

## 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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### THE TAXATION PROPOSITION

Commissioner O. H. Russell informs the Tribune that our taxes will be unusually high for the coming year. He thinks the state will call for near if not quite 5 mills and that the county and school taxes will be no less than that in former recent years, making a total of, probably 18 mills. When we add to this the city, special school and road levies, the total will amount to from 25 to 40 mills.

The question is how long can and will the people stand these ever increasing levies?

Our legislature, in its biennial sessions, seems to think that there is no bottom to the state's purse and that they can appropriate the people's money ad infinitum. In addition to the heaviest appropriations ever made by an Oregon legislature, \$25,000 was set apart for the purpose of advertising Oregon's resources for the purpose of inducing new people to come and settle among us, in the 1913 sessions.

The first impression one gets of this very unusual appropriation of the people's money, is apt to be favorable; for every one who owns property, is benefitted either directly or indirectly by every additional settler who comes among us. But when we reason the matter out further, a different thought occurs. Men who have money to invest, as a rule, are careful. One of the questions usually asked by the careful investor is what is your rate of taxation. When told that the levy for all purposes range from 20 to 40 mills they at once raise an objection to the purchase. And they are justified in the objection; for men, especially speculators, invest their money for purposes of gain. If the expense of the proposed investment absorbs too large a portion of the property's ability to earn, they have reasonable grounds for refusing to invest. And they are justified, too.

For instance: A man owns 160 acres of good agricultural land worth, as land is rated at the present time, \$15,000. If this farm is seeded to grain, 3000 bushels would be an average crop of wheat, which is worth in the markets \$2400. Now let us suppose this is a rented farm. The landlord would be entitled to one-third of the proceeds, or \$800. Under the present rules of assessing, for taxation purposes, it would be valued at or about \$7500. If the tax levy is 20 mills, the amount it will be this year, the landlord will be required to pay \$150, or over 18 per cent of his income. When we add to this sum the cost of the upkeep of the farm, the owner will not have more than \$600 left. If the farm cost him \$15,000, at best he is getting but 4 per cent on his investment. Is it any wonder that moneyed men prefer to invest in nontaxable 5 and 6 per cent bonds?

Of course other than grain crops will give better returns on the farm; but to get such returns, the owner must farm the land himself and

most investors do not wish to conduct farming operations, personally. While it is true that a large percentage of taxation is necessary and unavoidable, if our legislators were honest and levelheaded, our levies could be reduced fully 25 per cent, and the public service would not suffer in the least.

Within the past two decades, state taxes have multiplied by three or more and the tax burden has increased all along the line. Are we getting returns commensurate with these enormous expenditures? The quarter section of land which paid \$40 to \$50 taxes twenty years ago now pays \$150 to \$175, yet the productive ability and the price of grain is now less than it was at that time.

The fact of the business is, government is becoming too expensive. We have created too many offices and have increased the salaries thereof too rapidly. There is too much graft. Officials render too little service for the salaries they receive. We do not say they receive too much salary but do say that they render too little service.

How are we to remedy a condition which has grown upon us with leaps and bounds? How are we to get men of sense, discretion, an eye to the interests of property owners and who are generally levelheaded, to go down to Salem, biennially, and spend our money for us? How are we to select men as public officials, who are willing to work, at least, part of the time, themselves, and not depend upon hired clerks to do the work for which the people are paying them? We do not want officials who sit back and smoke Perfecto cigars, look wise and allow somebody else to do the work while they pose as the sum total of all wisdom.

It is a matter which is up to the voter. Either our system is wrong or the men who make our laws and appropriate our money, are not just the officials we should have.

The taxation matter should cause our citizens to hold protest meetings and unless retrenchment and reform is inaugurated, institute recall proceedings against every legislator and other official who is recreant to his trust.

### THANKSGIVING DAY

One week from today is our National Thanksgiving day. The day has come to mean a great deal to the American people. It is, more than any other holiday or festal day, a family reunion. It is a day when all members of a family, their wives and children endeavor to assemble about the family roostree, when good cheer and good wishes go out to each member; a day when many family quarrels and misunderstandings are adjusted; a day which makes life brighter and more pleasant.

As a national day of thanksgiving the day is modern. Until President Lincoln called upon the people to observe a day for general thanksgiving, the American people never had made the day one of national importance.

During the Civil war President Lincoln, by proclamation, had many national thanksgivings. It was his custom after any great Union victory, to recommend that the people repair to their houses of worship and give thanks to the Giver of all Good for the victory of right over wrong—for progress in the maintainance of an ideal republic among men.

But we must go back nearly 300 years for the origin of Thanksgiving day.

When our Pilgrim Fathers landed on the bleak shores of Massachusetts they must, perforce, carve homes in the then unbroken and untamed wilderness—not a vestige of a

habitable home to greet them. They must build their cabins, clear and cultivate the land, else starve.

One can easily imagine, when these sturdy and rugged pioneers had builded their homes and had grown crops sufficient to guarantee a sustenance for their families for the coming year, that they should feel thankful and be disposed to manifest their thankfulness in some special way or manner. These old Puritans were essentially religious; nevertheless they were fighters and must, perforce, protect themselves from a savage foe.

When they had withstood this savage foe, had garnered and housed their crops and had prepared themselves for the rigor of a New England winter, a feeling of thankfulness—of self satisfaction for what they had accomplished and that they had been enabled to provide their loved ones against want, was most natural.

From this custom of our Pilgrim Fathers of the bleak New England shores, has the custom of observing a November day as Thanksgiving. Just why the last Thursday was chosen, has never been satisfactorily accounted for. Nor can we attribute this day to President Lincoln's selection, for he recommended several days during the trying civil war years as Thanksgiving days. But we do know that every president succeeding him, has proclaimed the last Thursday of November as National Thanksgiving Day.

The day was accepted as such, throughout the nation and a turkey dinner has become the general custom. The day, by legal enactment, has become a holiday in almost every state.

As a rule, men forsake their usual daily occupations and make every effort to be at their homes and participate in the family good cheer. Sons and daughters who have homes of their own, usually spend the day with father and mother. No wonder then, that the American people, who treasure the ties of the parental home, prize the day above that of all others. No wonder that every body is imbued with the forgiving spirit. The air is simply filled with a feeling of "Peace on Earth and Good Will to all spirit." The day inspires a better and more charitable feeling in the hearts of everyone. It is a day when those who have, take joy in making the homes of those who have not, happier.

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