

# SEMI-WEEKLY ABERDEEN HERALD

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## FOR HOME RULE IN TAXATION

T. D. Rockwell, State Tax  
Commissioner Gives Views  
On Taxation

## ABOLISH PROPERTY TAX

Tax Reforms That Will Be  
Presented to the Next  
Legislation

It is a matter of much congratulation and pride to the members of the state board of taxcommissioners that the subject of taxation is now being given more consideration by the people than in previous years. It has always been a subject of wonder and astonishment to the writer that a question that so vitally affects such a large class of people should have so little of their study and consideration. Men generally regard taxation as a necessary evil, and when this conclusion has been reached, the subject is dismissed without a thought as to means of measures for the amelioration of the burdens.

Long strides have been made in tax reform all over the United States in the last few years, and the state of Washington has not been behind the others in its work of solving the great problems going to make up this vast, vital and absorbing subject of contributing to government expense. But the stumbling block in our way has been and always will be, until it is removed by constitutional revision, our system of taxing our property by what is known as the "general property tax system." This system is founded upon the idea that all property, of every kind and description, can be and should be taxed at a uniform rate. Any student of political economy knows that this is a pure fiction, because absolutely impossible of practical application. That all property should be taxed at a uniform rate is a consummation most devoutly to be wished, but that it is not and can not, must be apparent to all students. If all property was of the same nature or kind, the problem would not be difficult; or if all men were honest and would make true returns, we might reach nearer to a consummation of this theory. But neither of these hypotheses exists in fact, with the result that certain classes of our property (that which we know as tangible) is always taxed at some proportion of its value, while other classes (known as intangible) escapes altogether. This, of course, is not true with relation to the property owned and controlled by public service corporations; this class, being assessed by a central board on a stock and bond, physical value and gross earning basis, more nearly pays its just proportions than other classes of property by reason of the fact that all of the corporate assets are assessed and taxed upon a strictly scientific basis, and whether the property exists as tangible or intangible, its value is reflected in the market price of its stocks and securities.

**On Credits**  
The legislature of 1907 saw fit, in its judgment, to exempt from taxation all that class of property which we know as credits, not however, because it was thought it should not be taxed, but because it was known that it couldn't be taxed. This class of property represents at least half of all the property in the state of Washington, and merely because of the inequality of the general property tax system the legislature concluded it was better to do without the revenue, and save the wear and tear on the consciences of the owners of this class of property.

We are not opposed to this idea as long as the general property tax system prevails, but we do think that while exempting the property of the rich investor in stocks, bonds, notes, accounts, mortgages, et cetera, that we should also give some relief to the farmer and the mechanic and the man in more moderate circumstances by exempting farm implements, mechanics' tools, and household furnishings. The taxation of this latter class of property has always been farcical in the extreme. The average assessor, in attempting to assess household

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## ANNEXATION IS DEFEATED

Cosmopolis Gives Majority of  
82 Against the  
Proposition

## ABERDEEN INDIFFERENT

But 725 Voters In This City  
Took Trouble to go to  
the Polls

The elections in Aberdeen and Cosmopolis Saturday, on the question of the annexation of the later town to Aberdeen, went against the proposition in Cosmopolis by the decisive vote of 225 against annexation to 143 in favor of the consolidation. In Cosmopolis, the election was a warm one and accusations of bribery were made by the annexationists, without, however, any substantial foundation. A freak bet was lost by A. C. Shamborn, who, after the result was announced, had to roll C. T. McRobie in a wheelbarrow sixteen times around the busiest business block in town, while a big crowd watched the performance.

In Aberdeen but slight interest was taken in the election, and but 725 voters casting ballots, of which 691 favored annexation, while 34 opposed it. In this city, the feeling prevailed that the question was one for Cosmopolis to decide, and that while Aberdeen should not decline the consolidation if the people of that town desired it, there was nothing particularly attractive to this city in the proposition at this time, as it meant an extension of the water, fire and police service and other expenses that this city is hardly in position to undertake. Besides, it was realized that annexation meant the purchase of the West toll bridge in the immediate future, a proceeding that, however desirable, the financial condition of both cities would scarcely justify for some time to come.

