

State Income Tax Is Important Issue

HOW WILL YOU VOTE?

The Gazette-Times Presents Arguments Pro and Con on Measure to Be Voted on November 6; You Should Study Them Carefully.

Will the people of Oregon vote for or against the State Income Tax at the special election November 6? The result of this election will have a significant influence on the future of the state.

The bill as it appears on the ballot reads:

Referred Bill—Referendum Ordered by Petition of the People. Referred by the OREGON JUST TAX LEAGUE, by R. W. Hagood, president, and E. O. Isler, secretary; and by the STATE INCOME TAX REFERENDUM LEAGUE, by Cyril G. Brownell, president, W. M. McConnell, vice president, and J. D. M. Crookwell, secretary—INCOME TAX ACT—Purpose: To provide for the levying, collecting and paying of an income tax on individuals, partnerships and resident and nonresident corporations...

300 Yes Vote YES or NO
301 No

As it stands on the ballot the bill is somewhat indefinite. It should be understood that marking the X between the "300 Yes" is for the passage of the act, and between the "301 No" is against its passage.

Following are the statements of the affirmative argument and C. C. Chapman's refutation:

(On Official Ballot, Nos. 300 and 301)

ARGUMENT

(Submitted by Walter M. Pierce, C. E. Spence, master, Oregon State Bar; T. T. Bennett, representative fifth representative district; John H. Carlin, representative, eighth representative district; and A. K. McMahon, representative, second representative district; favoring the Income Tax Act.)

Not more taxes, but a more just and more equitable method of distributing the present oppressive burden of taxes—that is the object of the state income tax law. An endeavor to make wealthy and those who have the ability to pay carry more of the burden of taxation rather than attempting to get the taxes by confiscating the property of the man who has not the ability to pay; an endeavor to make the wealthy man who lives in a rented apartment, who sends his money to other states for investment in bonds and securities, who does not have his name on the tax rolls of Oregon and still enjoys a handsome income and all the benefits of our public institutions, pay some taxes; an endeavor to relieve the home, the farm, and the small property, representing less than 4 per cent of the tax paying ability of the state and bearing 80 per cent of the burden of local taxation, from carrying such a large and unfair portion of the burden of the state income tax law.

"A state income tax: Why, Mr. Voter, you don't want any more taxes, we already have too many." That is the argument proposed against the income tax by the millionaires and the wealthy tax dodgers of Oregon, and how unfair it is. A state income tax will simply raise more money, but will simply raise more of the money in a different manner.

Our Present Tax Laws Are Antiquated

Our present laws of real property taxation in Oregon are antiquated. They were passed in 1854, even before Oregon was admitted as a state, and there has been but little change to these time-worn laws of taxation since. In about a score of years, taxes raised in Oregon for state, county, school and municipal purposes, have increased from seven millions of dollars to forty-one millions of dollars, or about 600 per cent. Our population has hardly doubled in the same time, and yet we still pursue practically the same methods of taxation, now as then, and as seventy-five years ago.

In 1922 a tax investigating committee was appointed for this state. They made a very careful survey and compiled much authentic information. From a careful examination of the federal income tax returns for 1920 they find the total income of Oregon for that year to be \$207,798,857.

"\$207,798,857 of income pays \$32,900,000 of taxes."

Official Balderdash

Facts vs. Statements Contained in Official Affirmative Income Tax Argument

(By C. C. Chapman in Oregon Voter of October 20, 1923.)

Reckless use of figures apparently without understanding of their meaning, characterizes the official argument for the state income tax measure. This argument has just been mailed to the 360,000 registered voters of Oregon. Among other things it is signed by Governor Pierce and C. E. Spence. It is a safe surmise that none of the signers had the slightest conception of the real meaning of the figures set forth so glibly.

Let us take their statements, as made on one small printed page and compare them.

"Less than 4 per cent of the tax-paying ability of the state bears 80 per cent of the burden of local taxation."

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figure was the following: Personal income reported to federal government by taxpayers whose net income was \$207,798,857.

