

TAXING AUTHORITIES ARE RECKLESS WITH CREDIT

Taxpayers Suffer Heavy Penalty in Interest Charges in Consequence. Western Washington Leads the East Side

COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS LEAD THE VAN

State Now Owes Over \$100,000,000, Ten Per Cent of Assessed Valuations, and Over \$80.00 Per Capita

The taxpayer who has been complaining of the high rates of taxation will have an opportunity to fall to demonstrate the fact that they favor a reduction of public expenditures. A referendum measure will be on the ballot that, should it carry, will do much to lessen taxes by placing checks upon disbursing officials. This is the budget bill, which is being opposed by some chronic office holders and professional politicians, and will require officials who spend public money to say just what they are going to spend it for when they make the tax levy.

It will do away with the befuddling talk of mills, ratios and assessed or actual valuations. If the county commissioners are going to build a bridge or a road they must say where, what kind and how much they are going to pay for it. The same is true of city councils, school directors and all public officers having discretion in the expenditure of public funds, and when the money is once appropriated for a specific purpose it can be used for none other.

It is quite clear to all thinking people of the state of Washington has been very reckless in taking advantage of the public credit ever since it was admitted to statehood, until today we are paying interest on indebtedness of over \$100,000,000, over \$80 per capita. The exact figures, as compiled by E. D. Cowen, in the Spokane Spokesman-Review, are \$105,352,547, which he tabulates by counties and cities.

Grays Harbor county has outstanding general bonds, \$162,000; school district bonds, \$577,960, total, \$739,960, or \$18.48 per capita. Aberdeen is listed with general and water bonds, \$585,000; outstanding warrants, (Dec. 31, 1915) \$178,201, local improvement bonds and warrants, \$516,985. Total debt, \$1,280,186, or \$91.69 per capita.

Hoquiam appears with general bonds, \$115,000, warrants, \$223,889, local improvement obligations, \$268,491, a total of \$607,380, or per capita, \$60.28. Montesano labors under bonds \$25,359, warrants, \$14,435, local improvements, \$75,395, a total of \$115,189, or \$42.46 per capita. Elma is exhibited with water bonds, \$10,000, warrants, \$5,122, local improvement indebtedness, \$31,742, a total of \$46,864, a per capita of \$40.98.

An Expensive Credit System. Showing the recklessness that has prevailed in regard to incurring indebtedness, Mr. Cowen says:

"In order to emphasize the strain put upon the taxpayer by the heedless accumulation of bonded debt and the proneness of public officials to keep government on a credit rather

than a cash basis, I have gone the length of compiling the record of interest payments on county and school district warrants and bonds as far back as it is possible to get approximately correct data on the subject. This is for the period beginning with 1910, when the first reports of county auditors on a uniform plan was instituted by the state bureau of inspection. The aggregate will be slightly deficient, owing to the fact that in some instances the interest payments are confounded in the annual reports with the redemption of principal and can not now be segregated. However, this defect will not be on the side of exaggeration, and the result of the painstaking tabulations will give us a fairly accurate idea of the tax waste concealed in the reckless financing of public business.

"The subjoined table will show that during the past six years the sum total of \$8,536,489 was paid by the taxpayers of the state in interest charges on only two classes of obligations, county and school district bonds and warrants. This is an average of \$1,422,748 for each year, although the annual payments progressively increase out of proportion to current expenditures for government.

"The total interest paid on school bonds was \$3,648,351, of which \$1,504,413 was for issues in eastern Washington, and \$2,138,938 on the west side. The east Washington county bonds paid \$439,916, while those of western Washington paid \$1,637,967. The total of school warrant interest was \$1,271,903 (\$571,897 east and \$700,006 west), while the interest paid on county warrants was \$1,496,847 (\$409,150 east and \$1,087,697 west).

"Whatever of credit may be concealed in these aggregate totals to county government in eastern Washington, inasmuch as the comparative volume of bonds and warrants in that geographical section of the state have paid only 23.75 per cent of the total interest on this class of obligations, while the bond and warrant issues of the west side counties have paid 76.25 per cent.

"The school indebtedness issues in eastern Washington, on the other hand, have paid 42.24 per cent of total interest penalties as against 57.76 per cent for the west side."

During those six years, Grays Harbor county has paid out an interest on warrants and bonds, including the school districts, the sum of \$299,479.

In the case of county government and school administration, it is possible to emphasize the charge that both suffer great waste from want of proper central control of expenditures.

