

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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DIFFICULT JOB AHEAD

The Oregon legislature, which will meet in a few weeks, will face a condition it has never heretofore had to meet. In the past there has been no limit to the amount of money it could appropriate. The appropriations were made and tax levying bodies had to adjust their levies accordingly. Now by initiative law, the people have said in effect, "Gentlemen, we have provided a stated sum of money and you must so arrange your expenditures that the total shall be within this sum." There is no provision made for deficiencies. If this sum is not sufficient, the legislator's only recourse is to appeal to the people by special election or otherwise for additional funds. For the first time in the history of Oregon, the legislator is made to know that he is the servant of and the people is the boss. The legislature is given so much cloth from which it must fashion its garments.

The tax limitation law and the single item veto, should be sufficient to eliminate all pork barrel grafts and extravagant appropriations from legislative enactment. Let us hope it does.

The legislature is thus compelled to pursue a policy of economy. It is thus forced to do what it should have done years ago, do away with all unnecessary and expensive commissions, consolidate others and discharge about half or more of the army of inspectors and unnecessary officials. It must do this in order to have money enough to provide for the necessary state institutions. Verily, the legislator job will not be a picnic next January.

The fact that nearly all of our eleemosynary institutions and state colleges are asking for increased amounts of money over the sums allowed them heretofore, will not add to the pleasure of the legislative task. All say, we need this additional sum, else the efficiency of our particular institution will be greatly impaired. Of course the vast majority of new buildings asked for by these state paupers, must be refused. The plans of the various heads of these institutions are arranged along too expensive lines. All of these heads naturally consult only their own plans of extension, wishes, desires, etc. They have forgotten that the people—the taxpayers, have any right in the matter at all. They seem to think that all they have to do is to say "open sesame" and the trick is accomplished.

What a surprise is in store for the presidents of our state colleges, the state fair board and others. Heretofore, all they had to do to get such appropriations as they desired, was to organize a sufficiently large lobby in the legislative halls and the members from morning till night and they could drive the law as they desired

through. But this time they will meet up with a new and insurmountable obstacle—the mandate of the people.

In some respects, the tax limitation law will result unfortunately. Some of our eleemosynary institutions may be denied funds they absolutely need and the inmates are sure to be made to suffer thereby. The officials of these institutions have never been known to deny themselves of personal comfort. They always make the unfortunate inmate pay the penalty. The same can be said of our state schools. The first care always is to pay the employees their handsome salaries in full. The school may be denied a necessary equipment or a necessary repair, but the shortage must never touch the taxeating official.

Heretofore, the taxpayer has always been made the goat. His back has, heretofore, been broad enough to bear the burden. If not his holdings have been sold by the sheriff. Now the worm has turned. The taxpayer has forcibly taken the reins. He has asserted his mastership. He has said thus far and no farther.

Can the taxpayer be blamed for thus asserting his mastership? When he sees Oregon paying about the highest per capita tax of any state in the union; when he sees these booster organizations preparing to assault the state treasury; when he sees massive stone buildings going up at our state colleges, one or two per year; when he sees the state fair board demanding \$225,000 to erect buildings to be occupied for one week only in the year, is it any wonder he reneges? Is it any wonder the worm has turned and the taxpayer has asserted himself?

So, gentlemen of the legislature, we again say, you have a difficult job ahead of you. You will need the wisdom and justice of a Solomon and the judgment of a Daniel, if you acquit yourselves with credit in the minds of the taxpayer. You and each of you have now the opportunity to establish a reputation as economists. Nor is it a question of your pleasure in the matter. It is simply a question of "have to."

We, also, apprehend that a large majority of the members of our legislature, are very glad that the tax limitation and single item veto laws are enacted. He can now say to the lobbyist, "I might favor your scheme, but what's the use? The governor will veto it or the ways and committee will scale it down or eliminate it altogether in its report, etc."

