

Proposed Oregon Tax Law

(Continued from last week)

(Repealing clause.)

Section 40. That sections 3050, 3051, 3052, 3053, and 3054 of the Codes and Statutes of Oregon, compiled and annotated by Hon. Charles B. Bellinger and William W. Cotton, and all acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith, be and the same hereby are repealed: Provided, that nothing in this act contained shall affect the assessment of property upon the basis of ownership and valuation thereof upon the first day of March, 1907, at the hour of 1 o'clock a. m.; but the sections, acts and parts of acts hereby repealed shall remain in full force and effect for the purpose of effecting the assessment according to law upon the basis of ownership and valuation thereof of March 1, 1907, at the hour of 1 o'clock a. m.

(Board not to assess until after assessment for 1907.)

Section 41. Nothing in this act contained shall require or authorize the said board to assess property herein described upon the basis of ownership thereof on the first day of March, 1907, at the hour of 1 o'clock a. m., but the first assessment of such property made by said board shall be upon the basis of ownership at such date after March 1, 1907, at 1 o'clock a. m., as now or hereafter may be provided by the general laws of the state.

A BILL.

For an act to create and define the duties and powers of the board of equalization in the several counties of this State; and to provide for the equalization and correction by said board of equalization of the assessment roll returned by the county assessors in the several counties, and the assessment of property omitted from said roll, and for appeals from said board to the circuit court, and the manner of taking and disposing of the same, and prescribing the jurisdiction of the circuit court on such appeals; and repealing sections 3070, 3080, 3081, and 3083 of the Codes and Statutes of Oregon, compiled and annotated by Hon. Charles B. Bellinger and William W. Cotton; and repealing section 3052 of the said Codes and Statutes of Oregon as reenacted by section 3 of an act approved December 24, 1903, being Laws of Special Session, 1903, page 4 et sequitur; and repealing so much of section 3060 of the said Codes and Statutes of Oregon as is in conflict with this act, and repealing all acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith.

Be it enacted by the people of the state of Oregon:

(Board of equalization—How constituted—Duties of board.)

Section 1. The county judge, county clerk, county commissioners, and assessor of the several counties of this state shall constitute a board of equalization to examine and correct the assessment rolls returned by the assessors in their several counties, and to increase or reduce the valuation of the property therein assessed, so that the same shall be full cash value thereof, and to assess omitted taxable property, in the manner hereinafter provided. The board shall meet at the court house in the several counties on the first Monday of October in each year, and the county clerk shall lay before the board the assessment rolls returned by the assessor. The county judge shall, if present, be chairman of such board, and the county clerk shall, if present, be clerk thereof. Three members of such board shall constitute a quorum thereof.

(Qualification of members of board.)

Section 2. Before proceeding to the equalization of such rolls the several members of the board shall each take and subscribe to an oath, to be administered by a member of such board, and to be filed with the county clerk, to faithfully and honestly examine, correct, and equalize at full cash value said assessment roll and all property so returned by such assessor.

(Corrections required to be made—Omitted property.)

Section 3. If it shall appear to such board of equalization that there are any lands or lots or other property assessed twice, or incorrectly assessed as to description or quantity, and in the name of a person or persons not the owner thereof, or assessed under or beyond the actual full cash value thereof, said board may make proper corrections of the same. If it shall appear to such board that any lands, lots, or other property assessable by the assessor are not assessed, such board shall assess the same at the full cash value thereof.

(Increase in assessment—Notice—Petitions for reduction.)

Section 4. Said board of equalization shall not increase the valuation of any property on such assessment roll, as provided in the preceding section, without giving to the person in whose name it is assessed at least three days' notice to appear and show cause, if any he has, why the valuation of his assessable property; or some part thereof, to be specified in such notice, shall not be increased: Provided, that such notice shall not be necessary if the person appear voluntarily before said board, and be there personally notified by a member thereof that his property, or some specified part thereof, is, in the opinion of the board, assessed below its actual value: And provided further, that such notice shall not be necessary in event the board deem it necessary to increase the valuation of all

property upon such rolls, in a certain proportion, in order that the valuation of the property generally upon the rolls shall be its full cash value, as by law required. Petitions or applications for the reduction of a particular assessment shall be made in writing, verified by the oath of the applicant or his attorney, and be filed with the board during the first week it is by law required to be in session, and any petition or application not so made, verified, and filed shall not be considered or acted upon by the board.

(Sittings of board.)

Section 5. Said board of equalization shall continue its sessions from day to day, exclusive of Sundays and legal holidays, until the examination and correction and equalization of the assessment rolls shall be completed; but it shall complete said examination, correction and equalization within one month from the time it is by law required to meet, and, unless sooner completed, at the expiration of one month from the time the board is herein required to meet, the examination, correction, and equalization of said assessment rolls shall be deemed to be complete.

