

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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

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*I pledge allegiance to my flag and
the Republic for which it stands, one
Nation, indivisible, with liberty and
justice for all.*

HIGH TAXES—MORE COMING.

Tax paying time will be again
with us in March and will reach the
highest point ever paid by Linn
county. The levy for the different
localities in Linn county will range
from 30 to 50 mills. When we add
to this the upkeep of the property
the total will be increased to near
15 per cent of the cash value of the
property.

And this rate will increase rather
than diminish in the future.

Our state is now obligated to pay
interest on about \$20,000,000 on
bond issues in the past and almost
to the limit of the bonded indebted-
ness allowed by our state constitu-
tion, yet our good roads enthusiasts
are asking for another \$10,000,000
and to do this are asking the people
to increase the bond limit from 2 to
4 per cent of the bond limit for state
indebtedness.

It will be remembered that this
paper opposed the \$6,000,000 bond
issue on the ground that it would be
but the entering wedge for other
like issues. In 1918 the people au-
thorized a second issue which about
reached the state law limit of bond
issues.

The Portland bunch pleaded for
the first issue stating as a justifica-
tion that no part of the issue would
be expended in Multnomah county,
but they did not fail to remember
that a large part of the material
would be purchased in that county
and most of the contractors and la-
bor would be supplied by Multno-
mah county. Nor did they forget
that the Columbia highway, which
is scenic rather than commercial,
would inure to Portland's benefit.

Now between \$17,000,000 and
\$18,000,000 of bonds have been is-
sued and this scenic highway is not
complete. The reason for the wast-
ing of the people's money is evident.

These state road bonds, sold by
our millionaire state road commis-
sion, have been marketed at an av-
erage discount of 6 per cent. If we
add to this discount loss the over-
head expenses of the commission we
find that but about 50 cents of the
dollar reaches road construction.
Then if we consider the high cost of
labor and material, this other 50
cents which escapes overhead ex-
penses is cut in the middle again,
leaving but 25 cents on the dollar
issued to finally reach the roads if
the conditions were normal.

Most of these bonds draw 4 1/2 per
cent interest. If we place this in-
terest upon the actual amount which
reaches the roads we find we are
paying 18 per cent interest on the

actual good done the roads and this
too, to build a scenic joy riding road
for Portland's benefit.

The question is, can the people
afford it?

Should the people be so unwise as
to increase the state bond limit to 4
per cent another \$10,000,000 will
be thrown into the hopper and about
all the good the people will get will
be to have their taxes increased.

When our taxes reach 7 to 8 per
cent on the assessed value of prop-
erty, which point will soon be reach-
ed at the present rate of increase,
what will your farm be worth, Mr.
farmer? Even now some men re-
fuse to buy property in Oregon be-
cause of high taxation. Double up
the present rate and all will refuse
to buy. In consequence the farm
value will decrease rapidly because
the small profit earned has been de-
stroyed, has been confiscated. What
will your paved roads be worth
then, Miss Portland? It will simply
be decay when you have driven the
state into bankruptcy.

This writer has lived in Oregon
for 50 years. He has seen the gross
amount of taxes multiplied by four
in that time. The outlook is for a
much quicker increase in the near
future.

No, Mr. taxpayer, refuse to raise
the bond limit and also the repeal
of the 6 per cent limit or the State
of Oregon will be bankrupt within
the next ten years. Protect your
homes by refusing to take down the
bars of sober reason and turn the
state over to the grafting extrava-
gance to which we are now rapidly
drifting. It is your only protection
and for your boys and girls soon to
take their places in the busy activi-
ties of life.

THE GOVERNORSHIP MUDDLE.

Last week the supreme court
handed down a decision holding
that Governor Olcott was entitled to
fill out the late Governor Withy-
combe's full term, or until January
1, 1923.

Now as Mr. Olcott's term as sec-
retary of state expires January 1,
1921, some people are asking by
what authority he holds down the
gubernatorial chair for the two years
from January 1, 1921, to 1923.

The court decision simply stalls
off the abnormal condition now con-
trolling the descent of the office as
governor. This condition was brot
about by the election of secretary
for a full term of four years after
the decease of Secretary Benson.
He should have been elected to serve
out Benson's term only. Then the
order of succession of the office of
governor as contemplated by our
constitution makers would have been
preserved.

The court divided, 4 to 3, in its
decision. So we will have a govern-
or for two years by virtue of the
voice of one man only.

Surely our constitution makers
did not contemplate a contingency
of this character, else the muddle
which now exists would not have
been possible.

