

The Inheritance Tax and the Average Man

By L. B. SMITH.

Secretary and Attorney Greater Oregon Association.

Not long ago I was talking with an old time Oregon lawyer, a man of long experience and deep convictions on most of the affairs of life. We got to discussing the inheritance tax, and the half million dollars that the state takes by law from the property of Oregon men and women after they are in the valley of the shadow, where defense of their rights is impossible, and the aspect of the tax as it is really applied here in our state. "You know, Smith," he said, "when I hear Milt Miller and some of these politicians arguing about the inheritance tax, and proclaiming the right of the state, in the name of justice, to dip administrative hands into the accumulations of men and women who are gone, it makes me sick, because they always confine their remarks, and their demands for justice, to the estates of the very few wealthy people we have here who have died during the last few years.

"You would think," he continued, "that all of this tax is garnered from barons and commercial giants, when as a strict matter of fact the biggest proportion is taken, year after year, from the Average Man. You know who I mean. The one that is always dying is the man or woman in average circumstances. This person has some property, always encumbered, a little life insurance, and no cash. Heirs, administrators and executors walk into our office, day after day, with stories of this kind to tell. They never know that there is an inheritance tax. They have heard about it in a vague manner, but paid no more attention to it than most folks do to the details of the day of death and burial while they are walking around among us friends and neighbors, in health and happiness. No well person wants to keep himself forever surrounded with the ceremonies of death and the depressing gloom of mystic half lights and the heavy scents of wreaths and flowers. He wants to hurry, and sell goods and make a dollar and keep his bills paid. The result is they don't know much more about inheritance tax than they do about the value of insurance or the price of caskets. This tax is always a shock. It has to be paid in spot cash, and I have seen widows and children and the next friend executor go to the bank, only to be told that money cannot be borrowed on mortgaged property, and finally friends or relatives have to put up the money for the tax. The government tax isn't so bad now that they have raised the exemption to \$100,000. In recent years there has been a lot of trouble of the same kind about the government inheritance tax when the exemption was lower." You remember how they attached the bank account of Jerry Foley's widow up in La Grande to enforce payment.

"The theory of the politicians and speechmakers is that big estates ought to return to the state part of the money the deceased made during his lifetime, ought to prevent the perpetuation of wealth and power. I see from Chapman's analysis of the state figures for the past two years that more than a thousand of our friends, the Average Man, died during that time, and paid over half the state's inheritance tax while only 59 people that might be considered wealthy, over \$100,000, died in the same time. Not much danger about wealth and power in Oregon.

"The philosophy of which is that while the state stood by waiting to clean up on the wealthy, over a thousand of the small estates were getting it on the wrong side of the ledger. These same politicians who are calling so strenuously for justice, are practicing the very injustice of which they complain. Life is like that anyway. The fellow who is loudest in defense of the under dog, doesn't hesitate to give the said dog a sly wallop while in the midst of his harangue.

"I can't see any benefit to mankind from the inheritance tax, and never could. If Oregon would be wise enough to decide against it, I believe it would relinquish a source of taxation that never had any standing, and never will, and would go a long way toward convincing the rest of the country that Oregon at least, during her period of development, is willing and anxious to tax the living and healthy citizens who are helping to build a great commonwealth, and to let them rest in peace when they have passed to that great beyond from whence there is no return, and no defense against the ravages of tax collectors."

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL ENDORSED BY CHURCHES

Endorsing the Eastern Oregon Tuberculosis Hospital Act, upon which a referendum vote is to be taken at the coming general election, the Portland Council of Churches placed itself on record in favor of more adequate provisions for tuberculosis patients in Oregon, it was announced recently from the office of the Oregon Tuberculosis Association in Portland.

The Executive Committee of the Council of Churches, meeting at the Y. M. C. A. in Portland on Thursday afternoon, was addressed by Rev. H. L. Bowman, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, with regard to the need for a branch tuberculosis hospital in the region east of the Cascade mountains. "Every city and county in the State feels the effect of this long waiting list for admission to the tuberculosis sanatorium at Salem," said Dr. Bowman. "Each new patient who applies must wait one to four months for admission, and patients from Eastern Oregon, when they are admitted, are brought face to face with the hardship of going from home and friends into a climate different from the one to which they are accustomed."

"Every additional bed that is provided in the proposed Eastern Oregon Tuberculosis Hospital, which is coming up for a vote of the people in the coming election, will help just that much in providing early care for these tuberculosis patients, and will increase greatly their chance for returning to health and self-support," Dr. Bowman added in asking for the support of the clergy for this referendum.

