised to a point where they will pay their share of tax. Now what will these same lands be worth when logged off? Canyons, gulches and stumps have no great value (and value is the only thing to be taxed,) unless it be for goat pasture, and the goats are to be exempt.

Then the burden must come back on lands and town lots down on the plain. Then if the logged off lands are allowed to be sold for tax and the county has to buy them in they are free from tax while the county has them.

So let us look before we leap into this visionary, socialistic experiment. Oregon has already adopted enough freak measures to make her a subject of ridicule, and to discourage capital from seeking investment here. Safe and sane laws will be sufficient inducement for industries to come this way.

Higher taxes means higher rent. So the renter is no better off than before. If the poor man's house is to be exempt he must pay more tax for the ground to set it on. Let us not make it so high as to discourage people from owning land. The most reliable citizen any country can have is the man who owns his home.

Too much property is already exempt from taxation. Yet it all enjoys the same benefits and protection as the property paying the tax, and it is but just and fair that all should help to contribute its share. Let us consider this matter before we vote upon it.

BENTON BOWMAN.

Suit to Collect Balance.

The committee of three appointed to settle up the affairs of the E. W. Haines bank have taken steps to adjust one of the bank's assets by filing in the circuit court Friday morning a suit against Frank T. Kane, to recover a balance due on a $10,000 note held against him by the bank. The amount sued for is $1935 with interest of about $800 and $100 attorney's fees.

The amount sued for is the remnants of that much talked of $10,000 note held by the Haines bank. The note was given on August 29, 1903, and is signed by W. H. Wescoat and F. T. Kane, who were at that time partners in the lumber business. The note bears four endorsements and it is understood that they represent divers properties transferred by Kane to the Haines bank. The payments and the amounts were made on the following dates: September 1, 1903, $3300; April 22, 1904, $3000; April 22, 1904, $1000; April 30, 1904, $765.

It is stated on good authority that Mr. Kane holds interests in a gold mine in Baker county that are worth from $25,000 to $30,000.

Last Act of Congress.

The natives of the Ozark Mountain regions of Arkansas are a crude people who worry little about what goes on in the outer world. A play, founded on those people, is coming here, and that fact makes the following story doubly interesting: During a blizzard in 1903 a newspaper strayed into the benighted region of the Ozarks. The natives got hold of it, and lost no time in finding a man who could read, all being anxious to hear the news. One man asked the reader, "What are they doing down there in Washington now?" The reader replied, "They are doing lots of things. Congress has just passed a law adding two more months onto the year, and they are both winter months." The questioner jumped from his seat saying, "Geeminee whiz! and I am just out of fodder!"

The play referred to above was written by Fred Raymond and is called OLD ARKANSAW. It will appear at Masonic Hall, Saturday evening, Feb. 22.

The characters are just such as are met with in those regions.

Something About Post Cards.

To the Editor:

It may be of interest to your patrons to know that "cards bearing particles of glass, metal, mica, sand, tinsel or similer substance are unmailable, except when enclosed in envelopes," and can not be dispatched from this office. The stamp must be on the envelope and not on the card. A stamp on the card will not count, even if there is an opening in the envelope, over the stamp.

If there is a message written on the card, two cents must be put on the envelope; otherwise one cent.

H. C. ATWELL, P. M.

Funeral of Mrs. J. E. Bates.

Funeral services over the remains of Mrs. J E. Bates and her infant son, who were killed in the wreck of last week, were held at the Congregational church last Thursday.

The church was packed with friends and townspeople. The funeral services were most impressive; there was not a dry eye as the casket containing the remains of mother and baby covered with the most beautiful flowers was carried into the church, followed by the relatives. Rev. Daniel Staver had charge of the service, assisted by Rev. Hiram Gould, Rev. J. M. Barber and Rev. H. W. Boyd.

Mr. Staver brought comfort to the bereaved hearts as he spoke at length on the text: "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter."

The two hymns so beautifully sung by the quartet were her special favorites, and which she had played and sung with her family two nights before her death, "Nearer my God to Thee," and "Will there be any Stars in my Crown." Concluding his address Mr. Staver gave a sketch of her life.

Born in 1876 of Scotch-Irish parents in Belfast, Ireland she came to this country as a child of 7 years, the made their home in New York City. At the age of 16 she joined the Adams Memorial Presbyterian Church. After the death of her father in 1897 she came west with the other members of her family.

Ten years ago she was united in marriage to Joseph Edward Bates, then of Patton valley, Rev. Daniel Staver performing the ceremony.

She leaves to mourn the separation her husband and two little girls, Marion aged 8 years, and Florence aged 5 years, taking with her her 5-months old baby boy, Howard Edward.

