

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

AND THE COQUILLE HERALD

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COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1919.

\$1.50 THE YEAR.

PASSES IN HOUSE

The Bill Provides for Repayment of \$346,000 Taxes to Coos County

Wednesday's Portland Oregonian carrying the following dispatch from Washington reached here that afternoon, about the same time as a dispatch from ex-Governor Oswald West conveying the same information:

After surmounting several objections and answering numerous questions, Representative Sinnott today succeeded in securing passage, by unanimous consent, of the Coos Bay wagon road land grant bill, restoring approximately 93,000 acres to the government under practically the same terms as the lands of the Oregon & California grant, upon payment of \$232,000 to the Southern Oregon company, present holder of the title, and payment of taxes by the government amounting to nearly \$500,000.

The bill, as passed, provides the counties shall receive 25 per cent of the proceeds from the sale of lands and timber for the benefit of schools, roads and ports which, it is estimated, will produce \$700,000.

Representative Garrett, of Tennessee, objected to the consideration of the bill, but Sinnott induced him to withdraw his objection, an hour's explanation of its terms and purposes resulting. It is believed the bill will now pass the senate with little difficulty.

This is the best news Coos county has heard since the war ended. The unanimity with which the bill passed the house indicates that there are no objections that will be likely to block its way in the senate.

The amount involved for Coos county, in taxes, penalties and costs, is around \$350,000 and some time this year the entire amount will, without doubt, be paid into the county treasury here, which will not only provide for the extinguishment of all the floating debt of the county but leave a nest egg that will go a long way towards the sinking fund to liquidate the road bond debt of \$62,000.

The next good news we hope to hear is that Attorney Liljeqvist has cleared away the last legal obstacle in the way of selling the Kinney properties for the taxes, penalties, interest and costs due the county.

Since the above was written Archie Walker, bookkeeper at the sheriff's office, has furnished the Sentinel the following figures for the Southern Oregon taxes on the Coos Bay Wagon road grant lands in Coos county:

Total net tax 1909 to 1916	\$167,252.68
Estimated tax for 1917	25,000.00
Penalty on above	15,588.69
Interest on same	113,341.02

Total due Jan. 9, 1919	\$321,152.39
Estimated tax for 1918	25,000.00

Total to be paid	\$346,152.39
The net tax for 1916 being \$24,049.21, the estimated amount of \$25,000 for 1917 and 1918 are conservative.	

Tax Rate Reduced Four Mills

The total tax rate in Coos county for 1918 will be 16.6 mills on the dollar in the cities of the county. This is almost exactly one and two-thirds cents on the dollar. In the rest of the county where no high schools are maintained it is four-tenths of a mill more, making it 17 mills. For 1917 the rate was 21 mills in the cities and 21.4 in the country, so the rate is four and four-tenths mills on the dollar less than last year. At the same time the total assessment has been increased from 21 millions of dollars to 27 millions.

The increase in taxation caused by these two changes works out in this way for the state and county taxes. On \$100 the tax at the old rate of 21 mills would be \$2.10. One hundred dollars with 36 per cent added makes \$136. The tax on this at 17 mills would be \$2.31. So for each \$100 the taxpayer pays an additional 21 cents, if his property has been subjected to the average raise of 36 per cent. If his raise has been less he will pay less increase or perhaps none at all. If his raise has been more than the average he will have to pay more increase than the 21 cents on the \$100.

It is to be noted, too, that a six per cent raise on a \$2.10 tax on a hundred dollars valuation would be 12 and six-fourths cents, so that a 21 cent raise on the state and county tax on \$100 is really a 10 per cent raise instead of a six per cent raise.

As elsewhere explained this week where the state board has put one over on Coos county by increasing our state tax 13 per cent instead of six per cent, because they could distribute the total six per cent increase for the state about as they pleased and make Coos county the goat if they saw fit.

The state tax we were asked to pay last year in Coos county amounted to \$62,236.70. This year the bill is \$70,187.20.