By unanimous vote the Council endorsed this new branch hospital and recommended to the Portland pastors the active support of the project from the pulpits and through their church bulletins.

Drys Oppose Robert N. Stanfield

The Oregon Anti-Saloon League, after a very careful investigation, endorsed the candidacy of Frederick Steiwer, Republican, for the office of United States Senator, in the primary election. The League has every reason to believe it made no mistake.

The League did not take issue between the Democratic aspirants, because both candidates qualified to the satisfaction of the League.

The League is non-political and non-partisan, therefore it does not now discriminate between Mr. Steiwer and Mr. Haney, the Republican and Democratic candidates, respectively.

The League is however, unalterably opposed to the election of Robert N. Stanfield, the independent candidate. The League therefore calls on all citizens of Oregon who believe in the principle of Prohibition and the observance and enforcement of law, to vote against the candidacy of Robert N. Stanfield for the office of United States Senator at the coming November election.

ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE OF OREGON CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.
E. R. Baker, Chairman, A. L. Venzie, Secretary, J. P. Newell, Treasurer.

HOUSEWIVES' COUNCIL BILL TO BE DISCUSSED.

A. A. Smith of Baker, a former member of the Oregon legislature and now serving on the State Tax Investigating committee, will broadcast a speech over KGW at Portland on Saturday, October 30, from 8:00-8:15 p. m. Mr. Smith, who is a recognized authority on matters pertaining to taxation, will discuss the proposed Constitutional Amendment submitted by the Housewives' Council of Portland, and which has for its purpose the entrance of the state of Oregon into the light and power of business. Radio fans may expect to hear a brief but interesting talk on this proposed legislation.

Candidates and Measures to be Voted On at General Election, Tuesday, Nov. 2nd

State and District

FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR IN CONGRESS.

- Vote for One*
- 12 W. P. Adams, of Multnomah County *Independent*
 - 13 Bert E. Haney, of Multnomah County *Democratic*
 - 14 Robert N. Stanfield, of Multnomah County *"Freedom from Dictatorship—Independent"*
 - 15 Frederick Steiwer, of Umatilla County *Republican*

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, SECOND DISTRICT.

Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco and Wheeler Counties. *Vote for One*

- 16 Jno. S. Hodgkin, of Union County *Democratic*
- 17 N. J. Sinnott, of Wasco County *Republican*

FOR GOVERNOR.

- Vote for One*
- 18 I. L. Patterson, of Polk County *Republican*
 - 19 Walter M. Pierce, of Union County *Democratic*
 - 20 H. H. Stallard, of Multnomah County *Independent*

FOR JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT.

- Vote for Three*
- 21 Henry J. Bean, of Umatilla County *Republican-Democratic*
 - 22 George M. Brown, of Douglas County *Republican*
 - 23 Thomas A. McBride, of Columbia County *Republican-Democratic*

FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

- Vote for One*
- 24 Charles A. Howard, of Coos County *Republican*
 - 25 R. R. Turner, of Polk County *Democratic*

FOR COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS AND INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

- Vote for One*
- 26 C. H. Gram, of Marion County *Republican*
 - 27 G. A. Von Schrititz, of Multnomah County *Democratic*

FOR COMMISSIONER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF OREGON.

- Vote for One*
- 28 Louis E. Bean, of Lane County *Republican*
 - 29 Clyde T. Spooner, of Multnomah County *Democratic*

FOR SENATOR, NINETEENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT, Morrow, Umatilla and Union Counties.

- Vote for One*
- 30 Fred E. Kiddle, of Union County *Republican*
 - 31 Henry J. Taylor, of Umatilla County *Democratic*

FOR REPRESENTATIVE, TWENTY-SECOND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT, Morrow and Umatilla Counties.

- Vote for One*
- 32 Roy W. Ritner, of Umatilla County *Republican*
 - 33 Joseph N. Scott, of Umatilla County *Democratic*

County

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

- Vote for One*
- 34 G. A. Bleakman *Republican*
 - 35 Charles B. Cox *Democratic*

FOR COUNTY TREASURER.

- Vote for One*
- 36 Leon W. Briggs *Republican-Democratic*

FOR COUNTY ASSESSOR.

- Vote for One*
- 37 Jesse J. Wells *Democratic-Republican*

FOR COUNTY SURVEYOR.

- Vote for One*
- 38 Ralph Harris *Democratic*

Precinct

FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

- Vote for One*
- 39 W. M. Ayers *Democratic*
 - 40 A. L. Cornett *Republican*

FOR CONSTABLE.

