

# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

PUBLISHED DAILY EXCEPT SATURDAY.  
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Official Paper of the City of Medford

GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Manager.

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## HIGH MUNICIPAL TAXES

**B**AKER CITY'S city council has levied a city tax of 20 mills, the limit permitted under Oregon laws. Beside this Medford's levy of 17 1-10 mills looks small, but the high rate of taxation augers a year of great public improvement ahead for the metropolis of eastern Oregon, as well as for Medford.

Time was, and not long ago, when Jacksonville prided itself on its having no city tax at all, and Central Point boasted of its small tax. And not long ago Ashland crowded over its tax rate being lower than Medford's and Grants Pass is still endeavoring to contrast itself favorably with Medford because its tax is only eight mills. The unprogressive towns of the Willamette valley still brag of their low taxes.

But the people of Oregon are learning, as those or all other states have learned, that municipal improvements cost money, and that the town that makes them, goes ahead and that property valuations increase on account of them and more than justify the increased rate of taxation caused by them. A high rate of taxation in a small town nearly always indicates a progressive place.

With its "advantage" of lack of municipal taxation, Jacksonville has peacefully declined from the metropolis of southern Oregon to its present status. Central Point has begun to tax itself and began to grow. Ashland's tax rate is increasing by leaps and bounds as the city progresses, and promises some day in the not distant future to have as high a tax rate as Medford, for long held up as a "horrible example." If Grants Pass would hold its own with the two sister cities, it must join the procession and spend the money.

High taxes have long been the bugaboo of the mossback, and the dread of them has done much to retard the progress of the state. But the community that is afraid to spend money, go in debt and take chances on the future, like the business man who follows the same policy, is soon left hopelessly in the rear of the procession and distanced by more enterprising rivals.

The smaller cities of Oregon, at least those which are rapidly growing, owe Medford a vote of thanks for leading the way and showing to the people of the state how cities are made.

## LEOPOLD OF BELGIUM

**I**T BECAME fashionable to abuse the late of king of Belgium on account of the unspeakable atrocities perpetrated in the Congo Free States, for which he was directly responsible, yet no Christian government interfered to stop them. Leopold was a rascal and a rake, as well as a maimer of men for the almighty dollar. He seemed to be totally lacking in morality, yet, to give the devil his due, made a very good king for the Belgians, and was probably the ablest of the ruling monarchs of Europe, as well as a good "business man" and administration.

It is worthy of note that Leopold, so unpopular throughout the Christian world, was popular in his own country. He reigned for 44 years, and prosperity shed its blessings over his people throughout. His country, scarcely the size of an Oregon county, supported a population greater than New York, and increased in numbers fifty per cent during his administration. During this long period, despite the upheavals of Europe, peace and commercial prosperity obtained in Belgium and serious internal crises were avoided. As a monarch and statesman he showed marked ability.

Belgium in many respects is a model nation. The railroads are state owned, and admirably conducted. The foreign trade is four times as great proportionately as that of America, greater than Great Britain's or any other nation. Intensive agriculture, despite unfavorable natural conditions, is practiced to an extent unknown elsewhere in the world. Its steel industries are nearly the greatest in Europe. Co-operation reigns among the people and the co-operative stores and societies are models for all nations, while the prosperity of the rank and file is comparatively greater than elsewhere known—there practically being no paupers.

A man who has done so much for his people cannot be considered a failure—despite the bloody and lustful stains upon his name.

## MAKE ONE GREAT PAPER

**T**HE Mail Tribune makes a favorable comparison with any newspaper in the state outside of Portland and it

arouses the wonder of strangers to see such a paper printed in a city the size of Medford. It is possible to print a paper worth while simply because the sources of support are not split into many parts.

There is no excuse for more than one newspaper in any city until it far outstrips Medford's present population. Two or more newspapers simply split the community into as many factions, each with its mouthpiece, and each with its chestnuts to pull out of the fire. They become a drain upon the commercial interests and work a positive injury to the municipality.

The Portland Oregonian became one of the great papers of the nation because for years it had the undivided support of the mercantile interests of Portland and hence received revenue sufficient to make it a powerful factor in the upbuilding of the city and country.

There is no good reason why the Mail Tribune should not become a really great newspaper, a commanding influence in the upbuilding of Medford and the Rogue River valley, and it will so become with the support of the merchants and commercial interests of Medford.

## WHAT PAPERS SAY OF SISKIYOU

**Severance Sentiment From Siskiyou.**  
(San Francisco Evening Post.)

Out of Sacramento comes the half-retartling, half-amusing report that the state severance fad has reached northern California. That section, it is rumored, wants to combine with southern Oregon in the formation of the new state, known as Siskiyou.

