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As a healing salve for burns, sores,  
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Chamberlain's Salve is most excel-  
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### FACTS ABOUT PORT COMMISSION.

**Interesting Information Concerning an Important Question to be Settled by the Voters of the Coquille Valley.**

Some of the leading citizens within the territory of the proposed Port of Coquille River met some time ago and perfected a preliminary organization for the purpose of encouraging and advancing the work necessary for its permanent establishment, and to that end it is here proposed to set out some of the advantages which the taxpayers within the limits of the Port District will derive therefrom, and also to refute some of the claims in relation thereto which have been made by Mr. Fred N. Perkins of Bandon, and by a few others who are opposed to the enterprise.

For the purpose of the better understanding of the situation the following statement is made:

There is an unexpended balance of an appropriation heretofore made by Congress for the improvement of the mouth of the Coquille River to the amount of \$22,000. There is a recent appropriation made by Congress for the purpose of aiding in making and maintaining an 8 foot channel from Bandon to Myrtle Point in the amount of 50,000. The present assessed value of the real and personal property within the proposed Port District is \$7,570,000. A bond issue on this assessed valuation of one per cent would amount to 75,700. A 2 mill general tax on the said assessed valuation of \$7,570,000 would amount to 15,140. Total \$162,840. Independent of the Government appropriation the amount to be raised by bond issue and general tax would be 90,840. Of this amount the bond issue would be 75,700. General tax 15,140. Total \$90,840. The bond issue of \$75,700 would require bonds on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation equivalent to \$10. If one-twentieth of these bonds is paid at the end of each year for twenty years, the annual tax on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation, to pay the principal and interest would be as follows: Principal of \$10 of bonds .50 Interest 6 per cent for first year .60 Two mill tax on \$1,000 2.00 Total annual tax on \$1,000 of assessed valuation 3.10. The amount of interest would of course be decreased each year.

It is estimated by those who are competent to judge, that this fund of \$162,840, will be ample to place and maintain the river in condition so that any vessel that can cross the bar at its mouth can ascend the river as far as Coquille, and to make and maintain an eight foot channel from Coquille to Myrtle Point.

We thus find that an annual tax of three dollars and ten cents on each one thousand dollars of assessed valuation of property within the proposed Port District will pay for an improvement that all must see will be of great value to every taxpayer therein, not only as a means of transportation, but also as a sure means of largely increasing the value of all real estate so taxed.

Take two 160 acre tracts of land each equal to the other in productiveness, improvement and all other particulars, except that one of them is situated ten miles distant from Myrtle Point and from navigable water, and the other is situated ten miles distant from the city of Portland and from navigable water, which is the more valuable? That near Portland, of course. What makes it so? The fact that one is near a large city while the other is not. What has made Portland a large city? The fact that it is located on a river that could be and was, by improvement, made navigable for ocean-going craft, which fact alone gave to it such large growth that it soon became a large railroad center and a large city neither of which conditions would ever have existed but for the Columbia River and its improvement by taxation.

It is not here contended that Myrtle Point, Coquille or Bandon will ever become a Portland because of the establishment of the proposed Port; but it is contended that its establishment and the consequent improvement of the river will, to a large extent, increase the population of these towns and the manufacturing industries within its limits, and as a natural consequence increase the demand for and price of all farm products as well as increase the value of all real estate in the Port district to an extent that would make an annual tax of \$3.10 on every \$1,000 of assessed value a good investment, in addition to the personal advantage to the taxpayer on account of the increased and cheaper facilities for transportation.

Mr. Fred N. Perkins, through the press and his street talk has had much to say about what he claims is an undue power vested in the Port Commission,

and the probability that they will abuse that power. In his article published in the Coquille Valley Sentinel of April first, he says:

"This law gives greater powers of bonding and tax levying to five men than are passed (possessed) by any body of men in the State, except when they are trying this scheme under this same law, for the Portland Commissioners cannot levy over one-fourth of a ten mill tax."

The statements contained in the above quotation are based either upon ignorance or willful misrepresentation.

The common council of any incorporated city or town in this State can issue bonds for the improvement of its streets or for building sewers, in an amount limited only by the cost of the improvement or the sewer, or both; and the extent and cost of the improvement or sewer is limited only by the good judgment of the common council as to the extent and cost of improvement and sewage.

Laws of 1905, p. 87. B. & C. Comp. sec. 2730. This is but one instance showing that the Port law does not give "greater power of bonding to five men than is possessed by any body of men in the State."

"For the purpose of raising revenues for county purposes the county court or board of county commissioners for each county in the State, shall at its January term in each year, levy a tax upon all taxable property in its county, which tax shall be sufficient in amount, to defray the expenses of the county."

B. & C. Comp. sec. 3085.

This is an instance showing where a body of three men have greater power of "tax levying" than is given to Port Commissioners, for the latter are limited as to amount, while the former are not,—except that the tax shall not exceed an amount necessary "to defray the expenses of the county." But the power of the county court goes much deeper than this in "tax levying,"—for it has, to a very large extent, the power to control the extent of the expenses of the county for the payment of which it must levy the tax. And in this connection it is well to state, that in every municipality, from the smallest incorporated town to the United States, the entire power to manage and control it must, of necessity, finally be placed in some one man or some body of men. The whole theory of our Government is based upon this.

