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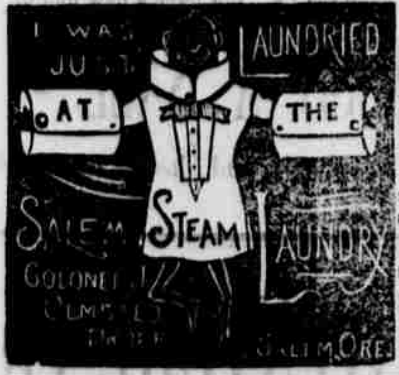
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THE CAPITAL JOURNAL.

HOFER BROTHERS, - - - Editors. PUBLISHED DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAY, BY THE Capital Journal Publishing Company. Office, Commercial Street, in F. O. Building entered at the postoffice at Salem, Or., as second-class matter.

SHOULD CREDITS BE TAXED? It may be concluded in theory that credits should not be taxed, as free trade is argued in theory, or as a single tax plan may be sustained in theory after all. The arguments that have been adduced so far, to prove that credits should not be taxed, have no solid foundation, except as they lead up to an acceptance of the single tax theory. Then only does a proposal to allow all credits, (which are personal property as much as any can be,) to escape taxation become defensible. Then only does the proposition rest upon solid ground.

To exempt credits from taxes is a part of the single tax system. There is no difference in the principle involved between exempting mortgages, credits, notes or money from taxation and the single tax theory of Henry George, which seeks to put all taxes upon land. The one is a component part of the other. Moneys on hand or on deposit, either within or without the state, debts due or to become due from solvent debtors, whether on account, contract, note, mortgage or otherwise, stocks and shares,—in short, moneys and credits, are personal property that are taxed in all states in the Union, and except by single taxers, or Henry George men, are held to be properly subject for taxation.

The uniform rule of all states is to try to tax credits. The East Oregonian assails this generally accepted theory. It agrees with the Oregonian in demanding exemption of all mortgages from taxation. It says, Sep. 23: The mortgage tax law is a humbug, but the greatest of all humbuses is the law allowing deductions for indebtedness. It has the effect of making taxation a robbery because it makes it unequal.

The E. O. places itself in the same leaky, easily-swamped boat with the O. Both want the mortgage to be exempt from taxation, and both want the farmer's exemption for debt cancelled. They want the mortgage owner to be exempt entirely and the farmer not at all. Is not this an inconsistency?

The curious thing in this matter of a democratic paper agreeing with a republican paper is that they agree for different reasons. The East Oregonian says: We ask for the repeal of the mortgage tax law and the law allowing deductions for indebtedness at least, and if the legislature desires to accommodate us it will please make the law still more simple, providing for the collection of one tax only—the single tax on the value of land irrespective of improvements.

The Oregonian specially declares that it will have nothing to do with the "Single Tax Lunacy." In agreeing that the mortgage should not be taxed the gentlemen should not get upon such antagonistic platforms.

We do not understand that either of the Oregonian newspapers pretend that the mortgage tax law or the exemption law are unconstitutional. The constitution of Oregon declares that "the legislative assembly shall provide by law for uniform and equal rate of assessment and taxation; and says there "shall be a just valuation of all property, both real and personal." The arguments against taxing credits are based entirely upon notions of expediency and until a higher court than that of the people who made the constitution shall declare that credits are not personal property, they will have to be taxed in Oregon as in other states. The details of how the assessor shall place valuation upon such personal property may be defective or liable to abuses, but mortgages and other credits will have to be taxed in Oregon so long as the present constitution stands unaltered and in force.

On being officially apprised of his nomination the future governor of South Carolina was affected to tears. Ordinarily it is the man who is not apprised that does the weeping. But two years ago Mr. Tillman was being elected; to-day he is virtually chief magistrate of his native state, and his tears were doubtless drops of joy. He has fairly fought his way to the front in true American fashion. The people everywhere will wish him well, and trust that South Carolina may have no occasion to regret his elevation.—Albany Democrat.

Friendly Reflections on the Late State Fair.

