

JETT ON TAXATION.

Recommends Certain Changes in the Laws of This State.

Assessor-elect George W. Jett and Assessor John A. Payton, of Baker county, are at the Imperial, having come to Portland to attend the meeting of the assessors of the various counties of the state, which will be held this evening.

Mr. Jett has a number of changes in the laws of the state regarding the assessment of property which he will endeavor to have the association recommend to the legislature for passage at the next session. Chief of these is the change in the collection of delinquent taxes. Instead of allowing private individuals to bid in the property, the change recommended is that the state bid the property in and hold it for five years. The recommendation is as follows:

As soon as the delinquent list is 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 tax sales of real estate, which bid must always be equal to the amount of such taxes and costs; that after such sale the state shall add an adequate penalty and shall hold such property five years, subject to redemption by the owner or any person interested in such real estate; that at the end of the five years, the state shall offer such 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 such property, the state at the same time to pay the county in which the sale occurs the full amounts of taxes due and costs.

They will also recommend that all poll taxes shall be abolished; that the 33 county assessors of the state constitute a state board of equalization; that all taxes on personal property shall be a lien upon any real estate of which the owner of the personal property shall be the owner.

"Baker county has had a good record for the last four years, as far as increased valuations," continued Mr. Jett. "The increase of 1897 over 1896 was \$218,117; of '98 over '97, \$192,572; of '99 over '98, \$201,422; of '00 over '99, \$104,435. This makes a total increase in the four years of \$716,446, which is a gain of almost one-third.

"The reason I am opposed to the poll-tax system is that not every one is caught, and the tax falls most heavily upon the people who own property and against whom a lien can be had. The people who do not have property, and therefore do not have to pay a tax, are let alone. For instance, Mr. Greenleaf a year ago reported 1300 polls in his county, while in Baker county we had 1100."—Portland Telegram.

David Wilson Building Up Ontario.

The Ontario correspondent of the Boise Statesman tells of David Wilson's enterprise there as follows: Ontario has just burned 3,000,000 first-class brick for the purpose of erecting a large, commodious building on the space made vacant last spring by fire. This building will doubtless contain offices and vaults below, with lodge hall above. It will also have a large assembly room. This will be the finest building in the county.

Copper Butte Mine Bonded for \$50,000.

The mine owned by County Recorder J. M. Gilkison and his brother, Hon. J. R. Gilkison, located at Copper Butte in Union county, east of this city, concerning which little has been said during the past few months, is again to come to the front. This week the mine was bonded by Messrs. Gilkison to Judge Burke, president and manager of the North American Mining company, which owns the

great copper ledge at Burkemont, about two miles north, the price being \$50,000. Just what the intention of Judge Burke is regarding the property is not given out, but as a contract has already been let for sinking the shaft 100 feet deeper, it is presumed that development work will be pushed and the property put in shape at the earliest possible date for producing commercial copper. During the coming year great things for that immense copper belt of Union county may be expected.—Union Republican.

Electric Plant for the Cornucopia Arrives.

The machinery, or a large part of it, for the big electrical plant being put in at Cornucopia by the Cornucopia mines of Oregon company, has arrived at the O. R. & N. depot in this city from the east. This machinery is long overdue. Everything is in readiness at the mine for its installment. This will be done as soon as the machinery is delivered. The transportation of this machinery from Baker City to Cornucopia will require heavy teaming, but this has been provided for. The freighting outfit of Slade & Irwin has contracted to deliver the machinery and it will be done in an expeditious manner. Yesterday afternoon two six-horse and one four-horse teams left the city loaded, one box alone weighing 6000 pounds. It is thought that the electrical plant will be in running order not later than January 1 and it will unquestionably be one of the finest plants of the kind in the world.—Democrat.

Alkali Soil Treated Scientifically.

"The problem of alkali soil is engaging us a good bit at the agricultural experiment station in Montana," said Professor F. W. Traphagen, of Bozeman, to a Washington Post reporter. "People out there were somewhat loath to accept the advice of the 'book farmers,' but they are learning that it is profitable to follow our advice. The alkali soil is caused by excessive irrigation, and in Montana it comes from a dissolution of the alkali, which is concentrated from four to 14 feet under the surface. In Mexico the alkali is in the water itself. When alkali is deep under ground it is brought to the surface as the water evaporates. We have shown that crops, which thoroughly cover the surface, like alfalfa, prevent the evaporation and the farmers are profiting from the knowledge."

Ditching Machine for Crook County.

The ditching machine for the Deschutes Consolidated Irrigation company, which has been in the Shaniko warehouse for some time, was loaded on wagons last week and started for its destination. The company already has several miles of right of way cleared through the timber for the ditch, and excavating will begin as soon as the machine can be set up. It is the intention of the company to rush work all winter, and by spring the ditch will be ready to put water on a large amount of land. Soon southern Crook county will be dotted with homes of happy and prosperous families.—Shaniko Leader.

Official Vote Cast in Oregon.

The official count of the vote cast in Oregon at the election November 6 shows the following result: McKinley, 46,204; Bryan, 33,067; Woolley, 2500; Barker, 267; Debs, 1470. McKinley's plurality, 13,227.

Through the Yellowstone.

The new route via the Oregon Short Line Railroad and Monida, Mont., enables you to make a delightful trip through the Yellowstone National Park, entering via Monida and coming out via Cinnabar, making it unnecessary to cover any portion of the route twice. For beautiful descriptive booklet, write or call at Oregon Short Line Ticket Office, 142 Third street, Portland, Oregon.

Only the best of Wines, Liquors, Ice Cold Beer and temperance drinks at Barnard's Halfway House.

WE HAVE MOVED

After Long Delay, to Our
Old Location on

GRANITE STREET

and are now ready to serve our customers, old and new, with the best grade of goods, both

Dry Goods and Groceries

and all Miners' Supplies at as low prices as can be placed upon them at living profits.

We have special bargains to close out certain lines to make room for others.

Hobson Mercantile Co.
See lining dept. for "ORIENTAL SILK"

THE WONDER

GEO. W. WEIGAND,
PROPRIETOR.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

A complete stock of Dry Goods, Ladies and Men's Furnishings, Boots, Shoes, Hats and Clothing.

THE WONDER,

BOURNE, OREGON

THE Sumpter Forwarding Co.

General Storage, Commission and Forwarding.

Warehouse and office, S. V. Track

SUMPTER, OREGON.

THE GEM SALOON

A. J. STINSON, Prop.

(Successor to Snyder & Stinson)

Only the Best Brands of Liquors Served Over the Bar

SUMPTER, - - - OREGON

Dixon, Borgeson & Co.

Manufacturers of
Every Description of

Show Cases

JEWELERS' AND DRUG-
GISTS' WALL CASES &
BANK FIXTURES.

FRONT ST., COR. WASHINGTON

PORTLAND, ORE.