Mr. Perkins further says:—"Those in favor of this scheme tell us the Commissioners will not go as far as the law will permit in bonding and tax levying."

"How do we know they will not go as far as the law will permit?" "Their mere protestation to that effect does not amount to much."

Mr. Perkins asserts his right to question all motives except his own, and further, seems to assert that he holds within himself a monopoly of honesty.

It is known to all reasoning, honest men that the Port Commission will not go as far as the law will permit as to the amount of bonds and taxes; for the reason that there will be no necessity for so doing, nor for going beyond the amounts hereinbefore stated, and for the further reason that all reasoning, honest men know that the Governor of this State will not appoint five, or even one thief or knave to such Commission; and for the still further reason that every reasoning, honest man knows that the vast majority of electors within the proposed district are honest, capable men, and that in their good judgment and to protect their own interests, they would see to it that none put capable, honest men are ever elected to such Commission.

Mr. Perkins says:—"The coming assessment will show about \$8,000,000, valuation in Coquille watershed; ten per cent means a bonded debt of \$800,000;—This amount ought to give five per cent, which means a five mill tax on the \$8,000,000 valuation or \$40,000 for interest" etc.—and adds—"The power is also given to this Commission to draw this money out of county treasuries and deposit it in such bank or banks as they choose. It is no wonder some of our banker-sawmill men are so mightily in favor of this scheme. A deposit as large as might come from this bond issue would be quite an item in the business of any bank or banks."

According to the above quoted assertions there would be a bond issue and taxes to the amount of \$840,000, a statement which has no foundation in fact, but is erroneous to the extent of the difference between \$90,840 and \$840,000,—a slight excess of \$749,160. But conceding that amount, whatever it may be, would be deposited in the banks,—how are the banks to profit thereby? Take the bond issue of \$75,700, or whatever amount may be issued,—what is to become of them? They are to be sold to whomsoever will make the best offer for them. Where will the money to buy them come from? Out of the banks necessarily. True, the money may not be withdrawn from the same bank or banks in which the Commission may deposit it, but it will come out of the banks, and to just that extent reduce the amount on deposit in the banks,—so how are the banks as a class, to be benefitted by having money deposited in them that has just been drawn out of them? But under the system of argument employed by Mr. Perkins he will contend, no doubt, that the money will be drawn out of the banks of the money centers which are remote from us and deposited in the local banks. If this should happen to

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

### AN EARLY MORNING BLAZE.

**Fire Boys Respond Promptly to Fire Alarm—Attorney Hammond the Heaviest Loser.**

On Wednesday morning of last week, a little past seven o'clock, fire was discovered by Mrs. A. S. Hammond in the law office of her husband over the banking rooms of the First National Bank, the first fire that caused a considerable damage in our city for several years, the last being the dry lumber shed in the mill yard.

The damage on this occasion was mostly confined to the law library, and furnishings of the office of Attorney A. S. Hammond, on which there was no insurance, and to the building, the latter of which belongs to R. E. Shine, of Empire.

The fire was first noticed by Mrs. Hammond, who was in the living room in the rear of the building, and at the time Mr. Hammond was in the bathroom. Upon discovering the flames Mrs. Hammond ran to the bathroom and notified her husband and they began drawing water at the bathtub with the hopes of checking their progress, but soon discovered that this was hopeless and it was with difficulty that they escaped from the room. The hallway being full of flames, both received badly scorched hair and faces as they descended the stairs.

About this time Henry Lorenz was passing the front of the building and noticed the fire which was just ready to burst through the windows, and hearing Mrs. Hammond's cries of fire at the same time, hurried to the fire bell and gave the alarm. The Coquille volunteer fire boys responded in an exceedingly short time, cart No. 1 being a few seconds ahead, having a shorter distance to travel. In a very short time after the first streams of water broke through the windows there was little fire seen.

As is usual upon such occasions, there was a laughable occurrence or two. As soon as the flames were checked, ladders were placed to the windows on either side of the building and as a fireman from each gang entered with a nozzle, the smoke being so dense they could not see across the room, Attorney Chase who, handled one, received the full force of the other which was in the hands of W. H. Lyons, and came near taking him back out through the window.

The cause of the fire is somewhat of a question. Mr. Hammond a short time before had stepped into the front part and started a fire in the stove, and this building having been recently moved, the paper on the wall and ceiling was in a bad condition, and it is possible that the stovepipe ignited it, or a spark might have popped through the draft in the stove. It is evident the fire started within the room. Comparatively little damage was done in the bank, as the firemen and others who gathered about carried all papers and fixtures out before much water came down from the upper part.

Mrs. Hammond's set of abstracts was but slightly damaged by water before it was removed. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond both lost considerable clothing and their household goods were somewhat soiled by water.

The loss to Mr. and Mrs. Hammond is estimated at from \$2500 to \$3000, and the damage to the building \$500 or \$600.

Too much credit cannot be given our volunteer fire company. Their response was prompt and their work, under Chief Morrison and Capt. McDuffee was certainly effective. With our splendid water system a fire will have to get a big start if the boys do not handle it with the minimum amount of loss. The four streams which they quickly turned into this building would have subdued a conflagration of much greater proportions. In appreciation of the very efficient work of the company they were presented with \$50 by the First National Bank.

## THAT FREE LOT

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