- Vote for One*
- 41 S. P. Devin *Republican-Democratic*

REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Submitted by the Legislature—**KLAMATH COUNTY BONDING AMENDMENT**—Purpose: To amend section 10 of article XI of the constitution of the state of Oregon so as to permit the issuance of bonds by Klamath county when authorized by a majority vote of the people of said county voting thereon, in an amount equal to the amount of warrants of said county outstanding on April 1, 1919, and interest thereon to date of such election, for the payment of which no funds were then available, and the payment of such warrants with the proceeds from the sale of such bonds. *Vote YES or NO*

300 Yes. I vote for the amendment.

301 No. I vote against the amendment.

Submitted by the Legislature—**SIX PER CENT LIMITATION AMENDMENT**—Purpose: To amend section 11 of article XI of the constitution of the state of Oregon, so as to permit the board of directors of the Portland school district to levy a tax on the 1925 assessment roll in a sum not to exceed \$900,000 in excess of the six per cent limitation contained in said section of the constitution, and providing that the amount of such increase shall be included in determining the amount of taxes which may be levied on the assessment rolls for 1926 and subsequent years. *Vote YES or NO*

302 Yes. I vote for the amendment.

303 No. I vote against the amendment.

Submitted by the Legislature—**REPEAL OF FREE NEGRO AND MULATTO SECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION**—Purpose: To repeal section 35 of article I of the constitution of Oregon which is invalid because it is in conflict with the United States constitution. Said section attempts to forbid free negroes and mulattoes coming into, residing or being in the state of Oregon, or having any civil rights therein. *Vote YES or NO*

304 Yes. I vote for repealing the section.

305 No. I vote against repealing the section.

Submitted by the Legislature—**AMENDMENT PROHIBITING INHERITANCE AND INCOME TAXES**—Purpose: To amend article IX of the constitution of Oregon, so as to prohibit the levying of any tax upon inheritances or upon the income of residents or citizens of this state by the state of Oregon or under its authority and forbidding the submission to the people of any amendment of this provision before the year 1940. *Vote YES or NO*

306 Yes. I vote for the amendment.

307 No. I vote against the amendment.

Submitted by the Legislature—**THE SEASIDE NORMAL SCHOOL ACT**—Purpose: To create and establish a normal school to be permanently located at Seaside, Clatsop county, Oregon, to be known as "The Western Oregon Normal School and College." *Vote YES or NO*

308 Yes. I vote for the proposed law.

309 No. I vote against the proposed law.

Submitted by the Legislature—**THE EASTERN OREGON STATE NORMAL SCHOOL ACT**—Purpose: To create and establish a state normal school to be permanently located in one of the following named counties, to wit: Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Baker, Grant, Wheeler, Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook, Klamath, Lake, Harney or Malheur which shall be known as "The Eastern Oregon State Normal School"; the board of regents of state normal schools to choose the location thereof. *Vote YES or NO*

310 Yes. I vote for the proposed law.

311 No. I vote against the proposed law.

Submitted by the Legislature—**THE RECALL AMENDMENT**—Purpose: To amend section 18 of article II of the constitution of Oregon, providing for recall of public officers, so as to provide that if an officer is recalled, the vacancy shall be filled immediately in the manner provided by law for filling any vacancy in that office, instead of present provision requiring two votes at the same recall election, one upon the question of his recall, and the other upon the election of his successor, and that he shall be a candidate and other candidates may also be nominated, and the one receiving the highest vote elected. *Vote YES or NO*

312 Yes. I vote for the amendment.

313 No. I vote against the amendment.

Submitted by the Legislature—**CURRY COUNTY BONDING OR TAX LEVY AMENDMENT**—Purpose: To amend section 10 of article XI of the constitution of the state of Oregon, so as to authorize Curry county, Oregon, upon vote of its people to ratify, validate and pay all unpaid warrants outstanding January 1, 1925, and the accrued interest thereon, and all claims for labor, material and supplies outstanding on said date; authorizing said county to issue bonds or levy taxes annually not exceeding 10 mills on the dollar, and permitting such levy to be made in excess of the limitations fixed by section 10 of article XI. *Vote YES or NO*

314 Yes. I vote for the amendment.

315 No. I vote against the amendment.

Submitted by the Legislature—**AMENDMENT RELATING TO ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN PUBLIC OFFICES**—Purpose: To amend section 16 of article V of the constitution of Oregon which authorizes the governor to make appointments to fill vacancies in office, such appointees holding until their successors are elected and qualified, so as to provide that if any vacancy occur in the office of United States senator or in any elective office of the state or of any district, county or precinct thereof, the same shall be filled at the next general election, provided such vacancy occur more than twenty days prior to such general election. *Vote YES or NO*

