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MORE EQUITABLE TAXATION ASKED

COMMISSIONERS APPROVE RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY SOLONS.

SYSTEM CALLED OBSOLETE

Mr. Galloway Says General Property Tax Does Not Cover Conditions—Many Classes of Wealth Escape.

SALEM—State Tax Commissioners Galloway and Eaton approve Senate joint resolutions Nos. 22 and 17, passed by the last session of the Legislature, and designed to provide the means of a more equitable assessment of property.

Commissioner Galloway, discussing the present constitutional requirements, said:

"These provisions of the constitution required and established what is known as the general property tax. This system of taxation was tolerably adapted to the economic and industrial conditions of half a century ago, but it is too rigid to permit equitable taxation of widely varied forms of property of today and too limited in its scope to reach many classes of private wealth that fairly should bear a part of the public burdens."

Mr. Galloway declared that the amendments proposed by the last Legislature, and which are to be voted on by the people at the coming election, are well prepared to pave the way for genuine tax reform in Oregon. With the constitution amended as provided by these proposed amendments, the Tax Commissioner called attention to the fact that it will then be possible to enact laws providing:

For the classification of subjects of taxation; for exemption of certain property from taxation; for separation of the sources of state and local revenue that the burdens of taxation may be more equitably proportioned; for separate classification and taxation of forest lands, water powers and other natural resources, that conservation of the same may be promoted; for the apportionment of state taxes among the counties according to equitable rules.

Coos Land Contests Soon.

MARSHFIELD—The first of a series of land contests in which Coos County men are interested will be heard April 26, and other cases of the same nature will follow. About 50 men from this city and other parts of the county have homestead claims in the Fall Creek country in the northern part of the county and they are all contested. Some of the homesteaders are located on land on which the Northern Pacific scrip has been placed and it will be a question whether the scrip or the homestead claims are to stand. Others of the homesteaders are located on land which is claimed by the Southern Pacific on the old railroad land grant but which the homesteaders claim is outside the limit of the grant and that the Southern Pacific has never placed indemnity scrip upon it.

Railroad Company Sued.

ROSEBURG—The State of Oregon vs. the Southern Pacific Railroad Company is the title of a case filed in the Circuit Court of Douglas County. Through Attorney-General A. M. Crawford, of Salem, Attorneys Fullerton and Orcutt, of this city, the plaintiffs ask \$10,000 damages for failure of the railroad company to construct a spur at Edenbower within 60 days after being notified to do so by the Oregon Railroad Commission on February 10.

Line is Rushed to Harney.

VALE—Determined on being the first railroad into Harney County, the Harriman interests jumped into Vale with a force of 100 railroad laborers and started construction work on the Oregon & Eastern, the survey for which extends westward across the state from this point to a connection with the Natron-Klamath line at Odell.

Walks 127 Miles to Court.

PORTLAND—Traveling 127 miles on foot from his wooded homestead in Curry County, in the southwestern corner of Oregon to Grants Pass, where he was able to secure railroad transportation, Edward G. Gardner surrendered in the United States Court here to answer the charge of having wilfully set out a forest fire in August of last year.

Oil Strike is Imminent.

DALLAS—Drillers at the well of the Oregon Oil & Pipe Line Company near here have encountered a large vein of salt water at a depth of 1300 feet. This, it is believed, will prove here, as elsewhere, a forerunner of the discovery of oil.

SAMUEL L. CLEMENS



Samuel L. Clemens, (Mark Twain), the noted humorist, who recently returned from the Bermudas, where he went to recover his health. He is suffering from a severe attack of heart trouble, and owing to his advanced age his recovery is doubtful.

HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST CONDENSED FOR READERS

Wall Street tickers announced that J. Pierpont Morgan, now in Switzerland, last week celebrated his 73rd birthday.

The American Cereal Company, reputed to be the largest cereal manufacturing concern in the world, is to build a large cereal mill on Puget Sound, probably at Seattle.

President Taft has informed Senator Jones that he believed the House of Representatives, before adjournment would pass the \$30,000,000 irrigation bill that is now before the ways and means committee.

Ecuador is sending arms and ammunition to Machala, in the southwestern province, adjoining the Peruvian frontier. There is a popular demand that Ecuador be prepared for war with Peru.

Damage to fruit in Salt Lake Valley from frost will aggregate \$600,000. The apricot crop has been almost entirely destroyed and peaches, pears, prunes and early apples suffered severely. The use of smudge-boxes saved several orchards.

Governor Benson has honored a requisition from the state of Washington for the return to that state of Aaron S. Lebb, wanted at Seattle for the desertion of his wife and two little girls.

A unique device for life saving at sea has been invented by J. C. Hall, of Vancouver, B. C. It consists of a rocket which can be shot from the deck of a wrecked ship to the land and which automatically forms a life-line over which crew or passengers can escape without aid from the shore.

The committee in charge of the Fairbanks Mount McKinley expedition desires that the United States Government shall detail Signal Service men from the point nearest Mount McKinley to make a trip to the vicinity of the mountain, and report whether an American flag is flying on the summit.

President Taft has promised Representative Townsend to go to Monroe, Mich., on June 14 to attend the unveiling of a memorial statue to General Custer. Monroe was Custer's home when he enlisted, and the old homestead there now owned by the Government. The site will be used for a Postoffice building.

Held guilty on eight of the 14 counts which charged violation of the Federal statutes governing safety appliances, the Rio Grande Railway Company was directed by Federal Judge John Marshall at Salt Lake to pay a fine of \$800 and costs. The Oregon Short Line was found guilty on one count of a similar charge, and a penalty of \$100 was assessed against the company.