August 10, 9:30 a. m.—E. L. Brewer, Satsop.

August 10, 1:00 p. m.—Frank Glenn, Woods Crossing.

August 10, 3:00 p. m.—R. Trenckmann, upper Satsop.

August 11, 9:30 a. m.—A. P. Stockwell, west of Montesano.

August 11, 1:00 p. m.—John Taylor, lower Wynoochee.

August 11, 3:0 p. m.—Reinkens Bros, upper Wynoochee.

C. F. MONROE, County Agricultural Agent.

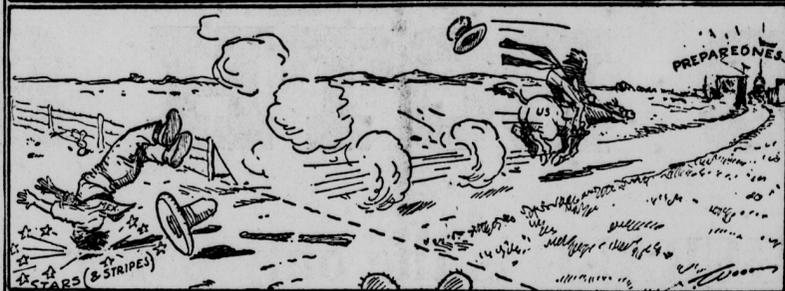
COUNTRY OF WONDERFUL RESOURCES.

Hoquiam Discovers a Mineral Paint Mine, and Tide Mud That Will Make Fine Article of Ink

The natural resources of Grays Harbor are as yet unknown in large part. We all know of our timber, fish and fertile soil, but the potential wealth that lies under the soil is as yet a mystery. We believe there is petroleum and various valuable mineral deposits there awaiting the prospector, and Jesse Havens, assistant postmaster of Hoquiam, has discovered north of that city a deposit of what experts call valuable mineral paint, which he will endeavor to develop.

Next, Dr. Irving Matthews, also of Hoquiam, has found that the tide mud from the Grays Harbor flats makes an excellent writing ink. The doctor has experimented with the fluid making mud, and is convinced it has a good commercial value.

THE CAUSE AND EFFECT.



—Wood in Kansas City Star.

WILL EQUALIZE BRIDGE WAGES

City Council Will Endeavor to Satisfactorily Adjust Wages of All Bridge Tenders

GET SEVERAL PAVING BIDS

Dike and Drainage District Proposed in South Aberdeen. Repair Bridge.

The meeting of the city council last evening resulted in the disposition of a number of routine matters, and little or nothing came up during the course of the evening to ruffle the tempers of the councilmen. All were present.

The monthly reports of the departments were read and adopted.

Crane and Co. were awarded the contract to furnish various lengths of steel pipe, ranging from 16-inch to 36-inch to be used on the Wishkah water project. The Western Pipe & Steel Co. of San Francisco were awarded contracts for furnishing a small number of large pipe fixtures for the pipe line.

A petition signed by residents of Union Pacific addition, requesting that an improvement district be formed in order that a dike be built and drainage ditches put in, came before the council, and was referred to Engineer Kelsey for investigation. It is possible the work can be done without resorting to the formation of such a district.

Estimate of the probable cost of the proposed improvement of Myrtle street from Aberdeen avenue to Pacific, was placed at \$834 by Engineer Kelsey, and the value of the land receiving the benefit of such improvement, exclusive of buildings, etc., was placed at \$1,050. Later, during the course of the session, filing of protests against this proposed improvement were announced in order, but no protests were made.

Estimate of the cost of improvement of Market, Carter and Conger streets from Lewis to Pacific, were placed at \$4,415; value of bordering real estate, exclusive of improvements, \$11,220. It was decided not to improve Conger street at this time, some protests being filed.

Bids for the improvement of Hume street were submitted, from the Olympic Paving company, of Hoquiam; Haukell, Hegz & Co., of Aberdeen, and Keasal & Company, of Tacoma. The successful bidder will be announced later.

Attention was called by a member of the council to the dangerous condition of the east approach to the Heron street bridge, and an emergency resolution was passed calling for immediate bids for the correction of the trouble.

The Marion street ordinance, which was laid over from last week, was brought up and passed. The street is to be cleared, filled, and elevated walks built on either side from the west line of Boone street to the west line of Front street.

A resolution was adopted calling for repair of walks on sections of Railroad street, and assessed to abutting property owners.

A resolution was passed ordering the improvement of the alley back of the library.

The monthly bills were audited and allowed.

