

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

AND THE COQUILLE HERALD

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COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON. FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1914.

\$1.50 THE YEAR.

THE TAX TANGLE

Assessor's Office Here Has to Figure Out Combinations Without Limit.

When it is stated that in Coos county the assessor's office has to figure out 180 different combinations of taxes, and that if every school and road district made a special levy the number would be 260, the statement doesn't convey a very definite idea to any one who has never taken a hand in the office work of extending a tax levy.

It means, of course, that there are 180 different rates of taxes to be applied in figuring out the taxes in Coos county. The most simple rate is where there are no special taxes for districts of any kind, and this is the case where no levy has been made in either the road or school district and the property is not located in either of the three port districts. In this case the state and county levy is 16.6 mills and the high school levy is 4 tenths of a mill, so that the rate is just 17 mills or one and 7 tenths per cent on the assessed value of the property.

Next comes the cases where, as in most of the school districts, there is a school levy. There are 70 such districts each with a distinct special school tax, and this makes 71 combinations in the county. Then there are 10 special road district levies. But instead of making only 10 more combinations these districts may have either one of three district port levies or no port levy at all which complicates matters still more; and besides that each of the road districts may have within its boundaries parts of from one to four school districts.

Then, again, there are eight cities, each with its special city tax, its special port tax and its special school district tax.

So in regard to the taxes on any piece of property, it must first stand its state, county and high school tax; then, if it is in a road district with a tax, that must be added. In nine cases out of ten it will be in a port district and that tax must be added. In 70 school districts out of 84 there is a school district tax and that must be added. Still again, if it is one of the eight cities of the county, a city tax must be added. Besides there are a good many instances where an individual piece of property lies in two road districts, two school districts or two port districts.

Of course, the boundaries of all the districts follow section lines as a rule, but sometimes it is quarter section lines, so that it is possible for some 40 acre tracts to have a tax entirely different from any other quarter section in the county.

All the lines of the cities, and port, school and road districts are shown on a big map in the assessor's office at the court house, and by going over this carefully it is found that 260 different rate sheets might be required in this county and that 180 such sheets are required. About these more a little later on.

This map is a good deal more than a checker board as the lines zigzag over it to mark the boundaries of the various districts. We don't know how any one could get an idea of how many divisions this would make without considerable trouble, but it will be a good plan to have some of the school children try it. Take a good sized map of Oregon, lay a piece of tissue paper over it and trace all the county lines in red for instance. Then put the same piece of tissue paper over a map of Washington and trace all the county lines in blue. Next place the same tissue sheet over a map of Idaho and trace all the lines in green. Now count up the separate divisions these three sets of county lines make on your tissue sheet and you will have a fair idea of what the overlapping district divisions make of the assessor's map of Coos county.

All this is only a beginning, however. For each of the 180 combinations a separate rate sheet must be made by figuring out what total its individual tax levies will make on a \$5 assessment, a \$10 assessment and so on up to the hundreds and thousands of dollars. Each of the 180 sheets is then filled with dozens of different tax rates, from which the rate on each particular subdivision can be readily figured.

The figuring out of the 180 rate sheets, though, is such a task, that the people in the assessor's office say they can't see how it would ever be

possible to compile the combinations without the aid of the machines that do the adding and multiplication in this work mechanically.

And yet there are no doubt people in this county who think that to be an official or a deputy or a clerk at the court house is such a "snap" that one who gets a position there need have no further anxiety or worry, and has only to sit around and chat with callers.

Annual Election of Officers

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank was held here last Tuesday evening, with all but two of the local stockholders present. There was no change in the directorate, the old board being re-elected as follows:

A. J. Sherwood, L. H. Hazard, R. C. Dement, O. C. Sanford, Chas. Skeels, Dorsey Kretzer.

At a subsequent meeting of these directors the former officials were elected as follows:

A. J. Sherwood, President.
R. C. Dement, Vice President.
L. H. Hazard, Cashier.
O. C. Sanford, Assistant Cashier.

MIDNIGHT WIND STORM

The astronomical predictions of a storm period about the 15th of this month have certainly been amply fulfilled.

Last Friday night we had a down-pour that dims the recollections of last summer's protracted drouth.

Tuesday morning we had a blow that ought to have driven the influenza out of the country, but didn't. That was followed by bright sunshine in the afternoon; but along towards midnight the southwesterly gale returned with reinforcements and houses got to rocking as if on a spree. It was an unusual experience in this section—the hardest wind-storm since five years ago on Sunday, January 25, 1914. Comparatively little damage was done, however.

An occasional window was blown in and a lot of the concrete coating of the "Bridge of Sighs" connecting the new Hall of Records with the court house was shaken off.