While the majority against the proposition is larger than was anticipated, it is well that the result was so decisive. Had the vote showed a slight majority in favor, in Cosmopolis, the annexation would have resulted in the acquirement of a population by Aberdeen that was dissatisfied, and that might have proved very annoying in the future.

## SHELTON THROWS I. W.

W. INTO JAIL

American Flag Will Warn All Agitators to Keep Away From Town.

SHELTON, May 3.—Two I. W. W. agitators who have been trying in vain for several days to make trouble in the camps near Shelton are now in the jail here.

Some time before the boat was due today the business men gathered down town with the intention of rounding up the agitators, putting them on board and bidding them an enthusiastic farewell at the dock. The men, however, the leader of whom is Harry Graham, of Seattle, could not be found.

After the boat had left they reappeared. This proved irritating and the crowd hustled them to the jail, where they were locked up on general principles.

Tomorrow a big American flag will be stretched across the main street as a warning to I. W. W. men to keep out of Shelton.

## WEEKLY LUNCHEON

The weekly luncheon of the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce will be at Hotel Washington tomorrow noon. Among the topics for discussion will be the matter of a large delegation to the Southwest Washington Development association convention. The resolution offered by N. B. Coffman, of Chehalis, relating to the building of trunk lines of wagon roads in Western Washington, will be referred back from the executive committee, with the recommendation that it be adopted, and several other matters of importance will be discussed.

## BACK FROM REALMS UNKNOWN.



—De Mar in Philadelphia Record.

## LUMBER MARKET IS LOOKING UP

Foreign Shipments In April  
Were Very Encouraging  
to Harbor Mills

With a total of 6,000,000 feet of lumber shipped to foreign ports during the month of April, local lumbermen are optimistic regarding the outlook in the lumber industry for the coming summer months.

While the total shipment for the past month is considerably less than the shipment for the corresponding month one year ago, the slump, which was unquestionably caused by the recent strike, when many vessels on the regular list for lumber cargoes at Grays Harbor were transferred to Puget Sound and Portland, has practically ended, and last week, for the first time in several months, many of the vessels resumed their regular routings between California points and Grays Harbor.

## More Seamen Paid Off

According to a statement given out this morning from the local office of the United States customs service, more seamen were paid off in Aberdeen during April than in the months of January, February and March. The report for the month compiled also shows that more men were engaged for sea service during April than in the first three months of the year.

The British steamer M. S. Dollar will reach the Pacific Coast from the Orient during the early part of June to load a portion of her lumber cargo for the Far East at Aberdeen, according to word from Portland. At present confirmation of this report has not been received here.

The British steamship Strathleven arrived at Aberdeen yesterday, and berthed at the Slade mill to take a cargo for Australia. The Strathleven is a steel ship, 376 feet long, 52 feet beam, and 17 feet depth of hold, has a net tonnage 4,097 tons and draws 21 feet 6 inches of water when loaded.

## NEW STEAMSHIP LAUNCHED

The steamship Westport, built for the American Pacific Whaling Co., was launched Saturday at Seattle, Mrs. Charles F. Munday officiating at the baptism. The new vessel is expected to reach Grays Harbor next Saturday, and will be placed in commission at once, making a fleet of four steam whalers operating from the Bay City plant.

## CITY EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

The municipal employment agency was opened for business this morning by A. G. Hill, whose appointment as manager was approved by the city council last week, at the room secured by the committee, 307 East Wishkah street, next door to the Herald office. No fees will be charged those seeking positions or help, nor will the bureau be confined to the lumbering business, but will include all kinds of occupations, domestic help and others.

