

Rogue River Courier

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GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON.

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NO. 40.

TAX LEVY RAISED 125 PER CENT

STATE TAX COMMISSION HITS HARD BLOW.

COUNTY LEVY IS 18 MILLS

Figures for 1910 Were \$17,182.98;
for 1911 They Read \$38-
193.50.

The state tax commission, as a state board of equalization, has hit Josephine county a hard blow, as the board has raised the amount that Josephine must pay into the state treasury in the form of taxes to startling figures compared to the figures of last year. For 1910 the state board set the figures at \$17,182.98; for 1911 the figures, which have just been received here, total \$38,193.50, an increase of 125 per cent.

Why this terrific raise is not known, said County Assessor Eclus Pollock, Saturday afternoon to a representative of The Courier, unless it is intended as a punishment, or rather a belief that Josephine county property was not being assessed at sufficient figures. Mr. Pollock states that he cannot recall any great increase in state indebtedness or appropriations that would demand such a high figure for this and other counties. But, he says, he is of the opinion that all counties were likewise raised out of their boots.

However, there is a possibility that Josephine county is suspected of not assessing its property high enough. The following article in the Oregonian of Thursday of the past week is significant. That article reads as follows:

"SALEM, Or., Jan. 3.—(Special.)—As an example of applications which are made to the state land board for loans a table has been prepared for Governor West indicating the applications recently made from Josephine county. Out of a total of 18 loans asked for the total amounts asked reach \$24,750. The attorney's appraisal of the value of the land which was to have been security for these loans was \$112,000 while the assessed valuation as shown by the books of the assessor was \$19,587.

"Some marked instances of similar discrepancies are apparent. For instance in one case the attorney appraised land as valued at \$12,000, when the assessed valuation is only \$1810. In another the appraisal was \$15,000, when the assessed valuation was only \$325. Similar conditions exist in other counties and the state land board is taking steps to remedy it if possible."

Regarding the property mentioned as assessed at only \$1810 when the owner's attorney appraised it, so alleged, at \$12,000, Mr. Pollock states that the owner told him he had been trying to sell it for \$10,000, but had now reduced it to \$8,000, and was seeking a buyer at that figure.

Mr. Pollock remarked to The Courier that of course attorneys seeking loans for clients would, in that instance, set as high a valuation on the properties as they thought would stick and that surely the state tax commission would not take those figures into consideration in fixing a county's taxes.

County Levy 18 Mills.

The county court Saturday fixed the levy for 1911 at 18 mills. For 1910 it was 17 mills. The total assessed valuation of the county is now \$10,505,686. Two elements enter into this total. One is the assessment of the county assessor. Mr. Pollock's assessments in the county total \$8,668,605; the public utilities board's assessments on railroads, telegraph and telephone companies, electric light company and other minor utilities doing an inter-county business, foots up \$1,837,081. This latter total has just been received from Salem. The two, Mr. Pollock's and the public utilities board, make up the total of \$10,505,686.

GRANTS PASS MEN AT MINING CONGRESS

Attorney Frank J. Newman of Medford, chairman of the program committee of the Southern Oregon and Northern California Mining congress, to be held in Medford February 2 and 3, writes The Courier as follows:

"The committee appointed to look after the exhibits reports that we will have the finest exhibit of ore and machinery ever shown in Southern Oregon. The committee on publication and advertising is also making big strides and various booklets and other souvenirs are being prepared for distribution.

"Nothing is being left undone looking to the perfection of plans for making this the biggest meet that the congress has yet held. You will be furnished further information at any time on request, and being on the publication committee, I trust that you will not be backward about making such request at any time, either to me or to any of the chairmen of the other committees, the names of which will be furnished to me if you desire them."

Mr. Newman incloses the program as made up by the committee for the two days. It is as follows:

FIRST DAY—FORENOON.
Meeting of trains with band.
Inspection of Exhibits.
Committee Work.

9:45. Music and procession to hall.

10:00. Address of welcome, Mayor Canon of Medford. Responses by mayors of Yreka, Ashland and Grants Pass.

10:30. Address: "Genesis and Deposition of Ore Bodies."—T. K. Murray, Grants Pass, Oregon.

10:45. "Our Congress."—Attorney Frank L. Newman, Medford, Oregon.

11:30. "Conditions in the Applegate Mining District, Josephine County, Oregon."—Adolph Maier, metallurgical engineer.

Afternoon—First Day.

2:00. "Capital vs. Mining in Southern Oregon."—W. J. Wimer, Grants Pass, Oregon.

