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Official Paper of Jackson County.
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RAISE THE TAXES ON TIMBER

GEORGE W. PERKINS, partner of the late J. P. Morgan, director in the Harvester and other trusts, and one of the committee appointed by Mayor Mitchell to solve the unemployed problem, recently made a remark to the effect that an airship visitor from some other planet, seeing people idle and starving in the cities while vast tracts of land that would furnish work and food, remained idle, would think the earth populated by lunatics.

The airship visitor would be correct. These results are due primarily to the system of taxation in vogue, that puts a penalty on industry and enterprise and provides a reward for lethargy and inactivity, that robs the developer to enrich the speculator, by presenting him profits created by the community.

The man who builds a building pays additionally for his enterprise. The farmer who redeems the wilderness is forced to pay annually for his industry. The manufacturer who erects a plant is levied upon for his development. The holder of idle land does nothing, sees it increased in value by the new building, by the improved farm, by the factory, and is permitted to pocket this increased valuation, due solely to the efforts of others.

The science and thoroughness of the German has partially solved the problem in German cities. The owner of unimproved property is forced to divide the increased value with the community. As population increases, the value of property also increases. The community confiscates part of the value it has created. As a result, there are no idle tracts held for speculative purposes and no bread lines in German cities.

Jackson county has always followed the beaten path of illogical and unreasonable taxation—a policy that punishes the developer and rewards the speculator. The enterprise that redeems a barren brush hillside and converts it into an orchard is penalized by having an extravagant valuation placed upon the orchard, although it can yield no returns for years to come. The same is true throughout the valley—the orchardists have been paying on too high a valuation, a valuation based on boom values—a valuation that works a hardship.

The owner of the adjoining brush hill or idle land raises the price of his property because of the improvements made by enterprising neighbors. He will not improve himself and demands such a high price that no one can afford to buy and improve. The land is withheld from development, but constantly increasing in valuation as the adjoining orchards reach maturity. Hence we have vast stretches of idle land—land withheld from development for speculative profits, unearned increment.

But outside of the valley proper are vast areas of valuable property held for speculative purposes alone, which are as much undertaxed as the orchards are overtaxed—the timber lands. The bulk of the timber holdings are held in large tracts by non-resident syndicates, who will neither manufacture nor sell except at exorbitant valuations.

With thirty billions of feet of merchantable timber in Jackson county, none of it is utilized. All the lumber that we use, amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, has to be imported. The valley is drained of money, even for fruit boxes, which goes to support payrolls in other localities, a condition materially militating against prosperity in the valley.

The timber land is assessed at from \$10 to \$20 an acre. The price asked is from \$30 to \$60 an acre. One tract of over 13,000 acres is assessed at \$15 an acre and is known to be bonded for \$30. One tract, sold last fall, of 11,000 acres, was bought from an estate at the bargain price of \$42 an acre, though \$50 was refused during the life of the owner. It is assessed at \$15 and \$20.

In Jackson county there are, outside of the O. & C. railroad grant timber lands, 250,000 acres of valuable timber land in large tracts, owned outside the state. In addition there are 150,000 acres, in smaller tracts, owned largely outside the state. None of this is assessed at half its market value.

The farmers and fruitgrowers have borne the burden of excessive taxation long enough. Fair play and business sense calls for shifting a portion to the speculator, who does not develop and whose inactivity is a blight upon the community.

Why tax an orchardist on an \$800 an acre valuation and the timberman upon a \$15 valuation, when the orchardist is creating pay rolls and improving the country, while the Weyerhaeusers and timber trust are doing nothing but "sitting tight" for unearned increment for the benefit of future generations?

The timber holdings should be cruised for exact valuations. Until this can be done, a blanket increase should be made to make the speculator cash in part of the unearned increment he seeks. If he cannot afford to hold it idle longer, then let him manufacture, or sell at a price that will permit others to manufacture.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS
FOR ITALIAN SOLDIERS

ROME, March 20.—The military authorities have caused to be distributed to Italian soldiers the identification cards or badges which are worn customarily only during an active campaign. This incident is regarded in some quarters as highly significant of Italy's preparedness for any eventuality.

ELEVEN INSURANCE CONCERNS
BARRED FROM ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 20.—Rufus M. Potts, state superintendent of insurance, today revoked the Illinois licenses of eleven fire insurance companies for failure to file their annual statements.

HANFORD IRRIGATION
SYSTEM IS SOLD

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., March 20.—The assets of the Hanford Irrigation & Power company, estimated to be valued at more than \$1,000,000, were sold today to Henry K. T. Lyons of Denver, who was represented by J. J. Blake of Boise, for \$356,000. The sale was conducted by a receiver under foreclosure proceedings which were begun in the United States court. Bidding was spirited.