Just how, where or why this idea started, no one seems to understand clearly but that it has received definite recognition and promotion in the section interested is undeniable. Maps of the proposed new state of Siskiyou have already been published by newspapers in Ashland, Yreka, Klamath Falls and other towns.

From this it may be inferred that the plan originated in Oregon, rather than in California, and had its inception in the desire of these isolated border counties for a more central state government. Jackson, Oregon, seems to have held the first public meeting of any consequence to further the scheme. From there plans of the movement were launched, but a more important gathering is soon to take place in Yreka which hopes to be the capital of the new state.

According to specifications, the new state will be composed of fifteen counties. Eight of these are Californian as follows: Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen and Tehama. Oregon expects to contribute the following seven counties: Coos, Douglas, Curry, Josephine, Jackson, Klamath and Lake. This should give the new state plenty of territory, including some fine agricultural districts—but would leave it rather shy of cities and population. Eureka would be the natural metropolis, and as this town has no railroad connection with the outside world, it would be somewhat of a disadvantage. If Yreka were then, the capital California would have much the best of it, and the tacit concession of these advantages by Oregon promoters seems to indicate that the latter state is much more eager for the union than the former.

However, there is little danger, that the plan will be taken seriously. It is terribly premature. Undoubtedly, California and other large states will, some time be divided. In a few decades the northern division scheme may ripen and become feasible. But at the present time it is even more amazingly precocious than Dan Digo's ambition to hold the biggest exposition in the world.

**Fishing is Fine.**  
(San Francisco Chronicle.)

If the Siskiyou country never gets to be a state it will still be a fine place to go fishing.

**State of Siskiyou Will Get to Congress.**  
(Eugene Register.)

It is apparent from the activity displayed among the southern Oregon and northern California counties, the new state of Siskiyou will find its way to congress. While it will probably receive scant consideration at this session, it will, in all probability, come up at each session until finally disposed of one way or another.

**Yreka Not Dead.**

It is reported that Yreka is mentioned as the probable capital of the proposed new state of Siskiyou. Right there will come a falling out of the new state forces. Why should that old half dead town of Yreka become the capital rather than either of those growing, progressive towns of southern Oregon, Ashland and Medford?—Portland Journal.

Yreka is not a dead town by any means. It is a fine example of a town that refuses to be put away and thrives as the leading city of a splendid county. Oregon towns hesitate to put in a claim for the state capital because they remember the fate of Salem. At any rate the state capital is a smaller part of the bigger issue.

**Answers the Chronicle.**  
(Ashland Tidings.)

Our esteemed contemporary, the San Francisco Chronicle, is opposed to the new State of Siskiyou. The Chronicle has just exhausted itself hammering Los Angeles for wanting to carve out the new state of South California and was after San Diego hot-footed for raising \$1,000,000 for a Panama-Pacific exposition in 1915, when it suddenly got word that the State of Siskiyou was to be carved out of the north. The Chronicle should not fight so hard. After California gets lopped off at both ends it might get to be the right side, for Mike De Young to represent it in the senate. Here in Oregon we are trimming the section down to the State of Willamette in order to give Harvey Scott the opportunity of his life. Harvey is such a constipated, stubborn and leonoclastic knocker that he can't see what a proposition we are making out for him. However, it was ever thus, prosperity has to be thrust on some people.

## AN APPRECIATION

Office of Commissioner 3rd District, Murphy (Grants Pass), Ore., December 24, 1909.  
Medford Mail Tribune,  
Medford, Oregon.

Gentlemen:  
Inclosed please find my check on First National Bank of Southern Oregon, for \$5.00, to pay for one year's subscription for your paper. I find your paper is so much in earnest for better fruit for the Rogue River Valley, that I feel it a duty to aid its

**FORMER MEDFORD MAN RETURNS AFTER TWO YEARS**

H. W. Jackson, a former mining man of this section, who has been in northern Washington and British Columbia for the past two years, is spending the holidays in Medford. Mr. Jackson is operating now in Stevens county, Washington, near the Canadian line, and has a number of excellent prospects. However, he has not lost his old affection for southern Oregon, and expects to return here within the next year or two.

"You people who have been in Medford all the time," said Mr. Jackson, "really don't realize how fast you have grown. Two years ago, when I left here I thought the city was growing fast, but when I came back if I hadn't got off the train at the old depot I wouldn't have recognized the town."

circulation by becoming a subscriber; then, too, its daily news puts me in closer touch with the efforts of Professor O'Gara, and his work in Jackson county, in stamping out the pear blight that is sure to destroy her vast apple and pear orchards if he is not sustained by every fruit grower in the Rogue River Valley.  
Kindly mail the paper to me at Murphy, R. F. D., Oregon.  
Yours truly,  
A. H. CARSON.