(Record of proceedings of board.)

Section 6. Corrections, additions to, or changes in the said roll shall be entered in a column therein headed substantially "As Equalized by the County Board," and the entries in such column shall be the record of the action of said board. The meeting, qualification, sittings, and adjournment of said board shall be recorded in the journal of the county court.

(Return of corrected and equalized roll.)

Section 7. Such assessment rolls, when so examined, corrected, and equalized by such board, shall be returned to the county clerk.

(Appeal to circuit court.)

Section 8. Any person who shall have petitioned for the reduction of a particular assessment, or whose assessment has been increased by the board of equalization, who shall be aggrieved by the action of such board, may appeal therefrom to the circuit court of the county. The appeal shall be taken and perfected in the following manner, and not otherwise:

1. The party desiring the appeal from the action of such board of equalization may cause a notice, to be signed by himself or attorney, to be filed with the county clerk of the county within five days, excluding Sunday, from the time the assessment roll is returned to the county clerk by the board of equalization.

2. Within five days of the giving of such notice the appellant shall file with the clerk of the circuit court a transcript of the petition for reduction of assessment, or so much of the record of the board of equalization as may be necessary to intelligently present the questions to be decided by the circuit court, together with a copy of the order or action taken by the board of equalization, the notice of appeal and record of the filing thereof; thereafter the circuit court shall have jurisdiction of the matter, but not otherwise.

The appeal shall be heard and determined by the circuit court in a summary manner, and shall be determined as an equitable cause. Either the appellant or the county as appellee shall be entitled to the compulsory attendance of witnesses and to the production of books and papers. If, upon hearing, the court finds the amount at which the property was finally assessed by the board of equalization is its actual full cash value, and the assessment was made fairly and in good faith, it shall approve such assessment; but if it finds that the assessment was made at a greater or less sum than the market value of the property, or if the same was not fairly or in good faith made, it shall set aside such assessment and determine such value, and a certified copy of the order or judgment of the circuit court shall be sufficient warrant for the levying and collecting of taxes against such property, and upon such valuation so determined. No proceedings for the levying or collection of taxes against any property shall be stayed by the reason of the taking or pendency of the appeal from the board of equalization; but in event the assessment is decreased by the court on appeal the tax collector shall refund to the person paying taxes on such property any excessive amount of taxes collected, and in event the assessment is increased by the court on appeal the property shall be liable for the deficiency on the amount of such increased valuation. The provisions of law governing costs and disbursements on appeal shall be applicable hereto.

(Repealing clause.)

Section 9. That sections 3070, 3080, 3081, and 3083 of the Codes and Statutes of Oregon, compiled and annotated by Hon. Charles B. Bellinger and William W. Cotton, be and the same hereby are repealed; and that section 3082 of the said Codes and Statutes of Oregon, compiled and annotated by Hon. Charles B. Bellinger and William W. Cotton, as reenacted by section 3 of

an act approved December 24, 1903, being found in the Laws of the Special Session of 1903, page 4 et sequitur, be and the same hereby is repealed; and that so much of section 3060 of the Codes and Statutes of Oregon, as compiled and annotated by Hon. Charles B. Bellinger and William W. Cotton, as is in conflict herewith be and the same hereby are repealed.

(There being no reason apparent why this act should not go into effect immediately after its taking effect as by law provided, no saving clause is inserted exempting assessment for the current year, etc., from its effect.)

A BILL.

For an act to provide a more efficient system for the levy and collection of taxes, and providing penalties for the violation of the provisions of this act; and to repeal chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of the General Laws of Oregon, 1905; and an act entitled "An act to amend section 2094 of Bellinger and Cotton's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Oregon," approved February 12, 1903; and an act entitled "An act to amend section 2094 of Bellinger and Cotton's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Oregon," approved February 12, 1903; and an act entitled "An act to amend section 2122 of Bellinger and Cotton's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Oregon," approved February 24, 1905; and an act filed in the office of the Secretary of State December 24, 1903, entitled "An act to amend section 2122 of Bellinger and Cotton's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Oregon," approved February 24, 1905; and all other acts and parts of acts amendatory of any of the acts and sections above set forth, and all acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith.

Be it enacted by the people of the state of Oregon:

(Of the Levy of Taxes.)

(Estimate for county purposes, apportionment and state and school tax.)

Section 1. The county court of each county shall, at its term in January in each year, estimate the amount of money to be raised in its county for county purposes, and apportion such amount, together with the amount of state and school tax, and other taxes required to be raised in its county and such other taxes as it may in its discretion be authorized by law determine shall be raised, according to the valuation of the taxable property in the county for the year, and such determination shall be entered in its records.