This storm lasted until Wednesday morning and yesterday we had the darkest and gloomiest day of uninterupting rain that has been seen for months. It was Chinook weather, though, as it still is today. The temperature has been that of a warm spring day; yet this morning there have been rifts in the clouds and we are getting some sunshine. At this season Coos county's worst beats the best that the northwestern states east of the Rockies can furnish.

Fifteen New Cases of "Flu."

The influenza has come back here in Coquille and Dr. Hamilton reports fifteen new cases this week. In town they are: G. C. Leatherwood, Walter Ricks and three cases at J. W. Dugger's. Across the river there are seven cases at Ed Gillespie's, three at S. M. Olson's and Geo. Lester Jr. It seems like hoping against hope to anticipate that this epidemic will run its course and in the near future cease to trouble us.

The school board, although not yet fully decided, inform us this morning that it is not expected to open the city schools next Monday. The pastors of the city churches have also decided that they will not attempt to hold services Sunday.

Gets Needed Roof

Work has been in progress on the roofing of C. A. Machon's new store building this week, the brick work having been completed previously. As soon as the roof is finished work can be rushed on the plastering and inside finishing. Mr. Machon says he hopes to have it ready for occupancy by Feb. 15. Mr. and Mrs. Machon will occupy the second story rooms themselves and the first floor will be used for some business which has not yet been stated.

F. & M. Bank Election

At the annual meeting of the Farmers and Merchants Bank held the first of the week, the old board of directors was elected as follows: J. E. Norton, C. J. Fuhrman, Geo. A. Robinson, R. H. Mast and F. E. McKenna.

The directors elected the old officers: J. E. Norton, President; C. J. Fuhrman, Vice President and R. H. Mast, Cashier.

MONEY IS COMING

Officials Here Figuring on Distribution of the Southern Oregon Taxes

The sheriff's office here is in receipt of a letter from Oswald West under date of the 14th in which he says:

"The Coos Bay bill, now before Congress, provides for payment of all taxes due and unpaid at the time of the delivery of the deed from the Southern Oregon to the government. As this delivery is to take place after the passage of the bill, the date to which interest on delinquent taxes is to be figured is uncertain.

"In the preparation of your claims they should be held open as to interest and penalties, so that when presented for payment they will show the full amount due at the date of the delivery of said deed."

This morning we found Aretha Walker and Geo. O. Leach as busy as bees figuring out the taxes that the Southern Oregon is to pay. They are not only getting the total amount from the records, but are finding just how much money is to come to each school district and each road district that the Wagon Road grant lands cover. Some of the wood land on the eastern edge of town east of Ned C. Kelley's and the Kerrigan places is in the tract, as well as most of the land through which the high water line from the Walker and Rink Creek reservoirs passes.

There are 82 acres of this grant land inside the city of Coquille, which will get a small slice in the division, while our School District No. 8 will receive quite a bit of money.

The question whether the taxes of 1918 will be included in the amount the government will pay appears to be settled in the affirmative. Assessor Beyers informs us that the work of extending the taxes for that year is practically completed and that the warrant for them will be issued within a week.

Meantime if the bill for the government purchase of the lands should pass the senate today, it would require ten days for it to become a law without President Wilson's signature and after that the Southern Oregon company would have to make out its deed to the ninety-odd thousands of acres included in the grant.

XVIIIth Amendment Ratified

The Prohibition amendment to the national constitution has been ratified by the requisite three-fourths of the 48 states. Nebraska, which made the 36th and the last one required, acted yesterday, so that the following is now the roster of states that have approved it:

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|----------------|----------------|
| Mississippi | Idaho |
| Virginia | Tennessee |
| South Carolina | West Virginia |
| Kentucky | Maine |
| North Dakota | Washington |
| Maryland | California |
| Montana | Indiana |
| Texas | Arkansas |
| Delaware | North Carolina |
| South Dakota | Illinois |
| Massachusetts | Kansas |
| Arizona | Alabama |
| Georgia | Iowa |
| Louisiana | Colorado |
| Florida | Oregon |
| Michigan | New Hampshire |
| Ohio | Utah |
| Oklahoma | Nebraska |
| Missouri | |

This amendment goes into effect according to its terms, one year after its ratification.

Meantime the bone dry law just enacted by Congress will go into effect the first of July and remain the law until demobilization is completed, so that we are speedily to become a dry nation. When booze is banished, as it soon will be, the only wonder will be that we suffered it to reign over us as long as it did.

Clyde Gage to Portland

Deputy Sheriff Gage went to Portland Tuesday to appear in the federal court in the case against O. W. Morris, C. E. Morris and Charles Zimmerman, of Powers, charged with operating a moonshine still in the hills above that place. Some months ago the Sentinel published Mr. Gage's description of the cave in which the secret distillery was run and the way in which it was fortified against intruders.

