

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

[Editor's Note—We are glad to give space to the people of our community on topics of the day, but ask them not to become personal or abusive. Each contributor must sign name, not for publication, but for our protection.]

THE SOLDIER CRIME

Salem, Ore., July 13, 1922
To the Editor:

The administration of the Soldiers' Bonus Commission at Salem has brought out protests from every corner of the State. The employment of men from the other states seems to be the greatest. The personnel list shows the employment of four who received a bonus from Washington State. These men were placed in better positions and received larger salaries than the Oregon ex-service men employed in that office. One employee is from Montana, there are also men employed who never have had any military status whatsoever, these men also receive larger salaries than the Oregon employee. The total non-Oregon soldier's salary list is approximately \$1000.00 a month, no mean consideration from the taxpayer's standpoint.

The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars have sent committees to protest to Mr. Braumbaugh, the secretary. These committees have been completely ignored in their requests as Mr. Braumbaugh refused to take any action to adjust matters favorably for the Oregon ex-service men. This was from the first a deadly affront to the Oregon soldier. They held that, as the law was put through solely for

the benefits of the Oregon soldiers, it was wrong to divert a dollar of this money even for salaries, from its legitimate purpose.

Another delay to the soldiers in receiving money for loans was caused by sending their applications to an expert (?) in Portland who advised the amount of money loan to be made by the State after the appraisers had personally inspected their property and made their recommendations, the salary of \$10.00 per day paid to this expert was another item to be borne by the Oregon taxpayers.

Recently, however, one of the keenest protestants and observers, R. E. Mantor, a man of wide political and military experience handed in his resignation until such time as the bonus funds can be applied only to Oregon employees. This matter has been taken up, formally and informally, by a large number of civic and labor societies in the State; a real storm is ready to break if something does not happen.

It is up to every ex-service man and woman, every voter and taxpayer of Oregon to assist Mr. Mantor to champion our cause and to force an adjustment in the administration of the Oregon Soldiers' Bonus Commission office.

HARRY RHODES,
Ore. Ex-Service Man, Salem, Ore.

Tax Question Again

Portland, Ore., July 17, '22
To the Editor:

The "Tax Reduction Convention," which came with the regal pomp and promise of an royal heir, acclaimed with clamorous applause of shrewd privilege and thoughtless mimicry of faithful stupidity, having abdicated and gone, like Moses, to an unknown grave, remembered only by gratefulness of those who live in luxury upon the unpaid toll of others, I pick up the Bible, relax, and turn to this: "Let us sit down and reason together saith the Lord," and I answered, "Lord I shall be faithful to thy will."

Every authority on taxation declares that "taxes on wealth are shifted to the consumer." That is, when a tax is levied on capital or production the tax is an investment of capital and must have its profit. Therefore, under our present system of taxation the capitalist, railroads, merchants, manufacturers, owners of rented or commercially used buildings, rented lands, and stocks of goods, add their taxes to freight rates, other charges and products, and collect those taxes from the consumer or user and therefore do not pay taxes. Hence, they are not taxpayers but tax collectors. There are two exceptions—the wage earner and farmer does not and cannot shift his taxes because they neither control the labor market nor produce market; because there are many producers but few jobs, and many farmers but little demand, because the consumers have spent all paying the capitalist's taxes. Besides, the wage earners

and farmers are the great mass of consumers and if they could shift taxes they could only shift them onto each other.

If we abolish the present system of taxing wealth the farmers and wage earners would no longer have to pay the taxes by indirect taxation, on over one billion eight hundred million dollars of wealth they don't own.

Now, suppose we tax in a manner that can't be shifted? All tax authorities agree that a tax on the rental value of land can't be shifted and that system is called Single Tax. Well, certain millionaires own the Portland block (less than one acre) bounded by Washington, 6th, Alder and 7th streets. It is worth over \$1,050,000, and under the single tax would pay as much taxes as 21,980 acres of \$50 farming land because with the same effort they can make 21,920 times as much as a farmer can make on \$50 farming land per acre, or to state it another way, they can make more money a year on that acre than a farmer could make on 34 square miles of \$50 farming land if he sold all his product to the consumer and got all the profit. At present us common mutts are paying all the millionaire's taxes and that is why they refused to allow the single tax discussed at the "Tax Reduction Convention." What? Ain't you going to tax the railroad rolling stock? No, I don't want to pay their taxes; just tax their land values and they'll pay five times as much as they are now supposed to pay.

J. DEMOCRACY.

Baptist Church Services

Sunday school each Sunday at 10 a. m.

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Oldest Biblical Versions.

The four oldest versions of the Bible are the Aquila, Symmachus, Theodotian, in Greek, and the Peshitta in Syriac.

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