

## Intermountain Tribune

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

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

### ADVERTISING RATES:

Local advertising, per line.....5c  
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### OUR GROWING TAX BURDEN

That Oregon is groaning under a very heavy and growing tax burden, is evidenced every year when tax paying time comes around, by the complaints of tax payers. The tax amounts to, from about 2 per cent in the country districts to 4 per cent in some of our Linn county cities and towns. In the towns the tax is caused by street improvements, the erection of school buildings etc, and the building of school houses and roads in the country districts.

Of course these improvements, in both the towns and country districts are necessary and are borne uncomplainingly by the people; but there are other tax burdens which the people look upon as unnecessary and which add not a little to the amount every tax payer must contribute for the public's benefit, every year.

One of these, which the people regard as unnecessary burdens, is one of the features which will be passed upon at the coming referendum election on the 4th of next month. We have reference to the appropriations for the state university.

The editor of this paper, as many people know, is and has been opposed to the appropriation of public funds for college purposes. In a way it is class legislation. It is taxing poor men—men who cannot send their sons and daughters to college to help give collegiate educations to people who are well able to bear the expense of such education for their children. We are in favor of placing our public and high schools on the highest basis of efficiency possible, so that when our boys and girls have graduated from the high school, they are fairly well equipped for the battle of life. Having these views, we cannot, conscientiously, support the pending appropriation.

But there is another view to the question: The majority of the people by their votes, have said "retain the state university." We believe that the majority should rule, though, on this vote, we think the majority was wrong. But having decided the university shall live we believe that it should not be hampered for the lack of necessary buildings, for which the pending appropriations are asked.

Oregon, in one way or another, is spending considerable money to entice emigration. We want more people to help develop our resources. We want people who have, at least, some money, to come to our state and build homes, develop our water powers, plant our splendid hill lands in orchards and our valley lands in clover and alfalfa for the maintenance of dairies. We want our immense forests, now ready for the lumberman, converted into lumber and our mineral resources developed. It takes more or less capital to do these things and capital is very leary where the tax rates are high.

Are we not piling up a tax bur-

den which will have a tendency to drive capital from us, rather than to attract it?

A large part of our state taxes are required for the support of our state colleges and this is a tax which we believe our legislature has no just right to place upon us because, not more than three per cent of our people enjoy the benefits. If the same amount of funds should be expended in additional support of our public and high schools, then all the people would reap a benefit and, besides, our splendid public schools would be an attraction to home builders—the class of people we want.

Another feature of high taxation is the gradual depreciation of property values. Men seeking investment will not place money in a city or state, where taxation consumes a large percentage of the profits. They will go to other points where the demands are not so great.

The Tribune cheerfully admits that our state colleges, for instance, are doing good work and that a few of our people are greatly benefited thereby. The same can be said for the appropriations of public money for other purposes which are of a semmi-special nature. But can we afford it? Can we afford to meet the prospective settler with a tax rate of from 2 to 4 per cent? In time will we not lose, even, some of the citizens we now have because of our excessive tax rates?

These are questions which appeal to the thinking taxpayer. All would like to lop off some of these tax burdens which our legislature so industriously piles upon us biennially; but just where and how to begin is the question. It is a very easy matter for the legislature to add an official here and there; to appropriate funds for this and that purpose; but most difficult to lop off or curtail.

A Linn county official a few days ago, said "taxes will be higher." When taxation with other expenses, consumes the rental value of land, most land owners will wish to sell and when too many wish to sell, the price of land is sure to depreciate. Capital will not stay long with a losing proposition.

### PATRIOTISM DISPLACES POLITICS

There is some small indications that the political game will be dropped in the consideration of the now pending currency measure by congress. This is an evidence that, at least, some of our congressmen are patriots rather than partisans.

It is quite evident to the people in general, that the democratic congressmen in the enactment of the new tariff measure, endeavored to cut out partisanism and work for the true and best interests of the country. A large majority of our republican friends are now convinced of this fact. They believe that the democratic majority of congress is grappling with the currency question in the same spirit and that they are actuated from pure patriotic motives and really desire a currency system which will redound to the best interests of all the people, regardless of any and all partisan advantage.

The people, generally, will contemplate this spirit with a great degree of satisfaction. When party advantage and special favoritism is dropped by our lawmakers, there is hope for the people.

Our system of government, if conducted honestly and with the elimination of graft, is the best system of government in the world. It is the basic example of the growing liberty in governments among men.

The influence of money and special favoritism in legislation heretofore, has shaken our governmental structure so severely, that many honest

thinkers were becoming doubtful about our system.

But this evidence of patriotic devotion to principle and the elimination of partisanism, in the hearts of the people and in the actions of President Wilson, congress and the courts is rapidly restoring confidence in every branch of the government.

We want a currency system, not in the interests of a coterie of Wall street bankers, but devised for the best interests of all the people. Undoubtedly such a system is the ideal of congress. Let us hope that it will not be considered a democratic measure, but will be the product of the best thought of congress, regardless of party.

When our present system of national bank currency was adopted, our nation was just emerging from the scourge of a most destructive civil war. Our finances were in a deplorable condition. A stupendous war debt had to be adjusted. No doubt congress gave us the best system that could then be devised. But we have had more than fifty years of experience since that day. We have developed financiers who are superior to those of the war days. We have tested out the national bank currency system and its weakness and inadequacy for the wants of the present day, are fully developed.

Now, congress, seeing the need, is taking hold of the matter in a manner which gives the country hope and confidence. Our lawmakers are demonstrating that country is above party—that the day of making the public welfare subservient to party interest is passing.

Our republican friends should be congratulated because of the patriotism they are manifesting. They are forgetting the late custom of party and class advantage, regardless of what contributed to the best interests of all the people. The beginning of the end of class legislative and special privilege is at hand.

In view of the second great disaster at sea in a year it is somewhat confronting to know that the Department of Commerce at Washington, has been at work for a long time studying the perils of navigation, and Secretary Redfield's committee has just prepared its recommendations which will be submitted to the International conference in London. The recommendations cover every phase of safety equipment, dealing particularly with the use of electricity, search lights, wireless, life boats, lanes of travel, ice patrol, etc. Since the Titanic disaster there has been no further thought among navigators of constructing a non-sinkable ship, such as was claimed for the ill-fated liner. The energetic investigation of these disasters, and the rules that are being laid down for better protection of life and property on the high seas is commanding the attention of all the civilized governments, with which our own Department of Commerce is keeping in close cooperation.

India rubber imports into the United States in the fiscal year 1913 were the largest in the history of the import trade. They amounted, in crude rubber, to 113 million lbs., against 110 in the former high record year, 1912, this being the third time in which the imports in this article exceeded 100 million pounds in a fiscal year. These figures apparently sustain the frequently published ascertain that the United States consumes half the rubber of the world, since the world's production of India rubber was, in 1912, 100 thousand tons, or 224 million pounds, while our own imports in the year ended June 20, 1913, were 113,384,359 pounds.

## Slaughter in Boys Suits

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