

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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HOW TO REDUCE TAXES

ABOUT taxpaying time Jackson county contains a lot of property owners who spend a hundred dollars' worth of energy protesting a dollar in taxes. This is all wasted effort and accomplishes nothing.

Now is the time to kick against the taxes—before the levy is made. Under a wise state law, the county court is compelled to advertise its tentative budget for the ensuing year's expenses twenty days before the levy is made December 31.

This estimate is very complete, showing just what the money will be spent for, and the levy necessary to raise the fund. The object in printing this budget is to give the taxpayers a voice in fixing the county levy.

The state levy is arbitrarily fixed by the state board. The school district levy is arbitrarily fixed by the school board. The city levy is arbitrarily fixed, under the old charter, by the city council. In none of them are the taxpayers consulted.

The county court, alone of the taxing bodies, prints the estimate of expenses in advance, and no taxpayer who has failed to take advantage of his opportunity to participate in the making of the levy has a right to protest after the levy is made, any more than the voter failing to go to the polls has the right to object to officials elected.

The Mail Tribune believes that taxation should be held down as much as possible the present year. It sees no reason for increasing expenditures in any department. The fixed operating expenses cannot very well be altered. The road work should be continued, as it is really all the permanent development work the taxpayer secures for his money.

But other expenditures should be pared, and generally have been. The estimated county and state levy is 14 mills, as against 15 mills a year ago. The county is financially handicapped by the refusal of the railroad to pay taxes upon the O. & C. land grant now in litigation, assessed at five millions, which lowers the total valuation for taxing purposes this amount.

Notwithstanding this, it is possible to cut the levy at least 1.4 mills without impairing efficiency. The proposed levy provides 3 mills for county school purposes as against 1.6 mills the present year and the year before. In other words, the amount per pupil is raised from \$8 per pupil to \$15, at the request of the county board of education, which promised a similar reduction in school district levies.

An examination of the district levies made reveals that the districts average the same old levies as a year ago. Twenty-three districts show an increase in levies, which totals 35.65 mills. Eighteen districts show the same levies as a year ago. Twenty-six districts show a decrease totaling 36.3 mills, showing that, with perhaps one or two exceptions, school districts have failed to take advantage of the increased general county levy, but have made the usual levies.

Roosevelt and Wilson Compared

In the December American Magazine Ray Stannard Baker, writing an article entitled, "Wilson—After Twenty Months," presents a highly interesting comparison of Mr. Wilson with Mr. Roosevelt, in the course of which he records in part as follows the daily life in the white house: "When Mr. Roosevelt was in Washington crowds of people always flocked to the white house to shake the president's hand—and take his time and energy. People now have just as free access to the white house as ever—almost anyone can meet the president—but the groups are small and quiet and pass quickly in and out of the president's office. One day I counted ten people going in at the usual hour to 'pay respects to the president,' on another day fourteen. Roosevelt rarely had fewer than twenty-five and often a great many more.

COLD WAVE STILL GRIPS ENTIRE EAST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Cold weather continued today everywhere east of the Rocky Mountains and the weather bureau predicted it would continue for at least thirty-six hours more in most sections. Below zero temperatures were reported in northern and western Ohio, northern Indiana, northern Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, while it was below freezing as far south as northern Florida.

TURKISH VICTORY AT SARAI CLAIMED

LONDON, Dec. 17, 6:10 a. m.—A dispatch from Constantinople via Amsterdam, to Reuter's Telegram company, gives the following official Turkish statement: "Several days of battle near the Vilayet of Van have ended in our favor and our troops have entered Sarai. "A British cruiser unsuccessfully bombarded a Turkish watch tower between Jappa and Gaza, in Palestine, on the Mediterranean. "The Russian cruiser Askold sank two small ships off Beirut, Syria. "The loss of the old battleship Messudieh, after a final examination, must be attributed to a floating mine or torpedo."

Portland Livestock Market: PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 17.—Cattle—Receipts, 69; steady. Hogs—Receipts, 424; 10 cents higher. Prime light, \$7.40@7.50; medium, \$7.20@7.30; smooth heavy, \$6.85@7.10; rough heavy, \$6.40@6.50. Sheep—Steady. With Medford trade in Medford made

FASHIONABLE RESORT RUINED AS RESULT OF GERMAN RAID

SCARBOROUGH, via London, Dec. 17, 8:15.—The queen of English watering places has recovered today from the unexpected bombardment and the feeling is one of bitter anger at the town's helplessness when under the guns of the German squadron.

The first warning sound of distant firing which attracted little attention except from the military authorities came at 3:15 o'clock in the morning. At 8 o'clock three German warships which the majority of the eye witnesses agree were one battle cruiser and two lighter cruisers, loomed out of a heavy fog so close underneath the cliffs that they were able to train their guns on the wireless station on the heights.

However, the big resort hotels on the esplanade and the old town offered tempting targets and a rain of shrapnel and lyddite shells began to fall in this section, doing great damage to the hotels and destroying houses and shops in the poorer districts. A woman in one of these shops was literally blown to pieces.

Story of The Attack: One of the light cruisers seemed to be doing most of the firing. First she let go with her stern guns and then, maneuvering further out, devoted her broadsides to the most conspicuous buildings on the higher ground. As the result of this bombardment three shells found a target in the Scarborough hospital, one tearing a chimney from the roof, another striking the nurses' quarters and the third demolished the ornamental facade, above the entrance. The wall of the old castle which looks formidable, but which has been unoccupied for hundreds of years, was breached by an 8-inch shell.