316 Yes. I vote for the amendment.

317 No. I vote against the amendment.

Submitted by the Legislature—**KLAMATH AND CLACKAMAS COUNTY BONDING AMENDMENT**—Purpose: To amend section 10 of article XI of the constitution of the state of Oregon, to permit the issuance of bonds by Klamath and Clackamas counties when authorized by a majority vote of the people of said counties, respectively, voting thereon, in an amount, respectively, not to exceed the amount of warrants of Klamath county outstanding on April 1, 1919, and of Clackamas county outstanding on December 31, 1924, and interest thereon to date of said election, for the payment of which no funds were then available, and to pay such warrants with the proceeds from such bond sales. *Vote YES or NO*

318 Yes. I vote for the amendment.

319 No. I vote against the amendment.

Submitted by the Legislature—**THE EASTERN OREGON TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL ACT**—Purpose: To provide for the establishment, construction, equipment, maintenance and operation of a branch tuberculosis hospital at some point in the state of Oregon east of the Cascade mountains, to be selected by the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer, constituting the state board of control. *Vote YES or NO*

320 Yes. I vote for the proposed law.

321 No. I vote against the proposed law.

REFERENDUM ORDERED BY PETITION OF THE PEOPLE

Referred by the Oregon Retail Cigar Dealers Association, 734 Morgan building, Portland, Oregon; Oscar T. Olsen, secretary and treasurer, 408 East Fifth street, Portland, Oregon; Edward G. Gavin, president, 867 East Yamhill street, Portland, Oregon; W. G. Keady, 983 Stephens street, Portland, Oregon; A. E. Malin, box 3732, route 6, Portland, Oregon; J. T. Oliver, 715 East Sixteenth street north, Portland, Oregon; S. S. Rich, 668 Flanders street, Portland, Oregon—**CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO TAX BILL**—Purpose: To require retail dealers in cigarettes, cigarette papers, wrappers, tubes, smoking tobacco and snuff to pay an excise tax to the state upon the sale of such articles and to attach to every package thereof tax stamps purchased from the state as evidence of such payment, when or before selling the same, and to require such dealers to procure licenses from the county clerks before transacting such business, the counties retaining half of such license money, the state receiving the remainder. *Vote YES or NO*

322 Yes. I vote for the proposed law.

323 No. I vote against the proposed law.

Referred by Oregon Motor Stage Association, 704 Journal building, Portland, Oregon; A. Jaloff, president, 579 East Fifteenth street north, Portland, Oregon; J. M. Hutson, secretary, 415 Tenth street, Portland, Oregon; Max H. Clark, treasurer, 1248 East Alder street, Portland, Oregon; and Auto Freight Transportation Association of Oregon and Washington; George V. Bishop, president, 773 East Tenth street, Portland, Oregon; Oscar W. Horn, secretary-treasurer, 115 East Forty-eighth street, Portland, Oregon—**MOTOR BUS AND TRUCK BILL**—Purpose: To levy a license tax upon the use of motor vehicles when used as common carriers upon the public highways for transporting persons and property for hire, appropriating such revenue to the payment of expenses heretofore or hereafter incurred for construction, maintenance, repair and reconstruction of highways; providing for the supervision, regulation and control of such motor vehicle transportation; conferring jurisdiction over the same upon the public service commission; providing for enforcement and penalties for violations of the act; and repealing chapter 10, General Laws of Oregon, special session of 1921, and chapter 205, General Laws of Oregon of 1923. *Vote YES or NO*

324 Yes. I vote for the proposed law.

325 No. I vote against the proposed law.

Referred by Tom E. Shea, 433 Morris street, Portland, Oregon—**ACT APPROPRIATING TEN PER CENT OF SELF-SUSTAINING BOARDS' RECEIPTS**—Purpose: To transfer to the state general fund for the payment of general expenses of the state, ten per cent of the receipts of the state boards and commissions therein named, constituting practically all of those supported by and collecting fees, license and taxes, and to deduct the same from the revenues available for such boards and commissions. *Vote YES or NO*

