

**COUNTY VALUATION  
DROPS NEARLY ¼ MILLION**

(Rainier Review)

Assessed valuation of property in Columbia County dropped nearly three-quarters of a million dollars this year, figures recently released by Fred Watkins, county assessor, reveal. Property within the county including public utilities, was assessed at \$14,151,620 as compared with 14,873,875 in 1935. This is a decrease of \$722,255, of which \$624,476 was taken off property at large while the remainder was taken off public utilities property by the state tax commission.

The largest portion of the decrease is accredited to rural districts, owing to steady depletion of standing timber. Cities also were valued lower, though not in the same ratio, indicating that the tendency will be for city taxes to rise slightly in proportion to rural taxes. Only three of Columbia County's drainage districts showed a rise in valuation over the preceding year. They are Magruder, Midland and Marshland.

Columbia County will collect \$683,196.90 in taxes this year, which is about \$18,000 more than for 1935. The apportionment is as follows: General tax, \$250,483.67; general road tax, \$16,981.94; special school district tax, \$161,236.10; union high school district tax, \$88,931.64; non-high tax, 30,602.24; special city tax, \$66,314.96; drainage district tax, \$50,572.16; fire patrol tax, \$1,566.00.

**FREE BOOK RACKET  
ACTIVE IN OREGON**

"Free" encyclopedias are again being offered to Oregon residents according to inquiries being received at the Portland Better Business Bureau. This scheme is worked by the representation on the part of the book salesman that the prospect, presumably because of his 'standing in the community' or because of his 'business connections' has been selected by the sales company to receive an encyclopedia FREE. Like most of these something for nothing deals there is a catch to it—for when it comes down to the contract the 'specially selected' one is required to pay for a so-called extension service. Making it six of one and half dozen of the other—he is paying the comp-

any's price for the encyclopedia and that's all there is to it. Invariably, the contract used carefully provides that no verbal statement will be binding, and the printed agreement makes no

reference to any 'free' merchandise. So those who sign in haste and read at leisure find themselves involved in a contract they cannot easily void. This offer of a free encyclopedia is an

old sales trick and has been subject of complaint to Better Business Bureaus all over the country for years. Sometimes it is claimed by complainants that they were not only tricked by

the salesman, but that the encyclopedias offered by certain concerns that make a practice of this type of selling have been found to be inferior and obsolete. Portland Better Business Bur.

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