

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.*

SCIO, OREGON, JAN. 20, 1921

LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT.

One of the knotty problems which
the present legislative assembly
must solve is the reapportionment
of the state for membership in the
legislature.

Our constitution inhibits a mem-
bership of more than 90 in both
bodies of the legislature—30 in the
senate and 60 in the house. With-
out a constitutional change this
number may not be increased.

Membership heretofore has been
based upon the total of population
of the counties. Counties having a
large population, such as Multnomah,
being given a large number of
members while several sparsely set-
tled counties must be joined to be
entitled to one member. This re-
sults in over representation for
Multnomah and under representa-
tion for the sparsely settled counties.

Portland is practically Multnomah
county. Her population is probably
25 per cent of the floating variety;
non home owners and men and wo-
men who have no families. They
are citizens of Portland because the
job they are holding down is in
Portland, yet their homes are really
in other states or in other parts of
our own state, and many of whom
own property elsewhere than in
Portland or other manufacturing
districts. These floaters claim their
real homes are where they own prop-
erty or in the localities where the
bulk of their relatives reside. They
are residents of Portland temporar-
ily or for as long as their jobs last.
Justly they should not be enumer-
ated as citizens in their temporary
homes for purposes of legislative
apportionment.

To illustrate this feature: Scio
and vicinity have 15 or more of her
citizens residing in Portland and
other manufacturing centers. They
went there simply because of the
inducements offered by the manu-
facturing interests. A field man
for the Camas, Wash., paper mill
was in Scio two or three years ago
and induced near a dozen of Scio
people to accept jobs in the Camas
mill.

This is probably true of many if
not all the localities of the state.
Yet these people expect to return to
Scio or from whence they came
when they get through with their
temporary employment. Such have
reduced the population of Linn
county and increased that of Mult-
nomah county or elsewhere as the
case may be.

Now it is manifestly unfair to
count these people in making legis-
lative apportionment for they really
are residents of Linn county and
expect to return here. It would be
just as fair for Corvallis to enumer-
ate students at O. A. C. as citizens,
or Eugene the students of the Uni-

versity. These people should be
enumerated at their real homes un-
til they establish permanent homes
elsewhere.

In a tentative bill to be submitted
to the lawmakers probably this week
Multnomah county will be given 15
representatives and 6 senators while
Linn county will lose one represen-
tative and one-half of one senator,
caused by this floating population
moving from Linn and temporarily
centering in Multnomah.

This new apportionment will give
Multnomah exactly one-fourth of
the membership of the house of rep-
resentatives and one-fifth of that of
the senate. With any sort of an or-
ganization and unity of action these
21 members of the legislature can
absolutely dominate legislative ac-
tion. Any measure Multnomah wants
carried through is a surety, while a
measure which the rest of the state
might desire, especially if it seemed
to conflict with Portland interests,
is almost sure of defeat.

It can easily be seen then that
this floating population should not
be included in the basis as a just ap-
portionment for legislative purposes.
Very many laws on our statute
books have been placed there by
this large power which Multnomah
wields which would not have been
there without this domination.

So to enlarge this domination is
manifestly unjust. Another basis
of apportionment should be selected
—a home owners basis would be
more representative of the people.

But a change of basis is not likely
to be made. Portland will not sur-
render the power she wields over
state affairs. She will continue to
select legislative members from
among these floaters and non home
owners for they can be manipulated
by Portland politicians.

The proposition has been advanced
to give every county at least one
representative regardless of popula-
tion. This would give all portions
of the state at least a fairer repre-
sentation. It may be necessary to
change the state constitution in or-
der to make an apportionment on
this basis. But it appears that such
move is necessary.

Multnomah county nor Portland
is not Oregon nevertheless it is the
largest center of both capital and
population. The rest of the state
should not be placed in the position
of supplicant and forced to be con-
tent with such crumbs as the Port-
land bunch permits to drop from the
legislative table. Portland must not
place herself in a position to hog
the whole business. Whether she
does or not 21 of the 90 members
of the legislature will place her in a
position to do so and she will have
the name with or without the candle.

THE NEW TARIFF LAW.

It is the purpose of the republican
congress to enact a new tariff law
as soon as may be. Indeed, Presi-
dent-elect Harding will convene
congress in special session soon after
his inauguration for this purpose
mainly. He will be acting wisely
to do so for business will not settle
to a normal basis until this is done.