The gunners now got the correct elevation of the wireless station, but failed to injure it, most of the shells falling in an adjacent field, the turf of which was completely ploughed up by them. Residences BombarDED: Some of the better classes of residences now began to suffer, one of the first being the home of Russell Rea, member of parliament for the district. His life and that of his wife were saved by the fact that they had gone down for an early breakfast and were in the kitchen, the only part of the house untouched, the rest being a total wreck. At the same time a small house occupied by a soldier, his wife and their child and nephew, was struck by an explosive shell, reducing the place to kindling wood and killing the whole family.

The bombardment had been going on for fifteen minutes and the town was given a five minute breathing spell. The streets were cleared of people who the light cruiser after turning, brought a new broadside into play. The German squadron then faced what looked like a deserted city. The gunners directed their attention to the railroad station with the result that a whole row of houses

including a church in a nearby street were wrecked, but without loss of life, as the occupants had sought refuge. The second bombardment was more violent than the first but did less damage. Pandemonium Resulted: At the expiration of this second minute firing the warships drew off in a northerly direction and when the people of Scarborough again heard the booming of the dreaded guns at 9 o'clock, the town of Whitby up the coast was the victim. During the early stage of the bombardment the screaming shells resulted in an undecipherable pandemonium. Later the people became as quiet as death when the roar rose to a crescendo when full broadsides were fired. The ships drew off and the search for dead and wounded began. Many pitiable scenes were witnessed as anxious relatives and friends waited results of surgeons' examination. A child had its skull fractured while in the arms of its mother. The military authorities, assisted by the police, directed the exodus of the towns-people from the city. Women were favored with seats on the train, with the result that but few men departed from the town. Helpless Refugees: The pathetic helplessness of the refugees brought home the reality of war to this part of England. Many poor people whose homes were destroyed sought refuge in nearby towns. Crowds of these waited about

CHICHESTER'S PILLS: THE DIAMOND BRAND. Official Ask Your Druggist for Chichester's Diamond Brand Pills. Take no other. Buy of your Druggist. Sold by Druggists Everywhere.

IMPORTANT EVENTS: 1914-15 AT OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. WINTER SHORT COURSE—JAN. 4-30. Agriculture, including Agronomy, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Horticulture, Poultry Husbandry, Insects, Plant and Animal Diseases, Creamery Management, Marketing, etc. Home Economics, including Cooking, Home Nursing, Sanitation, Sewing, Dressmaking and Millinery. Commerce, including Business Management, Rural Economics, Business Law, Office Training, Farm Accounting, etc. Engineering, including Shopwork and Roadbuilding. FARMERS WEEK—FEBRUARY 1-6. A general clearing house session of six days for the exchange of dynamic ideas on the most pressing problems of the times. Lectures by leading authorities. State conferences. EXTENSION SERVICE: Offers lectures, movable schools, institutes and numerous correspondence courses on request. MUSIC: Piano, String, Band, Voice. No tuition. Reduced rates on all rail roads. For further information address, The Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon.

Extra Baking for Christmas: will be easily done if you use Crescent Baking Powder. It raises the Dough and leaves it light, moist and tender. 25c a pound. All Grocers.

"Daisy Brand" Butter: IF NOT WHY NOT? The White Velvet Ice Cream and Butter Co. 32 South Central, Medford, Oregon.

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STAR TODAY

The Mystery of Brayton Court With Maurice Castello ONE PART

Martin Chuzzlewit by Charles Dickens TWO PARTS

The Plum Tree IN THREE PARTS Produced in connection with the complete Prize Mystery Story published in the Ladies' World, featuring Francis X. Bushman

Slippery Slim, the Mortgage and Sophie ONE PART SEVEN REELS FIVE AND TEN CENTS

IT Theatre

TODAY ONLY: The Lover's Gift Two part Majestic; Too Much Turkey Business comedy; In the Spider's Web Majestic; SNOOKIN'S BIRTHDAY Royal comedy; THE SMOULDERING SPARK American; FICKLE MARY JANE Royal Comedy. 5 and 10c—Photoplays—5 and 10c

THE PAGE SPECIAL ATTRACTION

Medford's Leading Theatre COMING Friday Night Saturday Matinee 2 P. M. Saturday Night THE CURSE OF GREED Melies Photoplay Masterpiece In Five Parts Do Not Fail to See This Great Picture. No Advance in Admission

THE PAGE WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY EVENINGS

Medford's Leading Theatre PHOTOPlays: The Scenario Editor's Dream One Part; The Treasure Train Two Parts With KING BAGGOT and ARLINE PRETTY; The Mysterious Rose Two Parts Another of the "My Lady Raffles Series"; The Wise Guy One Part A Roaring Farce Musical Program of Latest Songs and Popular Music by LARGE PAGE THEATER ORCHESTRA This Program Wednesday and Thursday Only ADMISSION 5c, 10c, 15c

Eugene Laurant & Co. America's Foremost Magician, in

Magic Extraordinary NATATORIUM HALL Thursday Evening, December 17 AT EIGHT O'CLOCK This is the third number of the Medford Entertainment Course. Seats on sale at Haskins' drug store. Single Admission, 50c; Reserved Seats, 75c All funds over expenses of this course will be given to the Public Library.

HOTEL MANX: Powell St., at O'Farrell San Francisco. In the heart of the business, shopping and theatre district. Running distilled ice water in every room. Our commodious lobby, fine service, and Homelike restaurant will attract you. European Plan rates \$1.50 up. Management Chester W. Kelly. "Meet Me at The Manx"

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