

# COUNTY COURT RAISES LEVY

Commissioners Raise Levy One-Tenth Mill—Additional Sum Will Go to County Road Fund—Total Levy in Medford Now 22 6-10 Mills

In revising the county tax levy for 1910, the court of county commissioners on Monday raised the figure of 7 1/2 mills, decided upon Saturday to 7 6-10 mills. The additional sum will go to the county road fund. The road districts were changed so as to allow 12 instead of 10 and the following road supervisors were named: No. 1, George Jones; No. 2, Sam Van Dyke; No. 3, A. Throckmorton; No. 5, Otto Caster; No. 6, Tom Stanley; No. 7, Ed Higginbotham; No. 8, W. D. Sturges; No. 9, George Lynch; No. 10, W. R. Garrett; No. 11, J. W. Hays; No. 12, James I. Fridenberg.

# MINERS BURIED WHEN ROOF FALLS

Four Bodies Recovered and Rescuers Explore Tunnels for Others—Large Numbers Are Crushed Under Tons of Earth.

MADRID, Jan. 10.—Many miners were buried today when the roof of a mine at Satro Urdiales fell. Four bodies have been recovered and rescuers are exploring the tunnels for others. The actual number of men working in the mine at the time of the time of the accident had not been ascertained by the mine officials at noon.

It is believed that a large number of men were in the tunnel, in which the accident happened, and were crushed under the tons of rock that fell.

### NOTICE.

The ladies of St. Mark's Guild will give a dinner from 5 to 8 p. m. at St. Mark's hall Wednesday. Everybody invited to come. Price 50 cents.

# PROGRESSIVE MEASURES URGED BY GOV. WEST

(Continued from Page 1.)

r commendation, however, is that a law be passed to compel the labeling of all prison-made goods that are sold in competition with articles manufactured by free labor.

The message contains approximately 20,000 words. Following are excerpts:

Gentlemen of the Legislature: Under the constitution it becomes my duty as governor, and I deem it a high honor and privilege, to inform you, insofar as I may, of conditions in the state and its institutions and to make such recommendations and suggestions concerning legislation as I may deem fitting or necessary.

But before passing to the discussion of these matters in detail, I desire to express to the people of this great state, through you, their duly elected representatives, my all-embracing and deeply sincere thanks for the high honor which they have conferred upon me.

I consider that this honor was shown me because the people of Oregon had confidence in my sincerity and my integrity and believed that I, as their governor, would never forget that I was their public servant, whose duty it was to do everything in my power to promote the public good and advance the general prosperity of the state. And I desire to promise them now that throughout my term of office I will keep this fact ever before my mind as a guiding star and a stay in time of stress and trial.

Of the people, I intend by my every act to serve the people. Just as their good is my good, and their prosperity my own, so would their misfortune be a cross and a sorrow to me, and I pledge them now my vow and my oath that, with the help of Almighty God, I will be a faithful keeper of their trust so that at the end I may be given the greatest reward possible for a public official—'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'

Oregon is now well entered upon an era of wonderful progress and de-

velopment. Great industries and commercial enterprises are bringing added people and comfortable homes to broaden the limits of our cities. A flood of immigration is peopling the rural districts with prosperous farms and still farther pushing back the forest from the doorsteps of the towns. New railroads are binding the state closer and closer together and on every hand the hum of industry shows progress, prosperity and success.

### Normal School Claims.

When the normal schools were abolished at the last session of the legislature no provision was made for the payment of the salaries of the teachers for the balance of the term for which they had been employed. Some of them received little or no pay from January 1, 1909, to the end of the school term in June, and what little they did receive was derived largely from private donations. The legislature, therefore, should not fail to provide for the payment of any and all unpaid salaries that may be justly due from the state.

### The Tax Amendment.

While the tax amendment may be open to some criticism it nevertheless opens the way for tax reform and as it will permit the adoption of any equitable system of taxation the people may choose to adopt there remains no reason on earth why we should not without further delay adopt the most progressive system to be found in any state of the Union. Past legislatures have laid the ground work for a good system and it now rests with you to complete it. The first and most important step is to provide for the separation of the sources of state and local revenue. When this is done the state will raise its revenue principally from public service corporations, license fees, inheritance or such other subjects as the legislature or the people may think could best be handled by the state tax commission. This system would give each county complete home rule in the matter of taxation; and unless the sources of state revenue failed

to reduce enough to cover the needs of the state the counties would not be called upon to contribute anything towards the support of the state and would be concerned only in raising sufficient revenue to cover county expenses. Each county could fix its valuations to suit itself, or as its local needs might require, and without fear of subjecting its citizens to the payment of an unjust portion of state tax.

### Convicts for Road Building.

There are approximately 430 prisoners now confined in the state penitentiary. Many of these prisoners are employed as helpers around the institution, others in the state brickyard, while a large number of them are employed in the stove foundry in accordance with a 10-year contract made by the state November 10, 1911, with the Lawsonberg & Goring Co. The state receives 4 cents per 10 hour day for their labor and the contract calls for the employment of not less than 150 men and as many more as the company requires providing they can be spared without depriving the state of necessary help around the institution.

