

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

FLAW IN EXEMPTION LAW.

Use of a Semi-Colon Leaves Meaning of Phrase in Doubt.

Salem—One more flaw has been found in the tax exemption act passed by the legislature at its special session. While there is no uncertainty as to the intent of the framers of the bill, the punctuation leaves opportunity for question whether there is any limit to the value of household goods that may be claimed as exempt. The doubt arises from the use of the semi-colon instead of a comma.

Representative Shelley, of Lane county, father of the bill, was communicated with in regard to it, and replied that it was his intention that the limitation on the exemption should apply to all the items of property enumerated. In other words, that the \$300 exemption might be made up from any or all the items mentioned. The question is whether this intention can be ascertained from the language used.

Subdivision 8, of the act of the special session of 1903, provides that the following property shall be exempt from taxation:

"The following property, if owned by a householder and in actual use, or kept for use, by and for his or her family; household goods, furniture and utensils; two cows ten sheep, five swine and the tools, implements, apparatus, team, vehicle, harness or library necessary to enable any person to carry on his trade, occupation or profession by which such person earns his or her living to the amount of three hundred (\$300) dollars, the articles to be selected by such householder; provided, however, that when the assessed valuation of the personal property above enumerated shall amount to less than three hundred (\$300) dollars, then only such amount as the total of such property herein enumerated shall be exempt from taxation."

The supreme court of this state has several times decided that punctuation marks are not controlling in construing an act for the purpose of ascertaining its meaning. In the port of Portland case, decided last July, the supreme court changed the location of punctuation marks in order to arrive at the meaning of the legislature. But in that case the court found that the meaning was otherwise clear. It is not certain that the language of the exemption act shows that the punctuation was erroneous.

NO DEMAND FOR PRUNES.

Eastern Market Has Been Supplied at Very Low Figure.

Salem—"The prune situation in the East didn't look good to me," said Bruce Cunningham upon his return from a recent trip to Iowa. Mr. Cunningham is a well-known prune grower of the Liberty neighborhood. After waiting all winter for an opportunity to sell his crop at what he considered a fair price, he took a carload of fruit back to Iowa to sell it there himself.

"The prune market doesn't look good and I don't see any reason to believe that it will improve any this season," he continued in answer to inquiries. "The fact is that the trade is already supplied. Everywhere I went I found that dealers have all the prunes they want and most of it was bought at pretty low prices. I found a jobber supplied with Oregon prunes that he bought from an Oregon firm at 4 1/2 cents in 25 pound boxes. These prunes he will sell to the retail dealer at 5 1/2 to 6 cents and the retailers will sell them to consumers at 8 1/2 cents, or three pounds for a quarter."

"How did the jobber get them so cheap? That beats me; but he had them, and others bought at the same figure. I learned that early in the season—as long as last July, jobbers were selling Oregon and California prunes. Dealers bought early and when they had all they wanted they stopped buying. That is the condition that exists—the market has been supplied and no more are wanted. It looks to me as though we will have a considerable quantity of carry over stock to sell in competition with 1904 prunes."

Sheep Losing Their Fleeces.

Echo—Sheep shearing is now in full swing in the Echo country, and almost every able-bodied man in the neighborhood is making arrangements to join some crew and go to clipping wool. The price as established here for shearing is 8 cents where the crew board themselves and 7 cents with board. The latter arrangement prevails here this year. As this is a forward spring in the Umatilla valley, sheep shearing will have to be rushed to get it out of the way before haying begins, which is last approaching.

Sowing Beet Seed at Echo.

Echo—A large lot of sugar beet seed has been received here and planters are busily engaged in preparing the ground.

BETTER LUMBER RATE WANTED.

Cottage Grove Citizens Inaugurate Movement Affecting Southern.

Cottage Grove—A meeting of the business men of this place was held at the city hall last week for the purpose of discussing and effecting an organization with the object of trying to obtain a better lumber freight rate from the Southern Pacific. The rate as it now is is demoralizing the lumber industry in this valley and if a better rate cannot be obtained many of the mills will be forced out of business.

