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BY HOFER BROTHERS.

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OUR PUDDENHEAD WILSON TAX LAWS.

The laws of Oregon governing assessment and taxation are in a deplorable muddle. One of the effects of this condition is that Marion county is from one to two years behind meeting current expenses. In other words, the people are kept out of the use of public taxes for from one to two years after they are levied. In place of being collected and applied to current expenses, warrants are issued and the people pay interest instead of having public business conducted on a cash basis.

Another evil result of the bungling, inconsistent tax laws of Oregon is that the big taxpayers take advantage of all the delays caused in collecting taxes and many of them wait from six months to two years after the taxes are really due before paying. Thus the large taxpayers become a favored class, while those who pay small sums, and farmers and citizens of ordinary means rush in and pay promptly, as soon as their taxes are known to be due.

Under the state law taxes become delinquent April 1. But in Marion county the work of assessment is delayed so that collection of taxes usually does not begin until after they have become delinquent. Then they are not declared delinquent but collection is allowed to drag along in a go-as-you-please manner. The sharper and more experienced class do not pay until they get ready. Large corporations and men of wealth keep the public treasury out of the use of public money in this manner. In the meantime, the cities, school districts and counties are issuing warrants which draw interest and when the taxes come in they are used to take up old warrants. This endless chain process goes on, year in and year out, and while the people lose $6 or $8 on every $100 taxes collected, the capitalists who are dealing in warrants make this profit, which practically amounts to a transfer of from 12 to 14 per cent on all the taxes collected from the pockets of the masses into the pockets of the capitalists.

This is not true of all the counties in the state. In some of them the assessment is made and the taxes are collected promptly and all remaining unpaid April first are delinquent, advertised and sold. Thus, the books are cleared every year and there is no occasion to hire special tax collectors as has been done in Marion county, and over which litigation has been begun. But the fact that such abuses as these in Marion county can be practiced shows that the tax laws of Oregon are very insufficient and can be utilized to enrich the few at the expense of the many. Under these unjust tax laws millions of dollars are collected annually, and owing to the deficiency of the legislation, there is a constant transfer of wealth from large classes of poor people to small classes of very rich. If this process is not interrupted all the natural resources of this commonwealth and all the artificial prosperity that can be stacked up by the Republican party will still leave a growing chasm in the social and political organism.

Let us briefly review this incongruous conglomeration of Puddenhead Wilson legislation known as the Oregon tax laws. To begin with, the assessor is required by law to begin making the roll on the first day of March. In this county last year he did not get the blank book until July 14. In 1897 he did not get it until September 6. In other words he did not get it from four to six months after the time when the law requires him to begin recording. He is required to complete the assessment by the first Monday in August which of course he cannot do unless he has books. But if it is not completed in the time fixed by law the county clerk can extend the time until the last Monday in September.

Then upon three weeks notice the county court proceeds to equalize for one week which takes until the first of November. The law then requires that the county clerk extend the assessment in 30 days after the books are turned over to him on the second Monday in October, unless the time has been extended by the county court. The clerk is required to deliver to the sheriff inside of 30 days a transcript of the roll with the taxes levied upon each person assessed with a warrant to collect and sell the same if necessary. The law contemplates that the extended tax roll be delivered to the sheriff the second Monday in November. The sheriff then has five months in which to collect the taxes before the law declares them delinquent. But this program is knocked into a cocked hat by a further accumulation of legislative idiocy of the latest spring pattern, by following provisions:

The state tax levy is made January first; the city and school district tax levies are made February first. The law gives the county clerk 30 days in which to extend the roll after the levies are all made; hence the sheriff does not get the tax roll until it is time to declare taxes delinquent. As a result of this crazy-quilt muddle of inconsistency and legislative non-intelligence all taxes are delinquent frequently before the sheriff begins to collect them. The result is as stated in the introduction to this article. Not being declared delinquent as the law provides, the payment of taxes drags along for a year or more before there is any penalty for non-payment and this is taken advantage of by the warrant speculator. It would seem as though enough ordinary intelligence could be brought to avail in this matter to fix the time for the assessor to complete his work for the sheriff to begin collection of taxes and complete the same. Penalties should be fixed to the law so that an official who should fail to perform his duty would become liable to the people and as a result uniformity, equality and certainty would be brought into our system of assessment and taxation.

