

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

Entered at the postoffice at Scio,
Oregon as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION, IN ADVANCE \$1.25
AT END OF YEAR 1.50
SIX MONTHS .75

ADVERTISING RATES:
Local advertising, per line .5c
Display advertising, per inch .10c
Display advertising, long time, see
manager.
Extended marriage or death notices
per line .3c
Special rates on long time display
advertising.

WHY TAXES ARE HIGH

People complain because their tax bills seem to be soaring skyward. The complaint is based upon just grounds too; yet the people themselves are wholly to blame for what they complain of. When we scan our tax levies closely, we find that portion levied for the county and state less than one half of the total levy. The larger portion is made up of city, school districts and special road levies. In Linn county for instance, the levy for county and state is 11½ mills. In Scio the special school levy is 11 mills, city levy 8 mills and special road 5 mills. This makes a total of 34½ mills or \$3.45 on every thousand dollars of your assessment.

However, the levy for state purposes, has been increased rapidly within the past few years. We are supporting too many criminals, crazy people, feeble minded, blind, deaf and dumb and unruly boys and girls for a state with less than a million population. We are also supporting three large college plants in a luxurious and extravagant manner, when one should be abundantly sufficient for the needs of our sparse population. We are building too many large and expensive armories chiefly for the benefit for large assemblies in the towns in which they are located.

Then our judiciary has been greatly augmented and the judges salaries increased. Fifteen years ago our state supreme court had but three members with a salary of \$3000 each; now there are seven members at \$4000 each. The judicial districts of that day have been subdivided and the number of judges needlessly increased. While the number of districts have been a little more than doubled, the presiding judges have been quadrupled. Again our legislature creates new state commissions at nearly every session, each of which adds to the tax burden without accomplishing any material benefit for the people.

As before stated, the people themselves, are responsible for these extravagancies. At our biennial elections, we select too many young and inexperienced men for legislators. They are generally small taxpayers, if they pay any tax at all and they increase the tax burden. We need not expect any relief as long as we elect such men for our law makers. On the other hand, if we elect men who are experienced in the affairs of life and who are taxpayers, we can have repealed many of these mischievous and expensive laws. It is then up to the people to elect legislators who will stand first, last and all the time for the interests of the tax payers instead of for those of the tax eaters.

And this same thing is or should be true of all other official places. Just because a man is a good fellow and will go across the street to shake hands with you, is no reason why he

should be elected to a public office, which will give him power to reach down in your pocket and take what he will for the county and state.

In a few weeks we will be nominating candidates for the legislatures and for county offices. Let us use our very best judgment in selecting men who are honest and competent. We do not want young men with nearly all of the experience of life before them, but men who have borne life's responsibility long enough to cause them to examine a subject from all angles.

A DIFFICULT PROBLEM

Our city dads have a difficult problem before them for solution and which, with all possible scheming, fails to give the desired result.

Last year, owing to an insufficient supply of water just at fair time, an engine had to be employed and, at the same time, the core gear of the water wheel gave way. So that, at the end of the year, a deficit of about \$300 was shown. That is to say, the cost of operating the plant was \$300 greater than the income from consumers.

When our present council took charge of the city, a movement in the way of a ten per cent increase on light rates was made, to take care of this deficit. At the same time and at the solicitation of several patrons, an all night trial service was ordered which, of course increased the cost of operation.

Prior to last year, the light and water plant was a little more than self sustaining and the council had ordered this surplus placed in a sinking fund, to take care of the city bonds as they became due and, if anything is to be added to this sinking fund and the all-night service continued, a further increase in rates will have to be made.

Because of the ten per cent increase, some of the patrons cut out their lights and if another increase is ordered, probably other consumers will cut out their lights as well and the hoped for gain by increase of rates will be wiped out by loss of patrons.

Ever since the city became the owner of the light and water system no charge has been made against the city for street lights or for water in case of fire. The Tribune believes that, instead of increasing the light rates, a small charge should be made against the general city fund for the benefit of the light and water fund for street lights and water.

Of course such charge would simply be transferring money from one city fund to another, but the loss of patrons would not probably occur. Scio is but a small town and the expense of maintaining the light and water plants is necessarily heavy upon the consumers. Yet we would not could not afford to do without them. After having our streets well lighted we would not like to blunder about in darkness again. And just think what the increase in insurance rates would be if our city water supply should be cut out?

