

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED DAILY EXCEPT SATURDAY BY THE MEDFORD PRINTING CO.

Entered as second-class matter No. 1169, at the postoffice at Medford, Oregon, under the act of March 3, 1879.

TOTAL LEVY TO BE ABOUT 22 MILLS

State Tax Fixed at 1.6 Mills—County Road Tax Will Be Fixed During Present Session of the County Court.

Total tax levy for 1911 will be between 22 and 23 mills. The county court now in session will in all probability fix the levy for the county at 7 mills, although it may possibly creep a little higher, but not go over 8 mills.

The school tax in this district is 7 mills and the city tax 8. With the state and road tax between 7 and 8 the total levy will be about 22 mills.

JUSTICE OF PEACE LOOKS PART, ALRIGHT

SAN BERNARDINO, Cal., Jan. 5.—Solomon in all his glory would look stumpy beside Justice of the Peace G. M. Pittman, newly elected, according to attorneys and courthouse attaches here, following the introduction of an innovation in the local justice's court.

When court opened today those having business there gazed their amazement at the sight that met their gaze. Judge Pittman, who can count the elections he has voted on one or two fingers, sat at his bench in regal splendor. He was clad in the robes of a chief justice. Court proceedings progressed all right, but the attorneys haven't recovered sufficiently to remember what they said or did, besides gazing at the new judge and his attire.

Justice Pittman succeeds Justice Thomas, a pioneer of this city.

OLE OLSON TO SHOW HERE THIS EVENING

Concerning "Ole Olson," which shows here tonight, the Telegram says:

"Ole Olson" was given a rousing welcome at the Bungalow yesterday after an absence of a year. This popular character, with his quaint Swedish dialect, good humor and determination to have fair play, appears to grow more popular with Portland theatergoers as the year-roll by. At each performance yesterday the theater was thronged, and the good natured Christmas crowd showed their appreciation of the play by much applause. Many of "Ole's" Portland friends were present, and they enjoyed the efforts of the entertainer to amuse as much as any others.

Ben Holmes in the title role is the same old Ben. If anything, he is a little better than he has ever been before, and his support is also an improvement over that of past visits to this city. His portrayal of Ole Olson, who "ban in kentry ten mont and sax wake," is typical of the young Swede who has come to America and who is just being initiated into the ways of American life. Un-sophisticated Ole appears to be more stupid and ignorant than he really is, and proves to be a surprise as the play develops.

The play is a melodrama in which there are two villains, a little girl and the hero. Of course Ole is the hero, and he finally rescues the child from the villains who kidnap her, and frustrates their attempts to drive the girl's mother from what rightfully belongs to her.

Ole sings a number of dialect songs which please the audience. The most popular numbers are "Strawberries" and "Memories of My Swedish Home." He and Luella Arnold, who takes the part of the plucky American girl, sing a duet and dance. Lottie Hyde as the widow who is seeking a husband, and Herbert Parley in the role of the erratic old doctor, contribute specialties.

The same bill will be given each evening this week, with Thursday and Saturday matinee performances.

Haskins for Health.

EFFICIENCY SHOULD BE APPRECIATED.

DURING the past two years Medford has expended \$935,000 for public improvements. The expenses of administration, engineering and superintendence have been far below the average in other cities for similar work. The work has been well done and the citizens received value returned for their money. There still remains a half million dollars' worth of work to be done, contracts for which have been let. It would not be expedient, nor good business sense, to attempt a change in administration and would probably result in additional expense without resultant gain.

The ability and resourcefulness of the mayor and the city council have been strikingly exhibited in numerous instances. Nearly everyone is familiar with their efforts to meet emergencies, but a few are herewith recapitulated: Bitulithic pavement on West Main and Oakdale could not be completed because there were no provisions made in the previous tax levy for paving intersections, and there were no funds available. The present administration secured an agreement with the Warren Construction company whereby the paving company agreed to stand part of the cost of these intersections, thus saving the taxpayers several thousands of dollars, and enabling the completion of the contracts.