If the legislature were capable of a further spasm of coherent action, it should provide that half the tax should be paid in the spring and half in the fall. That has been done in nearly all states. If Oregon can't improve on what we now have we should go the whole hog, relapse into the dark ages, adopt the whipping post, ducking stool, polygamy, and other measures consistent with our present system of assessment and taxation.

THE OREGON FISHERIES.

Next to general agriculture, mining and lumbering, the salmon fisheries of Oregon are the most important interest of a material nature which the legislature should guard. The idea that a man should merely for the sake of a junket, or to secure mileage while he rides on a pass, propose a committee to do something for the Oregon fisheries, passes ordinary intelligence. And what have that class of statesmen ever accomplished for the Oregon fisheries?

The legislatures of Washington and Oregon are both in session. Both are Republican. Both are dealing with the salmon fisheries of the Columbia. The right kind of a conference, conducted by men whose soul struggles above free rides, free drink and free dinner, might be of incalculable value to both states. To send men to confer about legislation of such importance, whose brain only expands bivalve-like to the comprehension of suction and deglutition at public expense, is under the circumstances, a crime against one of the really largest employing interests of this commonwealth.

There are men in the legislature whose be of service to Oregon by sending them to take part in a conference with the Washington legislators on the subject of fisheries. It is to be hoped that the speaker and president of the Senate will take time to select men who approximate the dignity and importance of the subject, instead of persons, if there be such in the Oregon legislature, who propose such trips for the money they make out of them, and the chance it gives them to employ clerks. Preservation of our fisheries, protection of the cannery interests, employing thousands of laborers, the increasing competition from Alaska, makes the subject one vital to the welfare of both states.

Children deprived of fats and mineral foods have weak bones, flabby flesh and thin watery blood.

The milk of nursing mothers, enfeebled by chronic diseases, or long continued nursing, produces the same results.

Scott's Emulsion is cod-liver oil partly digested and with the hypophosphites, forms a fat food which acts on the infant through the mother's milk, giving rich blood, strong nerves and sound flesh and bones to both.

50c. and $1.00, all druggists.
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THE TREASURY STATEMENT.

The outgoing state treasurer has submitted a report which shows that December 31, 1898 he held a balance in the state treasury of $763,699.23, which is divided as follows:

General fund,	$191,236 62
School fund,	515,645 19
Other funds,	56,817 42

Liabilities of the state are $1829.79 bonds drawing 7 per cent interest, and $695.95 warrants bearing 10 per cent, $34,925.38 swamp land warrants.

There are also $213,984.88 of warrants outstanding drawing 8 per cent.

The statement shows that the bill to tax insurance companies two per cent on their gross earnings has piled up $48,750.67 in the treasury. This tax ought to be put in the general fund instead of lying idle in the irreducible school fund. This tax could be extended to other corporations, so as to bring the state $100,000 to $200,000 annually and thus relieve the land tax. It would increase each year, and the land tax would decrease each year, instead of increasing as it does.

Of course, the state treasurer's report does not say where the $763,699.23 cash reported to be on hand is to be found. There is no law making it anyone's duty to see that this cash is in existence. In many other states, the governor is required each month to demand a treasury statement, and personally to certify that he has counted and verified the items of cash on hand. There has been no such settlement of the state treasury in Oregon since 20 years.

With $763,699.23 cash alleged to be in the treasury, the state is paying 7, 8 and 10 percent interest on about $300,000 floating debt, and has over half a million in school funds lying idle. The Populists of Washington and Nebraska invested their school funds in state warrants. This would save the sum of about $24,000 a year in Oregon for the school fund.

Whether the new state treasurer will give his receipt for $763,699.23 or not, whether the legislative investigation will find any such sum in existence or not, whether Mr. Metschan and his bondsmen could produce any such sum, or half of it, if called upon, the people of Oregon will probably never know. These are plain business matters, however, which the people have a right to know.

SCHOOL LEGISLATION.

Few persons, even among those employed in schools, comprehend the real nature of our public school system. Few know that it is the foundation of our Democratic institutions. The pivotal point of departure wherein our government differentiates from all others. To consider the public school system only from the point of taxes is a mistake. If there were no public system of education, the rich would have schools for their children, there would be schools sustained by the great middle mass for their children, and a great big increasing third of all the children in the land would become objects of charity so far as education was concerned. Out of this would grow the social distinctions and divisions into classes and castes that would follow them through life.