## SAYS TOWN HAS NOT LIVED UP TO PACT

Property Occupied by Municipal Hall  
In Cosmopolis, Should Revert to  
Society, Woman Declares

That the property now occupied by the Cosmopolis town hall will revert to a society called the Excelsior league because of violations of contract on the part of the town, to whom the ground was deeded with the provision that it contain a reading room and that the city should maintain the reading room for a period of 99 years before getting title to the property, is the statement of Mrs. A. Ballou, now a resident of Portland, but formerly living in Cosmopolis, and a member of the Excelsior league.

"There are a large number of members of the league still living," said Mrs. Ballou. "Although the lot was deeded to the city and the town hall built in 1888, the city of Cosmopolis kept up the reading room for but two years. The contract, which was clearly drawn, has been violated and the league expects to do something unless the town government takes steps to re-establish the reading room and keep it in the manner prescribed by the contract. The lot on which the town hall stands, costing us \$100 at the time, is easily worth \$4,000 or \$5,000 today."

## PIONEERS TO ORGANIZE

Will Observe 120th Anniversary of  
Discovery of Harbor by Completing Organization

In accordance with an agreement made at the annual banquet of the Aberdeen Pioneers' association in January last that the members join in a movement for the organization of a Chehalis County Pioneers' association, J. E. Calder, who was made chairman of a general committee to plan the work, has called a meeting of the pioneers of the county at the Wakefield hotel, Elma, next Tuesday, May 7, the 120th anniversary of the discovery of Grays harbor by Capt. Robert Gray, who with his ship Columbia, after which the Columbia river was named, entered this harbor and found safe anchorage.

Most of the earliest pioneers of Chehalis county live in the vicinity of Elma and Porter, and Elma was selected as being the most central point for the gathering. It is the intention of the pioneers who will meet at Elma and organize an association to decide on a place for holding a reunion and picnic of the pioneers, probably at Montesano some time in July.

Chairman J. E. Calder has issued the following notice:

"Next Tuesday, May 7, being the 120th anniversary of the discovery of Grays Harbor, notice is hereby given that a meeting of all who are eligible to become members of the proposed Chehalis County Association of Pioneers will be held at Elma in the Wakefield hotel on that date. All who came to the county prior to January 1, 1885, are invited to be present. The purpose of the meeting is to effect an organization."

## DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Delegates at Walla Walla Are  
Coaching Candidates for  
Governor

## SEVEN MEN IN RACE

The Great Unterrified Scent  
Victory in the Air  
This Year

WALLA WALLA, May 4.—Booms and booms, some of them still in-incident, others full grown announcements of candidacies, appeared today almost with the arrival of every Bourbon delegate to the state convention Monday to nominate delegates to the Democratic national convention.

Although there are only about 100 delegates here, there are already seven candidates for gubernatorial honors, represented either in person or by representative.

## Godman Is Trotted Out.

Most formidable among the new booms are apparently the candidacies of Attorney M. M. Godman, of Seattle, for four years judge of the superior court of Columbia county, who also served one term in the state legislature, and that of William Blackman, of Spokane, for eight years state labor commissioner under Gov. John R. Rogers and Gov. Henry McBride. Blackman declares that he believes that the people of the state are about ready for another Rogers administration and will make his campaign on this platform.

## Other Aspirants Coming

L. F. Chester, of Spokane, who a short time ago announced his candidacy, will arrive tomorrow. Hugh C. Todd, of Seattle, still insists that all the counsel and advice in the world cannot keep him from making the race. E. C. Million, of Seattle, and Senator David S. Troy, of Chimaquam, have their representatives on the field who are quietly laying the seed until their candidates arrive tomorrow.

## Walla Walla for Dunphy

Walla Walla is solidly behind the candidacy of William Dunphy of this city, the present Democratic national committeeman.

In spite of the statement issued by Supreme Judge Stephen J. Chadwick that under the law he cannot become a candidate, delegates are still discussing his making the race.

Spokane has already two congressional candidates in the Third district on the field, Lester P. Edge and V. T. Tustin. Roscoe Drumheller, of Dayton, and M. J. Maloney, a hotel proprietor of Colfax, have also quietly announced their ambition.

