

# Editorial Page of The Capital Journal

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## THE DELINQUENT TAX LIST

Unless the bill for eliminating publication of delinquent tax notices is promptly passed, the pending delinquent list in Multnomah county will have to be printed in four newspapers, and the cost will be approximately \$12,000. The cost under the new bill proposing the postal card notifications would be about \$300. There will be a similar unnecessary cost in other counties.

It is not enough that the delinquents are in the painful position of being unable to pay their taxes? Are they to be jumped upon and preyed upon because they are down, and a \$12,000 cost be piled upon them when a \$300 cost would better answer every public end?

If a delinquent's home or other property is in peril of being sold for taxes, it is the climax of man's inhumanity to man to heap upon the cost a portion of a publication bill of \$12,000 when a portion of a postal card bill of \$300 would answer every purpose.—Portland Journal.

The publisher of the Portland Journal is the prince of demagogues in Oregon. His paper, the self appointed guardian of the poor and oppressed, was founded and backed by the money of the richest men of Portland—the men who have fattened upon special privilege. Always loudly on the side of the "plain people" it has never so far forgotten its obligation to its wealthy backers as to specifically attack a public service corporation, or special interest in the city of Portland in which these men are interested, no matter how flagrant their disregard of public rights or the larger interests of the community might have been. It is outspoken against graft as long as it does not strike too close to home.

The Journal's course in this matter of the publication of the delinquent tax list is typical of its entire career. It charges that there has been graft in the publication of the list in Multnomah county, and since almost everything in that county is tainted with graft, we are not disposed to challenge its statement. Yet it was one of the newspapers to participate in graft even soliciting the county court for it, and there is no evidence on record that it has returned a dollar of this graft money to the public treasury or the down-trodden delinquent taxpayer for whom it sorrows so deeply. Undoubtedly, however, in keeping with its reputation for hypocrisy and deception, the grand-stand play of turning state's evidence at this late day and confessing the sins of its past is considered of greater value than the tainted money it would receive from a continuance of the graft.

But outside of Multnomah county the publication of the delinquent tax list is not, never has been, a graft. The price paid is only commensurate with the service rendered, and the service is one of the most important in the conduct of county affairs in a business-like way. The county expenses are made up in budget form and a tax levy is made to cover them—if the taxes assessed are paid. If they are not paid the property of the delinquent must be sold to realize the money necessary to meet the county budget. There is only one way this can honestly and effectively be done; by advertising thoroughly, with a full and correct description, all the property delinquent and the date upon which it will be sold if the taxes are not settled before that date. The burden falls—not upon the man who has paid his taxes—but where it should fall, upon the property owner who has not paid. It is properly not an expense upon the general treasury, and the present method of advertising this delinquent list and charging the cost against the delinquents recognizes this fact.

But the delinquent has rights in this matter also. One of these rights is full notice of his delinquency, through publication in its fullest possible sense, and not by the precarious, uncertain and unbusinesslike method of postal cards through the mail, an expense which, the man who has already paid his taxes, would have to bear. Assessments are made a full year, or even more, before taxes become delinquent, and a large amount of property changes hands between the time of making the assessment and the levying of the taxes, so that a large percentage of these postal cards would go astray. Many persons would find their property bought out from under them when they had supposed the former owner had paid the taxes, and many non-resident taxpayers who had in the meantime changed their postoffice addresses would never receive the postal card notice.

And to think of a great champion of the poor and oppressed like the Portland Journal advocating the sale of a delinquent taxpayer's home upon no other notice to himself or the public than that contained on a postal card

that might or might not have reached him!

And who, besides the Portland Journal, wants the sunlight of publicity discarded for the dark and devious methods that are suggested by that paper? The court house gang of tax lien speculators, warrant scalpers and hangers on. Possibly the abstract companies which thrive on tangled titles—and all of these worthies who would take advantage of the hard-pressed, ignorant or perhaps careless property owner. You will find one of these tin horn county court house speculators hiding behind every county judge, clerk or sheriff who wants to discontinue the advertising of the delinquent tax list.

Business efficiency, honesty and fair play demand the advertising of the delinquent tax list in the most open and above-board manner—through the newspaper—and the Portland Journal knows it. Its solicitude for the poor and down-trodden taxpayer would, if heeded by the legislators, turn him over in every county, to the tender mercy of a gang of tax certificate speculators, who would never neglect to extort the last farthing of penalty and interest.

## REGARDING THE NEW BRIDGE

The Salem bridge situation is anything but satisfactory. The railroad company gives no indication of what its final decision in the matter of planking its bridge will be and is taking its usual good time before giving any answer at all. In the meantime all other plans to relieve the situation are held in abeyance.