Brought Here For Burial

Tuesday evening the remains of Peter L. Nichols were brought in here from Salem where he had died Tuesday morning and his funeral services took place at the Undertaking Parlors at 1:30 p. m. yesterday under the auspices of the G. A. R., of which he was a member.

Mr. Nichols used to live in Pennsylvania, but came here from California in 1886. About four years ago he was married here to Mrs. Julia Hall and she survives him. Mr. Nichols was sent to the Insane Hospital in May, 1916, and has remained there ever since. He was one of the veterans of the Union army in the Civil War.

CHANGE IN THE COUNTY COURT

The following county court proceedings are in addition to those reported last week, the court not having adjourned until Tuesday of this week:

One half the \$3,000 salary and expenses of the county agent, and one-half the \$600 for the county club leader was referred to the state agricultural department, payment for that portion being made by the U. S. government.

The allowance of \$10 from the indigent fund to G. W. Miller, of Myrtle Point, was cancelled on account of his death.

Mrs. Andy Kent, of Marshfield, was allowed a widow's pension of \$25 per month.

Mrs. Christina Hauser, of North Bend, widow of Joseph Hauser, with three children, was allowed a widow's pension of \$25 a month.

The allowance of \$25 a month to Lura Barkdahl from the indigent fund was cut off.

The allowance to Genevieve G. Robinson of \$25 a month from the indigent fund was cut off, she having removed from the state.

The docket was closed up by the dismissal of a number of applications for widows' pensions, one because the applicant was not a citizen of the United States and another because the papers were defective.

So were a number of cases where applications were made for refund of tax money and to redeem property from tax sale, without a tender of the necessary cash.

On Monday, John Yoakam succeeded G. J. Armstrong as county commissioner, and those who were present in court after the change say there can be no question but that he has plenty of backbone.

Goes to Portland as Witness

County Clerk Oddy returned last night from Portland where he went last Sunday as a witness for the county in the Kinney tax case in the proceedings brought by the Title Guarantee Trust company of Portland, to secure an injunction to prevent the sale of the Kinney properties for taxes. Attorney Liljeqvist made the concluding pleas in this case Wednesday morning, but the decision of the court is not expected until some time later.

Litigation a Dead Issue

The dearth of litigation in the Circuit Court here is still remarkable. Only one case has been filed so far this year and only two since Dec. 16, a period of 24 days. If this keeps up more lawyers will want to follow our friend Roberts, of Myrtle Point, out into the open air, which he finds such an elixir.

Another Old Resident Gone

Mrs. S. J. Wright, one of the old timers in the Coquille Valley, died Wednesday at the residence of Jasper Yoakam on the Cunningham road, aged 76 years, 11 months and 18 days. Funeral services will take place there at 1:30 tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon.

Judge Coke will be over here next Monday to hold an adjourned term of the Circuit Court.

AN OLD RESIDENT

Mrs. C. E. Kronenberg Passed Away Early This Morning at a Ripe Old Age

At 12:30 this morning Mrs. Catherine Elizabeth Kronenberg passed away at her home in this city. She had been an invalid and a patient sufferer for nine years, but every pleasant day saw her out on the streets in her wheeled chair, attended by her faithful daughter, Mrs. Ida K. Owen, who left her own home when her mother became helpless, to come here and care for her.

Mrs. Kronenberg lacked less than two months of being 83 years of age, having been born in Baltimore, Maryland, March 1, 1836. She came to the Pacific coast in 1856 and was married to John Kronenberg at San Francisco March 6, 1856. They came to Coos county in 1859 and became residents of Coquille more recently. Mr. Kronenberg was one of the leading citizens of this valley for many years and left a considerable estate.

Mr. and Mrs. Kronenberg celebrated their golden wedding March 6, 1906, and his death occurred four years later in 1910. They were the parents of five children, John L., who died two years ago; Mrs. Ida K. Owen, of this city; Mrs. Emma F. Blakely, of Lodi, California; Mrs. Rachel Marsh, of Port Orford; and Fred, of Sausalito, Cal. Mrs. Kronenberg is also survived by a brother, Louis Knapp, of Port Orford.

