

the other counties in Oregon—was made last December, and the final draft was not given to the printer until July 1. The bill was under careful consideration more than five months by the committee of seven men who had charge of it, four of the seven being lawyers.

Once a week the committee met to discuss it, to suggest and discuss changes, to make amendments. Being a member of that committee, and being familiar with legislative procedure, I have no hesitancy in saying that that one bill has received more consideration than the average legislature gives to a dozen bills.

Not only did the bill receive that attention from the committee, but it was discussed and carefully considered from every known angle by many men, including able lawyers, outside of the committee. Different forms were drawn and compared; words, phrases and general verbiage were carefully considered in connection with decisions of the courts. Nothing was left undone to make the bill as compact as possible and to give every word and expression the precise meaning desired.

It is true that the enemies of the measure were not called into consultation. Their advice and suggestions were not wanted. The surest way to get a "joker" into a bill is to give its enemies an opportunity to amend it. The enemies are going to vote against it any way at the ballot box.

This bill is the second step taken towards making it easier for industrious men, for all producers of wealth, to make a living in Oregon; the second step towards making it possible for every worker in Oregon to get all that he earns; the second step towards preventing speculators and others from getting something for nothing in Oregon. The first step was the County Home Rule Tax amendment adopted last fall, under which this bill is offered.

The campaign for this bill will carry the war into the "Darkest Africa" of land speculation in Oregon—and it is a pretty black Africa. Reading the real estate columns of the newspapers and the literature of booster clubs, one gets the idea that land speculation is the chief business in Oregon, and that industry exists merely to enrich the speculators.

Part of the campaign ammunition will be a copy of the whole tax roll of Clackamas County, showing the assessed value of the property of each taxpayer, separating the values as: (1) Land values, (2) improvement values, (3) personal property. The actual taxes paid under the general property tax in 1911 will be shown, and then the actual land value tax that each property owner would pay in order to raise in the county the same amount of revenue for all purposes that was raised under the general property tax. This will enable each taxpayer to see whether the land value tax will increase or decrease his taxes—and that's the pocketbook question that every man asks.

It should be explained that in Oregon there is only one tax collector in each county, and only one assessor in a county. So, when a resident of a city pays his taxes he pays for State, county, city, school and all other purposes at one time; and when we find in the county tax book that Peter Poe paid \$9.47 in taxes for 1910, we know that this was the total amount paid by him, whether he is a farmer in the

country, a merchant in a village or a lawyer in a city. Go to one office in any county in Oregon and you can get the total amount of taxes paid by any taxpayer of that county with his total assessments.



Clackamas is a fairly representative county of Oregon.

It is the next county south of Multnomah county, in which Portland is situated. One of the Willamette river counties, it is very fertile, contains a large amount of timber, and the "payroll" of its industries is the largest in proportion to population of any county in the northwest. At Oregon City are the falls of the Willamette, capable of developing about 50,000 horse power; and those falls "belong" to the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company. The industries of the county are lumber, cattle raising, large and small fruits, and paper and woolen mills. The mills are at Oregon City, and are run by electric power developed from the falls.

Taking the tax roll of Clackamas county, then, one can get a fair idea of the effect of the land-value tax on merchants, banks, mills, large and small farmers, fruit growers, small home owners, professional men, franchise corporations and land speculators. Two-thirds of the assessed country lands are in the hands of speculators.

The data shown in that tax roll will enable any taxpayer in the State to see just how the land-value tax will affect him. All he needs do is to compare his own tax rate with the city or country rate of Clackamas county.

W. G. EGGLESTON.



SCOTTISH LANDLORDISM.

Glasgow, Scotland.

There are some 880 parishes in Scotland. In 530 of these there has been a decrease of population during the past ten years. Men and women are attracted to the cities and Colonies by the better opportunities for making a living. There is little cause for surprise in this. The treatment of the Scottish people by the authorities in Scotland is very different from their treatment by the Colonial governments.

Lord Tullibardine took a deputation of artisans from Glasgow in 1909 to some of the hardest and highest land in Perthshire to prove how impossible it was to settle any more men on the land of Scotland. The Canadian Government took a commission of Scottish agriculturists to Canada in 1908 and showed them some of the finest tracts of land in the country to prove how profitable it was for Scotsmen to settle in Canada. The Australian government invited a similar commission to visit Australia in 1910 to prove what fine openings there were for Scotsmen in Australia. The British Government has stood by while the landlords have been saying to the Scottish people: "We have no fertile land here—hardly an acre. We'll give you a holding if you like—among the rocks an cairns of the Gramplains." The Colonial governments say: "We have abundance of fertile land. We'll give you 160 acres of that land for almost nothing." Can we wonder if

these two kinds of treatment lead to emigration from Britain to Canada?

