

The Hermiston Herald

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NOW IS THE TIME

Asotin county in southeast corner of state of Washington has a tax levy for all purposes amounting to \$259,886.76. The wheat yield the county's only grain, is estimated at 250,000 bushels. At 90 cents a bushel, a little better than present market price, county's income from wheat will be around \$225,000.

Wheat represents about 80 per cent of Asotin county's total agricultural and horticultural resources. The county will therefore have to produce about \$35,000 more than received from the wheat crop in order to meet tax payments, according to the secretary of the Asotin County Taxpayers' Association.

"Our farmers," says the secretary "can no longer boast of being free holders; they are mere tenants of the state and county."

Asotin county is in no worse predicament than many other agricultural sections in western states. What else can one expect when they consider the following figures which were recently published: Washington's population increased 18.8 per cent for the decade 1909-1919, assessed valuation increased 33.2 per cent and taxes 140.6 per cent; Oregon, in the same order, 16.4 per cent, 23.2 per cent and 240 per cent; California, 44.1 per cent, 97.7 per cent, 243 per cent. On top of this came a total internal revenue tax for national government purposes for year ending June 30, 1920, in California, \$179,267,566; Oregon, \$27,569,223; Washington, \$42,608,453. The total taxes paid federal government and taxes paid each state for support of state government and minor subdivisions for the year 1920 were: California, \$474,021,048; Oregon, \$68,686,591; Washington, (1919) \$102,751,294.

During the period of war inflation tax bills were increased recklessly just as private individuals, companies and corporations expanded and borrowed money beyond the limit of safety. For two years private industry has been paying off its debts, cutting out the war time extravagance and getting back to normal. Many concerns were forced into bankruptcy while others are still struggling to pay out.

Under normal conditions with war time profits eliminated the average farmer, working man and industry is finding it more difficult to pay war time taxes out of a peace time income. Relief will come only when we have more business and less politics in government and when the people awaken to the fact that when they vote an expenditure of \$1,000,000, \$5,000,000 or \$10,000,000 today they must dig it out of their pockets in tax money tomorrow.

The remedy for the present situation rests with the people themselves.

by demanding that there be less need for tax revenue, by refusing to sanction new schemes for new forms of taxation rather than reduction of present taxation, by demanding that the continued issuance of tax-exempt bonds by city, county, state and national government be discontinued, by refusing to vote for the innumerable measures that are proposed that constantly raise the tax bill bit by bit through the establishment of new departments, new officials and new demands upon the public treasury and finally by taking an interest in our public affairs and voting for men and measures which mean less politics and more business in government.

JUSTICE DELAYED

It is discouraging to learn that the supreme court of the United States, beginning its fall term, faces a docket of 650 cases, which it cannot possibly get through with in less than two years. This means that any new case must wait two years or more for a hearing.

It should be remembered, too, that lawsuits do not come directly to the supreme court. Most of the cases arriving there have had a lengthy history already. As a result of trials and retrials and appeals, it may be four or five years from the inception of a lawsuit to its final destination by the highest court.

"Justice delayed is justice denied." The involuntary denial of justice in this way is acknowledged to be due to two causes.

First there is the fact, attested by former Justice Clarke, that a great many of the cases carried to the supreme court have no business there, involving as they do merely routine questions that could easily be decided by the lower courts. "Fighting a case through to the highest court" has become a vice in American jurisprudence. As a result, the highest state and federal courts are so overburdened with petty business that they cannot do justice to the more important matters.

All of the courts are clogged with cases, but the highest courts, which should be most free, are clogged the worst. And this evil seems to be due mainly to the laxity with which retrials and appeals are granted, for slight cause or petty technicalities, in the lower courts.

It was to seek a remedy for this slowing down of American judicial machinery that Chief Justice Taft recently went to England, where our fundamental law originated, and where court business admittedly is handled with far more expedition. Something ought to come from Mr. Taft's efforts.

WIT AND WISDOM

Wonder if it would be possible to slow down a phonograph to where it could play the Congressional Record?—Detroit News.

The difficulty of telling how an election is coming out is succeeded by that of explaining why it didn't.—Dallas News.

We're going to need those locks we put on our cellars to keep what coal we have left.—New York Tribune.

The eastern part of the United

Don't Surrender Your Rights!

OUR forefathers fought for their rights. Many of them gave their lives that we might enjoy freedom.

In the Declaration of Independence they recorded those truths that have so safely guided our democracy.

They have written that men are endowed by their Creator with certain "unalienable" rights, and "to secure these rights governments are instituted among men."

And now these rights are attacked. The School Monopoly Bill (called on the ballot Compulsory Education Bill) proposes that we surrender a God-given right—the right of parental control—the right of a parent to say in what school his or her own child shall be educated.

Maintain your right to control your child through the education you feel it is right to give it. Do not be led astray by fine phrases. Look into this dangerous bill. You will find the vital principle of "unalienable" rights is at stake.

Vote 315X NO on the School Monopoly Bill

Called on the ballot Compulsory Education Bill

This advertisement is paid for by the Non-Sectarian and Protestant Schools Committee.

States is bounded on the north by the St. Lawrence river and the great lakes.—Life.

The Allies could get together if there wasn't always something each wanted separately.—Washington Post.

It is simply impossible for a fellow to beat all the fast trains to all the grade crossings.—Charleston Gazette.

Mr. Bryan has cut his hair. Apparently, he didn't want to be mistaken for a flapper.—Asheville Times.

They call prices prohibitive because they never take a drop.—Philadelphia North American.

