

OREGON SALES TAX PROGRAM GRANGE TOPIC

The state sales tax was vari-ously described as a sincere and last-resort method of helping the struggling schools, and as a vicious attempt of Wall Street and the "big interests" to shift their burdens upon the farmer and the poor, in an informal debate before approximately 200 people at Henley Saturday night.

A. E. Brockaway, master of the Jacksonville grange and member of the legislature from Jackson county, spoke in behalf of the sales tax measure, which probably will be before the voters in the May primaries. Morton Thompkins, former Yamhill legislator, and now a grange worker, made the speech opposing the tax.

Described Brockaway explained the sales tax law and its purposes. He described the situation in the special session of the legislature, who the legislators came reluctantly to the sales tax after exploring every other source of revenue to rescue the schools from financial distress. He showed how the estate and income tax proposals before the legislature were inadequate to meet the need of the schools. Income tax possibilities have been materially reduced by the depression, he said, and boosting such a levy to extreme heights will tend to drive wealth and industry out of the state, while broadening it to include even the small incomes would undoubtedly lead to defeat at the polls.

Thousands of families not paying taxes, including residents, tourists and federal employees, will be caught in the sales tax, said Brockaway. The levy is designed to yield \$4,000,000, or one-eighth of the school expenses of the state. The grange, he said, favors a broader base of taxation, and that is what would be accomplished by the sales tax.

Thompkins attacked the sales tax vigorously, repeatedly describing a hand reaching into the dinner bucket of the school child. Thompkins quoted Klamath county figures to show the large property tax offset which would be given the utilities and timber companies through a 4 mill cut provided by the sales tax. He then turned to the affect on the farmer as he sees it.

Out of 34 typical farms in the county, he said, 24 were found to have an assessed valuation under \$1000. The sales tax would offset the property tax on a \$1000 valuation by \$4, while the average farmer with five members in his family would pay a \$9 sales tax in a year, he claimed.

Thompkins said that the teachers, the grange and labor had agreed on an income tax plan for the schools before the legislature met, but the teachers deserted the cause. He criticized the legislators for passing a sales tax in spite of the adverse vote on a tax last summer, and appealed to the grangers to "stay put" in their opposition to the tax.

Thompkins asserted the sales tax proponents are the same interests which fought the income tax in past years.

Scientist Thinks Surface of Mars Is Slowly Drying

SEATTLE, Jan. 22, (UP)—"Mars will talk to us some day—when and how, I don't know," William Gifford Hale, 66, amateur Seattle astronomer, told members of the Seattle Astronomical society in their annual meeting here today. "They may communicate with us by wireless, or from mammoth white flags, 10-mile-long letters, or a six-trillion-volt searchlight. Of course that is if Mars is inhabited," said Hale.

Hale believes if Mars does get in touch with the earth their first query will be for aid to their water system. He says Mars is slowly drying up, with no oceans or lakes to pump more water from.

Hale couldn't tell his listeners what he thought the Mars man would look like. However, he said they probably would be more advanced in scientific accomplish-ments than the earth's scientists, because their planet "cooled" faster than the earth did.

Spokane Burglar Killed Saturday

SPOKANE, Wash., Jan. 22, (UP)—Delbert Schmitz, 22, was shot and killed Saturday while trying to burglarize a chain grocery store. He had no previous police record. He was shot through the head when he failed to halt at the command of police who rushed to the store after being summoned by police radio. The loot for which the youth sacrificed his life consisted of a few cigarettes and groceries.

The way to get along is to work hard, make yourself useful, and mind your own business.—David Sim, Canadian commissioner of excise.

Television

Applications being taken for opportunities in television field, applicants must have A-1 character references and able to carry small training expense. Those accepted will be given preliminary training at home and then taken to Los Angeles at our expense for practical work in the "National" studios. See Mr. Dean, Hotel Earley this week.

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