Plans for a new bridge have been submitted by the state engineer's office, but Polk county officials will probably haggle over them and object to the type of bridge recommended, delaying progress at every turn. This is due to the fact that certain narrow-minded businessmen in the Polk county towns think they can force farmers to trade with them if they cannot come to Salem, and these interests seem to control their county court. It is a narrow view to take since many residents of Polk county have interests that are seriously impaired by inability to cross the river, and especially during the fruit season will the loss of the bridge be felt. The Salem bridge is in fact so important that the entire central part of the valley feels the loss and inconvenience which has followed its condemnation, and county officials ought to recognize this regardless of their personal interests. Anything that can be done until a new bridge is built can be at best but a makeshift and the new structure should be hurried along with no delay that is not dictated by good business judgment.

A few days ago the government opened certain lands to settlement under the 640 acre homestead law, and already complaints are pouring into the department at Washington, that the big stockmen of Eastern Oregon are locating these lands through the use of dummies, just as the timber lands were located. It seems the stockmen are not afraid of Uncle Samuel's long arm, for having watched the land fraud trials they know that the bundle of red tape in the judicial department is warranted to unwind for years without reaching the end, and that the average violator of such laws as govern the location of lands will be gathered to his fathers and be only a memory before that ball of precedent and red tape is all unwound.

The ways of woman are past all understanding. Recently Miss Gertrude Lester, of New York, returning from a shopping tour, found her home in flames. She had considerable jewelry and fine clothes at stake and so she plunged heroically into the blazing building and returned blackened and choking with her skirt held under her chin and half a dozen spaniel pups safe in its folds. She explained that the pups were thoroughbreds and worth \$1,400.

It is a good thing the legislature got that memorial to congress asking the boys be returned from the border through last week, or the soldiers would have been home before it reached Washington. Anyway it permitted the legislators to relieve themselves of a few tears and oodles of sentiment.



## THE BANKER

To blow in wealth I sometimes hanker, on projects labeled "Get rich quick," but ere I blow I see the banker, who hits those projects with a brick. I am an easy mark, I know it; gold bricks to me appear all right, and men with bait come up and show it, and strongly urge that I shall bite. But long ago I made some pledges; I vowed I'd never pay the price of josses, wooden hams or wedges, without the banker's sane advice. Thus I've escaped a thousand dangers, and ills too dark for tongue to tell; I've baffled scores of oily strangers who had pink polar bears to sell. I buy no gold mines in Nebraska, no odds how hard the agent tries; I buy no orchards in Alaska, because the banker puts me wise. He is my refuge and my anchor, when I'm inclined to make mistakes—the good old cautious village banker, who sizes up the snares and fakes.



## DELINQUENT LIST

(Cottage Grove Sentinel.)  
The greatest service performed by the publication of the delinquent tax list is to get before the public the fact that the property advertised is for sale. By these sales the county clerk collects the money due it for taxes, and which it needs in the conduct of its business. Not to advertise the sale publicly would result either in the necessity of the county going without a lot of its tax money or in the monopolization of the buying of tax titles by the few who are able to go to the expense of getting a list of delinquent property. This would not be fair to the taxpayers of the county.  
Still another purpose served by the publication of the delinquent tax list that would not be served by the use of postal cards is that many who are delinquent hasten to pay before their delinquencies are made public through publication. Thus a large amount of money is put into the county treasury and the cost of publication saved.  
The law requiring the publication of the delinquent tax list was repealed some years ago but was again put on the statute books through the protest of taxpayers whose property had been sold without their knowledge, so the post card system was not effective even to the extent of reaching those who were delinquent.  
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## WHAT THIS EDITOR THINKS

(Jefferson Review.)  
Attorney General Brown says the amendment providing for a single veto by the governor of appropriations is in effect now. Rightfully used, this is one of the best amendments ever passed. Heretofore the governor had to approve all or none, as all were involved in the general appropriation bill. If he vetoed that the state would have to run for two years on borrowed money and the interest would be greater than the amount involved in the fool appropriations. Now he can cut out any single item and not effect the bill as a whole. The Review believes that Gov. Wirth would use this great power wisely on all unnecessary appropriations that do not apply to the O. A. C. That institution is his pet, and we believe he would approve a \$100,000 appropriation to be used by the O. A. C. to hold a dog fight. But there are many worse faults than trying to get all the aid possible for the state's leading educational institution, with which the governor was connected for many years. The governor is a level headed man, and can be depended upon to exercise good judgment in an emergency that affects the taxpayers.

