

THE LANE COUNTY NEWS

W. A. DILL

Editor and Manager

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And Remember to Get a Stop-Over for Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1915

REGULATED TO DEATH


In 1868 the value of American exports carried in American vessels was one hundred and seventy-five million dollars. In 1914 it was one hundred and sixty-nine million dollars. Meanwhile, total American exports rose from less than half a billion to more than two billions. From the former to the latter date the proportion of exports carried in American ships declined pretty steadily year after year, says the Saturday Evening Post.

Now this is mainly an effect of government regulation. Say what else you please about it, there is the outstanding fact that in one way or another Congress did most of it. Since 1868 we have built up a railroad system that is equal to that of all Europe combined and carries freight at the lowest ton-mile rate in the world. We have developed far and away the greatest steel industry in the world. Other items of American achievement will occur to everyone. In the matter of shipping we were once in the world's van. That we should now be at the tail of the procession, if American skill and enterprise had been given a perfectly free hand to compete on the sea with other countries, is unthinkable.

We have tried a number of experiments in the way of government regulation of business. For example, there is our experiment of leaving private owners to raise the capital for railroad expansion, while the Government fixes the rates to which capital must look for its remuneration. On the whole it has worked tolerably well, but less well latterly than in former years. There is our experiment of trying to stop the co-ordination of business into bigger units, which has produced only annoyance so far. But in our experiment with shipping we were open to foreign competition all along the line, and unless all forecasts of the effect of our latest adventure in that field—the Seaman's Act—are false the result is going to be pretty complete failure. It shows that a business may be regulated to death.

THE QUESTION OF ASSESSED VALUATION

Ira P. Holcomb, assessor of the new county of Jefferson, gives the Madras Pioneer an interview on the subject of assessing property for purposes of taxation, in which he says: "Some were of the opinion that if the assessment was



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raised that it would increase the taxes. This is not the case; for the taxes are only such as are required to meet the expenses of the state, county, school and road districts. If the assessment is raised, then the millage is correspondingly lowered; for the same amount must be raised whether the assessment is high or low.

"To illustrate: Suppose the tax to be raised by Jefferson county for next year is \$100,000 it would make no difference whether our assessed valuation was \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000; that same \$100,000 would have to be raised. Certainly in the one case the millage would be only one-half as great as in the other; but the same number of dollars would have to be collected."

Theoretically, the Jefferson county assessor is correct, but the difficulty enters in determining the amount of money that must be raised. People, through a series of years, become accustomed to paying taxes of approximately a certain rate. If the assessed valuation of Springfield, for example, were suddenly doubled, and the next year's tax rate cut in two, there would be the tendency in succeeding years to increase the tax rate to meet additional town activities. There would be the tendency to resume activities that have been discontinued, since the five-mill levy would look small after the citizens had been accustomed to ten and twelve.

Another objection to making any radical departure in the basis of assessment is the possibility of inequalities creeping in. Assuming that property at present is assessed at a fairly uniform rate, and one that is just to all concerned, and decided change would impose the duty of carrying the increase uniformly to all.

It is not likely, however, that there will be any decided changes in the basis of assessment in the older counties of the state. The problem is an interesting one to Jefferson county because it is just setting up housekeeping in the family of Oregon counties.

CAN RIDE FREE

Railroads in Maine May Carry Editors and Reporters Gratis

Under a new law in Maine editors and correspondents of newspapers are classed with policemen in uniform, firemen on duty and in uniform in being entitled to receive passes from the railroads of Maine and the trolley lines.

The legislature took this action at the last session in response to numerous demands that the laws be changed to meet requirements of situations developing from duty calls of officers and firemen and the exigencies of the newspaper business requiring trips on purely professional business.

The subject has been discussed and argued for years, and the action of the state lawmakers at last settled a much debated question of rights and privileges.

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Notice to Creditors.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Vina McLean has been appointed administratrix of the estate of Jahalan T. Witter, deceased, by

the Probate Court of Lane County, Oregon, and that all persons having claims against said estate are required to file the same, duly verified, with the said administratrix at Springfield, Oregon, or at the law office of Williams & Bean, Eugene, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice.

Date of first publication, July 22, 1915.
VINA McLEAN,
Administratrix.
WILLIAMS & BEAN,
Attorneys for Estate.
Th 168-19.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed administratrix of the estate of Stanislaus K. Noel, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same, duly verified and with the proper vouchers, to the administratrix at the office of Woodcock, Smith & Bryson, 219 Barnard Building, Eugene, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice.

Date of first publication of this notice August 5, 1915.
BERENICE NOEL,
Administratrix of the estate of Stanislaus K. Noel, deceased.

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