She was the youngest daughter of Mrs. M. A. Dickson of Forest Grove, who with six brothers and three sisters survive, Wm. Dickson of Seattle, Rev. Frank Dickson, the singing evangelist who accompanies Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, Geo. Dickson of Forest Grove, Thomas Dickson of San Jose, Cal., Charles Dickson of San Francisco, Cal. Andrew Dickson of the Oregonian staff, Mrs. J. C. Adams of New York City, Mrs. J. J. Baxter and Mrs. A. C. Alexander of Forest Grove.

A large cortege followed the remains to Forest View cemetery, where the interment took place.

Married.

Conrad Keinecke, formerly of Haywood and mail carrier to that point, is no more under the bachelor's ban, but under that of his newly wed. The ceremony took place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dames of 23 2d Ave., Forest Grove, Feb. 16th, 7 p. m., Rev. Eberling of Gales, performing the event of tying the knot for life. The bride's name is Martha Dames. She was handsomely dressed in white and carried carnations. The bridesmaid was Miss Lilly Barts, and best man Mr. Louis Lucke of Portland. The guests were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Dames, Mr. and Mrs. John Dames, Mr. and Mrs. Rinemer of Gaston; Mrs. Dolph of Haywood; Mrs. Eberling of Gales; Mr. and Mrs. M. Peterson of Cornelius; Mr. and Mrs. Franz Schuldt, Mrs. Barts of Portland. Mr. and Mrs. Keinecke will make their home in Portland. We wish them a happy journey through life.

Bank Affairs.

The work of getting the affairs of the E. W. Haines bank in shape have been progressing very satisfactorily the past week, and the committee in charge say things look brighter every day. They think the prospect is good that creditors will be paid dollar for dollar, and that there will be something over. They have employed Max Crandall, an accountant of large experience, to expert the books. They are to pay him $5 per day and he thinks he can bring up the accounts from the time the shortage is alleged to have occurred to the present in twenty days. The committee is having this work done under its own supervision and it is not being done at the instance of others as has been rumored on the street. The public will be grateful to know that things look so favorable.

Revival Services.

Special services have been continued at the Congregational church all this week except Monday evening. Rev. C. F. Clapp has been preaching and Rev. D. T. Thomas has aided in the singing several evenings. Considerable interest has been manifest and several have risen for prayers.

The Southern Pacific announces today that 50 miles of the West side division of the road will be replaced with 75 pound rails.

City Council Meets.

The regular meeting of the council which was to have been held Tuesday, Feb. 11, was postponed until Thursday, Feb. 13, on account of the train wreck on the Southern Pacific. A large amount of business was transacted and the following bills were allowed:

The city council met in adjourned session Thursday evening with all members present.

The finance committee reported favorably on the following bills and they were ordered paid:

Goff Bros., supplies	$ 9 35
L. Munkers, labor	1 50
D. Smeltzer, "	1 00
E. B. Sappington	1 00
L. J. Corl, salary and commis	29 54
C. O. Roe & Co, glass	1 30
J. G. Lenneville, marshal	10 00
Walter Hoge, recorder	11 35
J. C. Latta, freight and cartage	1 00
News, Journal for Treas	4 90
Times, election notice	2 00
Gauld Co., plumbers supplies	6 10
Ed. R. Wirtz, labor	7 50
H. H. Clark, "	9 00
Pacific Electric Co, supplies	15 55
Total	$111 09

The report of Treasurer Corl for month of January showed:

GENERAL FUND

On hand, Jan. 1	$ 609 07
Rec'd for lights	346 89
" " water	298 60
" " licenses	5 00
" J. E. Bailey for hydrant	28 00
Total	$1287 56
Paid city warrants	556 70
Balance Feb. 1	$ 730 86

SPECIAL STREET FUND

On hand Jan. 1	$212 28
Collected	289 96
Total	$502 24
Balance in library fund	$ 57 84
" " building fund	117 12

The library board in a letter read asked that the library fund be turned over to their treasurer, Mrs. A. F. Rogers. This was referred to the finance committee to investigate and see if it would be legal. Pending report, the sum of $30 was granted the library board to pay January bills.

The street committee reported that they had made a new estimate of the cost of grading Third Avenue and found that the cost had only been $5.60 per block. As this was quite a reduction from first estimate, the treasurer was authorized to settle special assessments on that basis.

The light and water committee had been investigating question of larger water pipe on West Pacific Avenue and reported that they believed pipe already there would supply the additional needs. Voted to allow the Cemetery Improvement Association to tap present pipe and not put in larger pipe at present.