Civilization always has had a hard time getting along with the next-door neighbors.—Toledo Blade.

Drivers had no more horse sense in the old days. It was the horse that had it.—Baltimore Sun.

OREGON INDUSTRIAL REVIEW

Roseburg—Positive signs of high grade oil discovered at Oakland-Sutherland well.

Medford awards contract for armory. Grants Pass—Beaver Portland Cement Co. to construct huge lime plant here.

Ashland—Shriners planning temple here. Hood River—Loop road in Upper Valley to be rocked this fall.

Halfway—Heavy shipments of cattle leaving here. Wheeler—Pac. States Tel. Co. expanding \$2,000 building line from Wheeler to Nehalem.

Gresham—Construction Zweibel Mfg. Co. plant progressing rapidly. Dee—Oregon Lumber Co. constructing log storage pond on east

Fork of Hood River. Salem—Girls' Industrial school, recently destroyed by fire, to be rebuilt at cost of \$32,000.

Lebanon cannery has output valued at more than \$200,000. Salem to get \$20,000 morgue.

Vernonia—Large new business building going up. New Union High school building at Vernonia completed.

Bend—Laying of brick for new Carmody theatre started. Medford—Work on new power transmission line between Prospect plant of California-Oregon Power Co. and Springfield, Oregon, nearly finished.

Hermiston—McKay Creek dam assured. Vernonia—New Portland, Astoria & Pacific line of Spokane, Portland & Seattle system to start service soon. O'l burning locomotives to be used.

Medford pear crop 1300 cars this year.

Taxes and the Governor

When a candidate for the high office of governor bases his candidacy on certain claims and promises as to what he will do if elected, the public is entitled to have his claims analyzed and examined.

In this campaign, Walter Pierce has gone about the country melodramatically tearing tax bills in two by way of illustrating what he will do to taxes if elected.

The voter, then, should analyze the tax matter to the extent of becoming informed as to just what part the governor plays in imposing or reducing taxes.

In the first place, the voter should know that the total levy in Oregon for 1922 is \$40,473,906. This is a reduction of over \$1,500,000 from last year, so that it will be seen the high cost of government following the war is already receding.

Of this 1922 levy of 40 million, over 31 million was for county, city and school district purposes, over which the governor could have no possible control whatever.

Of the remaining 9 million for state purposes, only 3 1/2 million are taxes over which the legislature has any discretion, and of this amount, only 2 1/2 million are for the actual expenses of state government and might, therefore, in even the remotest degree, be charged to the methods employed by the governor in administering the state's affairs.

In passing, it should be noted that this state levy is an increase of 41 per cent, since 1916, and not several hundred per cent, as stated on various occasions by the democratic candidate. It should also be noted that less than half of this 41 per cent occurred during Mr. Olcott's administration. This ability to keep down the cost of the state government to so small an increase, when living expenses in the ordinary home in the same period increased over 100 per cent, is a most creditable showing.

MR. PIERCE'S TAX RECORD

It is proper at this point to examine Mr. Pierce's own record on taxes and see if past actions as a legislator square with his words.

Of the \$9,378,289 of state taxes for 1922, which include the millage taxes, MR. PIERCE SPECIFICALLY HAS APPROVED OF \$8,864,039, or 92 per cent. He had no chance at most of the other 8 per cent.

Of the 1922 state taxes, Pierce introduced bills accounting for \$1,428,126, or 15 per cent. In addition to this, he voted for tax bills introduced by others to the amount of \$6,114,

100, and he has given his public approval on numberless occasions of measures passed since he was returned from the legislature causing taxes amounting to \$1,020,504, making a total of state taxes approved by Pierce of \$8,964,039, or 92 per cent of the total 1922. There is no telling how much of the remainder he might have approved if he had had a chance, and it may be significant that the state taxes have decreased over 11 per cent since Mr. Pierce was retired from the State Senate.

Mr. Pierce has always been a consistent tax booster. He voted against only three per cent of all the appropriations of the 1919 session of the legislature and voted for all the appropriations of the 1920 session.

In 1917 Mr. Pierce introduced a bill to reduce money, notes, mortgages, and accounts from taxation. Yet he passed as being anxious to take the burden off real estate!

He voted for submission of \$400,000 bond issue to build a new penitentiary.

Mr. Olcott, at no TAX expense and with prison labor, has fixed up the old penitentiary in excellent shape for another 25 years.

Mr. Pierce voted against accepting road machinery from the government. That machinery now amounts in value to \$1,500,000.

GOVERNOR OLCOTT'S RECORD

The above are but a few of the extravagances of Pierce. Mr. Olcott, on the other hand, has conducted the business of the state in an economical, sane and business-like manner. He has saved the state thousands of dollars because of his level-headedness and his intimate knowledge of state affairs. He built a new Boys' Industrial School Building by diversion of a millage fund, and therefore, without a single cent additional tax. He has insisted upon development of the various state farms connected with the state institutions until the present year shows the unprecedented income from this source of \$481,511. He is no talker, no politician, no idle promise and is not seeking re-election under false pretenses nor catering to prejudice, but is going to the people on his own splendid record, confident that if he can but get that record and Mr. Pierce's record before the voters of Oregon that he will be vindicated on election day, Tuesday, Nov. 7th.

Vote for Olcott for GOVERNOR

REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WALTER L. TOOZE, Chairman. C. E. INGALLS, Secretary.

What is home?

Eight hundred replies came to the question "What is home." The most popular answer was: "Home--The place where we grumble the most and are treated the best."

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