The arrangements for the funeral have not yet been made, as Fred and Mrs. Blakely have not yet been heard from as to whether they can be present.

Oregonians Joyful Today

Every old Oregonian—and every new one, too, we imagine—gave a deep sigh of relief this morning to find that we had got good old Oregon weather again. Soft Chinook airs and warm rains have come to take the place of the frosty nights and chilly mornings for which not even the beautiful sunshine of the pleasant afternoons could atone.

Last Tuesday morning we saw the Coquille Valley in a new garb as we came over the Sherwood hill on our way down town. For there had been rain enough since New Year's to flood all the low grounds, and all the open spaces from the river to the Fat Elk hills a mile or two away was sheeted with ice. We had seen the valley there flooded for weeks at a time, but never before covered with an ice blanket, even as thin as this.

Again at two o'clock the same afternoon the air was so flooded with sunshine on the Coquille bench lands that for a while it seemed as warm as summer. But our eastern readers must remember that this comparison is with an Oregon summer—and a Coos county one at that—not an Illinois or a Kansas summer. It was delightful, of course, but it wasn't all we wanted.

Growth of Postoffice Receipts

The growth of business in Coquille during the past year is reflected in the following statement of the postoffice receipts here for two years past:

Receipts for 1917	\$7,228.04
Receipts for 1918	9,827.14

Increase in 1918 \$2599.10 |

This increase of 36 per cent in a single year is gratifying not only to the postmaster, but to all our people, even if a part of it is due to the increase in letter postage which went into effect in November, 1917, and consequently increased the receipts of 1918 six times as much as it did those of 1917.

Watson Won't Resign Yet

Referring to the stories that he is intending to resign and remove to Portland and engage in the law business Judge Watson says that, in view of the utter inadequacy of the \$1,000 salary paid the judge in this county to furnish that official a decent living and the constantly increasing amount of work he has to do, he had thought of getting out. But so long as there is any indication of a movement to force him out he will certainly stay with the job.

It was R. L. Gimlin and not C. W. Gilman, as we reported last week, who purchased the Machon news stand and confectionery on Front street.

ROY E. NICOLAI

His Passing Monday Proves that Death Still Loves a Shining Mark

When we went to press last week Roy E. Nicolai was very seriously ill with the influenza at the Coquille hospital where he had been since the previous Saturday. He did not improve but while there was life there was hope and through Saturday, Sunday and Monday inquiries as to his condition were constant, and it seemed as if every one in the city was waiting with baited breath for news from his bedside. Aided by a strong constitution and having always lived a temperate life, neither using strong drink nor tobacco, it was hoped against hope to the last that he might pull through. He was given up, however, on Monday and about nine that night his spirit took its flight.

His mother, Mrs. Theodore Nicolai, and his brother, Harry, came down here several days before his death and were with him at the last. The remains were taken to Portland Wednesday morning the members of his family accompanying them and R. A. Wernich going up on Thursday to attend the funeral, which takes place today.

Besides his mother and brother, Harry, who were here, Mr. Nicolai is survived by his father, another brother, Arthur P., who is an aviator at Newport News, Virginia, and a sister, Mrs. E. E. Duncan, of San Francisco.

Roy E. Nicolai was 33 years of age and had been prominent in the lumber industry of the Pacific coast ever since he attained his majority. He was widely popular in social and business circles at Portland and during the two years he had lived in Coquille he had made a host of friends here. He was most affable and courteous to every one, and was one of those men so innately joyous that his very presence seemed to radiate sunshine.

He was secretary and assistant manager of the Sitka Spruce company and was also a member of the Nicolai Door company of Portland.

Tax Levies for 1918

We are indebted to Deputy Assessor A. A. Selander for the following figures for the tax levies of 1918, now being extended on the rolls.

The state and county tax is 16.6 mills. The high school tax is 4 tenths of a mill.