A deep prejudice has been shown by the landlords against human beings as inhabitants of Scotland. Men are made to feel that they are not wanted, and those Scotsmen who wish to remain in the country, or to see others remain, will require to change this state of affairs. If the landlords are left with the same powers and the same opinions, depopulation will go on. For a hundred years now the landlords and factors have held the view that men and women are expensive and unprofitable occupants of their land. They have argued quite seriously that it is bad business to keep men in their holdings.

The landlords have acted on the depopulation argument. They keep on throwing several farms into one and sending their tenants into the towns or away to the Colonies. This policy is mistaken and short-sighted as well as wicked. We assume that if men and women would live in old, tumble-down houses, if their horses and cattle would thrive without the shelter of stables and sheds or byres, the landlords would allow them to remain on the land. This is another way of saying that the landlord wants more rent, and that he reduces the population in order to get it. We have had more than enough of this in Scotland. The landlords have had far too long the opportunity of putting this stupid and wicked policy into practice. With some exceptions their practice has been to press Scottish farmers and laborers to reduce their living to something like the Chinese standard. An eternal grudge against the rebuilding or repairing of houses, against fair rents, is the cause of depopulation. The landlords' invitation to the Scottish people, backed by the power to enforce it, is: "Give us more rent, give us it now, give us it even if it costs the health and lives of men and women; if not, you can leave the land." The landlords expect farmers to fare like tramps, and yet to pay the rent of men well equipped with capital. But why should any people, especially the Scottish people, tolerate a system which finds fault with and opposes the reasonable desire, and even the absolute necessity, of men and women for decent houses and food and clothes?

There should be no mistake about the condition of Scotland. Good people who are worth keeping at home are being steadily rooted out of the country. If we take Argyllshire, the population is 12,216 less than it was in 1801, and 31,912 less than it was in 1831. The deer are coming further south, nearer to the heart of the Empire, while men are being pushed away to its remote borders.

Twenty years ago the Black Mount was the most southerly deer forest; now they have come down to Glen Lochy and even round the head of Loch Fyne on Ardkinglas. If we take such a beautiful glen as Glen Lonan lying between Loch Awe and Oban we see how the depopulation has proceeded. Not many years ago there were nine tenant farmers in the glen and two cottars. There were large families in each of the farms, and a full staff of ploughmen and shepherds. There is now one farmer and no cottar. The tenant left Cabrachan in 1904, Barguilean in 1906. Since then two have gone from Torinturk, two from Clachadow, one from Duntanachan and one from Glenamackrie. The hills have been given

up to grouse and some of the arable land to plantations.

It is not without reason that such men as Rev. Malcolm MacCallum of Muckairn have protested all their lives against the devotion of Highland land to large sheep farms. While men have been moving from the Highlands to the cities and Colonies, the land of the Highlands has undergone a change. It has moved rapidly back to a state of wildness. Land requires a certain number of men to work it. A mistake was made when so much of the land of Scotland was given over to sheep ranching on a large and burdensome scale. Although this is called sheep-farming, it is not farming at all. The few farmers and shepherds are neither masters of their land nor master of their stock. Land that was cultivated by small holders in former days went out of cultivation; pasture deteriorated, and now this system of ranching has broken down. The big farmers have grown tired under their heavy task, and, in spite of good prices are giving up their farms. If an inquiry were made into the history of the large sheep farms, how many of them would be found which have been occupied by the same family even for one generation?

The whole system is unnatural and unbusinesslike. The landlords and large farmers assumed that they could go on for an indefinite time taking much out of the land and putting little into it. They have discovered their mistake. The farms carry less stock every year. Bracken and moss spread over the best land. It goes down in condition, and instead of endeavoring to improve it again the landlords put it to a lower use, grouse, rabbits and deer taking place of sheep. This is the grave and tragic blunder. The landlords and the Government put a low value on good men and women, and let them go to the Colonies for land, while there is abundance of good land in this country. This is an evidence of madness or insanity which justifies the intervention of the supreme authority, the people themselves. It is a policy which has been pursued so long and with such disastrous results that this intervention should be immediate and thorough.

JOHN ORR.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

AMERICAN ORIGIN OF THE RECALL.

Oakland, Cal.

Representative government is fine in theory, but the experience of a century has shown that the men who are chosen by the people to represent them are not always true to their trust. They forget that they are only agents, and assume magisterial functions; so the people, who are the source of power, are adopting Direct Legislation. It is a radical change, a grand progressive movement, a virtual political revolution.

Representative forms of government have developed a class of unpatriotic persons who fatten by systematically corrupting the people's representatives. These men do not desire a change. They particularly condemn the "Recall" and call it a new