The republican policy since that
party was organized and came into
power has been a protective tariff.
Such a tariff was needed in 1860,
for our manufacturing industries,
lightly capitalized, were easily star-
ved out. Foreigners could flood our
markets with cheaper and better
goods and our infant industries
simply would have to quit, when the
foreign made goods would advance
in price.

This was the condition of our
country in 1860 when Abraham
Lincoln was nominated for president.
Our industries then sorely needed
protection. It is not the case today.
Manufacturers have grown rich on
protection. They manufacture more

goods than can be sold in the Amer-
ican market and sell their surplus in
competition with the foreign manu-
facturers in the markets of the
world and at a much smaller price
than they sell to the American con-
sumer. Hence, the protection that
was needed 60 years ago is not at
all necessary today.

The object of a protective tariff
is to increase the price of commodi-
ties to American consumers; for if
our domestic manufacturers were
protected so that they could increase
the price of their goods the Ameri-
can consumer who bought the goods
had to dig down deeper in his pocket.

There is but one industry that is
now in the infant class—the dye
manufacturer. Prior to the war
we bought nearly all of our dyes
from Germany. The war forced us
to manufacture our own dyes, and
in order to prevent Germany from
flooding our markets with dyes at a
price so low that our American con-
cerns would have to shut up shop,
protection may be necessary. But
this is the only necessary product.
Our other industries are amply able
to take care of themselves.

So our republican friends must
arrange the new tariff law along
democratic lines of "a tariff for
revenue only."

Our nation needs all the revenue
it can get from any and all sources.
So if the new tariff law is based on
the principle of the largest possible
revenue result it will meet with the
approval of a vast majority of the
people. But the people will not
stand for the old excessively high
tariff.

The ideal tariff would be to place
the rates as high as possible and at
the same time encourage the impor-
tation of foreign made goods. Of
course such tariff rates will afford
incidental protection, but will yield
the largest possible revenue, and if
America ever needed a large revenue
it is at the present time.

Congress must not be guided by
the wishes of the old time tariff hog
and his successors, for they would
have a prohibitive rate if they could
place the figures. This would sim-
ply make the American consumer
pay dearly for the commodities he
uses, but no revenue would accrue
to the government.

The calling of a special session to
rebuild the tariff law will meet with
the approval of all. Mr. Harding
will not be able to get the business
of the country down to a condition
of "normalcy" until this is done. A
condition of uncertainty will retard
and slow up business and the sooner
this uncertainty is disposed of men
will not embark, enlarge or resume
business as actively as they will
when they know where they are at.

County School Superintendent
Mrs. Ida M. Cummings of Albany
was over Thursday of last week of-
ficially visiting our city school. Mrs.
Cummings is deeply interested in
the affairs of her office. Among
which she thinks her salary should
be increased. The office pays but
\$100 per month and is insufficient
to meet living expenses. She thinks
she should be paid at least as much
as the average principals of the
county schools are paid. She also
desires that a competent office de-
puty be employed so that she can be
free to give her attention to as much
thereof as is necessary to the gen-
eral outside school work.

Evidently the Portland police have
devoted themselves to running down
bootleggers so long that they have
forgotten how to catch a real ro-
ber of "the shadow" type.

Love comes like a cobweb floating
in the breeze—and leaves like a
piano mover falling down stairs.

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results.

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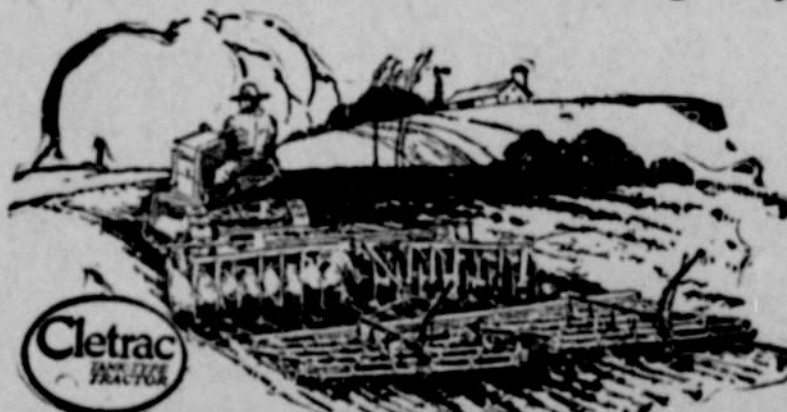
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