In the cities of the county the rates are as follows in mills, the total including school, district, road district and port district levies:

Special City Tax	Total Tax
Empire	5.1 27.4
Coquille	15.5 42.3
Marshfield	11.5 39.5
North Bend	10.9 41.4
Myrtle Point	11.2 42.6
East Side	8.3 37.9
Bandon	11 47.9
Beaver Hill	10.1 29.2

These levies are not to be compared with last year's because the valuations have been so greatly increased, but it will be noted that in Marshfield where the raise was considerably more than the average the rate for city special taxes is a good deal less than in Coquille where the raise was much less in proportion.

Coming now to the road districts we find special levies in ten of the 27 as follows in mills:

District No. 3	8.5
District No. 4	10.4
District No. 7	10
District No. 9	7.3
District No. 10	8.5
District No. 13	6.1
District No. 14	8.4
District No. 15	10
District No. 16	3.3
District No. 27	8

While Bandon, with a 47.9 mill rate stands highest among the towns the second highest rate in the county is in that portion of the school district No. 31, the Powers district, which is located in road district No. 27. The rate there is 51.6 mills. This is owing to an extra school levy for a new school building. For this building the district has voted \$22,461, and the school levy is 25.8 mills. There is a road tax only in the outlying portion of the school district, which is in Road District No. 27, that being the only road district in the south end of the county levying a special road tax.

The highest rate in the county is in School District No. 55, at the head of Willanch Slough, where the school levy is 33.2 mills and the total levy

Like the Widow's Cruise of Oil

In view of the fact that where \$30,000 had been appropriated for the maintenance of county roads last year the expenditures in that line amounted to \$50,000 last year, the new county court has just decided upon unified control. Last year the county was divided into two nearly equal districts, the north and the south, with one commissioner the boss in one district and the other in the other. This order was revoked this week and the whole county was placed in charge of the Roadmaster. To this office J. S. Sawyer was appointed for the year beginning Jan. 15, 1919, and ending Jan. 15, 1920, at a salary of \$200 a month, with as much more for the expenses of the office. With one official knowing just how much money there is to be spent on the roads the expenditures can no doubt be kept within the appropriations a good deal better than with two, each bound to keep within the total amount so far as he was concerned.

The policy of having all the purchases for the various county offices made by one official is also to be continued, the county judge being the purchasing agent for all the county offices the same as last year.

TO KEEP STOCK OFF THE ROADS

The County Court has decided to order all stock running at large on the main county roads to be taken. It was all right to make free commons of the roads while they were little more than trails through the woods, as was the case with the main road from Beaver Hill Junction to Marshfield until recently, but times have changed since then. Now that we have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars putting such roads as the one named on line and grade it would be utter folly to permit cattle to wander over those grades at will and trample them back into the roadsides as they have begun to do along the Marshfield road already, before the traveling public has begun to get any benefit from it.

The court estimates the damage done to our main roads at not less than \$1,000 a year and it is an item that will grow larger year by year, as long as the practice is permitted. So an order will be made at once directing that stock shall not be allowed on improved highways, and all found so trespassing shall be taken up.

And this leads to another suggestion along the same line. Coquille has ceased to be an old style town where every citizen was supposed to fence his place against his neighbors' cows; and yet in the neighborhood where the writer lives it is impossible to have winter gardens because somebody's stock is turned loose in the night and browses upon the cabbage, broccoli, salsify, chard and other green vegetables. We need an order from the city fathers as well as from the county court in regard to making public commons of the streets.

City Treasury in Fine Condition

City Treasurer Sanford's statement of the financial condition of the city of Coquille elsewhere published ought to interest every taxpayer. There is in the treasury now \$9537.32 in cash and of the city's indebtedness of about \$150,000 there is \$42,000 due by individual taxpayers for improvements. And against the remaining \$58,000 of indebtedness, \$30,000 in funding bonds and \$28,000 in water bonds the city holds property conservatively estimated to be worth nearly \$80,000. The water bonds were reduced \$1,000 in amount last year by the payment of Nos. 38 and 39, and they are to be paid year by year at the same rate until the last issue is extinguished.