Send the Sentinel to eastern friends.

WORK FOR NURSE

Coos County's Public Nurse Has Had Plenty to Do Lately

The demand for the services of the county public health nurse is increasing with every month as people are learning more about the character of the work she does. Occasionally a case has been reported to Miss Allen which she has found it impossible to visit on account of the inaccessibility of the family's location, but wherever possible all calls have been responded to promptly.

In the southern end of the county was found during December a discouraged, perplexed mother of several children. She had just been left a widow, the epidemic having caused her husband's death. The future, with the question of food and clothing and shelter for herself and five children and with the knowledge that in a few months another little one would be added to the circle, seemed very dark to her. With tears streaming down her face, she pleaded to be allowed to keep her little ones with her and declared she could not let one of them go. It was the nurse's privilege to help this widow make application for a pension which will assure her of means sufficient to rear her children.

That same day the nurse visited another home in that same community. Miss Allen had first seen this family in November in another part of the county and had found them in great trouble at that time, as the husband and father of the three small children was thought to be in a dying condition. For the past four years he had been more or less of an invalid as the result of an accident and now he was having such severe hemorrhages that his life was despaired of. The young wife had been doing heavy washing to earn the living of the family, but with the anxiety and care of her sick husband wearing upon her and her own health not very good, she was now almost at the breaking point. Things looked pretty bad.

Miss Allen at once went before the County Court asking that the man be sent to the county infirmary for proper care and that the wife and children be put on an allowance for their support. This was done without delay and Miss Allen's December visit to the family found a happy change there. The man was fast getting his strength and health back following an operation which had removed the cause of the hemorrhages. The little family expected to be reunited soon.

The December report of the work done by Miss Allen shows the month to have been a busy one. Six towns were visited, the monthly schedule being as follows; one week at Coquille and Bandon, one week at Myrtle Point and Powers, one week in the rural schools and one week at Mt. and North Bend.

The report gives record of 126 visits in all, 7 of which were nursing visits, 50 instructive visits, and 69 other visits pertaining to the work. At the beginning of the month there were 36 patients on the nurse's visiting list, 16 of whom were tubercular cases. During the month 11 patients were discharged from the nurse's care and there were added 12 new cases so that on January first she had 37 on file.

The closing of the schools on account of the epidemic has, of course, somewhat delayed the work of giving the pupils inspection for physical defect. Nevertheless, during December, pupils in the Coquille, Bandon, Riverton, Myrtle Point, Powers and Coos River Consolidated schools were inspected, 251 children undergoing the examination. Of these, 150 were found with decayed teeth, 102 with enlarged tonsils, 68 with adenoids and 52 with defective vision.

Four days of one week in the month were spent in Myrtle Point giving the grade pupils twice daily routine inspections for symptoms of colds or influenza. Several suspicious cases were sent home each day. The seventh and eighth grade pupils were induced to take serum at school expense as one of their classmates who had just died had exposed them all to the influenza.

In addition to her work in the schools during the epidemic, Miss Allen has also spent considerable time helping afflicted families secure needed nursing care and has acted as an agency for bringing into these homes available women willing to undertake the care of influenza patients.

Th public health nurse's office in

room 216 Coke Building has been open every Saturday afternoon during the month for the convenience of people, especially from the remoter part of the county, who have wished to consult with Miss Allen or to arrange for her to visit in the homes. Many availed themselves of this opportunity during December.

Divorces by Default

At the session of circuit court here on Monday Judge John S. Coke granted decrees of divorce in two cases. Each went by default. Hannah B. Corson, of Myrtle Point, was divorced from Amos Corson on the ground of desertion. Thomas Halvorsen was divorced from Dora Halvorsen on the grounds of cruel and inhuman treatment. Halvorsen is a grocer of North Bend and his wife is now in California. There were no children nor were there alimony allowances in either case.

Judge Coke will be here next Monday to take up whatever business is presented.

Butter Wrappers and Trespass Signs at the Sentinel office.

TRAIN SERVICE SUITS VALLEY

No meeting has been held by the Coquille Commercial Club since the receipt of a letter from the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce, requesting the Coquille Valley commercial bodies to join the Bay people in a kick against the present railroad schedule and a demand for a night train from the Bay to Portland. The disposition appears, however, to be in favor of leaving the Bay people to pull their own chestnuts out of the fire.

That is decidedly the case also at Myrtle Point, where the Chamber of Commerce, through its president, W. C. Fensler, has indited the following letter to the Coos Bay Times on that subject:

It has come under our observation several times that you have published articles in your paper concerning the present Portland train schedule which you claim is very unsatisfactory to every town in the county.