**TWENTY YEARS' RECORD IS GONE TO SMASH**

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25.—J. E. Birmingham, for over twenty years a trusted employee of the Shreve's Jewelry firm and the husband of the famous contralto, was arrested for robbing his employers today. He

## MAIL TRIBUNE BOYS AT BANQUET BOARD

Elaborate Menu Discussed at Christmas Dinner Given by the Management to Employees.

A special edition of Christmas good cheer was issued last evening when the employees of the Medford Mail Tribune gathered at the banquet board as the guests of the management of the paper. Baring French words the "copy" was easy to read and the compositors, as is their custom, verily "ate it up." For two hours editors, copy boys, reporters, compositors, pressmen and others labored before the last form was locked and run off.

During the course of the evening brief remarks were made in which the growth of the Mail Tribune, from a little six column, four page daily, with patent inlines, to its present size—eight pages, seven column, every evening with from 16 to 28 pages Sunday, was discussed. The transformation, in two years, is truly marvelous.

The boys were the guests of G. Putnam, publisher and proprietor of the Mail Tribune, and that they appreciated it goes without saying. Nothing to be desired was neglected. He was thanked in a few words by Harry H. Hicks on behalf of the boys.

Those present were: George Putnam, publisher and proprietor; L. E. Whiting, superintendent of the mechanical department; A. E. Powell, foreman of the composing room; L. E. McDaniels, advertising manager; H. N. Sloane, foreman of the press room; Harry H. Hicks, managing editor; James D. Fay, city editor; H. A. McLeellan, Earl Ralston, A. F. Stennett, W. C. Moore, C. H. Lawson, Harry Childs, Paul Schuler and Edwin D. Root.

## AT THE CHURCHES

**Services Tonight.**

Christmas services this evening at the Presbyterian church. The primary department gives their exercises this afternoon at 3 o'clock and the advanced department of the school give their exercises at 7:30 o'clock this evening. The church is beautifully decorated, and every one is welcome. An offering for foreign missions will be taken, that it may be an evening of giving as well as of receiving.

**Presbyterian Church.**

Christmas sermon Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. Congregational singing and a solo by Mrs. E. E. Gore. Beautiful decorations and all are welcome. A song service in the evening at 7:30 o'clock. The songs will be Christmas songs. There will also be special music; and instrumental music on the organ and piano. Sunday school at 10 a. m.; C. E. Society at 6:30 p. m.

**Christian Science.**

Services are held every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. Subject of lesson-sermon for next Sunday, "Christian Science." All are welcome. Sunday school at 10 o'clock. North Grape street, north of Sherman, Clay & Co., music house.

**Methodist Church.**

On next Sabbath at the Methodist church, corner of Fourth and Bartlett, the services will be in keeping with the Christmas thought. The morning subject will be "Christ and the Wise Men." In the evening, "The Song of the Shepherds." Special Christmas music by the large chorus choir, both morning and evening. The evening service will be largely musical. All cordially invited.

**Baptist Church.**

Rev. Dr. Dyer will preach at 11 o'clock. Rev. Wood will preach in the evening. Rev. Dyer will preach each Sunday until a preacher is secured.

**Presbyterian Church.**

Christmas sermon Sunday at 11 A. M. Congregational singing, and a solo by Mrs. E. E. Gore. Song service at 7:30 P. M. The songs will all have reference to Christ. Mr. Henry Gunnson will sing a solo; organ and piano duet by Mrs. Gore and Miss Gray. Other music.

**MARRIED.**

Robert F. Pasmore and Frances E. Alexander were married at the home of Dr. and Mrs. R. W. Clancy, 724 West Eleventh street this city, Christmas evening at 6 o'clock. Rev. W. F. Shields was the officiating minister. This young couple are new arrivals in Medford, but they expect to make this city their future home. Mr. Pasmore is already one of our business men, and Mrs. Pasmore is an accomplished musician.



**Her Ladyship's Kitchen**

The kitchen is the housewife's pride. She demands that it be up-to-date. This means Electric Light. It is the only light for the home. It gives a soft, steady glow and penetrates dark corners. Good light insures meals more carefully prepared. On short winter days when two meals must be prepared by lamp light, electricity becomes as necessary in the kitchen as in the rest of the house.

**R. R. Electric Co.**

## Continuance of Sale

MANY CUSTOMERS HAVE INQUIRED, WOULD THE SHOE SALE CONTINUE DURING THE NEXT WEEK?

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE WHO DESIRE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE WE WILL SAY THAT EXCEPTIONAL VALUES WILL BE FOUND ON ALL LINES OF FOOTWEAR AND HOSIERY AT THE POPULAR SHOE STORE.

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Adjoining Hillcrest orchard and contain unexcelled deep, rich soil. Reasonable prices and generous terms.

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FOR HARNESS, SADDLES, ROBES, WHIPS, TENTS AND A SELECT LINE OF NAP-A-ITE GLOVES. SEE

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A Trial will Convince You

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