326 Yes. I vote for the proposed law.

327 No. I vote against the proposed law.

PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Initiated by Public Service League; L. D. Ferguson, president, 1334 Delaware street, Portland, Oregon; J. C. Potter, secretary and treasurer, 640 East 49th street north, Portland, Oregon—**INCOME TAX BILL WITH PROPERTY TAX OFFSET**—Purpose: To levy and collect annually state progressive income taxes upon entire net incomes arising or accruing from every source whatever within the state, and from personal property located for taxation within the state; deducting as an offset from such tax all property taxes levied during preceding year and actually paid during income year; providing certain deductions and exempting from tax \$1,500 net income for single person, \$3,000 for head of family, married person, or husband and wife together, \$400 for each child or dependent under certain conditions, and \$2,000 for each corporation, and other conditional exemptions. *Vote YES or NO*

328 Yes. I vote for the proposed law.

329 No. I vote against the proposed law.

Initiated by Oregon Motor Stage Association; Leland James, president, 944 Regents drive, Portland, Oregon; W. T. Crawford, treasurer, Roosevelt hotel, Portland, Oregon; J. M. Hutson, secretary-manager, 730 Quimby street, Portland, Oregon—**BUS AND TRUCK OPERATING LICENSE BILL**—Purpose: To require payment of annual license fees therein specified to the public service commission for operation of busses and trucks on public highways by transportation companies, according to number, weight and size of such vehicles, for defraying expenses of regulation and supervision of such transportation companies, and construction, repair, reconstruction and maintenance of public highways of the state; providing for deduction or set-off from such fees of amounts paid the secretary of state for registering such vehicles; and distribution of funds arising therefrom less regulation expenses, three-fourths to the state highway fund and one-fourth to respective counties, for highway purposes. *Vote YES or NO*

330 Yes. I vote for the proposed law.

331 No. I vote against the proposed law.

Initiated by Oregon State Grange; Geo. A. Palmiter, master of Grange, Hood River, Oregon; Bertha J. Beck, secretary, Albany, Oregon, route 3; Oregon State Federation of Labor; By B. W. Slesman, president, Portland, Oregon; C. U. Taylor, secretary, Portland, Oregon; Fish Commission of Oregon; By John C. Veatch, chairman, Portland, Oregon; W. T. Eakin, commissioner, Astoria, Oregon; J. S. Hayes, commissioner, Bay City, Oregon—**FISH WHEEL, TRAP, SEINE AND GILL NET BILL**—Purpose: Its purpose is to prohibit the use of fish wheels for catching fish in the Columbia river in the state of Oregon; to prohibit the use of fish traps and seines for catching fish in the Columbia river in the state of Oregon east of Cascade Locks; and to prohibit the issuance of licenses for the use of gill nets of more than 250 fathoms in length for catching fish in the Columbia river in the state of Oregon. *Vote YES or NO*

332 Yes. I vote for the proposed law.

333 No. I vote against the proposed law.

Initiated by Oregon State Grange; Geo. A. Palmiter, master, Hood River, Oregon; Bertha J. Beck, secretary, route 3, Albany, Oregon; Farmers' Union of Oregon, Herbert Egbert, president, P. O. Box 479, The Dalles, Oregon; Mrs. G. B. Jones, secretary, Monmouth, Oregon—**INCOME TAX BILL**—Purpose: Its purpose is to levy and collect annually a progressive state income tax, upon the entire net income of every individual and corporation, resident or non-resident in the state, arising or accruing from every source whatever within the state, and from personal property located for taxation within the state; providing certain deductions and exempting from such tax, \$1,500 net income for a single person, \$3,000 for the head of a family, married person, or husband and wife together, \$400 for each child or dependent under certain conditions, and \$2,000 for each corporation, and allowing other conditional exemptions. *Vote YES or NO*

334 Yes. I vote for the proposed law.

335 No. I vote against the proposed law.

Initiated by Housewives' Council, Inc.; Josephine M. Othus, Mary A. Dean, Clara M. Simonton—**OREGON WATER AND POWER BOARD DEVELOPMENT MEASURE**—Creating the Oregon Water and Power Board of five elective members; appointing first members, board filling vacancies; giving said board full authority for conservation, development, storage, distribution of electric energy and water for irrigation and domestic purposes; authorizing state bonds issued not exceeding five per cent of assessed state valuation; bonds issued to pay interest or principal of outstanding bonds; issuance of interest bearing state public utility certificates; paying principal or interest of bonds from state general fund with repayment from bond fund; taxes levied to provide such moneys; appropriating \$250,000 from general fund returnable from water and power revolving fund. *Vote YES or NO*

336 Yes. I vote for the foregoing measure.

337 No. I vote against the foregoing measure.