Almost every family in town is a patron of both our light and water systems. Yet there are a few who patronize neither; yet they have the benefit of street lights and water in case of fire. If the street lights and water were taxed a small sum for the benefit of the light and water fund, these non users would then help support the light and water plants.

Let the charge against the general fund be sufficient to take care of a possible deficit, as in the case of last year and to provide the cost of an all-night service and, The Tribune believes the problem will be solved. If the plants were in private hands, the city would have to pay

TAX PAYMENT LAW IS EXPLAINED

Fifty Per Cent is Due on April 5 and the
Balance October 1--Interest
Charges Elucidated

(Continued from page 1)

on any day from October 6 to Nov. 4, inclusive, the interest charges should be 7 per cent on the first half or \$3.50 and 1 per cent on the second half, or 50 cents.

"If the entire amount is paid on November 5, the interest charges should be 7 per cent on the first half, \$3.50 and 1 per cent on the second half, 50 cents, plus a penalty of 5 per cent, \$5.

"If the entire amount is paid on any day from November 6 to Dec. 5, inclusive, the interest charges should be 8 per cent on the first half, \$4 and 2 per cent on the second half, \$1, plus a penalty of 5 per cent, \$5.

THE SHACKFORD ROAD BILL

Congressman Shackford has introduced a post road bill in congress which, if passed, may be the beginning of a system of good hard surfaced roads throughout the nation. The amount of this initiatory bill is \$25,000,000 and is to be divided among the states in a manner so that Oregon's share would be \$248,792 providing the state appropriated a like sum. This total would not build a great many miles of hard surface road, but it would be a starter.

And why should not the government appropriate money for the public highways? It has given large bodies of land to railways, assumes the responsibility of the improvement of our rivers and harbors and builds solid stone structures in our cities for postal and other public uses. Is not our public highways of as great importance as any of these? Would not our roads be of as great use to the government in times of war as any of them, especially since the motor truck has become a very important means of transportation in the movement of armies? What better or cheaper means of coast defense could be provided for the quick transportation of troops than hard surface roads along our coasts?

The Tribune believes the Shackford bill should become a law. Government aid in building highways, would benefit all the people more than the expenditure of public money for any other purpose. And while the government is benefitting the people, it is providing a means for the rapid mobilization of troops at any point it may desire—points not now reached by railroads on the water routes.

When ex-Mayor Ewing vetoed the city tax ordinance last year, he probably did not then realize the hole he was placing the city government in. As a result, the city is without funds to do anything and the new charter prohibits the council from issuing warrants when it has no funds with which to pay them. Further, a tax can be increased from year to year but 6 per cent above the previous year tax. So there is no way for the city to catch up with its necessary expenditures except by issuing bonds. A little spite work is to blame for all the trouble.

four or five times this small sum. It is a poor policy to so handle our light and water systems that patronage will be driven away.

Dr. T. K. Sanderson

DENTIST

Phone 27-7

SCIO OREGON

If you have anything to sell or want to buy anything, lease a farm or other property, try a want ad in The Tribune; it will get results and save you both time and money.

WHEN YOU WANT
Plumbing or Tinning
—SEE—
FRED OHLEMIER
South Side of the Bridge
His Experience is Worth Money
to You
Repairing a Specialty
Satisfaction Guaranteed

Hizz ADDRESS BLAIRSTOWN IOWA Hizz

PARK MILL COMPANY

SUCCESSOR TO

Houser-Ballantyne Mill Co.

DEALERS IN

DOUGLAS FIR LUMBER

Special Attention Given to Local Orders

SCIO

OREGON

J. F. WESELY

DEALER IN

Staple and Fancy Groceries
Queensware, Glassware, Etc.
Field and Garden Seeds



Cash Paid for Veal, Hogs, Hides and Cascara Bark

Prices Right

Our Motto: Live and Let Live

J. F. WESELY

SCIO

OREGON

A Most Pleasant Evening may be Spent

AT

Faltus' Billiard Hall

Confectionery, Soft Drinks
Cigars, Tobacco, Etc.

•YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

You May Pay Less

BUT YOU WILL NOT GET WORK
THAT IS SO GOOD AS WE DO

You May Pay More

BUT YOU WILL NOT GET WORK
THAT'S ANY BETTER IF AS GOOD

These statements refer to Job and Book Printing. Our facilities are complete. We use only the best of material, and our prices are right for first class work. We do no other kind. We always satisfy our customers.

THE SCIO TRIBUNE