(B. & C. Comp., section 3084, without change, except to make provision for other taxes required to be raised, and taxes which it may, in its discretion, as authorized by law, determine shall be raised.)

(Levy of tax by county court.)

Section 2. For the purpose of raising revenues for county purposes, the county court for each county in the state shall, in its January term in each year, levy a tax upon all taxable property in its county, which tax shall be sufficient in its amount to defray the expenses of the county.

(B. & C. Comp., section 3085, as reenacted by Laws, Special Session, 1903, page 6, except to strike out "or board of county commissioners," as the functions of that body are now by law exercised by the county court. The same change is made in other sections of this act, but will not be specially noted.)

(Levy of other required or permissible levies by county court at January term.)

Section 3. The county court shall, at its January term in each year, levy any other taxes which by law the county or county court or board of county commissioners is required to levy, and any other taxes which it may determine to levy and which by law it is permitted to levy.

(New; but seems to be necessary to provide time for levy of special county taxes.)

(County clerk to be notified of rate of levy.)

Section 4. It shall be the duty of every school district, and each incorporated town and city, and of each public corporation authorized to levy a tax, to notify, in writing, the county clerk of the county within which the school district, town, city, or public corporation is situated, of the rate per cent of the tax levy made by it, on or before the first day of January of each year, which notice shall be kept on file by the several county clerks, and remain a part of the records of the office.

(No change from B. & C. Comp., section 3098, as finally amended by Laws of Special Session, 1903, page 22; section 1 of Laws of 1905, chapter 7, except the proviso (which was temporary in nature and the occasion for which has passed by lapse of time) has been omitted.)

(Tax levies to be in even mills or in even tenths of mills.)

Section 5. All counties, cities, school districts, and other corporations which are vested with the power of levying taxes, shall make their total levy terminate with even mill or mills, or in fractions of one-tenth of one mill.

(Laws 1905, chapter 127, section 1, no change.)

(To be continued next week)

According to the Massachusetts bureau of statistics, there are 3,450 lawyers in that State, 5,497 physicians and surgeons, and 3,737 clergymen.

Comfort in That.

Jimmy—Ain't yer vaccination healed up yet?

Tommy—Naw.

Jimmy—Gee! Don't it make yer feel bad?

Tommy—Naw! The doctor told mom I mustn't take a bath till it's all healed up.—Philadelphia Press.

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Friday, Jan. 11.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The senate today without division passed the McCumber service pension bill. The bill was so amended as to make it applicable to the survivors of the Mexican as well as the Civil war and to prohibit the payment of fees to pension attorneys.

Considerable time was also given to the Smoot case, several senators speaking in favor of the Utah man retaining his seat.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The house today adjourned till Monday after breaking all records so far as pension legislation is concerned. Six hundred and twenty-eight private pension bills were passed in 1 hour and 35 minutes.

Thursday, January 10.

Washington, Jan. 10.—By a vote of 70 to 1 the senate today passed a bill providing that railway employees engaged in handling trains shall not work more than 16 consecutive hours which period is to be followed by ten hours off duty. The one negative vote was cast by Senator Pettus.

This result was reached after an entire day spent in considering the subject. The parliamentary situation was confused during the entire time, caused by the 40 pending amendments and the three substitutes for the original bill, all of which had to be disposed of.

The bill making appropriations for the legislative, executive and judicial expenses of the government, was reported to the senate today. It carries \$30,855,834, a net increase of \$225,450 over the amount as passed by the house.

All propositions for raising the salaries of members of congress and members of the cabinet, including the provisions inserted by the house increasing the pay of cabinet members, the vice president and speaker of the house to \$12,000 a year, were rejected. It is expected an amendment will be offered on the floor of the senate to restore these items.

Washington, Jan. 10.—Late this afternoon, Mr. Gaines, of Tennessee, and Mr. Mahon, of Pennsylvania, were only prevented from meeting in a personal encounter by the intervention of members on the floor of the house. Mr. Gaines was making a speech on his bill to "dock" members' pay for absence from the house and was being twitted by both sides of the chamber to his evident embarrassment. During his speech he charged Mr. Mahon with being absent from the house 95 per cent of the time. Mahon immediately jumped to his feet, declaring the statement a lie. The two senators started for each other, but were pulled apart before any damage was done.

The army canteen was again today under discussion in the house. While the army appropriation bill was up Representative Morrell, of Pennsylvania, intimated that he would like to attach a paragraph doing away with the anti-canteen law, in line with a bill he had introduced in the first session of the 59th congress.

Mr. Hull, of Iowa, in charge of the bill, stated that the paragraph would be new legislation and that a point of order would therefore lie against it. He stated, however, that the testimony of the army officers was almost uniform to the effect that the canteen was a good temperance measure and that its abolition had resulted in desertions and a greater degree of drunkenness.