A committee was appointed to draft some line of procedure and after much discussion the meeting adjourned to meet again Tuesday night. If the recommendations of the committee will be adopted all Western Oregon will be drawn into the matter in question.

Far-Reaching Irrigation Rules.

Salem—The proposed irrigation rules which were recently submitted to the state land board for approval are designed to apply to all the irrigation projects in the Deschutes country. The rules were proposed by both the Deschutes irrigation and power company and the Three Sisters irrigation company. The former company has absorbed the Pilot Butte development company and the Oregon irrigation company and acquired other interest giving it control of some 200,000 acres of arid land. The Three Sisters company has a tract of 27,000 acres.

Grand Ronde Fruit Outlook.

La Grande—Judd Geer, horticulturist commissioner for the Eastern Oregon district, states that the fruit prospects for this district are excellent for all varieties, and that the weather conditions have been very favorable for fruit. Budding has been kept back to an extent on account of the cool weather, and the trees are considered beyond the danger line as far as frost or freezing is concerned. Mr. Geer looks forward to one of the most productive seasons in the fruit line that this valley has ever known.

Resigns From Fair Board.

Salem—G. A. Westgate, of Albany, has tendered to the governor his resignation as a member of the state fair board. No reason was given for the resignation. The resignation of Westgate makes the fourth change in the personnel of the board in the last few months, and but one experienced member remains.

Cattle Sold for Nemo.

Echo—R. N. Stanfield has sold to Mr. Cox, agent for the Pacific cold storage company, of Tacoma, four carloads of his heaviest beef steers. These cattle will remain here until April 15 and are destined for Nemo.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 75c; bluestem, 80c; valley, 81c.

Barley—Feed, \$21@22 per ton; brewing, \$22.50; rolled, \$24@25.

Flour—Valley, \$3.90@3.95 per barrel; hard wheat straight, \$4@4.20; clear, \$3.85@4; hard wheat patents, \$4.40@4.60; graham, \$3.50@3.90; rye flour, \$4.50@4.90.

Oats—No 1 white, \$1.15@1.20; gray, \$1.10@1.15 per cental.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$18@19 per ton; middlings, \$24.50@26; shorts, \$19@20; chop, \$18; linseed, dairy food, \$19.

Hay—Timothy, \$1.75@2.25 per ton; clover, \$1@1.11; grain, \$1.11@1.12; cheat, \$1.11@1.12.

Vegetables—Turnips, 80c per sack; carrots, 80c; beets, \$1; parsnips, \$1; cabbage, 1 1/2@2c; lettuce, head, 25@40c per doz; parsley, 25c; tomatoes, \$1.50@1.75 per crate; cauliflower, 75c @ \$1 per doz; celery, 66@80c; squash, 2c per lb; cucumbers, \$1.75@2.25 per doz; asparagus, 12 1/2c; peas, 9c per lb; beans, 10c; onions, Yellow Danvers \$2@2.50 per sack.

Honey—\$3@3.50 per case.

Potatoes—Fancy, 90c@ \$1 per cental; common, 60@80c; new potatoes, 3 1/2c per lb; sweets, 5c per lb.

Fruits—Apples, fancy, Baldwins and Spitzbergers, \$1.50@2.25 per box; choice, \$1@1.50; cooking, 75c.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 16 1/2c.

Butter—Sweet cream butter, 30c per lb; fancy creamery, 25@27 1/2c; choice creamery, 23@24c; dairy and store, nominal.

Butter Fat—Sweet cream, 28 1/2c; sour cream, 26 1/2c.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 12 1/2@18c per pound; springs, small, 16@17c; hens, 13@14c; turkeys, live, 15@16c dressed, 18@20c; geese, live, 8c; ducks, \$8@9 per doz.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 12@13c; Young America, 14@15c.