Ira Shyrook, member of the moving picture board, filed his resignation, and Roger Wheeler was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Discussion of the working conditions of the men employed by the city to swing its four bridges, and the salaries paid them, resulted in the presentation of a lot of figures and statistics dealing with the matter, and a muddle was averted by postponing it for a week, with instructions given the finance committee to look into the controversy and report next week. Some of the men are working 12 hours a day, and salaries vary. An effort is to be made to equalize the differences. Mayor Phillips is of the opinion that 12 hours for 30 days a month, is too much to expect of city employees. All decisions made in reference to this matter, however, are to be tempered with consideration of the city's finances.

Steamer Oregon Launched Monday

New Vessel Glides into Water Just Five Months After Her Keel Was Laid. South for Machinery

A great crowd of people from all over Grays Harbor witnessed the successful launching of the steamer Oregon at the Aberdeen Shipyards Monday afternoon. Miss Helen M. Wilson christened the new craft as it slid gracefully and easily into the Wishkah river, breaking a bottle of champagne over the bow as the Oregon touched the water.

As soon as launched the vessel was taken over by Captain Otto Sundman, who will be her skipper. She will be loaded with lath and towed to San Francisco to receive the machinery. The completion of the Oregon in just five months gives the Aberdeen Shipyards a reputation for speed, as well as good work that is sure to produce results in the future.

The Oregon is of 200 feet at the light water line, and has an extreme beam of 41 feet. Her depth of hold is 14 feet, 8 inches.

As soon as the Oregon went off the ways, the keel was pulled up for the Phyllis, which is being built for Byrby & Clark, of San Francisco. Her frame will be constructed inside of 17 days and the craft is signed for delivery to its owners on January 1.

The State Bank Makes Quick Move

The Aberdeen State Bank Moves into Quarters Vacated by United States Trust Company

The Aberdeen State Bank broke the record for quick moving when the institution was moved from the quarters occupied by it for more than ten years, at Heron and H streets, to the elegant room vacated by the United States Trust company, between the close of business on Saturday and Monday morning.

Cashier Ripley closed negotiations for a lease on the new location Friday afternoon, wired President Nyere, who is visiting in the east, and proceeded to move, and opened up the bank ready for business on Monday morning.

The Aberdeen State Bank is one of the oldest banks on the Harbor. It started business on Wishkah street in the Count Zelasko block, between H and G streets. The institution, capitalized at \$25,000, now has more than \$260,000 in deposits and these are showing flattering increases from month to month. Much of the credit for this success is accorded G. L. Nyere, the president. G. W. Ripley, the cashier, and R. B. Motherwell, assistant cashier. The trio is popular in financial circles and recognized as men of integrity and ability.

All the news all the time in the Herald.

MOOSE DRIFT TO WILSON APPROACHES STAMPEDE

Moose Drive Not Herding as Leaders Wish. Attempt to Deliver Progressives in Elephant Corral Is Failure.

NEW JERSEY REPUDIATES THE BILL OF SALE

Edgar C. Snyder, Washington State Chairman of Progressive Party, Not in Denunciation of the Chicago Betrayal

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.—(Special).—Efforts to whip the Progressives into line for Hughes, according to the Chicago program, have failed.

The stirring scenes at the meeting of the Progressive State Committee of New Jersey, in Newark, when the Bull Moose hotly resisted the attempts of certain leaders to pledge the party in that state to the Republican ticket, was a warning that Progressives are not going to submit to the destruction of their principles nor to the barter of their votes.

By a vote of 7 to 5 the state committee of New Jersey Progressives repudiated the action of the national body at Chicago, and will not bind itself to its actions.

The managers of the President's campaign feel that they have every reason for gratification with respect to the Bull Moose and Independent vote. Hundreds of letters and communications have been received at the national committee headquarters, the headquarters of the Woodrow Wilson Independent League and at the White House from Progressives, and Republicans as well, who declare their intention to vote this year for Wilson, "the man who has kept us out of war."

New Jersey Revolt. The Progressive party of New Jersey as represented by its state committee, refuses to endorse the candidacy of Charles E. Hughes, although a strong effort had been put forth by Everett Colby, a pioneer Progressive of the state, to swing the committee that way.

When the meeting of the state committee was held in Newark, July 15, J. A. H. Hopkins, chairman, led the fight against endorsing Mr. Hughes. A resolution was submitted by Wm. F. Conkling, of Blairstown, reciting that the delegates to the national convention at Chicago had exceeded their authority by endorsing the candidate of another party. The resolution further said:

"Resolved, by the New Jersey state committee, that the Progressive party of New Jersey will not be bound by the action of the national committee in endorsing Mr. Hughes' candidacy."

