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in the world combining a complete carpet sweeper with a complete vacuum cleaner used in combination or separately

This cleaner is fast displacing all other cleaners, and at a much less price. He will call on you



Compilations by the state tax commission show that the total taxes levied for all purposes in the state, including state, county, municipal and school district taxes, for 1913, total \$38,273,351, these taxes being now payable.

This is an increase of \$7,068,531, or 23%, over the 1912 taxes, which previously held the high record. The largest single feature of the increase is the gain in the state taxes, made necessary by the appropriations of the last legislature.

The tax commission has also made a comparison of this year's taxes with those levied in all previous years, beginning with 1891. In this period of time, the total taxes have increased 713%. During the same length of time the assessed valuation of all taxable property increased over 1891 just 206%, showing that taxes have been increasing at from three to four times the rate that the valuation of property has increased.

Stevens county taxpayers who this month have been obliged to pay a higher tax than ever before in the history of this county, are not as a general thing particularly expressive of pleasure over the matter. Of course there are the various kicks and uncomplimentary remarks made to the treasurer, which occurs every year, and some individuals try to blame the treasurer, the commissioners, or whoever may be about.

But the excessive tax this year has caused even the informed taxpayers to sit up plenty, and take notice, for Stevens county's state tax is 63 1/2% higher than last year, and increases our total tax levy 3.81 mills. The state requires the money—and we have to pay it, with no chance to escape it. The tax was caused by the republican legislature of 1913 making so many heavy appropriations, over the veto of the governor.

But the legislature went a step farther, and even dipped into the straight county levy, forcing (by its new laws) this county to provide extra money for a weights and measures bureau, a mother's pension, and to increase the levy on general road and bridge, and district road and bridge. Had it not been for the legislature, this county's total tax would have been cut 4 mills under last year.

Even with the present high levy, the county maintenance part is only 69 hundredths of a mill higher than last year, showing quite plainly where the extra tax goes.

The state examining board which was founded as a state political institution under the republican administration of Governor Hay, has to date found in all the county books, including the books of the five incorporated towns in Stevens county, a discrepancy of about \$500. In order to find this shortage it cost Stevens county and the five incorporated towns the sum of \$3478.04. Or in other words, for every dollar the board saved it cost the taxpayers nearly \$7 to collect.

Conditions are so disturbed in Venezuela that the government has decided not to hold congressional elections this year, but allow the present congressmen to hold over for a year or two. The Tacoma Tribune suggests that there are men in Washington, D. C., just now who doubtless wish that something of that kind could happen in this country.

The report of the census commissioner shows the number of illiterates in the United States to be 3,184,954 whites 10 years old, or more, at the census of 1910. The distribution ranges from 17 per 1000 people in Iowa to 290 per 1000 in Louisiana. In the south the percentage is highest in the

Busy Business Man

"There's law for this and law for that."
The man in business sighed.
"It keeps me guessing where I'm at
And how my hands are tied."

"My great concern today is not
That I may shortly fail,
I have to give my every thought
To keeping out of jail."

"For profits that may comfort me
No longer can I plan,
It's taking all my time to be
A law-abiding man."

"Oh, sorry is the plight I'm in,
I have no path to choose,
The court will nab me if I win,
The sheriff if I lose."

—Detroit Free Press.

rural districts and in the north it is highest in the cities. Boston has 24,468 illiterates more than 10 years old.

There are 2,253,603 illiterate males of 21 years and over in the United States, or enough to determine any national election at any period of United States history.

Statistics gathered by the employment bureau of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor showing that 331,000 men in New York city are out of work, furnish an interesting study for employers and social economists. As a result of a canvass of manufacturers, contractors and merchants, the bureau reports that present conditions are abnormal, and the worst since the winter of 1907-08. "Most of the employers feel, however," says the report, "that some relief is in sight, and that a very few months will see the return of normal business conditions." Of the total unemployed 140,000 are unskilled laborers.

