

SIERRA COUNTY ADVOCATE

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\$1.00 Per Year. No. 26

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New Mexico Taxation Values.

At a meeting of the state board of equalization, Traveling Auditor Howell Earnest, secretary of the board, presented an abstract of the tax rolls of the state. This he had just completed, work on it being delayed because of the fact that the Dona Ana county roll did not arrive until last week.

The figures from the abstract of the tax values of the state probably give a clearer view of the tax question in New Mexico than anything else that could be prepared. In general, let it be said, that the increase in valuation over 1912 is over \$11,000,000, as compared with an increase of 1912 over 1911 of about \$13,000,000. Another peculiar thing is noticeable and that is that the entire increase is found in the valuations fixed by the state board, the items valued by the assessors, being without exception, lower in 1913 than in 1912. This is true of the state as a whole, although it probably would not be of each individual community.

According to the new tax law the state board fixes the valuation on all railroad, express, sleeping car, telegraph and telephone property, state and national banks and trust companies, range cattle, sheep and goats and other live stock. All other property is valued and assessed by the county assessors. The only increase as stated above is found in the valuation fixed by the state board, while the sum total of the assessments of the county assessors shows a big decrease over last year.

The total assessed valuation of the state, according to the tax rolls as they now are, without corrections made necessary by reason of appeals, etc., is \$84,086,518. The valuation in 1912 was \$72,457,454. The amount of increase of 1913 over 1912 is \$11,629,064, while the amount of increase of 1912 over 1911 was \$13,208,573.

The totals of the subjects fixed by the state board shows an increase of \$3,343,950, or 3.04 per cent, while the assessed valuation on the subjects assessed by the assessors shows a net decrease of \$5,046,126, or 11.67 per cent. Including exemptions, which this year, under the new law, are scheduled differently than formerly, the gross decrease of valuations fixed by the county assessors is \$7,645,793.

Railroad property in 1912 was assessed at \$20,404,495. In 1913 this assessment amounts to \$28,276,823, an increase of \$38.58 per cent. This is one of the items fixed by the state board of equalization.

Under the head of lands and improvements, an item fixed by the assessors, the 1912 valuation was \$39,232,799. The 1913 valuation is \$38,507,857, a decrease of 1.84 per cent.

Livestock, valuation fixed by the state board, in 1912 was assessed at \$8,826,900. The valuation in 1913 is given at \$10,788,807, an increase of \$1,861,907.

Merchandise stocks were assessed at \$5,884,786 in 1912, but in 1913 the assessed valuation is \$2,766,723, or \$118,063 less, amounting to 4.69 per cent.

All other property, as it is designated on the abstract, in 1912 was valued at \$3,771,197, but in 1913 the taxable valuation decreased to \$3,574,248, a loss of \$176,949, or 4.69 per cent.

Agricultural, grazing, timber and coal land and town lots all show a decrease in the assessed valuation in 1913 over 1912. The only increase is found under the head of mineral land, which is a comparatively small item.

Horses returned for taxation, increased during the year 20,317, and in value \$61,560, but the average value per head decreased \$3.37.

Mules increased in number in 1913 over 1912, 390 head, but the total assessed valuation decreased \$52,596 or \$5.49 a head.

Cattle increased on the tax rolls between 1912 and 1913 184,374 head. The taxable valuation increased \$1,670,062, but the average value per head decreased 88 cents.

Sheep increased in number on tax rolls in the year, \$230,279 and increased in value \$123,250, but decreased in value per head 14 cents.

Goats increased in number 45,493 and in value \$49,099, but the taxable value per head decreased 7 cents.

Hogs increased in number 4,880 and decreased in value per head 11 cents.

Burros increased in number during the year, that is on the tax rolls, 239 head, in valuation \$3,971. The average value of a burro also increased 57 cents per head, the only item in the category of livestock that was assessed for a greater value per head in 1913 than in 1912.

The big surprise of the whole abstract is found in the bank assessments. In 1912 they were assessed on a 50 per cent basis and supposedly paid taxes on that valuation. Under the new law were assessed on a 33 1/3 per cent basis, yet the banks show an increase for the year of \$353,738 in taxable valuation, and there were not over three or four established in the year, so that could not account for the increase. In the office of the traveling auditor this increase is accounted for by reason of the fact that under the new law the state board fixes the valuation. The valuation of every bank in the state is on record in the traveling auditor's office, so that the board gathered the values from this record, divided it by three to get the valuation on which taxes should be paid and certified it to the assessors. So that the 1913 valuation is correct to a cent. It is said that in the 1912 assessment when banks were supposed to pay on a valuation of 50 per cent, that a number only returned the capital stock and undivided profits.

The automobile valuation also showed a big increase, but this is no surprise. The number is not given, but in 1912 the valuation of the automobiles returned for taxation was \$76,960, while in 1913 this valuation is \$112,722. This is supposed to be on the basis of one-third of the total value of the autos of the state over \$336,000. As the secretary of state has licensed close to 1,800 automobiles in the state, this gives an average value of an automobile in New Mexico as \$187.

California Leads in Gold Production.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 16.—Production of gold in the United States during 1912 amounted to \$93,451,500 a decrease of \$3,438,500 as compared with the previous year, and the lowest American production since 1907.

The output of silver was 63,766,800 fine ounces, valued at \$39,197,500, an increase of \$3,367,400, over 1911, the greatest gain being in the state of Utah.

The figures were made public today in a joint statement by the mint bureau and the geological survey. The decrease was caused because of Nevada's output lost \$4,521,200, as compared

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