Beef—Dressed, 5@7 1/2c per pound.

Mutton—Dressed, 6@7c; lambs, 8c.

Veal—Dressed, 7@8c.

Pork—Dressed, 7@7 1/2c.

Hops—Choice, 25c per pound prime, 24c.

Wool—Valley, 17@18c; Eastern Oregon, 12@15c; mohair, 32@35c.

GALE WORK RUIN.

Chicago and Suburbs are Swept by a Pierce Wind Storm.

Chicago, March 26.—One of the most severe storms this city has known in many years passed over Chicago tonight. Great damage was done in the suburbs. The storm did not strike the business portion of the city in its greatest force.

The town of Indiana harbor, 20 miles southeast of Chicago, was the heaviest sufferer. L. Barker, the proprietor of a dry goods store, was killed, and 15 people, who were in his store when the storm struck were injured, some of them seriously, although none is expected to die. Barker's store was entirely demolished. Eighteen residences were blown down, and a number of people were hurt in the ruins of their homes. The number of people injured at Indiana Harbor will probably approximate 25. All three of the hotels in the place were badly damaged. One two story frame building was entirely turned over.

At Hammond, Ind., a number of residences were badly damaged, and two people were injured, but not fatally. One end of the large plant of the Republic Iron & Steel company was blown down, causing a loss of \$25,000. A number of business houses were unroofed.

To the north of the city the storm was also severe, much damage having been done in the suburbs of Evanston, Rogers Park and Thornton.

An exceedingly heavy fall of rain accompanied the storm.

In Thornton a frame dwelling was blown into a stone quarry and reduced to kindling wood. One man was fatally hurt and several other persons were severely injured.

CHINA KILLS IT.

Exclusion Act Will Expire on the 27th of Next December.

Washington, March 26.—The state department has received formal notice from the Chinese government denouncing the Chinese exclusion treaty, so this convention will expire about December 27 next, unless replaced by another treaty by that date. Under its terms six months before the expiration of a period of ten years from December 27, 1894, if either power be dissatisfied with the treaty, it is required to denounce it. This is the action which China has taken, in spite of the strongest efforts to the contrary on the part of the state department. Had the notice not been served, the treaty would have continued in force for another term of ten years from December 27, 1904.

The department pointed out to the Pekin authorities through Mr. Conger that it was very probable that, so far from bettering the conditions relating to the admission of Chinese into the United States, any new treaty would all of approval by the senate. The Chinese would thus be exposed, in the absence of the sheltering treaty, to the full rigor of the Geary and Heinz law, and the exclusion would be much more complete than at present.

However, the treaty having been denounced, there is nothing to do but to proceed with a formulation of a new treaty, which has already been initiated in a way, although with little hope of senatorial approval.

HEADQUARTERS AT PANAMA.

Canal Commission Settles Two Important Points.

Washington, March 26.—Two important points have been developed in connection with the work of the isthmian canal commission. One is that the headquarters of the commission probably will be on the Isthmus of Panama instead of at Washington, although an office will probably be maintained here. The other point is that a part of the time of at least five of the commissioners will be devoted to their private interests.

Admiral Walker, the chairman of the commission, and General Davis, the army member of the body, will devote their entire time to the canal work.

Legislation now pending before congress provides for the appointment of a governor of the American zone on the isthmus. If it should be enacted into law, it is quite probable that the president may designate General Davis as the governor of the canal strip.

Fear Siege by Japs.

Vladivostok, March 26.—While the situation here remains quiet it is not expected that Vladivostok will continue to be much longer free from the vigorous operations of the Japanese. In anticipation of the appearance of the enemy, and of a possible siege, a ladies' circle has been formed, which sits six hours daily at the ministry of marine, preparing bandages of linen for sick soldiers and sailors. Most of the women in Vladivostok belong to this circle, including the representatives of the aristocracy.

American Consul Going to Post.

