

Idaho News From Her Main Cities and Towns.

THREE COUNTIES SHORT ON TAXES.

It Now Rests With the Supreme Court of Idaho Whether the State Shall Be Crippled in Various Departments During the Coming Two Years—May Mean the Closing of Several Educational Institutions—More State Lands Selected.

Special Correspondence.

BOISE, Oct. 5.—It now rests with the state supreme court whether the state shall be crippled in several departments during the coming two years. The petition of the state board of equalization, which will be filed soon, for a writ of mandate to compel the boards of county commissioners in Shoshone, Latah and Nez Perce counties to levy taxes for state purposes in accordance with the acts of the last legislature, as certified to the commissioners of these counties by the board of equalization, will bring to judicial scrutiny the interpretation of several articles and sections of the constitution. Chief among these will be the question of the limit of taxation for state current expense purposes. The constitution recites that the tax levy for state purposes shall not exceed five mills on the dollar of all taxable property, if the value of all taxable property in the state shall be between \$50,000,000 and \$100,000,000. The three protesting counties mentioned claim that the legislature provided state taxes in excess of this five mills, under the constitution, and have changed the levy certified to them by the state board of education to five mills, as they claim for all purposes, and as claimed by the state board of equalization to four mills.

The board of equalization contend, and this is the ordinarily accepted view, that their power in the matter of making levies is almost entirely clerical, that in the tax matter the duty of the board is to compute the proportionate amount of taxes each of the counties shall pay for the total amount provided by legislative enactment. The power of the board of equalization is with the equalization of values of classes of property subject to taxation, and in this it is rigidly limited, as it is unable to increase the aggregate tax on the values of the property of the state to a greater amount than 15 per cent. The board of equalizers in its capacity as the computer of the proportion of taxes to be paid for state purposes does not even have authority to consider the present existing value of taxable property in each county, but determines the amount each county shall pay from the equalized tax roll of the previous year.

HOW LEVY IS MADE.

The tax levy for state purposes is made up of the general appropriation, whereby funds are provided for the ordinary needs of the state government, and of special levies for the payment of interest and the creation of sinking fund for the payment of bonded indebtedness. The last legislature provided for a general appropriation of \$3,000,000 for 1905 and \$1,000,000 for general state purposes. Under special enactments special levies of one and four-tenths mills were provided for the payment of interest and outstanding bonds. The legislature also passed a bill authorizing board of county commissioners to levy a special tax of not to exceed one mill to provide means for the payment of debts due from these counties to the state, one-half of which was levied by the state board of equalization.

The state board of equalizers after equalizing the values of property for state purposes, then determined the proportion to be paid to the state by each of the counties for general state purposes, and certified this amount to each board of county commissioners. The state auditor in addition called the attention of the board to the special levies authorized by the last legislature. Eighteen of the 21 counties of the state made the levy, and certified to the state board of county commissioners that the protesting counties are actuated by a desire to dispose of this question for all time, and are not impelled by a desire to attempt to escape the payment of any part of their debts to the state.

LANDS SELECTED BY STATE.

The state land board has recently selected a body of lands in Fremont county, about 114,000 acres in extent. This land lies in the Teton river valley, and although it is well timbered, there is no future for farming purposes. As soon as the land was selected, it was leased by the state land board in tracts of 640 acres to each person for a term of five years at a rental of seven and a half cents an acre a year. The state has already collected the rent for the years 1905 and 1906, aggregating \$18,000 yearly. On Jan. 1, 1906, the rent for 1907 will be paid in. In making the lease the state board provided that the land should not be fenced and that the owner might board and horses to ranges on the land, would be permitted to continue doing so without cost to them, and that the state should also have the right to sell these leased lands to applicants therefor.

**FARMERS TO FORM
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

SAYS THE Twin Falls Times: Pursuant to a published call signed by a number of entrepreneurs, about 75 farmers gathered at the school house last Saturday afternoon, for the purpose of organizing a farmers' business association. J. D. McKinlay was chosen chairman and J. W. Vorhees secretary. An example was the organization of the stockmen. The farmers' interests are so extensive and diversified that an organization is necessary. The men said that the settlers are organized will be beneficial. He said the farmers' institutes conducted by Mr. McPherson were something to be proud of, and thanks were due to Mr. McPherson and the company for the grand work being done in an educational way. The new organization would not conflict with the old one in any way. It was simply a business organization, it was not seeking to stir up trouble, but would adopt such policies as would advance the best interests of all the farmers. Any one who owns a foot of land should be a member.

By reason of the nature of the contract between the state and the land and water company should be published. He said that this was a time when the growth of the country is in full swing. That time was passed, however, they have their money back, and now it was the farmers' money that was at stake, and the farmers should have the right to dictate the future policy to be pursued.

**RAILROAD FOR
IONA AND GOSHEN.**

Special Correspondence.

IONA, Ida., Oct. 3.—The sugar beet harvest is now fairly in full swing. About 30 per cent of the beets has been dug and delivered at the factory commenced on the 25th of last month. The yield is fully two tons to the acre heavier this season than last year and 300 acres of new contracts were taken in this year without being solicited by the sugar company.