2:30. "Mine Promotion and Development."—Attorney R. G. Smith, mayor of Grants Pass, Oregon.

3:00. "Early Mining Reminiscences of This District."—Judge W. M. Colvig of Medford and E. K. Anderson of Ashland.

4:00. "Needed Mining Legislation."—Judge Thos. C. Burke, Baker City.

5:00. "School of Mines."—Prof. H. M. Parks, Corvallis.

Evening.

7:00. Music on street and procession to hall.

7:30. Address, "Prospecting."—T. M. Anderson, Kerby District.

8:00. "What's Doing."
(1). Siskiyou County.—Attorney Otto Hoses, Sisson, Cal.

(2). Jackson County.—E. W. Liljehgram, M. E., Medford.

(3). Josephine County.—C. L. Mangum, Grants Pass.

(4). Douglass County.—To be Supplied.

SECOND DAY—FORENOON.

Drilling contests for suitable prizes.

Awarding of prizes on exhibits.

Afternoon.
Address: "The Bohemia District."—M. O. Warren, Cottage Grove, Oregon.

Address: "Our Coal Mines.—To be Supplied.

Address: "Our Clays."—Geo. E. Boose, Tolo, Oregon.

Address: "Our Building Stone."—E. A. Hicks, Medford, Oregon.

Address: "Organization."—L. D. Mahone, Portland, Oregon.

Address: "Public Land Question."—Secretary Callbreath of the American Mining Congress.

Attorney Newman, in his letter to The Courier, adds:

"It is also planned to have several speakers of national repute here to take part on the program, and several of the manufacturers of mining machinery will have exhibits."

Gold From Horsehead—

J. H. Miller, merchant at Williams, was in the city Wednesday transacting business and incidentally shipping some gold from the Horsehead mine at Williams and owned by the Bristows. Mr. Miller had about 22 ounces of amalgam.

R. R. PROMOTERS ARE INDICTED

LOTTERY AND MONEY BY FALSE PRETENSE CHARGED.

KOLLOCK IS DISCHARGED

H. L. Chapin of Portland, President
of Company, Under \$2000
Bonds.

From Sunday's Daily.

H. L. Chapin of Portland, said to be or was, the president of the Portland Realty board, and John K. Kollock, an attorney of Portland, will wake up this morning to find that they have been indicted by the Josephine county grand jury. The indictments were filed at about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

A message was sent to the sheriff of Multnomah county to arrest both Chapin and Kollock. They may give bond, there or they may be brought to Grants Pass.

There are two indictments against each man. The first is "indictment for running a lottery;" the second reads "indictment for obtaining money under false pretense." The indictments grew out of the promotion of the "Grants Pass and Rogue River Railway company" and the "Rogue River Townsite company."

E. J. Bowen happened in Grants Pass during the spring of 1911. Messrs. Riggs & Lucas met him. A railroad was proposed up Williams creek. Bowen brought Chapin here from Portland. The Grants Pass and Rogue River Railroad company was organized. The Rogue River Townsite company was organized. The people were asked to put up money to the railroad company, to be paid in installments as the work progressed. The people did. The track got across Rogue River, but never farther. The people of Grants Pass, Josephine county and elsewhere were asked to buy lots in "South Grants Pass," a beautiful thing on the maps, but an open stretch of land in reality. The people responded, making first payments on contracts.

Regarding the lottery charge District Attorney Mulkey last evening said:

"The way the lottery indictment came about is because the townsite company pulled off the following stunt: A purchaser of a lot was allowed the privilege in a drawing. If he drew any one of 47 lots, selected by the townsite company, among the 400 remaining lots he had the privilege of buying such 'drawn' lot at half its value. These lots were designated by the townsite company as 'prize lots'."

Regarding the indictments charging obtaining money under false pretense they came about from the fact that the townsite company is alleged to have sold lots in the county road. This came about in this wise: It is alleged that for the privilege of platting the townsite over the county road which meandered diagonally through the tract, the company was to make the streets usable so the road would be unnecessary; but this, it is alleged, they never did. And when the purchaser of a lot embracing a portion of the road laid the foundation of his house in the road, he was stopped by the county authorities. Geo. E. Waldrom of Medford began the investigation, and from his initiative came a thorough overhauling of the doings of the land company with the result that indictments followed. Bowen was more closely connected with the railroad company, hence gets off unscathed.

