

Daily Democrat

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FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1916.

LOWERING TAXES.

The matter of securing lower taxes
brings up so many little questions
it takes close figuring to make much
out of the subject, for the more one
goes into it the more muddled one is
liable to become. The following from
the Salem Journal is putting the case
in an interesting way:

While taxpayers are doing consid-
erable talking about the increasing
taxes, it can safely be stated that there
will be no reduction in the cost of
running the state, counties, or cities,
until the people make up their minds
to do without things they now de-
mand, or at least, permit. A dispatch
Saturday from Pendleton says, "Wil-
liam L. Finley, state biologist, will
arrive next week to take pictures of
wild animals in Eastern Oregon and
Washington for the Oregon state fish
and game commission. E. F. Averill,
of the department of biological sur-
vey, who will cooperate with Mr.
Finley in the work, has had his force
of 60 men locating dens of coyotes,
porcupines, badgers and bears, to en-
able Mr. Finley to get first-hand pic-
tures of these animals."

As a matter of natural history it is
well enough to have these pictures
available. It, like hundreds of other
things, is right enough if the people
want that kind of thing, but it costs
something to have 60 men hunting
badger holes and getting the animals
ready to have their pictures "took,"
and it also costs to have the picture
printed and, well after that it will
cost something to distribute them, or
do whatever the commission intends
with them.

It is not a great expense, a trifle
in fact, but it illustrates the fact that
public money is much more easily and
pleasantly spent than provided for
the spending.

While on the subject it might be
added that the expense of taking care
of or "protecting" the game is un-
necessarily expensive. The law pro-
vides special officers for this pur-
pose when it could just as well be
turned over to the peace officers of
the county.

There are all kinds of useless com-
missions who do nothing practical ex-
cept draw their salaries, and make
reports which no one reads but which
cost money just the same.

We have education in the saddle
and riding heaven knows whither.

We have the "good roads" bug
fully developed and feeding on pub-
lic money with an insatiable appetite.
These two features are the great tax-
eaters, by the side of which the others
are trifling.

The question is, do the people who
pay the taxes want to get on without
these things? If they do they can do
so by their votes. If they do not there
is no use finding fault with the pub-
lic officers who are spending the money
as the people desire.

Taking the pictures of a few wild
animals will not bankrupt the state,
neither will hundreds of other trifles
of a like character, but in the aggre-
gate they make a snug sum.

The latest proposal is to have a
committee at the legislature to ex-
amine all the bills and point out to
the legislators those it should pass
and those it should kill. Now the
members of that committee might be
no wiser than the legislators, and so
another committee would be required
to advise and guide it, and this will
another, and so on to the end of the
chapter. It would be simpler to elect
the committee to the legislature and
do away with the extra expense of
having two bodies.

NEARLY TWO YEARS.

It will soon be two years since the
European war began, and a careful
inspection of the situation reveals the
fact that it is apparently no nearer
a solution than when it began. Nei-
ther side shows any signs of giving
up, and it is difficult to place the ad-

vantage after covering the entire field
east and west. Started over little or
nothing, it continues to be very much
a matter of nothing, though both
sides now claim greater things at is-
sue. If the money wasted had been
put to a good use it would have trans-
formed the conditions of the world.
But speculation settles nothing. The
question now is, how can peace be
established, and then how can con-
ditions be readjusted.

MISFITS

According to the home papers Lane
county is the worst tax ridden coun-
ty in the state.

It doesn't help any to be covered up
with taxes. At the same time most
people locate in such counties just
about as much, if the place suits them.

They go first and then inquire af-
terwards.

Not content with Hornbrook whis-
key Salem has just received a box
of Texas rattlesnakes, which will go
with it well.

Strange how little part England
plays in the war itself outside of par-
liament. They endeavor to run the
whole biz.

They declare that they will fight
to the last ditch. Why not fight
along the first ditch or two.

The dems. will need to learn to
write before the primaries. On that
day they will have to write in nearly
all of the candidates.

The home without trees around is
only part of a home. It isn't just the
trees; it's the birds too, with their
morning songs, besides which the
greatest prima donna sings like a
crow.

This excepts the hoot of the owl.

Oh, the Birds.
'Tis surely true what poets say,
A bird is happy all the day;

He takes whatever fortune brings
And sings and sings and sings and
sings;

He chirps with most persistent cheer
Though days are bright or dark or
drear—

There's simply nothing comes along
That mars his optimistic song.

But when the cause is understood—
The duffer sponges all his food.
He has no vulgar, pressing debt,
Insurance, premiums, et cet.,

He houses with some friendly man,
And shuns the weekly payment plan,
And has no worries—On my word
I can't enthuse about a bird.

—Buffalo Evening News.

Will Be There.

Mrs. Naomi Wetzel has taken the
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Some Revival.

Tomorrow evening at 7 p. m., mass
meeting Evangelist's topic, "Hell."
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the evening.—The East Palestine
(O.) Leader.

"Tribby" Is a Great Play.

"Tribby," perhaps the most popular
book and play ever presented inter-
nationally, opened last night at the
Hub theatre, as dramatized by the
Equitable Motion Pictures Corporation,
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Lackaye, who originated the role of
"Svengali" in the legitimate produc-
tion in the leading roles, supported
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m22tf

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