\$207,798,857

We have emphasized by black face type what these reckless boasters have omitted in the way of qualifying their \$207,798,857 figure as the supposed "total income of Oregon." The "total income of Oregon" would include not only the personal income of those who reported personal income, but also the corporate income of those corporations reporting income, to say nothing of the income of persons and corporations who made no report.

In all income reported by persons and corporations aggregated in 1920, quoting the same authority misquoted by Messrs. Pierce, Spence, et al., amounted to (for Oregon):

Personal income reported \$207,798,857

Gross income of corporations reporting net income 473,286,247

Gross income of corporations reporting no net income 241,327,302

Total 941,412,306

This figure, almost a billion dollars, does not represent the income of the state, for it does not include income not reported and does not include many transactions that were duplicated as between corporations and individuals. The actual net income of all the people of Oregon for 1920 we estimate as slightly in excess of \$600,000,000. Either the \$941,412,306 figure of the above total, or the \$600,000,000 estimate, would be nearer the actual net income of Oregon than the \$207,798,857 figure misquoted by these proponents of the bill. So much for the assertion that the "total income of Oregon for 1920 was \$207,798,857," and for all conclusions based upon that erroneous use of that figure.

Now as to the statements that "less than 4 per cent of the tax-paying ability of the state bears 80 per cent of the burden of local taxation" and that "real estate accounts for only \$7,063,268 of the total income under the federal schedule."

The figure "\$7,063,268" is the exact amount set forth in the authority misquoted as "personal income reported from rents and royalties." This item does not reflect the income from all the taxed real estate of Oregon by all the farms, industries and businesses of the state, but simply reflects that portion of "rents and royalties" reported by "persons" (not corporations) who made returns to the federal government. It certainly does not reflect all the income from all taxed property in Oregon.

Yet this figure, representing merely the income from "rents and royalties" only, as reported by only those persons (not including corporations) who made income tax returns to the federal government, is made out duty as the "income from real estate which bears 80 per cent of the local tax burden." It was by misapplying the \$7,063,268 figure, grossly misquoting that, that the notion was evolved that "less than 4 per cent of the tax-paying ability of the state bears 80 per cent of the burden of local taxation."

Such palpable misquotation of language and misuse of figures, if by a private corporation to sell something, would exclude the pamphlet from the mails on the ground of fraud.

Yet people accept those absurd figures and absurd conclusions as true. They really suffer under the delusion that the use of real estate is responsible for less than 4 per cent of all the income of the people of the state, and that this "less than 4 per cent" actually carries 80 per cent of the local tax burden of \$41,000,000. No wonder they desire to correct so flagrant a supposed injustice by voting an income tax to reach the 80 per cent of income that is supposed to come from use of untaxed or untaxed property and not from use of over-taxed property yielding only 4 per cent of the state's income."

Nothing is more misleading than misquoting of figures, or their reckless misuse in official pamphlets.

What were the facts in 1920, the year cited?

That \$3,312,000 of income paid \$32,900,000 of taxes!

Could anything be more preposterous? Yes. Some further statements made on the same page:

"Real estate, which bears at least 80 per cent of the taxes levied for state and local purposes, accounts for only \$7,063,268 of the total income under the federal schedule."

Stripped of verbiage, this means that \$7,063,268 of income pays \$32,900,000 of taxes.

Again, from the same page we quote:

"Ninety per cent of the tax-paying ability makes no direct contribution to local revenues at all."

That means that the other 10 per cent, or \$20,779,856, pays the entire \$41,117,368 of local taxes levied on property in Oregon in 1920!

There we have it—

"\$312,000 of income pays \$32,900,000 of taxes."

"\$3,312,000 of income pays \$32,900,000 of taxes."

"\$20,779,856 of income pays \$41,117,368 of taxes."

Could any figures be more absurd? Yet these are the figures which these reckless advocates sling about without the slightest comprehension.