Six miles of water mains then comprised the distributing system—only a small part of the town could be served, and there was no money in the treasury to pay for any more mains. The city had already borrowed to the full limit and the interest on the water bonds must be paid either by water sales or direct taxation. The administration worked out a plan whereby adjacent property was assessed for the cost of the new mains, the assessment being divided in ten annual installments, and bonds being issued to defray the cost, the bonds to be retired as the assessments were collected in. Property owners making payments were given certificates good in payment for that amount of water to be used on the premises, thus making the sale of the surplus water pay for the mains without burdening the property owners too heavily. To do this a charter amendment was necessary—as a result fourteen additional miles of water mains have been laid at a cost of \$90,000, and the revenues increased from \$300 a month to \$2200 above the dues paid by certificates.

By borrowing the gravity water fund lying idle in the bank, on account of Hanley's injunction suit, \$23,000, was saved to the city by paying in cash instead of bonds for the water system. This money was replaced after the sale of the bonds. An additional \$9000 was saved through the Southern Pacific's giving a half rate on the pipe at the instance of the administration. As a result the pipe has been laid at a cost of \$7000 per mile as against \$11,000 per mile formerly paid.

The utmost economy has had to be exercised in the management of city affairs, because not only was there no money in the treasury, but there was \$20,000 owing contractors on the Riverside avenue trunk sewer, completed before the present administration was elected. Through the exercise of economy, \$6000 was saved out of the running expenses of the city and paid on the sewer, and another \$6000 was saved to pay the deficiency in the gravity water fund. Had it not been for these enforced economies, there would have been more money available for street lights and street cleaning, but though we have suffered temporary inconveniences, Medford's credit has been maintained.

Such a record by city officials is one that any city might well be proud of. It certainly merits the commendation of every citizen. Honesty and efficiency in public office are so rare that when we have them it would be folly not to keep them.

CALIFORNIA SOLONS TO CONSIDER SUFFRAGE

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 5.—A constitutional amendment providing for "votes for women" has been prepared by Senator Bell of Pasadena and will go to the committee on elections. The makeup of this committee practically assures a favorable report on the measure, and it is thought the bill stands a good chance of passage and of being submitted to the voters of the state.

The bill makes only slight changes in the original section 1 of article 2 of the constitution and extends the franchise to women by eliminating "male" wherever it occurs in that section.

Rates Are Reduced. WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5.—Reductions in rates, to take immediate effect, have been filed with the interstate commerce commission by the Southern Pacific and the Western Pacific railroads. The reductions amount to nearly 33 per cent.

Want Better Game Laws. KLAMATH FALLS, Or., Jan. 5.—The Klamath County Rod & Gun club has completed arrangements to send a delegate to Salem to assist in getting the legislation desired for the protection and perpetuation of the game and fish supply.

PREFERS DEATH TO LIFE WITHOUT BABE

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Jan. 5.—Preferring death to separation from the year and a half old baby of her dead sister, Mrs. Florence Blake, 35, wife of a Southern Pacific employe, retired with the child cradled in her arms, drank a large quantity of arsenic and died several hours later. Mrs. Blake took charge of the baby upon the death of her sister, Mrs. John Fink. The father of the child several times threatened to take the baby and last night, it is said, notified Mrs. Blake that she must give up the tot in three days.

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Medford Book Store

FRIENDS OF WEE SHOO BOGIE MAN

Hold Quaint Service Over Remains of Departed Countryman—Perforated Papers Placed in Coffin Insure Against Interference.

The Chinese friends of Leua Wane Wee, who died here Saturday following a hemorrhage of the lungs, yesterday paid a farewell tribute to their dead countryman by placing within the casket in which he will be buried a number of pieces of paper, perforated, according to the doctrine of Confucious, so as to scare off the evil spirits.

After the short ceremony, which was held in the rear of the John A. Perl undertaking establishment, the slipping case was hermetically sealed. The body leaves Medford tonight

to make steamship connections for China in San Francisco Saturday.

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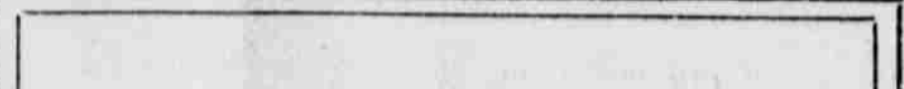
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