London, March 26.—A correspondent of the Times at Shanghai says United States Consul Davidson will start for his post at Antung next week, and that he has arranged with the Japanese naval authorities to assist his vessel to reach its destination.

CAPTURES FORT

PORT ARTHUR SAID TO HAVE FALLEN INTO JAPS HANDS.

Engagement by Land and Sea Forces Said to Have Lasted Two Days—Land Forces Were Victorious—Russians Reported to Have Been Routed in Interior With Heavy Loss.

Tokio, March 23.—The newspapers here publish extra editions which contain a report that Port Arthur has fallen.

They state that a combined land and sea attack began on Saturday, was continued throughout the day and night and on Sunday.

The attack was renewed Monday morning and the fortress was taken. There is no confirmation from government sources of the newspaper reports.

A Japanese victory is declared to have resulted from a sharp encounter with the Russians at Chyong Syong. The Russian losses in killed, wounded and prisoners are said to be 600.

COLLIDE WITH THE RUSSIANS.

Japanese Cross Tatung Pass, Forty Miles From Haicheng.

London, March 23.—The Daily Chronicle's Shanghai correspondent hears from Niu Chwang that the Japanese crossed Tatung pass, 40 miles from Haicheng, and that collisions with the Russians occurred.

Reports from Seoul and Tokio are to the effect that Marquis Ito has arranged to lend 5,000,000 yen (\$2,500,000) to Korea on easy terms.

According to the Standard's Tien Tsin correspondent, China is appealing to the powers for an extension of a year in the payment of the indemnity growing out of the Boxer troubles.

The correspondent at Tien Tsin of the Daily Mail reports that Katsuo, a Japanese merchant and Russian spy, has been assassinated by being buried alive, but that the Japanese authorities disavow any knowledge of the assassination.

RAMMED IN FOG.

Hole Torn in a British Troopship in the English Channel.

Southampton, March 23.—The American line steamship New York, Captain Young, from New York March 15, for Plymouth, via Cherbourg and Southampton, met with two mishaps today, grounding off Cape La Hague, France, in the early morning, and later coming in collision in the English channel with the Peninsula & Oriental steamship Assaye, under contract to the British government and used as a troopship, bound for Bombay with 500 troops on board.

There was great excitement on both vessels. The boats of the Assaye were lowered and the troops were mustered, but the bulkhead of the troopship saved her and the vessel was able to enter Southampton, and the New York was docked at 6:30 for temporary repairs. Nobody was injured.

RUSSIA EXPECTED AS MUCH.

Abandonment of Anju by Her Outposts Was Planned.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—General Zhilinsky's official confirmation of the reports that the Russian outposts abandoned Anju on the approach of the Japanese in force, causes no surprise here, as such action is in perfect accord with the Russian plan of campaign. The Russian skirmishing and advanced outposts, thrown forward solely for the purpose of harassing and worrying the Japanese outposts, fell back as the main body of the enemy moved forward until the strong positions at the Yalu river are reached. The 50 miles of country between Anju and the Yalu are very difficult for the movement of a large force. There may be some lively skirmishing as the Japanese advance progresses, but the Russians are resolved to avoid a decisive engagement until certain of victory.

Is Military Precaution.

Paris, March 23.—The Russian order stopping entry into Niu Chwang without a permit is understood in official quarters here to be a military precaution due to the uncertainty as to which of five places the Japanese will choose will choose for their first extensive land operations. The five points are the Yalu river, Niu Chwang, Port Arthur, Vladivostok and Pigeon bay. The Russians being unable to determine where Japan will make her main attack are making preparations and taking precautions at all five points.

Midshipmen From Washington.

Washington, March 23.—The following midshipmen have been appointed to the Annapolis naval academy, from Washington: Guy H. Calhoun, of Seattle, by Representative Humphrey; Ralph Hoyer, of Hoquiam, by Representative Jones; and James H. McCool, of Walla Walla, by Representative Cushman.



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