

# The Times-Herald.

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NO. 6.

## The Times-Herald.

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## REFORMS IN ASSESSMENT

### SEVERAL BILLS ARE IN PROCESS OF PREPARATION.

#### Legislature Will Likely Be Flooded With These—Reform Suggested by Baker City Taxpayers.

Several bills upon the subject of assessment and taxation are said to be in preparation by persons in Multnomah county, and bills will probably also be submitted by outside counties, says the Oregonian. In Multnomah county an attempt will probably be made to create the office of tax collector. There has been some talk of placing the collection of taxes in the hands of the county treasurer, but this is not generally favored. The Baker City Chamber of Commerce recommends a number of changes, and will present a bill to the legislature.

The first is that the 33 county assessors of the state constitute a state board of equalization, with power to equalize the assessment of each county of the state on a cash basis, the board to meet at Salem on the first Monday of October each year, the members to receive no compensation other than per diem to be paid by each county.

The second amendment proposed is that all taxes on personal property shall on and after the date of assessment, be a lien upon any and all real estate which the owner of said personal property at the date of its assessment may be or become owner of; that all taxes on personal property which are not secured by real estate, shall be collected by the assessor at the time of the assessment, the same to be estimated in accordance with the levy of the previous year, or on some other available basis; that the time of assessment be any period between the first day of March and the first Monday in August in each year; that all taxes shall be paid to the county treasurer at his office on or before the first Monday of April of each year; that on and after April 1 all taxes not paid shall be declared delinquent, and a penalty be added, and the delinquent roll be placed in the hands of the sheriff for collection by levy and sale as upon execution.

The object in providing for the immediate collection of personal property tax is that when a delay of six months or more occurs, as at present, much property in the meantime changes hands, and for his and other reasons much personal property tax is lost. However, the proposed method of using the levy of the previous year or some other equitable basis, may not be constitutional.

The third amendment proposed is that a fine double the tax shall be imposed for each failure to include all property in the declaration signed and sworn to by the taxpayer.

As a means of assisting in ascertaining the value of property a provision is suggested making it obligatory that every lease of real estate be registered.

It is recommended that poll tax be abolished, and that property and road poll taxes be collected in money, road poll taxes to be collected by the sheriff and property road tax as other taxes.

It is recommended that as soon as the delinquent tax roll is placed in the hands of the sheriff, that he proceed at once to levy upon, advertise and sell the same as upon execution; that the state only be allowed to bid at the tax sale of real estate for delinquent taxes, which bid of the state must always be equal to the amount of the taxes and costs; that after such sale the state shall add an adequate penalty and shall hold the property for five years, subject to redemption by the owner or any person interested in the real estate; that at the end of five years the state shall offer the property for sale, if not redeemed before, the same as other state lands and a deed from the state shall pass a title in fee simple to the property, the state at the time of sale to pay the county in which the

same occurs the full amount of the taxes due and costs; that no deed for the property sold or otherwise transferred shall be filed for record or recorded until all delinquent taxes have been paid in full.

It is further recommended that all tax receipts should be issued by the state to the different counties, uniform in size and stamped with the fac simile of the state seal, with stubs and receipts carefully numbered.

A number of these proposed amendments were discussed at the recent meeting of the assessors and county judges, and the plan for a state board of equalization, comprised of the county assessors, was advocated by Assessor Greenleaf.

It is understood that State Senator Alex Sweek will present an assessment and taxation measure. There probably will be an abundance of them, judging from present indications.

#### Improving Their Stock.

According to the Rural Spirit, Oregon's importations of blooded stock for breeding purposes were larger in 1900 than ever before, many of the animals being eastern prize winners.

George Chandler of Baker City recently imported a carload of Hereford cattle for breeding.

J. G. Connolly of Union, a recent arrival, brought with him a carload of fine Herefords.

W. O. Minor of Heppner is one of the largest importers of Shorthorn cattle during the past year. He has made three heavy shipments, one lot containing the famous show cow "Sally Girl" for which \$1000 was paid.

The Baldwin Sheep & Land Company, of the Malheur country, made several importations of Ramboulette and Merinos. This company is also one of the largest breeders of cattle on the coast.

C. D. Wade of Pendleton made a large importation of prize Herefords recently. He made the pick of stock on exhibition at the Chicago livestock show, also buying a number of high class Shorthorns. He is a large breeder of horses as well as cattle and sheep, and takes unusual pride in selecting from the best herds those with which to improve his own.

John Powell of Unity has 300 head of registered Shorthorns—perhaps the largest single herd in the state.

As a breeding ground for all kinds of stock Eastern Oregon possesses ranges, and climatic and other advantages that are unrivaled. It is a fact worthy of note that her stockgrowers are beginning to realize that it costs but little more to breed good stock than it does scrabs, while the former are much more profitable in the end—when they pass from the stockman to the butcher.

#### A Peculiar Case.

A peculiar case of paralysis resulting from sleeping in the moonlight, is reported from Angel's Camp Cal. Arni Laidet of Esperanza is the victim of the misfortune. One side of his face is paralyzed and his eyes are affected. Laidet's couch was near a window over which there was no curtain. Night after night the moon shone on his face. Gradually paralysis set in, and recently Laidet, awakened by pain during the night, conceived the idea that his misfortune was due to his sleeping in the light of the moon. He rose and improvised a curtain over the window. His condition on the following morning was worse than at any previous time. Since then, however, he has kept the curtain down upon the window and his improvement has been steady. He is recovering his sight and the paralysis is disappearing.—Exchange.

An exchange propounds the question: Why is a newspaper like a wife, then answers it: Because every man should have one of his own and not be running around after his neighbor's.