A parallel statement would be: "A Buick has six engines and one cylinder; the cylinder supplies the power for turning all six engines." The figures "six" and "one" would be correct as figures, but would be hatched onto the wrong words. Any child would notice there was something wrong. But in tax figures the absurdity is not so easy to notice.

The figures quoted in the Official Argument are correctly quoted as figures, but they are hatched onto a different meaning than was stated in the source from which they were quoted. Hence their absurdity when hatched to words which do not correctly identify the figures.

In their original form in the report which Messrs. Pierce, Spence et al. were trying to quote, these figures mean something entirely different from what Messrs. Pierce, Spence et al. thought they meant. Take the statement, for example, that "the total income of Oregon for 1920 was \$207,798,857." What the original authority really set forth as to this

LOCAL NEWS ITEMS

Congressman N. J. Sinnott, of The Dalles, was a visitor in Heppner on Wednesday, looking up the interests of his constituents in this part of the district. Congressman Sinnott was at Pendleton on Tuesday, where he attended the meeting of the irrigationists in the interests of the Umatilla Rapids project, and made the leading speech on that occasion. The bill to provide for the preliminaries on this project was introduced by Mr. Sinnott, and the very active worker in congress in behalf of our reclamation projects.

On next Tuesday, election day, the Willing Workers of the Christian church will serve dinner to the public in the basement of the church. There will be plenty of good things to eat and your patronage on this occasion will be greatly appreciated by the ladies.

W. W. Gillies, a newspaper man, recently engaged in the business at Deer Park, Wash., was a visitor in Heppner on Wednesday. Mr. Gillies had just reported on his publishing business at that point and is now looking up another location.

D. D. Randall of Medford, representing the American Sunday School Union, and C. M. Smith, local missionary, are visitors in Heppner today in the interests of their work.

The ladies of the Episcopal church will hold their bazaar the first Saturday in December, being the first day of the month. The place of holding bazaar will be announced later.

Mrs. S. E. Notsen and daughter Margaret arrived home on Wednesday evening. They have been spending the winter months with relatives in Iowa and Missouri.

Lester Doolittle and Chas. Vaughn arrived home Sunday from their hunting trip in the Ukiah country. They brought in three deer as trophies of the hunt.

Len, Clint and Earl Gilliam got in from the mountains Wednesday, having spent much of the past two weeks hunting. They failed to get any game.

Mrs. W. E. Pruyn has returned home from the East where she spent the past two months visiting relatives in Chicago and Canada.

Born, at their home near this city, Oct. 21, to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilkinson, an 8-lb. daughter.

For Rent—Furnished rooms with steam heat and bath. For particulars phone 722.

For Sale—Heating stove, practically new. Price \$15. See Gay M. Anderson.

Office on Main street for rent; in Elevator building. See Harvie Young.

BOLD MISSIONARY MEETING.

The ladies of Bethel Chapel held their regular monthly missionary meeting Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Chas. Cox, Mrs. A. M. Phelps and Mrs. Elbert Cox, as hostesses.

The meeting was a most successful one, the many who enjoyed the usual hospitality of the "Chapel Family." This one, big, happy family has had many pleasant social affairs this fall, but Tuesday's event came near breaking the record in the number of guests.

The hostesses served cider and delicious individual pumpkin pie which were much enjoyed. The big room was then darkened, the jack-o-lanterns, witches, black cats and yellow poppies and senas. After an interesting program given by Mrs. Maurice Frye and Mrs. Wallace Smead, the meeting closed with a social.

The girls of the Chapel are anticipating a good time next Saturday when they will hold their missionary meeting.

WANTS NEWS OF BROTHER.

Mrs. W. F. Mason of Chicago, Ill., was in Heppner Saturday in search of a lost brother, Graham Van Ness.

Mrs. Van Ness was in this country in 1922 as a hostess in the harvest fields. While at Ione one of his ribs was broken and he came to Heppner, according to Mrs. Mason. She desires very much to learn of his whereabouts, and would appreciate any information, especially if it is in the hands of a newspaper.