This resolution was carried by a vote of 7 to 5.

Chairman Hopkins read to the committee a letter he had written to Col. Roosevelt recalling the opinion that Mr. Hughes might perhaps turn out to be "another gold brick." This letter caused much amusement among those present.

Self-Stultification to Go Back Now For Progressives to go back to the Republican party now would be self-stultification, and would be an admission that they had never been sincere in their progressive professions, according to Edgar C. Snyder, chairman of the Progressive party in the state of Washington in 1912. Mr. Snyder is supporting Mr. Wilson because he, the President, "has given us a progressive leadership and has done much during the last three years to make effective the essential demands of the Progressive party platform."

Mr. Snyder insists that if Mr. Roosevelt was sincere four years ago when he said that the bosses and the special interests had brought the Republican party to a shameful end, then it cannot be expected that the Progressives can go back now without a clear showing that the old party has been purified and has rekindled within it "that fire of lofty endeavor."

"The control of invisible government over the machine of the Republican party has never been relaxed, but has been strengthened and confirmed," declared Mr. Snyder.

"Wherever the Republican party has

been dominant during the last four years its record of public acts has been one of retrogression and not of progress. No better example of this need be sought than the showing of our own Republican majority in the last legislature of this state. The flagrantly reactionary legislation then passed would be throttling our liberty as individual voters and our home rule powers as self-respecting and governing communities, if we had not fortunately possessed the power of compelling these vicious measures to be submitted to a vote of the people.

"The Progressive voters are first of all independent voters. That is why they left the old party and that is why no man and no newspaper organ and no machine can now deliver their vote. They think for themselves and they will deliver their own vote. That is why I feel confident that the bulk of the Progressive vote will in reality be cast for Woodrow Wilson."

Hanson Challenges Poindexter. Ole Hanson, the Progressive leader in the state of Washington, is very sincere in his belief that this is not a time for partisan politics or attacks upon the President.

"As American citizens, as Progressives, it is our duty at this time to silence the harsh criticisms and unthinking partisan prejudices and stand by our President," said Mr. Hanson in a recent interview.

Mr. Hanson ran for the United States senatorship in Washington in 1914 and polled 88,282 votes. He is anxious to engage Senator Miles Poindexter, of the same state, in a joint debate. Mr. Poindexter was elected to the senate as a Progressive, but now says he is a Republican. The following is a telegram sent by Mr. Hanson to the Democratic national committee:

"We can carry Washington. Can you shame Senator Poindexter into debating with me the subject, 'Shall Wilson Be Returned?' Poindexter is afraid, and, like Hughes, is a trimmer. Both have endorsed the American flag, but refuse to get down to fundamentals. Have challenged Poindexter repeatedly, but to no avail."

California Progressives for Wilson. Isadore Jacobs, a prominent business man who is leading the Independent movement in California, has sent a communication to the Woodrow Wilson Independent League, 280 Madison avenue, New York, in which he says that the non-partisan movement is just as strong in the northern part of California as in the southern end of the state.

"Each day," said Mr. Jacobs, "we are getting letters from old time Republicans and Progressives asserting that they will work and vote for Wilson and that it is their purpose to attend the conference which is to be held in San Francisco, August 5, and whom it up in true western style."

Mr. Jacobs says the majority of the Progressives in California will be for President Wilson. As an indication of the type of business men who are heading the Wilson Progressive movement in California, the following is quoted from Mr. Jacobs' message:

"A permanent Progressive organization has been effected in San Francisco. Its officers are:

President, Joseph S. Thompson, president of the Pacific Electric company, of San Francisco; secretary, Mr. L. A. Ireland, of the Myself-Rollins company; Eugene Smith, president of the Monarch Oil company, and of the Eugene Smith company, is a member of the executive committee, and is out in the state actively organizing Progressives to work for Mr. Wilson. The movement is being financed in California by local contributions."

Permission has been given by the Treasury Department for the laying of the cornerstone of the new Federal building by the Masonic fraternity, on condition that it involves the government in no expense and that the contractor will make no objection.

Masonic Order to Lay Corner Stone

Permission is Given Masonic Order to Lay Cornerstone of the Post-office Building.

If it is desired to place a box with papers in the stone, it may be done, without cost to the government or contractor, by complying with the requirements of the Superintendent of Construction.