Water Commissioner Todd reported a bid of $32 for a new shut-off valve and connections for big pipe at pumping station. The committee on supplies was authorized to order it if they found that price reasonable.

The committee on printing reported bids from the News and Times. They were so much alike that the council could not decide and referred them back for further investigation.

The special commitee on rules reported the old rules satisfactory and they will govern for another year.

The state library commission offered to loan the city several books on city problems, such as piping, sewers, sanitation, etc. Offer accepted and books will be placed in public library for use during two months.

The committee on Water and Lights reported that they had caused a census of the water and lights in use in the city to be taken. They found 524 candle power of porch lights now in use, an increase of about 100 c. p. in a year. This information was needed in settling with E. W. Haines for extra lights, etc., during year. It was voted to allow him $150 on January account and to instruct committee to check up with him at once and report to a special meeting of the council which will be called as soon as they are ready.

Several new cross walks will be put in as soon as a man can be secured to do it. Mr. Van Antwerp offered to take job of city marshal, street commissioner, water and lights, etc., at $70 per month. Action deferred.

The mayor, treasurer and recorder were authorized to have the city safe moved to such suitable place as they might decide on.

Notice.

Will any person who found articles at the wreck belonging to Mrs. J. E. Bates and family, please leave the same at Abraham Bros. store.

Board of Trade Committees.

The directors of the Board of Trade held its regular tri-monthly meeting in Judge Hollis' office Tuesday afternoon all the members being present. The committee on literature which was appointed at a previous meeting, reported that it was making good progress in the matter of furnishing literature to the numerous requests that are now coming from the east.

The literature will consist of the special edition of The News which is now in process of publication and which will contain abundance of information concerning any subject anyone would care to be informed on.

A committee of three was appointed to make arrangements for holding a "Cheese and Cracker" banquet for the benefit of the members and friends. This banquet will be furnished by the members of the board of directors. A good program will be prepared and a general good time is promised.

The president appointed the following committees to act for the present year:

Committee on Business Opportunities: E. W. Haines, W. H. Parker, V. H. Limber.

Lands and dairying: G. S. Allen, L. L. Hollinger.

Streets and sidewalks: H. J. Goff, J. A. Thornburgh, J. F. Woods.

Parks: H. L. Bates, A. R. Leabo, C. O. Roe.

Education: W. N. Ferrin. Walter Hoge.

Cereals: J. A. Thornburgh, J. W. Hughes, Auston Buxton.

Fruits: W. K Newell, H. C. Atwell, W. R. Harris.

Manufacture: L. J. Corl, H. H. Stuart, H. J. Goff.

Good Roads: Col. Harry Haynes, Carl Hinman, A. B. Todd.

Women's Club Meeting.

The Forest Grove Women's Club held an "open meeting" in the parlors of the Congregational church, Monday evening, that proved to be one of the most delightful social occasions yet enjoyed by that organization. The rooms were tastefully decorated with flags, banners and plants, and were crowded to their full capacity. Mrs. Hoge, president of the club, occupied the chair, and the exercises opened with an instrumental duett by Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Markee. Mrs. H. Gould read an excellent paper on "Characteristic Qualities of American Fiction," after which Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Watt and Mrs. Willis Goff read selections from various authors showing some of the characteristics mentioned by the first speaker. Mrs. O. M. Sanford read a fine paper on Mark Twain and his literary work, in which she combined much personal knowledge of the humorist. Mrs. McEldowney sang in her charming way "Swanee River" and Jessie Hoge sang "Home, Sweet Home." At the close of the literary program Mrs. A. T. Buxton and the social economy class of the club gave a "demonstration" on cooking and the entertainment closed with a dainty lunch.

Card of Thanks.

For the many kindnesses shown, and assistance given by our neighbors and friends during our great sorrow, we want to express our deepest appreciation and thanks.

J. E. BATES AND FAMILY,
MRS. M. A. DICKSON AND FAMILY.

Chief Engineer Donald of the Oregon Electric Line, and a party of four directors of the road, came to Hillsboro yesterday morning, and securing a livery rig drove along the line of the surver from Hillsboro to Garden Home, a place four miles southeast of Beaverton, on the line of the Portland & Salem road, where they took the electric train to Portland. The parties were not in town but a few moments, and the fact that they drove over the route selected by the Company for its road between Hillsboro and Garden Home, where connections will be made with main line, indicates that the Company will soon begin active building operations. The visitors gave out no information as to their cross country trip, but that they were inspecting the route, there is no doubt. —Hillsboro Argus.