## FOUR YEARS NOT ENOUGH

### GROVER CLEVELAND ON PRESIDENTIAL TENURE.

#### Says the Present Indirect Method of Electing the Chief Magistrate Should Be Done Away With.

New York, Dec. 29.—Writing on "The President of the Twentieth Century," for the New York World tomorrow, ex-President Cleveland refers to the Presidential tenure in these terms:

"Thoughtful citizens will more and more appreciate the objections urged against the present indirect and cumbersome mode of electing their Presidents. The circumstances in which this plan originated ought no longer to excuse such a baffling confusion of ideas as grows out of the proposition that in a popular government, the chief officer and their most direct representative may be made the recipient of their trust and the depository of their power in flagrant opposition to the declared popular will.

Strong arguments are from time to time urged in favor of a change in the tenure of the Presidential office. These should challenge serious attention, to the end that the present constitutional limit may be removed and a more reasonable and useful one substituted. There has been a continual increase in Federal legislation of a preemptory character, and related to the immediate and routine necessities of the country, and so it has come to pass that of the four sessions of congress held during the Presidential term two are so brief as to scarcely permit the passage of necessary appropriation bills, while to the others one occurs when the President is usually strange in his new office and burdened with importunities and labors inseparable from a change of administration, and the remaining one encounters during its continuance the interruptions, tardiness and demoralization of a Presidential and Congressional convass. These conditions suggest the scant opportunity allowed for the initiation and adoption of new and important remedial legislation during a Presidential term.

"Another argument of considerable weight in favor of the change is based upon the complaint that the business and other important interests of our people are now too frequently disturbed and disquieted by the turmoil and heat of a Presidential election. It is not amiss to add that a substantial extension of the Executive tenure would pave the way for establishing the ineligibility of an incumbent to succeed himself, which has long found favor with a large class of our people as a consummation much to be desired.

"Thus American citizens of the 20th century will be charged with the duty of securing for themselves the actual substance of popular rule by establishing a more direct method of selecting the people's chief Executive in strict accordance with the people's will, and by so extending the tenure as to enable him to better serve his countrymen and more thoroughly protect and defend all their interests."

#### Chances for Railroad.

E. B. Cleaver, a pioneer of the John Day country, was in Portland a few days ago and in speaking of other things to an Oregonian reporter had the following to say about this section and railroad possibilities:

"Any railroad leaving Ontario, on the Snake River, any where near the mouth of the Malheur, can follow up the Malheur river to Willow creek up Willow creek to its head, and over to the headwaters of the John Day above Prairie City, and have but one mountain pass, and that one low enough for a team to trot over. From the head of the John Day it is a water grade to the Columbia river. The first 45 miles of that grade down the John Day river is through meadow lands.

There would be one tunnel, possibly of 200 feet.

"The road down the John Day valley, I am told by railroad engineers, is easy to build. This would make connection between the O. R. & N. at the Columbia river and the Oregon Short Line at Ontario, shorter by about 75 miles than the present line, and with only one low mountain pass to climb. Instead of three as the present O. R. & N. has, this divide being lower and easier of access than either of the three of the O. R. & N. This road would also pass through an immense timber belt and, mining and stockraising country, which will eventually be one of the greatest fruit and grain districts in Eastern Oregon.

"If the road were to pass into the John Day Valley at the upper end and turn south, it could go out about three miles below John Day city, through the Lacey pass and on down through Bear valley, Silver valley and into Harney valley, which is 80 miles long and 40 miles wide. This valley will eventually be one of the greatest grain and stockraising districts in the state of Oregon, it being a sagebrush country, which could be irrigated from Bear valley at a trifling expense in proportion to the results that would be obtained.

"We have in the John Day valley any quantity of lime, both chrome and hematite iron ore, gold, silver, copper and lead ore, coal, marble, sandstone, granite, timber, grain, hay, fruit, sheep, cattle and horses. We are blessed with plenty of water for irrigation and power purposes. What we need is capital, people and transportation."

#### A Three-Legged Steer

We have been positively informed by a party in a position to know, that there is a three-legged steer running on the range in the mountains near here.

The animal has but one front leg, which comes out from the center of his breast, and he is both named and branded. He is said to be a fast runner, easily out distancing a common horse in the hills, and being in the neighborhood of ten or twelve years old, his hide is so thick that a bullet from a 44 Winchester will not penetrate it, but will flatten out when it strikes him.

We do not vouch for the veracity of this story, neither do we seek it ourselves, for while we might conclude in our veracity upon the presentation of the proper inducement, on special occasions, we don't care to do the Annulus act for nothing and pay our own board.—Westfall Independent.

#### Forget to Ask the Girl.

The wedding that all looked forward to with much interest was not solemnized in town Christmas. It was a case of "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip." The invitations were printed last week, but not distributed. A parson was engaged but a few days ago was notified that his services would not be needed. The reporter was given a box of cigars and requested to keep mum. The trouble was—the young man forgot to ask the girl before making the arrangements, thinking that the parents' consent was all that was necessary.—Wells Herald.

Says the National Watchman: Ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives Thomas B. Reed while in Washington recently propounded the following conundrum to some of his old friends:

"If the United States can kill 10,000 Filipinos in ten months and call it benevolent assimilation, how many did Spain have to kill in three hundred years to warrant the United States in designating Spanish rule as barbarism?"

The United States Medical Staff says: "Pure lager beer enriches the blood, improves the appetite, clears the brain and strengthens the nerves and muscles." This staff reports the beer brewed by Loehler & Penkate to be absolutely pure. Call at the Burns Brewery and give your order.

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