So go to it gentlemen! Establish the record in the history of Oregon legislatures for economy and general good sense! You are on trial now as no Oregon legislature has been heretofore. The people has limited the pot. If this step is not sufficient to bring about an era of economy and curtailment of useless commissions and officials, more drastic treatment in the future is in store. The people have asserted their bossship. Don't drive them to more drastic action.

STILL VEXED WITH MEXICO

President Wilson has certainly been most patient with Mexico. He has given Carranza every opportunity to restore order in his unhappy country, but he has not done so. Indeed, right at the present time Villa seems to be regaining power and now has supplies and men sufficient to successfully meet the constitutional troops in battle array. If he continues to gain in troops and equipment, in a few weeks he will drive Carranza out of the country. Then Villa, whose hands are as red as those of Huerta, will wield the supreme power.

The Tribune is well aware that no glory attaches to intervention in the

affairs of Mexico and that such intervention will be just what the Standard Oil, Hearst's and other interests are intriguing for. But there are other interests such as the law-abiding element in Mexico and the people along the border which, for humanity sake, look longingly and expectantly toward Washington.

The so-called arbitration commission, now in session at Atlantic City, is a farce. Nothing can come of it unless the U. S. concedes everything that the chairman of the Mexican commission demands. This, of course will not be conceded. The election is now over and President Wilson will be apt to look at matters from a sterner viewpoint. He has tried out pacific treatment and used the threat that a large army on the border implies, but without any seeming beneficial effect upon the Mexicans, either nationals or rebels. The time for action must soon come.

When the farce at Atlantic City is fully played out, which will be within the next few days, a proclamation to Mexico from President Wilson will be due. Congress will be in session in another six weeks, when some action is sure to be taken promptly. Mexico should be given a specific time in which to restore tranquility, else the United States should intervene. Nor should intervention be made in the interests of foreign investors who have gone down there to exploit the Mexican government and despoil the Mexican people of their lands and homes, giving a mere pittance in exchange therefor, but in the interests of the Mexican people themselves. We intervened in Cuba to release her from Spanish exploitation and misrule and the American people will not permit intervention in Mexico for any other purpose.

Judge Charles E. Hughes has, so far, failed to send a word of congratulation to his successful rival, President Woodrow Wilson. The excuse of waiting until Mr. Wilson's election is officially proclaimed is a mere subterfuge. The American people admire a good loser almost as much as they do a good winner. But Mr. Hughes is not a good loser. Having awaited thus long, he can consistently await until before both houses of congress, Speaker Clark declares Mr. Wilson's election. Then it will be too late to send congratulations decently. Good wishes from a defeated candidate are treasured of value if given with promptness and spontaneity. As soon as an election result is known with reasonable surety, then congratulations are in order, not later. The people of all the world now admits Mr. Wilson's election. Mr. Hughes does not. He is acting the part of a pouting child. How different it is with Hon. Lair Thompson, of Lake county. When the count showed that he was defeated by but one vote, he immediately congratulated his successful rival. He thus showed his manhood and nobleness of character. The American people are disappointed in Mr. Hughes. They are mistaken in the quality of his manhood.

January 1, Linn county will inaugurate her first lady county officials. As both ladies are known to possess superior ability for their respective positions, The Tribune predicts that the people will not regret the new step in progress which they have made.

City election will soon be here. How would the following ticket suit you? Mayor, R. M. Cain; councilmen, E. C. Peery, Roy Shelton, D. C. Thoms, N. I. Morrison, Fred Jones and Frank Thayer. Recorder J. S. Sticha. Marshal, W. A. Cross. Treasurer, E. D. Myres.

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GEORGE GIBBONS, Scio, Ore.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

The man who is really happy is the man who lives in the future—who anticipates. The man or woman who never takes thought of the future, of course, cannot look forward to the future with any hope or anticipation. The wise man says "Look out for tomorrow and today will look out for itself." The fool says "Have a good time today and let tomorrow worry about itself." Today's Savings mean Tomorrow's Comforts.

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