There will undoubtedly be a move made at the convention to indorse state officers. Whether it will carry, however, is difficult to foretell.

Hugh Wallace, of Tacoma, son-in-law of Justice Mark A. Fullerton, of the supreme court, is apparently slated to act as chairman of the convention.

## Candidates for Lesser Offices

Among the candidates for state offices present are Jesse Murphy, of Seattle, who is a candidate for insurance commissioner, and A. A. Lewis, city treasurer of Tacoma, who is a candidate for state treasurer.

George E. Ryan, secretary of the state central committee, who, by the way, is not a candidate for re-election, is being urged by his friends here to come out as a candidate for secretary of state. Ryan has, however, up to the present time modestly declined to make the run.

## TWO CANDIDATES

HOQUIAM, May 5.—Chris Knoeell has only one opponent in the primaries to be held Monday, May 20, to nominate an opponent for Harry Ferguson in the mayoralty recall election, Monday, June 3. Martin F. Smith filed his petition of candidacy last evening. Mr. Knoeell's candidacy petition was filed several days ago with the city clerk.

It was at first reported there would be a number of candidates brought forward, but A. C. Girard withdrew, and it appears that the plan to bring out Z. T. Archer was dropped.

## WILL GIVE AWAY SMALL FARMS

Government Ready to Allot  
Last Land Included in  
Tieton Unit

## 21 TO 80 ACRES EACH

Applicant Must Personally  
See the Land and Than  
Take Chance

NORTH YAKIMA, May 5.—The United States reclamation service will on May 25 throw open for settlement 1,752 acres in the Tieton unit of the Yakima reclamation project, from twelve to sixteen miles west of North Yakima. Of this land 1,257 acres are irrigable under the government project.

The land has been divided by the government into fourteen farm units, from twenty-one to eighty acres each, although none contains more than forty-one acres of irrigable land. The rest is either too high to be watered from the ditch or too rocky to be tillable.

## Last of the Tieton

The land is the last in the Tieton unit of the Yakima reclamation project that will be given to the public by the government until the work on the Sunnyside unit is completed and the tracts there are ready.

Each settler who takes land in the Tieton unit will receive the land for the filing fee and for living on it five years. However, he must assume his share of the cost of constructing the reclamation dams and canals; in the case of the Tieton project \$93 an acre, besides the cost of maintenance at present \$150 an acre. This amount the reclamation service allows him to pay in ten annual installments.

## Method of Application

The applications for the land will be in the same form as ordinary homestead applications, but each must be accompanied by an application for water rights. The applications, specifying the tract desired and containing a statement that the applicant has visited the land is acquainted with it, will be received at the United States land office in North Yakima, May 25. They must be executed, that is, filled in and the statement that the applicant is familiar with the land sworn to before a superior court judge or a land office official any time after May 6.

Should only one person apply for any single tract, it will be awarded to him. To allot those tracts for which two or more applications are made, the government will adopt the system of drawing which has been followed in most of the recent land openings. The names of the applicants will be written on cards of uniform size and color, which will be placed in a big receptacle, from which the drawings will be made.

## Must Offer Part Payment

Each application must be accompanied by a certified check or money order for the first installment on the water right, which is \$9.30 an irrigable acre, and \$1.50 an acre for the year's water.

The United States reclamation service has spent \$5,800,000 on the Yakima irrigation project, and expects to spend \$3,000,000 more. Last year it supplied water to 1,150 persons for 27,000 acres. This land has increased in value approximately \$150 an acre from what it was worth in a raw state, and has been improved to the approximate amount of \$500 an acre by the building of homes and the planting of orchards.

## HOSPITAL WILL REOPEN

Dr. Paul Smits has taken over the Aberdeen General hospital from Dr. I. R. Watkins, which after having been closed for several months, will again be opened to the public. Dr. Smits has made arrangements with Dr. O. R. Austin and Dr. H. C. Randolph for its management, and those physicians expect to open the institution to the public this week.

They will maintain the hospital along the same general lines by which it was conducted under Dr. Smits' management.