Did you ever stop to consider that hard times, lack of employment, and even illness and hard luck, are most often the fate of the unskilled laborer? Why does the untrained man become the first to suffer?

Out of the vast numbers of workers in this country, why do we generally find the skilled, trained, reliable workman secure in his work, with the unskilled ever hovering on the ragged edge of a job? Is it the cussedness of luck, the result of the tariff change up or down, the stringency of Wall street, or the meanness of employers, which ever causes this condition?

Present-day life makes certain demands on workers, and those who are both capable and dependable are the ones who possess value in industrialism. And though a man be skilled in his trade, if he lacks the element which makes him dependable, his value is little.

The trend of education is toward making boys and girls capable and dependable, not that we may please the fancy of some teacher or professor, but that we may raise the standard of American citizenship—making the individual and the home better, and giving the youth a real chance to live a life which shall contain the joy of work instead of the misery of drudgery.

The example of the yearly cry from the cities of the unskilled unemployed should cause every parent to see that the child is taught to do something of use and value to mankind. Whether it be on the farm in the line of scientific production, or in the town with a skilled trade, or in the city with a useful profession, it makes little difference. The person who is of value to society will not be overlooked.

While Doty is complaining about the democratic hard times which haven't quite come yet, but which "are going to come," let him explain why it is that Wilson and the cussedness of democratic legislation have raised such havoc with our neighbors to the north, as shown in the fol-

lowing editorial statement in the Bull Moose Review last week:

Canada is seeing hard times for the first time in 15 years. The pinch for money, employment or credit, even for food, is there. Hard times stalk formidably in every Canadian city from Halifax to Victoria. Toronto is in a comparatively flourishing condition, but even in Toronto this winter promises to be memorable for bread lines and public soup kitchens. In such circumstances the government cannot safely revive last year's proposal to give millions to England for the imperial fleet nor the opposition shout recklessly for wasting even more millions through establishing plants to forge armor and build destroyers.

The Examiner, as a democratic paper, might try to show that our present contraction of credits and inactivity in financial lines is nothing but the result of so many years of republican mismanagement, and lack of financial legislation to protect the country. But while there is a considerable element of truth in this, the real fact is that the present financial condition is world-wide, with the United States, and particularly the northwest, in a much better condition than many countries, and with a new currency system which financial experts assert will shortly remedy abnormal conditions.

The official publication of the Spokane chamber of commerce this week says: "The whole business world looks brighter and business men generally feel more hopeful. This is the message that in one form or another is being sent out broadcast and that there are good foundations for a more optimistic feeling is granted nearly everywhere. A remarkable change in sentiment since the first of this year is declared to have taken place. Financial letters received from large banking institutions all have a tone of faith in the business of the immediate future."

Since a democratic president and a democratic governor have been elected there has been a rush of politicians to get into the bandwagon by starting democratic newspapers. Nearly a dozen new democratic newspapers have been started in Washington during the last 12 months. Most of these papers are announcing their democracy from the housetops and loudly proclaiming their loyalty to the democratic administration. It is safe to say that 95% of these democratic papers have been started for the sole purpose of furthering the interests of some individual or clique to secure a federal or state appointment.

There have been few democratic newspapers in this state during the last 20 years. There has been no chance for democrats to get office, and it took courage to publish a newspaper in the interest of the minority party. There were a few democratic papers which fought for the party when there was no hope of success, and these are still being published, and will continue to be published, as democratic papers after the "mushroom" democratic organs of the last few months shall have been forgotten. Such papers as the Douglas County Press, of which Ben Spear is the able and fearless editor; the Colville Examiner, edited by that sterling democrat, J. C. Harrigan, and the Colfax Commoner have fought the fight of the democratic party in eastern Washington for from nine to 29 years, and they have made the fight because the publishers of these papers believed in democratic principles, and not for the purpose of getting an appointive or elective office for favored friends or for the purpose of "standing in" with the administration. —Colfax Commoner.

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Colville, Washington

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