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LOCAL MAN SUED.

Portland, Oregon.—F. M. Lovgren of Heppner and P. L. Schamel of Grass Valley were made defendants in suits brought in the Circuit Courts of Morrow and Sherman counties last week by the Oregon Co-operative Grain Growers, for alleged violation of their marketing contract with the association.

MAKES NICE CATCH.

LaVerne Van Marter brought in the prettiest catch of rainbow trout of the season, Monday afternoon. Twelve fine fat fish, averaging over 14 inches in length, filled his basket to overflowing. He made the catch up Willow creek. Van caught 25 the day before, and these didn't take up as much room in the basket as the 12 caught Monday.

quoted, the report of the Committee on Tax Investigation, and will obtain much comfort from arguments in that report in what to them may appear as the identical language they quoted. But close comparison will reveal that they failed to quote exactly, and in their misquotation lies the essence of their misrepresentation. The commission was careful about its language, and qualified its utterances. The fine points of the commission's qualifying language were lost on Messrs. Pierce, Spence, et al., with the result that their quotation of language and figures made both absurd when analyzed together.

LEXINGTON WANTS GYM FOR SCHOOL

Proposition Is Receiving Strong Support of Citizens of the Community

The one institution that the people of Lexington are proud of is their public school. Nothing is overlooked that will give this enterprise a boost, and right now the citizens of this community are getting behind the proposition of putting up a suitable building that will be equipped and used as a gymnasium. The need of this building has been long felt, as there is no place in the town suitable for the indoor activities of the pupils of the school.

No complete plans have been worked out as yet, but the matter of raising funds to be applied in this manner has received attention of the community. It is believed that a tidy amount already subscribed. Our scribe is informed that it is the intention of the school board to match whatever sum is raised by popular subscription, and the present indications are that the project will be an ultimate success and a building will be erected that will be a credit to the school and the community it represents.

Louie Marquardt came near meeting with a very serious accident on Tuesday when passing to town with wheat. At a point on the market road just a short distance out of town, he met a motorcycle coming up the grade that was making the usual amount of racket and his team of eight horses took the notion to turn right about and follow the machine. This was disastrous, and before Louie could right things the two wagons, heavily loaded with wheat, rolled off the grade. Thinking that they were bound to turn over, Mr. Marquardt jumped and landed in the rocks, injuring one foot and ankle quite badly. The wagons remained right side up, and no damage was done to them, while but a dozen or fifteen sacks of grain were thrown off. Being an expert in handling horses, Mr. Marquardt succeeded in saving his rig from a complete smash up, but it is difficult to figure out how the big wagons got down over the steep incline. The wheels of the grade without rolling completely over.

Farmers of this section are just as busy as they can be in getting their fall seeding done. Many have finished, and others are winding up rapidly. Nell White has completed his 800 acres of wheat, and is now getting the McCormicks are putting on the finishing touches, and in this neighborhood grain is in the ground and many fields are coming up well, though warmer weather conditions would help a lot in getting the grain growing as it should before freezing weather sets in. Farther out north, S. E. Simonton has finished seeding 2500 acres and much of this is up and growing fine; Gunnar Linthe and Wm. H. Johnson are also doing well. The farmers, but it is noted that the ground is very dry and the soil is not so moist as it should be. The growth of weeds, a result of the early rains, has made seeding this fall a difficult problem on a great majority of the farms, but it is noted that the ground is very dry and the soil is not so moist as it should be. The growth of weeds, a result of the early rains, has made seeding this fall a difficult problem on a great majority of the farms, but it is noted that the ground is very dry and the soil is not so moist as it should be.

The commercial class of the high school is preparing to give a play in the auditorium at the school building on Saturday evening, Nov. 3. The play is "The Hooded Gown" and there is promise of plenty of good comedy. The cast is as follows: Miser Moon, a hoodlum con.

Clarence Carmichael Tom Bissle, sleek as a whistle.

