

## THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY  
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### LEGISLATURE MAKING GOOD

Our legislature is now in the third week of the session—long enough to establish the fact that a majority of each house believe their ante-election pledges made to the people, should be lived up to faithfully. The old time political idea that pledges are made to get in on, seems to have been discarded by most of the members. No doubt the insistent demand of the people during the campaign of last year for reformation along state government lines, is bearing fruit.

Nor are the county governments to escape being included in the general spirit of retrenchment. They are due for a castigation at the hands of the tax savers, as well as the state. Senator Bingham has introduced a measure to cut the per diem of the Lane county commissioners from \$5 to \$3 and intimates that the daily wage of these officials shall not include Sundays in their reckonings.

It is not expected that our legislators will correct all the extravagancies foisted upon the people by their predecessors at this one session though, if the present economical spirit maintains throughout the session, a very long step in that direction will have been made. Bills now introduced will cut the annual appropriations more than \$200,000 and more are to follow. One measure proposed should certainly become a law and that is to require relatives, when able, to bear the burden of maintaining a member of their family, when placed in a state eleemosynary institution. The provisions of the bill should be extended to cover prisoners in the state penitentiary or boys and girls when confined in the reformatory schools.

Taxpayers have reason to feel proud of the men whom they have sent down to Salem this year, to make and unmake laws for them. Instead of creating new offices and boosting salaries, as was the rule of the several legislatures of the past, the present body seems to be really working for the best interests of the people. The taxeaters have had the inside track for many years. Now the taxpayer is to have an inning.

Gentlemen, the taxpayer doffs his hat to you. You are doing much to restore the legislature to the good opinion of the people. Instead of feeling ashamed to meet your constituents when you retire to your homes, you can extend them the glad hand for a duty well accomplished. Simply keep up the good work to the end and you will soon remove the unenviable reputation which Oregon has acquired of being the highest taxed of any of the states. It is an easy matter to do the right thing when you get started in the right direction. Oregon law makers have made this start. It will result in fewer proposed initiative laws for the people to pass upon.

### TECNICAL COLLEGES

One of the measures which the legislature will be required to pass upon, is the appropriation of \$175,000 to erect buildings for a medical school at Portland. Because of the legislative power Portland yields, this measure will, probably, become a law. But what are the people in general to gain by this expenditure?

This editor has always opposed the education of students in technical arts at public expense. Indeed, we have always opposed the state college, because the benefit returned to the people has never been commensurate with the cost.

While it is true we are educating blacksmiths, carpenters, dentists, lawyers, doctors, pharmacists, electricians and civil engineers, what do we, the people, gain by it?

We are told we gain by having a higher grade of educated men and women. Do we, the people, gain anything except to pay a little higher fee for this state taught technical knowledge? We cannot hope to cope with states which have both many times our wealth and population.

All of these technical schools are meritorious and of value to the state but, to overtax the state, which is now being done, means to retard development in both population and wealth.

The legislature will do well to enquire where we are at? What are our abilities to pay taxes, etc?

Property owners can pay a reasonable amount of taxation, but when the burden becomes too heavy, they begin to talk of moving to other states. We do not want this. We want the people who are now here and to encourage others to come. Oregon has many natural advantages which are greatly admired by the home seeker. They are superior to those of almost any but the Pacific coast states. It is foolish to discount these advantages by an overburdensome taxation. The home-seeker will prefer a less desirable state with lower taxation.

No indeed, we are, practically, informed when these people work for us, we are men and women of superior education and our work should be paid for accordingly. Not a bean does the average taxpayer get in return.

But suppose all this money which is being expended in technical schools, should be added to the common school fund. Then more months of school and better teachers could be employed than now, when the whole state would be benefitted.

Our legislature made a serious blunder when it authorized the establishment of the state college. All of these technical features have since been added. Nor is the end yet in sight. Every year new stone buildings are asked for besides maintenance.

Admitting there is merit in all these propositions, can the state afford them? Can the state afford to increase the burden of taxation to the point where development ceases?

Oregon in point of population and taxability, is yet a small state.

### THE SACRIFICE IN HOGS

In the last seven days more than 12,000 hogs have been received at the Portland Union Stockyards. For the corresponding period a year ago the number received was a little more than 5000 and two years ago for the third week in January the number was a trifle fewer than 2000. These figures are taken from the books of the stockyards company and are to be relied upon.

Most of us remember that seven years ago hogs were selling on this market at 10 cents a pound, live weight. It will also be remembered

that during the following year several buyers were sent to the Middle West in search of brood sows, which were bought and shipped to Oregon carload after carload. The trouble was that the hog market in Oregon was so much higher than ever before that almost everything that looked like a hog was sent to the shambles. Hence the high prices instead of benefitting us as a whole were a detriment, setting the hog growers back two or three years.

Now the large shipments come from another cause—the high price of wheat, for most of the hog growers depend upon wheat to finish their hogs for market. This could be done at a fair profit with wheat at a normal price; when it soared up to the \$1.50 mark it meant a loss to feed it to hogs that were worth something like 7 cents per pound.

So again Oregon is being cleaned out of hogs. Of those reaching this market, and we understand the same can be said of Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane, only a proportionate few are actually fit for slaughter. The rest are shipped by the farmers and other growers simply to save wintering them. And the price is falling day by day.

These abnormal conditions are to be regretted. They arise largely from a lack of business acumen among farmers. They do not think far enough ahead. They have, it is true, done wonders in making Oregon a hog producing state, thanks to the crusade for more hogs that the stockyards and packing house people have made, assisted very largely by the railways. But another step must be made by the farmers—they must not only grow hogs; they must grow feed for them. The idea that wheat is the only feed or the best feed for making pork is fallacious. Just so long as the farmers depend upon wheat we are liable at any time to have conditions arise as they exist at present.

The farmers, especially the small farmers, should raise, so far as possible, their own hog feed—alfalfa, corn, peas—anything for finishing. They should not depend upon the wheatgrowers. They should so conduct the business as to buy wheat when the market justifies, but to depend almost solely upon it is sheer folly.

It looks now as if next year we would be sending east for brood sows again. Surely if the present shipments continue for another month or two we must. Then we shall be back right where we were seven years ago—Starting anew in the business.

This is all wrong. Three months ago the northwest was in better shape as to the hog business than ever before. Then came \$1.50 wheat and we are approaching the bottom very fast.—Oregonian.

The use of dumdum bullets is severely condemned by the Germans. The condemnation is well warranted for, when an enemy is disabled by a wound, what more should be asked? Why maim the soldier boy for life when he might recover from a clean cut wound? But our German friends are straining at a gnat and are swallowing a camel. They introduced the practice of dropping bombs from airships indiscriminately upon the towns of their enemy and the killing and wounding of non-combatants—old men, women and children. The dumdums injure none but active combatants, the bombs rarely injure the soldier but are rich in their harvest of women and children. The use of both the dumdums and the bombs is a turning of civilized warfare towards the barbaric and the bomb is, by far, the longest step.

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