## FOR THE TAXPAYER'S ATTENTION

(Eugene Daily Register.)  
The proposal to abolish publication of the delinquent tax list is put forth as an economy measure, but it is nothing of the sort. On the contrary, it is a scheme to put upon the taxpayers, instead of the delinquents themselves, the cost of notifying property owners who have failed to pay their taxes.  
The plan that is proposed contemplates abolishing publication in the newspapers and notifying delinquents by mail instead. Under the present law the cost of notification is borne by the delinquents, but under the plan proposed to the legislature the cost would be borne by the taxpayers. Thus the man who pays his taxes promptly would be compelled to pay for the shortcomings of the one who does not.  
Last year publishing the delinquent tax list in two newspapers cost approximately \$900 and this cost was borne by the delinquents. There are probably 2,000 pieces of delinquent property in this county, and at two cents each—allowing nothing for clerk hire and stationery—this would be \$400 for postage alone, and the \$400 would be paid by the taxpayers—not by the delinquents. Thus it is evident that the scheme would mean an increase in taxes instead of decrease; and besides it is not right or just to compel those who pay their taxes promptly to put up for those who do not.  
Nor must it be forgotten that the man who actually pays the taxes and the one whose name appears on the rolls are not always the same. When property is sold the new owners' name does not appear

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of record for some time, and so notifications by mail would go to the wrong person. This would be certain to cause much confusion and needless expense, all of which is avoided under the present plan of publishing all delinquent property.  
Another point of interest to the taxpayers is the undoubted fact that publication of the delinquent list results in bringing in delinquent money more promptly. It is to the country's interest to get in all tax money as soon as it can, and publication undoubtedly aids in this direction.  
Doing away with publishing the delinquent list is directly in the interest of tax title scalpers and always results in increased cost to many delinquents. It is an easy matter for mail notices to go astray—purposely or otherwise—and when this happens there are opportunities for investment in delinquent certificates with absolute assurance of 15 per cent on the money invested and with absolute assurance of 15 per cent on the money invested and .15 per cent guaranteed loans are scarce, and naturally all who deal in delinquent certificates are anxious to create all the opportunities they can. So they want publication of the delinquent list done away with.  
Others are interested in abolishing publication because every time the taxes on a piece of property become delinquent a cloud is cast on the title, and removing this cloud costs money and creates business. To sum it all up, publication of the delinquent list costs the prompt taxpayer nothing, whereas under the mail notification plan the taxpayers must pay the cost of postage, stationery and clerk hire. Moreover, abolishing publication creates opportunities for scalpers and results in much confusion.  
Of course, in discussing this situation the newspaper is an interested party, for it receives space rates for publishing the delinquent list; but it receives full value for every cent it receives just as it gives full value for the money it receives for other advertising. The interest of the prompt taxpayer lies in the direction of full publicity for the delinquent list, and there ought to be a protest against the scheme to substitute secrecy for publicity.

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**MY HUSBAND AND I**  
Jane Phelps

**MILDRED KEEPS HER PROMISE**

CHAPTER CXXVII.  
Muriel had sorely left me before I regretted the promise I had made her. What should I say to Leonard when next I saw him; what answer to make to his question— which I knew would be repeated?  
My story is I suppose the old familiar one of the woman blindly placing her trust, her happiness in the hands of a man who soon tires. Of giving all of self, and receiving— nothing. That is nothing that appeals to her love, her emotions—and every woman is conscious of wishing to be approached through these two channels.  
I realize perfectly that there are many women who are satisfied with the material support their husbands can and are willing to give them. That so long as they have three meals a day, and a comfortable place to live, and clothes to wear they are content. Unfortunately I was not one of these. There had been so much of tenderness toward my mother, such perfect devotion had dad given her, that I was ill fitted to make excuses for a man who failed in each and every particular to make good as dad had made good.  
Youth Uncompromising.  
None are so uncompromising as the young. Either they do not or cannot understand the more mature outlook

an older person has upon life, and all that goes to make up the marriage relation. To them life should be one long sweet song, the refrain being a paean of love. When they find instead it is often out of key, a minor refrain, they have neither the poise or the patience—nor the stability of character to wait until time, or their own endeavors can change things.  
I saw Leonard often, and notwithstanding the many times he begged and implored me to tell him that I cared for him— loved him as he did me, I kept my promise to Muriel. Altho I admit that at times it was hard.  
"You do love me, don't you?" was his constant urging, and I only could reply:  
"I can't tell, Leonard."  
He thought of course that I meant that I was not yet entirely sure of my feeling toward him; whereas I inferred that I must keep my promise to Muriel. Tho of course I could not allow him to even suspect my meaning.  
Burns Mayson Again.  
At the end of two weeks it was becoming almost impossible for me to resist his pleading. So I was delighted when Burns Mayson again appeared in Glendale. I should at least have a respite while he was in town. Not only so filled both our minds. Then she said:  
"See here Mildred," her tone put me on my guard, so caressing was it, "you must not be childish. You must use the poise and the weapons of the woman of the world in this situation; not the way of an unsophisticated girl. You are proud, sensitive, inexperienced in the ways of this wicked world—oh yes you are, you needn't shake your head. And you cannot afford to play into Mabel Horton's hand as you are doing."  
"Tell me what to do then," I replied wearily.  
(Tomorrow—A Weapon at Hand.)

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