Lawrence Slocum Gideon Blair, a millionaire.

Paul Moray Hiram Tutt, an awful nut.

Marion Palmer Patrick Keller, a ticket seller.

Lawrence Beach Samantha Slade, a poor old maid.

Neva Shinn Rosebud Reese, her charming niece.

Bertha Tucker Paula Malek, a bolshevik.

Etyole Pointer Lulu Pearl, a ragtime girl.

Lavelle Leathers

The warehouses at the depot are now piled to the roofs with wheat and deliveries from the farms not all completed. So far the big warehouse of Scott & McMillan has handled about 130,000 sacks and by the time hauling is done, they will care for 30,000 more. The warehouse of Joseph Burgoyne will handle sufficient number of sacks to increase the total to near 240,000, making perhaps the greatest amount of wheat ever handled from this point. Shipments are going out slowly, as there has not been extensive selling, and just as fast as a carload or two leaves the warehouses, the space is immediately filled by grain coming in from the fields.

A slight accident occurred on the highway about a mile and a half up Willow creek Monday evening when the cars of Luther Huston of Heppner and Clark Davis of Lexington met in collision. Mr. Davis had a wheel smashed and front axle bent, and the car of Mr. Huston went into the ditch, smashing one front wheel but doing but slight damage otherwise. The glare of lights seemed to have been the cause of the accident and as the cars were going slowly when they met. The occupants escaped uninjured.

Dan Doherty is just completing a nice four-room bungalow on his ranch near the city. The new house will be modern in all respects, with hot and cold water, bath, etc., and fine big porches, both at front and back that will be screened in. He expects to have it ready for his family before the real cold weather sets in.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. McMillan drove down to Portland on Tuesday, expecting to remain in the city for at least one day of the Stock show which opened on Saturday.

Auto Turns Over, Driver Badly Hurt

While driving along Rhea creek below the Rugg ranch Wednesday morning, Clyde Wright's car struck a rock in the road and was caused to swerve from the grade and turned over several times in the soft dirt along the road. Ed Bugg was riding in the car with Mr. Wright, and jumped, receiving only slight injuries but Clyde did not fare so well. While he received no broken bones, it is feared that he has suffered severe internal injuries as he appears to have been hurt by the back of the seat striking him in the abdomen as the car went over. He was taken to the home of his sister, Mrs. Ed Bugg and Dr. Chick called out to his assistance.

The car was quite completely wrecked and had to be loaded on a truck and brought to town for repairs. It will take a day or two to ascertain how seriously Mr. Wright may be injured. He was reported to be suffering much pain, but it is hoped that no complications will arise and that he may be out again in a few days, none the worse for his experience.

CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING

Family Reunion Held at Home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Gay, Pioneer Morrow Residents.

The marriage of Henry C. Gay and Miss Florence E. Bennett was solemnized on October 30, 1873, and on October 30, 1923, their golden wedding was celebrated at their home near Hermiston. In the morning, Mr. and Mrs. Gay were joined in matrimony by Rev. J. H. Smith, pastor of the Methodist church at Hermiston. The occasion was made one of great pleasure to them.

Mr. and Mrs. Gay landed at Heppner in June, 1873, coming to this state from California. They bought a home on Rhea creek, where they lived until about two years ago, at which time they moved to their present home on the Umatilla river near Hermiston. During their long years of residence in this county they engaged in stock-raising and farming, and the Gay home was one of the best and most attractive places on Rhea creek, and it was with a great deal of regret that they were obliged to leave the Gay family took their departure. Yet, they are not so far away but what we consider them a part of our community still, and Heppner and Morrow county is "home" to them.

Mr. Gay was quite active in affairs here in the years gone by. He took part in political and social affairs and was elected representative in the legislature in 1886, being the first representative of the county after it became a political unit of the state. He was elected as a republican and for many years took an active part in the deliberations of that body, but later became a member of the prohibition party, on which ticket he at one time ran for the office of sheriff of the county.

The children of Mr. and Mrs.