This paper believes that Governor
Olcott's administration is popular
among the people. He could repair
this anomalous condition by resign-
ing, to take effect January 1, 1921,
and then become a candidate to
succeed himself at the coming Novem-
ber election. He would be elected
by a large majority.

Another plan: The people could
at the special election to be held
next May, declare the office vacant
January 1, 1921. This would give
time for the election in November;
or so amend the constitution at that
time which would bring about the
same result and be a guide in case a
like condition should arise in the
future.

There is no reason why this lame-
ness in our constitution should not
be corrected this year.

Governor Olcott now holds the
office of governor by virtue of being
secretary of state. When his title
to the secretaryship expires January
1, next, cannot the secretary then
installed in office, justly demand to
step across the hall and assume the
reins of governor? Should this con-
dition arise, the supreme court must
decide that the secretary is within
his rights in making the demand,
for the constitution plainly says in
case of vacancy by resignation, death
or otherwise, the secretary of state
shall succeed to the gubernatorial
office.

Thus the court will find itself in a
box and must reverse itself from the
decision just handed down. The
constitution in another section says
the secretary shall hold office for 8
years consecutively only. Secretary
Olcott completed his 8 years Janu-
ary 1, 1919. He is now secretary
in violation of that section. If he
holds the office of secretary until
January 1, 1923, he will have served
consecutively 12 years or thereabout.

The spirit of our constitution evi-
dently contemplated that any office
vacated for whatever cause should
be filled by appointment until the
next general election, even including
that of governor. But as they fail-
ed to make the law plain in the
matter, they evidently thought a
governor would never die or resign.
Now that we see the necessity of
correcting this oversight we should
repair the error as soon as possible.

If the secretarial office had been
made coterminous with that of gov-
ernor, or had a provision been made
for the election of a lieutenant or
vice governor, without salary except
when in active duty as governor or
president of the senate, our present
muddle would have been impossible.

HOOVER FOR PRESIDENT.

Sentiment seems to be rapidly
forming for the nomination of Hon-
orable Herbert C. Hoover for presi-
dent. It is not inspired by Mr.
Hoover himself nor by the politici-
ans. The inspiration seems to eman-
ate among the masses of the com-
mon people irrespective of any party
to which they have adhered; for
they are both sick and tired of the
methods of the office hunting politi-
cians. Professional politicians
would describe the matter more
perfectly.

Mr. Hoover is absolutely free of
the partisan microbe. So free is he
that no person with authority seems
to be able to align him with either
of the great political parties, and
for this reason the people want him
to take hold of the helm of the ship
of state.

The spectacle of extreme parti-
sanism which is now and has been
manifested in the U. S. senate over
the ratification of the treaty and
league of nations, that the people
would be pleased to see the entire
bunch, with few exceptions, tumbled
overboard.

The republican wing, supported
by a few democrats, do not want
the treaty ratified though the ma-
jority of that party want ratification
because it would give too much
glory to Woodrow Wilson, a dem-
ocrat, and have so loaded the treaty
down with interpretations and re-
servations which practically nullifies
the treaty, that the president will
not accept it.

Mr. Hoover is not a man of this
class. While the treaty may not be
just as he would have it, it is such
a long step toward establishing a
permanent peace and toward bring-
ing about the brotherhood of man-
kind, that he would have the treaty
ratified even if it has imperfections
in the American viewpoint. He en-
dorses the Wilson administration in
the main as he manifested in voting
for the re-election of President Wil-
son, yet no one seems to be able to

say with authority whether he is a
democrat or republican. He is as
ideally independent as may be found
within the realm of American poli-
tics. He believes in progression and
economy, and should he be nomi-
nated and elected he would give our
nation a new deal. He would clean
out the political gangs which have
been leeches on the government
since the days of the Civil war.

For this reason the people want
him, and vice versa, the politicians
do not, for they know that Mr.
Hoover would run the ship.

Being so completely independent
of partisanship neither party could
afford to antagonize him, but both
for patriotic reasons would be forced
to assist in making his administra-
tion a success.

The great majority of the Ameri-
can people would gladly see the
leeches and grafters about Wash-
ington, D. C., to be forced to try and
see if they could really earn an hon-
est living.

We are rightly endeavoring to
free our nation of bolshevism, I. W.
W., and all other isms detrimental to
democracy, but when we know that
these grafters and political tricksters
are the basic cause for these ene-
mies of the government we feel that
a thorough cleaning of the Aegean
stables is necessary. The people
want the cleansing to be within as
well as without our national capital.
They think Mr. Hoover would be
just the right man to boss the job.

In states having a presidential
preference law the people can ex-
press their choice, but in states
where the political machines are still
in the saddle it will be difficult for
them to wield a sufficient influence
contrary to machine politics.

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