As far as we are able to ascertain, we learn that it is only a selfish move on the part of a few individuals in Marshfield, who, without authority, speak for the whole county without first obtaining their different opinions.

We have talked this matter over with representatives of the towns of Coquille, Bandon, Powers and Myrtle Point and learn that they are very much satisfied with the present schedule of the Portland train and do not desire any change whatever.

We resent, very much, the impression you have given by your numerous items in the paper that all the towns in Coos county are not satisfied with the present schedule and we ask that hereafter you kindly omit Myrtle Point in any more of these items of similar nature and advise that you consult the other towns in the Coquille valley before using their names in items which they do not sanction.

Hoping that this will explain our views of the present schedule and that you will see your folly in misrepresenting the Coquille valley towns, we remain, yours, etc.

Their Committee Assignments

Representative T. J. Thrift, of Coos county, has been appointed on the following committees of the Oregon house: Assessment and taxation, food and dairy, roads and highways.

Representative Stannard, of Coos and Curry, was named on assessment and taxation, forestry and conservation.

In the senate at Salem, Hon. Ira S. Smith, senator from Coos-Curry district, is a member of the following committees: Education, of which he is chairman; Roads and Highways, Assessment and Taxation, Fishing Industries, Resolutions.

Keep Your Liberty Loan Bonds

The advice not to sell your Liberty Loan bonds is good. They are worth several cents on the dollar below par in the market now, and will probably bring their face next year. If you must sell them you don't have to sacrifice much more than the prevailing discount. There are responsible buyers who will take them at 75 cents on the \$100 below the prevailing New York quotations.

Calling Cards, 100 for \$1.00.

IS A YEAR OLDER

Sentinel Begins 14th Volume and 6th Under Present Management

With the present issue begins a new volume of the Sentinel. It is now thirteen years old and this is No. 1 of Volume 14.

Five years ago today the Sentinel was purchased by its present owner. How times flies. We had no extravagant anticipations of coining sudden wealth by its publication then; nor are we disappointed now. Indeed, taking all things together the business of the Sentinel for the past five years has been better than we could really have had any reason to expect. While the advertising by Coquille business men has been less in the aggregate than we had ever before known in a place of the size and trade of Coquille, other sources of income have largely made up for that.

The most gratifying feature of the business, however, has been the steady growth of business in the subscription line. Receipts in that department in 1918 were almost three times as great during the year 1918 as in 1913 when Lew A. Cates was running the paper, or in 1914, the first year under the present management. That the efforts we are making to give the people of this city and the Coquille valley the best possible local newspaper are appreciated, we have the most substantial possible reasons for concluding. Subscriptions are the life blood of a newspaper; no amount of advertising can atone for the lack of that kind of backing. That everybody wants to read the Sentinel and that we are adding many new subscribers to its list each month while practically all old ones are renewing promptly and with good words for the paper are a great stimulus and incentive to the editor.

As to the policy of the paper and our future plans we have only to say that our aim is to make a good home paper, covering the local field as fully as we can; and that we have no intention of trying to cover the world or the nation with our news service. What most interest our readers is what we shall keep on endeavoring to provide for these columns each week.

Moonshine Case to Jury

The Moonshine whiskey case from Powers was expected to go to the jury yesterday afternoon:

The Journal says of this case in its Thursday issue:

Charles Zimmerman took the stand in his own defense Wednesday and made denial that he or the Morris brothers were connected in any way with the still. Zimmerman also denied that he knew the location of the still.

United States attorney in his cross-examination dwelt at length on how O. W. Morris happened to become the owner of an instrument used to test per cent of alcohol in intoxicating liquors. Zimmerman testified that Morris purchased it.

A. H. Powers, president of the Smith-Powers Logging company, testified that Zimmerman's reputation as to integrity and honesty was good.

The defense rested its case Tuesday afternoon after Mrs. F. E. Blake, one of the material witnesses for the government, became ill or staged a fit. Dr. Joseph F. Wood, who refused to attend Mrs. Blake, took the stand and testified that the woman was malingering.

Hall Objects to Raise

President Hall, of the Coos & Curry Telephone company is taking means to be heard by the powers above in opposition to the big increase in long distance telephone rates ordered by Postmaster General Burleson and to go into effect next Tuesday. Some rates are doubled by that order and all are increased. We are inclined to think that President Hall knows a good deal better what the rates should be than the P. M. G. does.

Appropriation Bill Passes House

Tuesday the Sentinel was in receipt of a telegram from Representative Hawley, informing us that the Rivers and Harbors bill carrying an appropriation of \$64,000 for the bar and entrance of the Coquille river had just passed the house.

Tuesday Dr. Hamilton reports the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Edward Edwards at Craine's Camp.