Moonshine Trial On Today

The case against the Powers men accused of running the moonshine still discovered last summer on a rocky hillside above that place is to come up for hearing in the federal court today. Attorneys Goss and McKnight, of Marshfield, are to appear for the defendants.

53 mills.

There are fourteen School Districts in the county out of a total of 84, in which no tax levy is made this year, and their levy is only the state and county rate of 17 plus the port rate.

The port levy is 2.8 mills in the Port of Coos Bay; 2.1 in the Port of Bandon and 1.2 in the Port of Coquille River.

THE NEW COUNCIL

Surprise Sprung When C. T. Skeels Is Sworn In After Other New Members

The old council, which has been conducting the city affairs for the past 19 months, found very little to do last Monday evening and adjourned sine die, to make way for the new.

One surprise was sprung on them, however, when the recorder read the resignation of Jno. W. Miller, whose removal from the city necessitated such action. It was accepted.

The annual report of the city treasurer, elsewhere published, was presented to the council and ordered filed. In this connection City Treasurer Sanford said the city's financial condition was better than it had been for years and showed a net gain in funds on hand in the past 19 months of about \$3,500, exclusive of the \$5,000 received from the county for the water front.

The chairman of the committee appointed to confer with J. A. Lamb regarding the price at which the Lamb heirs would deed the myrtle grove to the city, being absent, the subject was not considered by the old council and anything along that line now will have to be in the nature of a fresh start.

In bidding farewell to Henry Lorenz, the only retiring councilman present, Mayor Johnson stated that he considered Mr. Lorenz an extraordinarily good councilman and that he had been a faithful watch dog of the treasury, a very necessary adjunct of all city, state or national governments.

When Mayor Johnson called the new council together there was another surprise sprung, for after learning of Mr. Miller's withdrawal, the mayor quietly slipped out and secured the consent of Chas. T. Skeels to fill the vacancy caused, and after J. A. Lamb and Allen McLeod had taken their places around the table Mr. Skeels' name was presented and quickly confirmed, and he was immediately sworn in. The appointment is one which will be heartily endorsed by the public, for Mr. Skeels in the five years he has previously served on the board has made a very enviable reputation as a wise, conscientious and capable official.

The bond of Recorder J. S. Lawrence in the sum of \$1,000 with L. H. Hazard and L. J. Cary as sureties, was approved and turned over to the mayor.

W. H. Mansell, who has served the city longer as councilman than any one in the present body, was unanimously elected chairman of the council. He has served in that position first and last for six years.

The only change made in the salaries of the city officers was in the case of the recorder. Mr. Lawrence has been receiving \$45 per month from the general fund and \$50 from the water fund, but Mr. Hawkins' suggestion that it should be made 50-50 was approved and the recorder will now receive \$100 a month, which is none too much in these days of h. c. l., and is an amount to which the efficiency of the present recorder clearly entitles him.

The marshal and night marshal, will receive \$85 per month from the general fund, the water superintendent \$85 and the fire chief \$5 from the water fund; while the city treasurer will receive \$200 per annum, the city attorney \$50 per month and the health officer not less than \$10 per annum, all from the general fund. When the resolution providing for the officers' salaries was up for consideration, Councilman Barrow made a proposition that "since the devil dens, the saloons, had gone out of business" there was no use for a marshal, and that as a matter of retrenchment the offices of marshal and water superintendent should be consolidated, thereby saving from \$60 to \$70 per month to the city.

Practically the entire council opposed this union of the two offices in one man, many of the members arguing that it would effect no saving when the extra help needed was taken into consideration. Mr. Lamb thought there was enough work for one man to do on the water system alone, keeping up repairs which if neglected would mean a large expense in the future.

Mr. Hawkins said that both systems had been tried and that S. V. Epperson, who was the last to serve in the dual role of marshal and water

(Continued on fifth page.)