

Wide Wagon Tires.

The act relating to wide wagon tires went into effect January 1, 1900. The rebates allowed are shown in the law, which reads as follows:

"That from and after the 1st day of January, 1900, the county court or county board of each county within this state is hereby authorized to make a rebate each year, for four years, on the road tax of each person within its county who shall own and have in habitual use on the highways of this state wagons or other vehicles for the transportation of freight and other heavy material, the tires of which are not less than three inches in width—of one dollar for each wheel of such vehicle; and provided further, that the owner of each vehicle having tires of not less than four inches in width upon which there is a difference of at least eight inches in the length of the front and rear axle, so constructed that the front and rear wheels will not come in contact with the same road surface while the vehicle is moving in a straight line, shall receive in addition to the aforesaid rebate, a further rebate for four years in his or her road tax as aforesaid of two dollars for each vehicle of this class for each and every year during this period that said vehicle is habitually used upon the highways of this state."

How Doctors Differ.

"For ten solid years," said a New Orleans broker, "I lived in perpetual apprehension of sudden death. A doctor in Texas told me—confront his picture—that I had valvular heart disease, and if I wanted to stay on earth I must avoid every species of excitement. I did my best to follow his advice, but that miserable specter was at my elbow day and night and embittered my whole existence. I don't believe I am a coward, but the thought preyed on me until I began to fear for my sanity."

"At last, after all these years of infinite precaution, I went to a first class specialist to find out how much longer I'd last and was assured that I hadn't one single symptom of the malady. Talk about removing a mountain from a man! That assurance knocked off an entire range. It changed the color of the universe in a twinkling, and I was so happy I wanted to just throw up my hat and yell."

"That was a couple of years ago, and I have enjoyed myself tip-top ever since up to one day last week, when I happened to be chatting with the specialist and remarked that I'd like to murder that sawbones in Texas. 'I don't blame you,' he said. 'That man had no right to tell you that you had heart disease. If I had found you right at death's door, I certainly would never have let you know it.' Now, by Jove, I don't know who or what to believe and am drifting back to the old state of uncertainty. I wish I lived in a cannibal island and had never heard of doctors."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

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THE HOP SITUATION.

Standing of the Oregon Hopprowers Association—Rumors Denied.

A. J. Ray, who went East with President M. L. Jones, of the Oregon Hopprowers' Association, and returned alone, has resigned from the selling committee because his views of the methods of making sales were at variance with those of the executive committee, the difference in belief arising from looking at the situation in the East from separate points of view. At a secret meeting Saturday the executive committee accepted Ray's resignation.

A rumor having gained ground that President Jones was insane, the Salem representative of the association found it necessary to deny that and other reports. James Winstanley, the local agent, Saturday exhibited a letter from Hon. George B. Hovenden, of Hubbard, a brother-in-law of Mr. Jones, in which Mr. Hovenden asks that a denial of the report be made over his signature. Mr. Hovenden gives assurance that he has been in constant correspondence with Mr. Jones and that he knows that the latter is not insane.

The second report denied was that Eastern buyers had refused to buy hops direct from the association. In order to refute this story, Mr. Winstanley exhibited part of a letter from a Portland agent of a New York firm making the association an offer for a quantity of hops, the prices ranging from 5 1/2 to 7 cents, according to the sample.

This, however, is not considered a complete denial, for the offer thus made is for a sale to be made through an Oregon agent. The local buyers have all the time contended that the association must eventually dispose of its hops through the local agents. The letter exhibited is taken to be an admission of this claim, rather than a refutation.

The prices quoted, while somewhat better than those recently offered, are not satisfactory to the officers of the association, and they have not determined what course to pursue.

Salem hopbuyers admit that the pooling of hops may have some slight influence upon the market price, but state that Eastern buyers have agents here and do business only through them. They also claim the grades that would be placed upon hops by the association would not be accepted by the buyers and a failure to agree in this respect would be fatal to an attempt to deal directly with the Eastern houses.

There is plenty of talk, but not much business in Salem hop circles just at present. The officers of the Hopprowers' Association are much annoyed by reports circulated in regard to the association's transactions, and find it necessary to deny the stories occasionally. The local agent has made a statement denying an alleged rumor that the association had arranged to consign the entire pool to an Eastern firm. It is said that this rumor has broken the market and that Eastern buyers have countermanded orders for hops, expecting the Oregon crop to be consigned. It is stated at the association's office that there is no immediate prospect of a sale by the association.

James Winstanley has received a letter from President M. L. Jones, written at Washington January 18, which contained among other things the following:

"I have about completed my work here. Our representatives and senators now understand our propositions and wishes much better, I think, than before my visit here. I have also succeeded in interesting other people who will give us very material assistance. All we have to do is to stand solid as a unit and for what is reasonable and we will have wonderful success—if not just now—in future certain. . . . I think with careful management we will be able to dispose of the Oregon crop—if not with the desired profit—at least without the serious loss with which we were for a time threatened. I go from here to Chicago and then home."

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