R. S. Alexander of Cornelius, was in town one day last week and displayed at this office some strawberry plants that he called the Improved Wilsons and states that they were pedigreed and reduced by restriction. He claims for them to be very much better than those raised in the ordinary way. At any rate we can certify that Mr. Alexander raises about the best strawberries of anyone around this vicinity. Plants can be ordered through the agency of Thamas & Hoge.

APPORTIONMENTS OF TAXES.

Where the Money Collected This Year Will be Used. Total $195,451.36.

Through the kindness of Max Crandal who is experting the books of the E. W. Haines Bank, and who has just finished the tax tolls of Washington county, we are enabled to print herewith the tax apportionment: in the several departments of which the funds belongs: The total amount of money the tax rolls will raise in the county, state, school and the special assessments, is $195,451.36. The totals in the various funds are as follows:

Road Fund	$ 47,786.23
County	106,523.17
Special School	22,535.78
Special Roads	10,692.81
Cities	7,913.37
Total	$195,461.36

The apportionments to the cities will be made as follows:

Hillsboro	$3,640.31
Forest Grove	4,040.03
Beaverton	233.37
Total	$7,913.37

There were five road districts in the county that voted on special assessments and their apportionments are as follows:

District No. 9	$ 819.86
District No. 11	2,953.47
District No. 13	3,081.40
District No. 23	2,687.49
District No. 29	1,150.59
Total	$10,692.81

The apportionments in the special school taxation is as follows:

School District No. 1	$ 181.51
" " No. 7	2,856.43
" " No 9	548.64
" " No. 10	1,314.72
" " No. 11	661.06
" " No. 13	674.17
" " No. 15	4,635.50
" " No. 17	193.30
" " No. 21	366.74
" " No. 22	633.74
" " No. 24	615.10
" " No. 26	392.85
" " No. 27	199.39
" " No. 28	57.09
" " No. 29	355.79
" " No. 24	297.23
" " No. 36	164.15
" " No. 40	117.97
" " No 43	501.53
" " No 49	71.14
" " No. 50	217.73
" " No. 53	253.87
" " No. 58	159.13
" " No. 59	266.69
" " No. 60	662.65
" " No. 66	100.94
" " No. 67	201.17
" " No. 69	631.17
" " No. 71	9 3.57
" " No. 73	209.26
" " No. 75	889.16
" " No. 76	207.27
" " No. 80	256.50
" " No 84	197.52
" " No. 87	818.73
" " No. 89	280.9
" " No. 91	108.5
" " No. 93	653.31
" " No. 94	1,086.72
" " No. 95	234.07
" " No. 98	159.73
Total	$22,535.78

Apportionments for the regular road districts:

Road District No. 1	$ 1,083.61
" " No. 2	1,392.37
" " No. 3	1,604.17
" " No. 4	1,707.63
" " No. 5	2,620.93
" " No. 6	2,538.12
" " No. 7	1,538.45
" " No. 8	1,005.15
" " No. 9	1,180.59
" " No. 10	1,234.91
" " No. 11	1,701.20
" " No. 12	2,665.59
" " No. 13	1,774.88
" " No. 14	1,192.10
" " No. 15	888.97
" " No. 16	5,755.37
" " No. 17	2,711.64
" " No. 18	2,115.18
" " No. 19	1,640.92
" " No. 20	836.59
" " No. 21	3,488.50
" " No. 22	1,034.61
" " No. 23	1,547.98
" " No. 24	592.04
" " No. 25	872.87
" " No. 26	803.11
" " No. 27	704.62
" " No. 28	891.00
" " No. 29	662.83
Total	$47,786.23

Bennett-Juncker.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Juncker of Thatcher, on Tuesday evening, occurred the marriage of their daughter, Miss Martha Juncker and Mr. Benj. D. Bennett, Rev. J. M. Barber, officiating.

The ceremony was followed by a wedding supper, and if the six varieties of delicious cake which the writer received neatly packed in a dainty box, were samples of the menu, it was fit for a king. The presents were numerous and useful.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett will begin housekeeping in the near future at the old home south of Thatcher.

Firemen's Annual Ball.

The local fire department gave its annual ball in the Masonic hall last Friday evening. This is usually one of the year's biggest affairs and this one did not fall short of any former occasion. The hall was filled to its capacity and everybody had a good time from early till late. Good music was furnished by Walker's orchestra. The fire laddies have been making some extensive improvements in fire fighting equipment and the prodeeds of the dance went towards paying the expenses.

L. W. Donovan of Portland has purchased an 80 acre farm at Hillside, formerly owned by C. B. Curtis, consideration $3000. Sale was made by Staehr & Fleck, The Forest Grove Real Estate Co.