Directed by Commissioner Dennett, of the General Land Office, six more special agents of the Department of the Interior for Oregon and Washington at Portland have been removed from office because of the million-dollar appropriation for their salaries and expenses having become exhausted. Until more funds shall be available through Congressional action there will be but two agents operating from the Portland and Seattle headquarters.

The New York District Attorney's office has completed all preparations for beginning the murder trial of Albert Walter Wolter, charged with having brutally murdered Ruth Anos Wheeler, a handsome girl of 15 years and with having dismembered and partly burned her body. The crime which was committed less than a month ago, was of an unusually brutal and fiendish nature and created considerable sensation at the time.

NEWS PARAGRAPHS FROM OTHER CITIES IN OREGON

PORTLAND—Incorporation of the Coos Bay & Oregon Central Railroad Company is believed to be the first actual step towards the building of a line across the state of Oregon from west to east by the Hill interests.

RAINIER—Chan Wilson has received two bloodhounds for the purpose of tracking down the man who attacked his daughter, Alice, last week on her way home from the office.

PORTLAND—Consumers' League of Portland is making every effort to establish a "white list" of shops in this city coming up to certain high standards in regard to the working conditions of their women employes.

SPRINGFIELD—As a result of a scratch received when building a fence, C. W. Finen of this city may lose his hand from blood poisoning. The wound was made with a piece of dirty or rusty iron.

PENDELTON—The body of Jack Peters, who mysteriously disappeared from home in this city eight weeks ago, was found in a millrace by a schoolboy. There was no evidence of foul play and the theory of suicide is accepted generally.

PORTLAND—Crusades against the housefly and the work of aiding in making the second Saturday in May housecleaning day for the city, are among the plans agreed upon at the annual meeting of the Portland Froebel Association.

WALLOWA—Wallowa County is becoming a dairy country rapidly. Within the last four weeks five carloads of high-grade Jerseys have been shipped to this county from various points in the Willamette Valley and sold at auction to local dairymen.

PORTLAND—The ninth anniversary of the erection of the monument in commemoration of the Champeau convention of May 2, 1843, will be celebrated by Oregon pioneers under the auspices of the Oregon Historical Society at Champeau Monday, May 2.

MARSHFIELD—The Port of Coos Bay Commission has decided to extend the harbor lines in Coos Bay so that the channel will be 1400 feet wide. This action is taken so that the mud flats will not be occupied by buildings and wharfs and prevent the channel being made wider at some future time when it is necessary.

SALEM—On April 28, a delegation consisting of representatives from every commercial body in the state will appear before the Railroad Commission to ascertain the correct data on all local freight rates by rail. This was a motion adopted by the Albany Open River convention recently.

WALLOWA—John G. Wray, has the record for small hen eggs. Recently he collected 18 so small that they could be packed conveniently in a four-inch cylinder phonograph record box. The hens are large and healthy and eat the same food as other hens of the same breed which lay ordinary eggs.

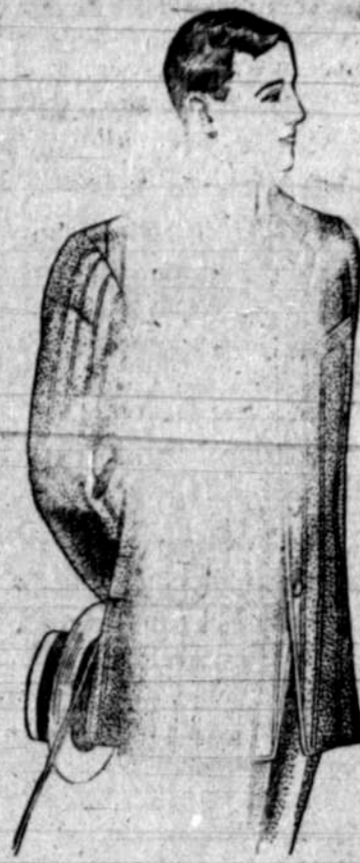
OREGON CITY—Directors of the McLaughlin Memorial Association are planning the complete restoration of the interior of the historic McLaughlin home before June, when the annual meeting of the Oregon Pioneer Association will be held at Portland.

PORTLAND—Senator Dick, of Ohio, has introduced a resolution in the Senate proposing to pay William B. Turner, of Oregon, late printing clerk of the Senate, six months' salary from the contingent fund. Turner was forced out of office because of alleged improper connection with old postoffice claims bills, but it is generally believed in Washington that Turner was made a scapegoat to shield others higher up.

PENDELTON—The projected dam across the Umatilla River at Coe for the purpose of conserving flood waters of winter to be used in reclaiming 20,000 acres contained in the Furnish-Coe project west of Pendleton, is to be constructed this summer. The contract has been signed and bonds given for commencement of work within 30 days and completion by October 1.

ROSEBURG—Mabel Norton, aged 20, made a half-hearted attempt at suicide by swallowing a small quantity of diluted carbolic acid. Prompt arrival of a physician saved her from nothing more severe than burns of the throat and stomach. Before the attempt she wrote a note to her mother saying she was hopelessly ill. A love affair is believed to be the real cause.

ALBANY—Complete organization of the new Open River Association of the Willamette Valley will be perfected in the ensuing two weeks. A constitution and by-laws will be worked out by the committee on permanent organization and will be presented for adoption at the meeting at Oregon City Wednesday, April 27. No name has been selected for the permanent association, but suggestions will be made during the next two weeks and a name will be chosen at the Oregon City gathering.



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