Objection has been made to the employment of convicts in competition with free labor, and there is merit in the objection. But common decency and the consideration which we should have for the unfortunate make it imperative that the convicts be given employment of some kind. Until some unobjectionable system of employment is devised it would be most inhuman to condemn these men to idleness and to thus deprive them of the God-given blessing of useful occupation. It should be the aim of the state, therefore, to provide them as soon as practicable with employment which will remove them as far as possible from competition with free labor. The best solution it seems to me is their employment in the construction of roads. I am advised that the good roads measures which are to be introduced at this session of the legislature will call for the use of convict labor, and, if so, I hope the people will give the exper-

iment a fair trial, for if it proves a success it will not only insure good roads for a great saving to the state, and will provide healthful outdoor work for the prisoners and a long way toward putting an end to competition between free and prison labor.

### For Good Roads.

Oregon will never come into levelness in the way of development until she takes steps to improve her highways. There are sections of our state—great expanses where you could see several of the New England states—absolutely without means of reaching the railroads or markets with their products except by a two or three days' and sometimes a week's journey over almost impassible wagon roads. We may sing the state's praises to the sky and spend a fortune advertising our resources to attract homeseekers and settlers, but we will have but little success unless we see point to some movement towards the construction of good roads over which the products of the farms may be hauled to market.

Realizing how greatly the state was in need of good roads and that, through our slipshod methods of

road patching thousands of dollars of the people's money were being squandered annually, a number of our public-spirited citizens, through their organization, the Oregon Good Roads association, have thoroughly investigated the whole question of road building and I understand will submit to you for your consideration a number of bills which embody their views and recommendations in the matter. Knowing that their recommendations are being prompted solely by an earnest desire to see this state gridironed by the best system of highways in the world and at the least possible cost to the taxpayers, I ask that the whole question be kindly given the most careful consideration by you.

### Judicial System.

Reform in our judicial system has been long overdue. The people, at the last election, passed an amendment which removes all constitutional obstacles from the path of betterment and the way is now open for the burial of the many antiquated features of our system and the birth of new ones.

Any attempt at revision, however, should come only after thorough investigation and deliberate discussion.

I would suggest, therefore, that provision be made for the appointment of a commission, to serve without pay, whose duty it shall be to prepare and submit to the next legislature a bill which will make one thorough revision of the whole system. The two years of investigation and discussion will give every one an opportunity to be heard and should enable the commission to give the state the best judicial system on earth. I am opposed to all hasty and patchwork legislation at this or any time, and believe that the plan proposed is the only sane method for ascertaining and making the necessary changes in our present system.

### The "Oregon" Plan.

The eyes of the nation are focused on Oregon today. The progressive laws of this state are being made the pattern of state after state. Oregon has tried out the direct primary law, the direct election of United States senators, the initiative, the referendum, and the recall, and has found these measures good. Other states, boss-ridden and machine-controlled, have watched this state strike off the shackles of political slavery and are now driving the old convention system with its ring-

masters, its graft and corruption, into oblivion.

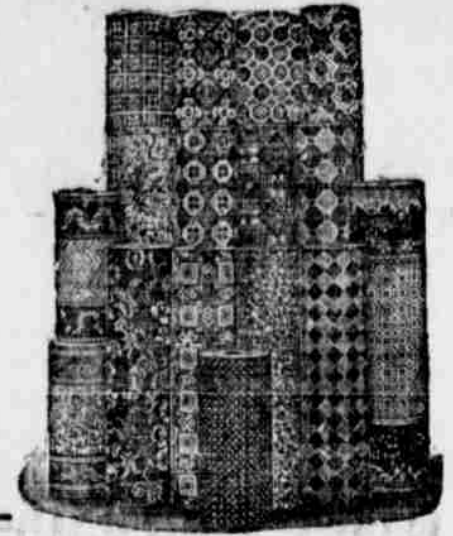
Within the past few days Governors Osborn of Michigan, Foss of Massachusetts, Marshall of Indiana, Plaisted of Maine, and Norris of Montana, have declared that their states must adopt the "Oregon system" for political regeneration.

Oregon's system is no longer an experiment. It has been refined in the fires of fierce opposition, and has stood the test well. If imperfections exist, these in time may be remedied or adjusted. But I hold that it changes must come, they should come at the hands of the friends of the law, and I say now that during my term of office I will zealously guard the integrity of these laws of the people and will combat with every means in my power any attempt to injure, infringe, or subvert them. The people of Oregon, at different times and in no uncertain tones, have declared for these laws, and no men or no hostile influence should be permitted to attempt, in any manner, to wrest from the people their hard-won victory.

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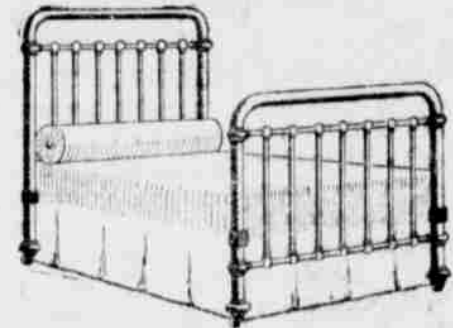
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