Messrs. Riggs and Lucas of Grants Pass, prominent in the affairs of the two companies, state that they were selling agents only; that their commission was forty per cent.

The band played, the silver spikes driven, the "tumult and the shouting dies" and the railroad—It went nowhere. About all the visible asset of the railroad company is a

little locomotive familiarly known as the "One Spot," and a long-legged spidery trestle across Rogue river which is counted on to go out at the first flood-tide and splatter all over the Sixth street iron bridge.

From Monday's Daily.

John K. Kollock, former secretary of the Rogue River Townsite company, who, with H. L. Chapin, president of the company, was indicted Saturday by the Josephine county grand jury, today sat in the circuit court room and heard District Attorney B. F. Mulkey ask Judge Calkins to dismiss both indictments against him. Judge Calkins, after asking the district attorney some sharp questions regarding the case, dismissed the indictments.

Kollock was evidently much relieved mentally when the cases against him were dismissed.

In moving for the dismissal of the indictment against John K. Kollock Mr. Mulkey stated that the records of the Rogue River Townsite company show that Kollock had resigned as a director and secretary of such corporation 21 days before the 11th of March, 1911, the day the lots were sold under the allotment plan.

"So far as this particular sale is concerned," said Mulkey to the court, "Mr. Kollock could have had no connection with the lottery scheme."

"There was no evidence before the grand jury to show any sales prior to March 4, 1911. The verbal testimony in the grand jury room connected Mr. Kollock with the transaction as the duly qualified and acting secretary of the corporation at the time of the alleged sales then being considered. The lottery features of the sales of lands by the Rogue River Townsite company are present but I do not regard Mr. Kollock as a party responsible."

"Had the grand jury been in possession of the record testimony in this case, I feel sure the indictment would not have been returned, so far as Mr. Kollock is concerned. Having that testimony before me and being fully advised, I move that the indictment be dismissed as to John K. Kollock."

"The same state of facts exists as to the dismissal of the indictment as to Kollock charged jointly with H. L. Chapin for obtaining money by false pretenses in the sale of lots to George E. Waldrom embracing portions of county road, such sale being made on the 4th day of March, 1911."

Statement by Kollock.

To a representative of The Courier Kollock said:

"My only connection with the Rogue River Townsite company was as attorney in the preparation of the organization papers. In that connection I acted as secretary of the company only until the organization was completed and resigned as director and secretary on February 20, eighteen days after the articles of incorporation were filed. Neither before nor after that time did I have any connection with the sale of the company's property or with the plat of South Grants Pass."

"As to the charge of receiving money under false pretenses, I might state incidentally that I have never received one cent from the company or from any of the companies with which I was associated, either as attorney's fees or otherwise."

AFTER R.R. TRESTLE AGAIN

An effort is to be made to get a court order to pull down the long trestle across Rogue river near the city limits, built by the Grants Pass & Rogue River Railroad company.

The grand jury today, in its report to Judge Calkins, recommended that the county court begin legal proceedings to that end. The county court, being in session, took immediate action, and instructed District Attorney Mulkey to start suit at once.

The grand jurors decreed that the trestle is a serious menace to the county's steel bridge across the Rogue, in that the trestle is liable to go out when high waters begin to rush down the river, and the mass of timbers crash onto the steel bridge.

It is not supposed that any serious opposition will be met by the county in its efforts to get an order from the circuit court to demolish the trestle

APPLICATIONS FOR RECEIVER

WIND UP BUSINESS OF GRANTS PASS AND R. R. RY.

PORTLAND MAN APPOINTED

Attorney J. C. Jenkins Here to Take
Up Tangled Threads of Road's
Affairs.

From Monday's Daily.

Two different applications were made today for receiverships for the Grants Pass & Rogue River Railroad company, one application being made in the Multnomah county court at Portland, and one in the circuit court of Josephine county.

Both courts granted receiverships, but the Multnomah county aggregation beat the Josephine end to it by an hour.

Attorney H. D. Norton of Grants Pass, representing various creditors of the railroad company, received a telegram from Portland this forenoon stating that a receivership had been granted there at 9:15 o'clock this morning, the application reading for the "Pacific Western Railroad company and subsidiary corporations."

"The 'Pacific Western' is the parent or holding company, the Grants Pass and Rogue River railroad company being one of the subsidiary corporations."

John C. Jenkins, a lawyer of Portland, was named receiver by the Multnomah county judge.