While the army appropriation bill was under consideration in the house today an amendment was adopted appropriating \$250,000 for the construction and maintenance of military and post roads and trails in Alaska, to be expended under the direction of the board of road commissioners.

The army appropriation bill, with sundry amendments, was passed by the house, and the fortifications appropriation bill was taken up, four hours being given to general debate.

Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The senate today debated La Follette's bill limiting working time of railroad employees.

A tentative understanding was reached that a vote on the general service pension bill will be taken next Friday.

The Brownsville matter was postponed because Tillman, who is indisposed, desired to address the senate on the subject.

Washington, Jan. 9.—By a vote of 27 to 50 the house in committee of the whole today, having the army appro-

priation bill under consideration, refused to strike out an item of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of paying the expenses of regiments, battalions, squadrons and batteries of the organized militia to participate in such brigade or division encampment as may be established for the field instruction of the troops of the regular army.

During the discussion of the army appropriation bill today, Representative Kahn, of California, declared the absence of the canteen was responsible for the unusual number of desertions during the past year.

Tuesday, January 8.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Practically all of today was given over by the senate leaders of both parties to an effort to bring harmony between opposing views concerning the proposed investigation of the affray at Brownsville, Tex. What amounts to an agreement between Senators Foraker and Lodge has been attained by their friends, but inasmuch as it was decided not to present the compromise until all of the senators desiring to do so had made speeches on the subject of the dismissal of the negro troops, it is not absolutely certain that the peace plans will not be upset.

The compromise is not greatly different from the resolution presented by Lodge and a similar resolution which Foraker had intended to offer as a substitute for his original resolution. It provides for the investigation by the senate committee on military affairs of the affray at Brownsville, and to this are to be added provisions that a subcommittee be sent to Brownsville, and that the expenses of the investigation be paid out of the contingent fund of the senate. Such a resolution would ignore the constitutional and legal questions that have been debated for several days.

Washington, Jan. 8.—The house immediately after the approval of the journal today began the consideration of the military appropriation bill. Chairman Hull began debate by a comprehensive statement of the contents of the army budget, which carries \$2,500,000 more than last year.

Other speeches were made by Slayden, of Texas, on his bill to discontinue the enlistment of negroes in the army of the United States; by Zenor, of Indiana, against the ship subsidy bill and by Gaines, of Tennessee, who spoke in commemoration of the ninety-second anniversary of the battle of New Orleans.

Monday, January 7.

Washington, Jan. 7.—President Roosevelt's dismissal of the negro troops was again the subject of contention in the senate today, and indications point to a protracted debate before any of the pending resolutions on the subject are voted on. Lodge developed a new phase of the question by presenting a resolution providing for an investigation of the "affray" at Brownsville and, by silence, conceding the authority of the president to take the action he did. Foraker accepted Culberson's amendment authorizing the committee to visit Brownsville if it desired. His resolution was supported by Lodge in an address and opposed by Foraker, who followed, and spoke until 5:30 o'clock, giving notice then that he would conclude tomorrow.

Washington, Jan. 7.—The house today passed a bill providing for judicial review of the orders excluding persons from the use of the United States mail facilities after a debate lasting most of the day.

In presenting reasons why the bill should pass, Crumpacker, of Indiana, its author, said the power given to the postmaster general under the statutes to issue fraud orders was not at all an administrative discretion. It rather partook of the nature of a police power for the regulation of the morals of the people of the country. Crumpacker contended that the whole fraud order law was an unusual proceeding in that, if it had been confined to institutions and practices that were essentially fraudulent or were inherently bad and criminal, such as green goods concerns, lotteries and the like, as originally contemplated by congress, there would be no complaint against it.

Increase Ministers Salaries

Washington, Jan. 10.—The house committee on foreign affairs completed discussion on the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill and will report a measure carrying \$3,138,477 for the foreign service.

Let Them Go Away to Get Warm

Washington, Jan. 9.—In view of the fact that many homestead settlers are said to be freezing in North Dakota and the rules of the department of the Interior provide in many cases that residence of the settlers shall be continuous, Senator Hansbrough has prepared a resolution permitting the settlers leave of absence for three months to extend over the winter period, which absence shall not interfere with their entry rights. All homesteaders affected by these conditions are to make application by affidavit.

Fence Order Bears Fruit

Washington, Jan. 9.—President Roosevelt's order compelling removal of all fences from public land has already borne fruit. Senator Burkett, of Nebraska, has introduced a bill authorizing the leasing of all public grazing land under the direction of the secretary of agriculture, holders of leases to have the privilege of fencing land so obtained. The bill places no restriction on the amount of land that may be leased by any individual or company, but gives the preference right to homesteaders and settlers.