The Idaho Sugar company is now promising to build a 16 mile railroad from the factory via Iona to Goshen, provided good, reliable farmers will enter into a signed contract for a total acreage of 1,000 acres of beets for the next five years. Iona is now growing 1,000 acres and will furnish an additional 500 provided the road is built. The proposed road will open up some of the best growing land in the Snake River valley which now cannot successfully be cultivated owing to lack of transportation facilities.

As indication of what there is in this valley, the new seed threshers were sold in this district this fall. The threshing has been going on for the past 30 days and it will still be a month ere it is all cleaned up. In a few localities the grass was somewhat damaged by the hailstorms and the rust, the latter until this year was practically unknown in this district.

The Sugar factory is due to start its run today and all looks well for a prosperous winter. A great many men from different valleys have come in to assist in the work of harvesting and hauling the beet crop, all of which means dollars and cents in the community.

The general health of the community is good. Prices of land are steadily increasing. Land that ten years ago could be bought for from \$10 to \$20 an acre now is sold from \$50 to \$80 and the end is not yet in sight.

Adjourned for two weeks.

CONFERENCE RATES

Via Oregon Short Line.

BENEFICIAL LIFE INS. CO.
216-8 Des., News Bldg.
Salt Lake City, Utah.

BELLE PHOTO SUPPLY CO.

Developing, Finishing, 21 E. Third St.

The usual low rates for conference will be made to Salt Lake City during October. See agents for full particulars regarding rates, selling dates, etc.



GOVERNMENT ASSAY OFFICE AT BOISE, IDAHO.

FOR A PERMANENT IDAHO STATE EXHIBIT

UNLESS some disposition is made of the Idaho building at the Lewis and Clark fair, the state commission will offer it for sale to the highest and best bidder, and will ship the exhibit to Boise to be stored until the completion of the new capital building.

To obviate the sacrifice of such a handsome structure, and to prevent such a loss to the state of Idaho, enterprising citizens of Boise have launched a proposal to remove the complete Idaho exhibit, for the very reasonable sum of \$4,000.

The proposal goes on to say:

"People who have been to the fair

have expressed a wish that some way be devised to preserve the Idaho exhibit, and, if possible, to remove the Idaho building at Portland just as it is, and store it here until a permanent institution in this city. I am looking forward with keenest anticipation to such a move, and heartily endorse the project, if it can be found feasible."

"Commissioner McBride favors the plan, and has secured figures from contractors, who are willing to undertake to remove the building to Boise, re-establish it here and re-install the complete Idaho exhibit, for the very reasonable sum of \$4,000."

The plan is to hold a public auction at the fair, and the exhibit shipped to Boise and stored.

"I think it would be a very serious loss to the state if we were to part with any portion of the exhibit that could be saved. It would require years of time and toil, and a great deal of money, to replace such an exhibit as this state now has at Portland, and I am glad indeed to learn that a movement is on foot to take care of the building in a way that would result in great good."

The governor feels that while this is a matter which the state itself can take no hand in, at the same time he feels inclined to lend the project the full weight of his official endorsement.

He suggests that the citizens of Boise, whom he says are ever alive to the interests of the capital city, and always anxious to do their duty, should take upon themselves to effect the upbuilding of the whole state, should take the initiative in this matter, and by some means, presumably by public subscription, raise such a sum of money as would carry out the project.

The state unfortunately possesses no vacant ground in Boise upon which the Idaho building could be placed, so that a site would necessarily have to be purchased by the state.

It is believed that the Idaho commission at the Lewis and Clark fair will be compelled to arrange in a few days for a disposition of the building and its contents.

Governor Gooding is authority for the statement that so far as he can learn there is no objection in any quarter to a removal to Boise of the entire building.—Boise Statesman.

**LIVE IN TENTS
IN SUGAR CITY.**

HUSTLING TOWN IS SO CROWDED WITH BUSY WORKERS THAT SOME HAVE TO SLEEP UNDER CANVAS FOR LACK OF HOUSE ROOM.

WEEK'S NEWS FROM HUSTLING RIGBY.

Special Correspondence.

RIGBY, Ida., Oct. 5.—The new schoolhouse is looming up to the gratification of the residents. It is about 60 feet square. Inside, basement story being built of lava rock and the next two stories of brick. It will contain 12 class rooms, furnace room, offices for teachers, etc. The roof is being put on and some portions will be ready for use the coming winter. In the meantime school has started in the old schoolhouse, with 142 pupils enrolled; Milton J. Hammard, principal, and Misses Hattie Staley and Effie Walker, assistants.

The sugar factory is not the only place, by far, where business is rushing and labor is in demand. Aside from the fine stock church which is in course of construction, there is an elegant two-story brick club house, a large two-story frame meeting house, and six or seven dwelling houses.

Every available room in the town is occupied, and were they to be had, almost as many more might be occupied, but as it is a great many men and quite a number of families are compelled to live in tents.

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