In the public schools there is enforced equality. The richest and the poorest and nobody's child have an equal chance to be ranked upon mental ability and industry and aspiration to make the most of themselves. All caste is destroyed for the time being. Aristocratic notions of superiority by birth and privileges of wealth are flung to the wind. This may not be pleasing to some but there is a great substratum of common sense in it after all. The child of exclusive and Plutocratic tastes is compelled to learn that there are others in the world. Perhaps less favored but entitled to respect and consideration.

The man or woman who can comprehend this fundamental characteristic of our American free school system will overlook its defects and become its loyal supporter and advocate.

It is sole the cause of the more than average intelligence of our citizenship, the more than average spirit of our army and navy, the superiority of our political institutions. School legislation should not be dictated from sordid considerations of what it will cost in the way of taxes. The man who would vote on a school law from the standpoint of how the law will affect a text book publisher, or how it will affect his chance of getting employed as a teacher, or of a friend or member of his family in the future disposition of places, is not fit to legislate for a free people. He ought to become the subject of some monarchy where caste is built up and preserved at public expense and where it is a crime to let the growing generations develop their God-given talents.

All the poetry, all the romance, all that is ideal in the wide, wide world, is bound up in that one word "Motherhood." A woman's greatest happiness, her greatest duty and her greatest privilege is to become the mother of a healthy, happy child. Untold thousands of women fall short of this because of weakness and disease of their womanly selves. Either they live childless lives, or for a brief spell are the mothers of puny, sickly children that bring them only pain, and leave them only sorrow.

The woman who suffers from weakness and disease of the distinctly feminine organs is certain to become an invalid. No woman can suffer in this way and be a healthy, happy, amiable wife and a competent mother. Troubles of this nature sap the strength, rack the nerves, paint lines of suffering upon the face, destroy the temper, make the once bright eyes dull and the once active brain sluggish, and transform a vivacious woman into a weak, sickly, invalid.

This is all wrong. It is all unnecessary. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a marvelous medicine for ailing women. It acts directly on the delicate and important organs that bear the burdens of maternity and makes them strong and healthy. It allays inflammation, heals ulceration, soothes pain and tones and builds up the nerves. It banishes the discomforts of the expectant months and makes baby's coming easy and almost painless. It guarantees the little new-comer's health and an ample supply of nourishment. Thousands of women have testified to its marvelous merits. An honest dealer will not endeavor to substitute some inferior preparation for the sake of an extra little selfish profit.

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To most healthy families you will find Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser. For a paper-covered copy send 21 one-cent stamps, to cover mailing only. Cloth bound 31 stamps. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

Pleurisy

Pleurisy and pneumonia are frequently developed, in a very short space of time, from a common cold; and, if such an acute inflammation of the lungs is not promptly allayed, the worst may happen. With the aid of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, however, you need not have any fear; for this great remedy speedily subdues the inflammation, eases the pain in breathing and always effects a cure in a wonderfully short time.

Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup

Cures Pleurisy and Pneumonia.

Dealers are small and pleasant to take. Doctors recommend it. Price 25 cts. All all druggists.

TODAY'S MARKET.

PORTLAND Jan. 10. —Wheat valley 61; Walla Walla 58c.

Flour—Portland, $3.20; Superfine $2.5 per bbl.

Oats—White 42@43c.

Hay—$8@10 per ton.

Hops—14@17½c; old crop 6c.

Wool—Valley, 12@14c; Eastern Oregon, 8@11c.

Millstuff—Bran, $14; shorts, $15 @ $15 50.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $2.50@3.00 turkeys, live, 13@14c.

Eggs—Oregon, 20@22½c per doz.

Hides—Green, salted 60 lbs, 8 2-8c; under 60 lbs, 6½@7c; sheep pelts, 15@20c.

Onions—75c@$1 per sack.

Butter—Best dairy, 25@30c; fancy creamery, 50@60c per roll.

Potatoes, 65@75c per sack.

Hogs—Heavy, $4.75.

Mutton—Weathers 3½c; dressed, 7c.

Beef—Steers, $3.25@3.50; cows, $2.50 @2.75 dressed, 5@6.

SALEM MARKET.

Wheat—51.

Oats—35c.

Hay—Baled, wheat, $6.50@$7.

Flour—In wholesale lots, $3.00; retail $3.60.

Millstuff—Bran $12½ without and $13½ with sacks; shorts—$13½@14 per ton without sacks.

Hogs—dressed, 5c.

Live cattle—2½@3c.