John A. Perl
UNDERTAKER
Lady Assistant
28 S. BARTLETT
Phones M. 47 and 47-32
Ambulance Service

"PEG O' MY HEART" AT VINING THEATER, ASHLAND, MONDAY



Oliver Morosco will present his production of the J. Hartley Manner's comedy of youth, love and laughter, "Peg O' My Heart" at the Vining theater, Ashland, one night only, Monday, March 22.

This is the same company with Peggy O'Neil that made a world's record run of two years in New York, the longest run of this season in Chicago, and at the same time eclipsed all other attractions financially during the past fifteen days at the Cort theater, San Francisco.

BLIZZARD RAGING
ALL OVER PRUSSIA

LONDON, March 20.—A blizzard raged Friday in Berlin and over the greater part of Prussia according to a dispatch from Amsterdam. Traffic in Berlin and elsewhere was brought to a standstill and in the approaches to the Kiel canal there were several accidents to shipping.

THE PAGE

Medford's Leading Theater

Last Time Tonight

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

—IN—

His New Job

Broadway Star Feature (Vitaphone)

The Radium

Thieves

Three Parts

Selig Drama

Slim Higgins

Sunday

Afternoon, 2 o'clock

Evening 7 o'clock

Helen Garden

The great moving picture favorite, in

the Two-Part

Melodrama Extravaganza

Snatched From a

Burning Death

Lubin Drama

A Siren of Corsica

Featuring Lillie Leslie, Jack Stand-

ing, Florence Hackett, Raymond

Hackett and others.

Vitaphone Comedy

Cupid's Column

Sidney Drew as the Gay Deceiver

Music by

Wurlitzer Orchestra

It's Always a Big Show at the Page.

Admission 5-10-15c

HOUSE IN BERLIN
WORKING FOR PEACE

BERLIN, March 20.—Colonel E. M. House of New York and Texas reported from London Friday and at once went into a conference with James W. Gerard, the American ambassador, Colonel House will be the

FORCED SALE

ATTENTION!

A good house
A good lot in
A good neighborhood
Lawn, garden, fruit
Flowers, chicken pen, etc.
Lights, water
All clear and in full
ONLY \$6000.00. Best buy
we know. You
will think so
when you see it.

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Palm Bldg.

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at our factory in Medford. That is

why it has that superior quality.

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ambassador's guest while in Berlin. It is generally believed that Colonel House is working in the interest of possible peace.

E. G. Lowery, attached to the American embassy in London, is at present in Berlin in the interests of German prisoners in England.

SYNOPSIS OF THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE

London Assurance Company

U. S. Branch of London, England, in the Kingdom of Great Britain on the 31st day of December, 1914, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

Capital

Amount of Ledger assets December 31st, of previous year \$3,996,965.32

Income

Net premiums received during the year 2,751,577.53

Interest, dividends, and rents received during the year 145,571.71

Income from other sources received during the year 197,549.12

Total income \$3,094,696.36

Disbursements

Net losses paid during the year \$1,587,238.45

Commissions and salaries paid during the year 814,758.98

Taxes, licenses, and fees paid during the year 115,638.35

Amount of all other expenditures 388,324.41

Total expenditures \$2,905,961.19

Assets

Value of stocks and bonds owned (market value) \$3,121,910.00

Other non-pledged assets, less expense 683.88

Cash in banks and on hand 202,641.51

Premiums in course of collection written since September 30, 1914 463,879.41

Interest and rents due and accrued 42,536.64

Total assets \$3,939,851.44

Less market value of special deposits in excess of corresponding liabilities in any State (if any there be) 17,422.03

Total assets admitted in Oregon \$3,913,429.41

Liabilities

Gross claims for losses unpaid \$ 535,809.40

Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks 2,292,775.90

Due for commission and brokerage 15,414.52

All other liabilities 68,186.35

Total liabilities exclusive of capital stock \$2,912,186.17

Total premiums in force December 31, 1914, fire 2,292,775.90

Total premiums in force December 31, 1914, marine 206,954.86

Business in Oregon for the Year

Total risks written during the year \$5,722,932.00

Gross premiums received during the year 83,494.53

Premiums returned during the year 18,478.72

Losses paid during the year 29,098.46

Losses incurred during the year 41,926.46

Total amount of risks outstanding in Oregon December 31, 1914 \$5,358,387.00

By A. W. THORNTON,

Pacific Coast Manager and Attorney.

Statutory resident general agent and attorney for service: Gus J. Roth,

Portland, Oregon.

D. R. WOOD & CO., AGENTS, MEDFORD, OREGON.

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