EDITOR CAPITAL JOURNAL.—The press and the people attending have very generally expressed opinion on the late state fair, and I believe have very generally voted it a success, both as an exposition of the agricultural resources of the state and financial management. Such results are not proper subjects for a carping, fault-finding criticism, and what I have to say will not be said in that spirit. The writer was an exhibitor at the first state fair held in Oregon and was one who helped locate the subsequent fairs at Salem,—has been a winner of premiums at all of the thirty fairs held as state fairs, but at two he did not attend. Consequently he has no "kick" to make. For the last three annual fairs having been not only an exhibitor, but also a member of one of its awarding committees, which in a more than common degree brings an awarding judge near to causes of discontent, I have thought it might be of benefit to lay before the friends and managers of the institution a knowledge of how people feel in regard to some points of the management. Conceding that under the means adopted this year the productive powers of Oregon farms and farmers were well proven, the question still arises, was the exhibit a proof of individual exertion, enterprise and successful labor? Or was it the work of the officers of the state board of agriculture mainly. Look into the make-up of the fine display inside the pavilion. Was it made by the aggregated exertion of individuals in spirited contest for the personal honor of producing the best in their particular lines of labor? The truth is it was so but to a very limited extent. The freshest and best exhibit of individual contributions were those arranged under the banner of the Patron of Husbandry, not for the premiums offered but as a sign of the "esprit du corps" of the granges. There were 23 contributors to the grange exhibit. Were there as many as that in all the rest of the pavilion of individual contestants for premiums, on the product of the field and the farmer's home? If there were not, why not? The varieties of fruit upon the grange table were much superior as single specimens to the fine show made by the collection of the state board of agriculture and arranged with such fine effect by Mr. Prettyman. The grain and grasses of the granger were fully equal to the extensive collection of Mr. Wilkins under the name of Lane county, though not in such variety nor depicted so repeatedly. The vegetables shown by the grange were equal and in some important products superior to the fine display procured by Messrs. Savage & Whitaker for the State Board of Agriculture. I will instance just one item; deemed by British farmers a very important help in making the farm pay and under a system which has turned many grain farms in Britain to pasturage and cattle feeding, "managolds." The 1st premium mangold-wurzel beets were produced by a family, the head of which is unable to read. He did the plowing, his wife the after care. He was hard to persuade that he had enough to gain by the Oregon state fair to justify him in paying \$2.50 for a ticket. For though he cannot read he can count and knows that though he won a premium for the "pluggest peets" he paid thirty cents to get to win a \$2 premium, which leaves him a loser of eighty cents in the financial contest with the management of the state fair gate. "See?" I know, gentlemen of the board, that you took hold of the management of the institution when it was ready to sink with debt and to clear it of that load has required many shifts. I sincerely hope last week's success was such that you can in the future with no more state aid than you now get, make the entrance to your grounds cheaper, entrance fees for premiums at less price, and by encouraging more poor men, like my Dutch friend of the big beet, make future fairs more fields of friendly competition and nurseries of public spirit and personal pride of occupation and less a public show procured by public money. Take Capt. Apperson's advice and "take the other end of the fair from the race course into consideration." Enough, Mr. Editor, in that vein. "Let's turn to the reporter's work who thinks he has 'finished up' the state fair." Who would have thought 46 years ago that John Minto, his fellow traveler, would ever be a sheep breeder, much less attain the (by some) supposed higher position of a breeder of a popular kind of cattle. Truth to tell, he had not thought of himself in that connection when looking into the pens and contemplating the results of 40 years of an Oregon shepherd's care and labor, yet, the finish-up of the fair found him the owner of a nice little herd of Shorthorns. Why, it's almost strange news to him yet, and no doubt it will be to Judge Shaw when he reads this. Another item is from the sheep pens. The first specimen of the "National Dickinson Delaine, mutton wool Merino" was shown, a yearling ram imported by R. W. Carey, who claims to have imbibed a leaning towards sheep breeding when a boy from Minto's enthusiasm thirty years ago, and has quite recently become a convert to the wisdom of breeding away from the large horns, many-folded skin and excessive oil and yolk of the Vermont type of American Merino, a course Mr. Minto has advocated and followed many years. Hence, "Dick" prizes the fact that his Delaine sheep is a muley, though that is exceptional in the registry he belongs to. He is improperly entered in competition with sheep of a diverse and more generally bred type, but the breeders of Oregon are broad-gauged enough to stand the introduction of a new and good thing in their line, even under a misnomer. The management of the fair also made a good step forward in offering a \$100 premium for the best wool and mutton ram of any breed, which was not contested for because no definite rules were made for the contest so important a premium. A prize of \$50 was made up by three competitors, the board giving \$20 and it was won by David Craig upon a lately imported Cotswold, a very fine animal of his class.

This paper is long enough and is at your service or ready for your waste basket by a FRIEND OF OREGON INDUSTRIES.

Prune Figures. No better fruit land exists under the face of the sun than in Marion county. The prune especially is best adapted to soil and climate. The Pomona, Cal., Progress of a recent issue gives the record of prune farming there. Marion county has all the essential qualities for the same or better results. The Progress says: The quantity of prunes in Pomona valley and dried here this season is about 1100 tons. Some people estimate the quantity at 1200 tons, but the former figures are conservative. The value of this crop and amount paid for the labor in picking and drying the same make prunes worth fully \$80,000 to the valley.

Several long experienced fruit growers believe that James Looney, whose orchard is out on North Ellen street, will make over \$430 an acre from his prune crop this season. There are sixty six-year old prune trees in the Frederic orchard that have borne \$550 worth of fruit this season.

From only two acres of prune trees M. P. Russell has gathered and dried a crop that sold on Monday for \$768, and the orchard has been shamefully neglected for two years, to.

The sixteen acre prune orchard of George Rober, in the northern part of Pomona, yields a crop of about 12 tons. Mr. Rober sold the crop to a cannery at \$38 a ton on the trees. Mr. Rober, therefore, gets a check for about \$230, and nothing to do with but resting the crop, or worrying about lazy pickers. That makes the yield over \$200 an acre this season. The property was set out in April, 1884, and was valued in 1885 at \$350 an acre. Now that it has come into bearing it yields a net profit equal to 10 per cent. interest on an investment of \$2500 on each acre. How does such a profit compare with the profits from farming and fruit growing in the East?

There are a dozen prune orchards here that yields a crop worth \$300 an acre this season. N. P. Hardy's five acre prune orchard has cost for the land, trees, taxes, irrigation, etc., exactly \$311.45 an acre up to July last. The orchard was planted in 1884, and this is the second crop. The gross receipts from the property thus far have been \$37 per acre. In other words the orchard has more than paid for itself already, and is now yielding a crop that is worth over \$300 an acre every year. In our humble estimation such a piece of property is worth at least \$1500 an acre. It yields a crop 10 per cent. annual interest on \$3,000 an acre.

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