Sheep—Live, $2.50@$3.

Veal—5@7.

Butter—Dairy 20c; creamery 25c.

Wool—Best, 15c. Mohair 25c

Hops—Best 16@17c.

Eggs—22½c in cash.

Poultry—Chickens, 8@9c; turkeys, live, 11@12c.

Farm smoked meats—Bacon, 8½c ham, 10c shoulder, 6@7c.

Potatoes—30c.

Apples—30c.

Give Us Apple Butter.

PORTLAND, Jan. 9, 1899.

EDITOR JOURNAL:—Is it not strange that in a city the size of Portland in the heart of a state that boasts of its fruits, and of its apple crop especially, apple butter, one of the most palatable and one of the most wholesome of all the spreads, for children especially, cannot be found in quantities worthy of notice, if at all?

One would naturally expect to find it by the keg, or barrel even, but it is not here.

I wonder what becomes of the tons of apples that are not good enough to bear shipment to eastern markets? Are they allowed to go to waste? And is that to be the practice for the future? Could they not be converted into cider and then to butter at a profit? If butter is now made in the Willamette valley but is not sent to this market for any reason, good or bad, please tell us about it, that we may know why we are deprived of this great luxury. Respectfully,

LEVI W. MYERS.

Notice.

The annual meeting of the share holders of the Capital National bank of Salem for the election of directors, and the amendment if deemed advisable of article third of its articles of association, will be held at its banking house at 3 o'clock p. m., of Tuesday, the 10th day of January, A. D., 1899.

J. H. ALBERT, cashier.

Salem, Dec. 9, 1898. 11-10 td

See Wiggin's ad. on first page. tf

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HOFER BROS.

Salem School District.

The directors of District No. 24 met at the clerk's office and transacted the routine business. Several bills of supplies were referred to the finance committee

Supt. Peebles was authorized to prepare for the graduating exercises in February and also to apportion the district into voting wards.

The repairs committee was authorized to build a sidewalk at Lincoln school as petitioned for by patrons of that school.

In Olden Times

People overlooked the importance of permanently benefitted effects and were satisfied with transient action; but now that is generally know that Syrup of Figs will permanently overcome habitual constipation, well-informed people will not buy other laxatives, which act for a time, but finally injure the system. Buy the genuine made by the California Fig Syrup Co.

One Dollar Dozen.

For our best enamel cabinet photographs also prices reduced on our carbonette work, the recognized photo of highest artistic excellence although they have no competition in this high class photo. The Pickerill Co. 243 Commercial street.

Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup the Safest and surest cure for those dangerous of the little ones—croup, whooping cough and measles—cough. Physicians prescribe it. Children like it, and doses are small. Price 25c

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LaGrippe is again epidemic. Every precaution should be taken to avoid it. It's specific cure is One Minute Cough Cure. A. J. Shepard, Publisher Agricultural Journal and Advertiser, Elden, Mo., says "No one will be disappointed in using One Minute Cough Cure for La Grippe." Stone's Drug store.

DYSPEPSIA CAN BE CURED BY using Acker's Dyspepsia Tablets. One little tablet will give immediate relief or money refunded. Sold in handsome tin boxes at 25c. Lunn & Brooks, druggists.

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UP—Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Leaves Portland	6 a. m.
Leaves Newberg	10:30 a. m.
Leaves Salem	3:30 p. m.
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CURE YOURSELF! Use Big G for unnatural discharges, inflammations, irritations or ulcerations of mucous membranes. Painless, and not astringent or poisonous. Sold by Druggists, or sent in plain wrapper, by express, prepaid, for $1.00, or 3 bottles, $2.75. Circular sent on request.

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8 p m ex. Sun. Saturday 10 p m	COLUMBIA RIVER STEAMERS To Astoria and way landings.	4 p m ex Sun
Leave Salem 7:15 p m ‡Tus Thu and Sat 10 a m. Mon Wed Fri	WILLAMETTE RIVERS Portland, Newburg and Way Landings. (For Dayton	Ar Salem 6 p.m. Mons Weds Fri Tu Thur Sat 3:30 p m
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8:30 A M	Lv... Portland ...Ar	4:30 P M
10:55 A M	Lv... Salem... Lv	1:50 P M
5:20 P M	Ar... Roseburg.. Lv	7:30 A M

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7:30 P M	Lv .. McMinnville Lv	5:50 A M
8:30 P M	Ar Independence Lv	4:50 A M

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