H. N. Parker of Grants Pass, who holds a bill for grading against the local road, this morning asked for a receivership here. Judge Calkins made an order to that effect and named M. J. Anderson as receiver. Then Attorney Norton received his telegram. He informed Judge Calkins of its contents, that a receivership had been granted in Portland at 9:15 a. m., somewhat ahead of the Josephine circuit court. Judge Calkins then instructed that his order for a receivership be held in abeyance until he is informed officially of the action of the Multnomah court. Judge Calkins then ordered that all other creditors be allowed to intervene.

A formal showing must be made in Grants Pass of the records at Portland granting the receivership. A certified copy will be sent to the court here.

This means that, if the Portland receivership was granted first, Grants Pass creditors will be compelled to file their claims in the Multnomah court.

Attorney John C. Jenkins of Portland, who Monday was appointed receiver of the Pacific Western company and subsidiary corporations, including the Grants Pass and Rogue River Railroad company and the Rogue River Townsite company (South Grants Pass), arrived here this morning and at once got busy with details of this end of his work.

Mr. Jenkins stated that he would be here at least two days, and that matters would be in a more satisfactory shape.

Regarding creditors and bills against the two corporations here, Mr. Jenkins stated that he soon would make a request through the newspapers to all creditors to file their bills.

Attorney H. D. Norton, who represents various creditors, was in conference this afternoon with Receiver Jenkins. Mr. Norton later expressed himself as hopeful of good results from the receivership.

From Thursday's Daily.

Subscribers in Grants Pass and others who refused to pay further money into the treasury of the Grants Pass & Rogue River Railroad company, may soon be compelled by order of court to do so. The words "may be compelled" are used, because

(Continued on Page 4.)

MAYOR SMITH TO DEBATE WITH SOCIALIST FEB. 11

C. W. Hunton, of the local socialist party, informs The Courier that one of his party's national speakers, N. A. Richardson, will debate with Mayor R. G. Smith in the Grants Pass opera house, the date being February 11.

Richardson was to fill one of the socialist's Lyceum dates here at that time, his subject being "Why Things Happen to Happen."

The subject will be abandoned, however, and the speaker enter a debate with Mayor Smith on the question of socialism. The hour will be 8 p. m. The formal subject to be contested between Richardson and the mayor is:

"Resolved, That the socialist platform offers the best available solution of the industrial problems of today, and that among these problems are the concentration of wealth—ownership, corruption in government affairs, strife between laborers and employers, the unemployed, panics and international wars."

Richardson will speak 55 minutes; Smith 60 minutes. Richardson to reply 15 minutes; Smith 10 minutes.

No new arguments are to be introduced in the closing ten minutes.

GRAND JURY ADJOURNS— SOME RECOMMENDATIONS

From Monday's Daily.

The Josephine county grand jury adjourned today, and made several important recommendations. The grand jurors in their report to Judge Calkins stated that they had received a partial report from O. F. Callison, who is auditing the county books, and added:

"From a consideration of the above report we would make the following recommendations: That the county court employ sufficient competent help in the sheriff's office during tax paying season in order that taxes collected be turned over to the treasurer promptly.

"We would recommend that the county clerk keep a book showing the financial standing of the county, which book should be balanced monthly.

"We find that in the past larger balances have been carried in the treasury than seem necessary, and we would therefore recommend that a call be made for warrants whenever the necessary funds are available, according to laws prescribing.

"We would recommend that the county court begin immediate action in the circuit court to have the Grants Pass & Rogue River company bridge across Rogue river removed, as it is a serious menace to the county bridge.

"Respectfully submitted,
"M. J. ANDERSON, Foreman.
"G. W. SCOTT.
"JACOB HANSETH.
"W. R. RANNIE.
"OLIVER MORRISON.
"J. S. DOBYNS.
"GEO. R. RIDDLE."

PETITIONS CALL FOR SPECIAL CITY ELECTION

Appearing on page 5 of this issue of The Courier will be found the legal notices of the proposed amendments to the city charter.

These three amendments propose that a special election be called that (1) salaries of city officers be fixed, (2) that no franchise be granted only by vote of the people, and (3) to empower the city council to issue bonds with which to pay off the present indebtedness of the city. The limit is fixed in the petition at \$80,000.

The three proposals come in the form of initiative petitions, and were originated, primarily, by Mayor R. G. Smith.

21 CERTIFICATES ISSUED

The result of the recent state examination for teachers shows that 21 of the 25 applicants for one-year state certificates were successful and will receive certificates.

Complete returns for life certificates, five-year certificates and primary certificates have not yet been secured from the grading board.