

TAX ON SMALLER INCOMES UNLIKELY

Democratic Leaders in House Decide to Put Defense Levy on Sums Above \$3000.

Washington—The proposal to amend the income tax law to include smaller incomes virtually is certain to be abandoned in favor of an increased rate on those already taxed, it was declared by democratic house leaders.

Sentiment against lowering the exemption limit on the order to provide additional revenue for the preparedness program crystallized, it was said, in the democratic caucus when Democratic Leader Kitchin declared against changing the present minimum of \$3,000. Since then protestants against all reduction plans have become more outspoken daily.

Leaders declared that virtually the entire preparedness revenue burden would be met with income taxes. Tentative bills looking to raising \$100,000,000 solely by an increased income tax rate are being discussed and will be offered soon in committee.

Although neither the naval nor military affairs committees has indicated what amount of money will be needed to meet the expenses of preparedness, it generally is understood that for the first year it will be close to \$93,000,000. Tentative plans, it is said, will proceed therefore on the theory that about \$100,000,000 will be needed.

Harvester Company in Sinal Probe.

The investigation of charges that American financiers have attempted to monopolize the sisal crop of Yucatan, Mexico, was broadened to include an inquiry into whether the International Harvester company sought by intimidating American bankers to prevent sisal planters from obtaining money to market their crops.

The agriculture committee of the house conducting the investigation decided to call as witnesses President McCormick and other officials of the harvester company and Arthur Reynolds, vice president of the Continental & Commercial National bank, of Chicago, and to ask the bank to submit a record of the balance maintained there by the company during the last three years. Officials of the National City bank, of New York, will be asked to testify, too, regarding charges that the harvester company also exerted influence on that institution.

Outline of Berlin Reply is Forecast.

Germany's response to the latest request of the United States for assurances that submarine warfare will be conducted in accordance with established principles of international law is expected here to be a flat statement that assurances previously given in the Lusitania and Arabic cases had to do only with unarmored vessels, and that the German government must feel certain that its submarines which warn a merchant ship will not be attacked. Furthermore, the Berlin foreign office probably will ask the United States for its definition of defensive armament.

Indications of what the German reply may be are understood to have been given in informal conversations between state department officials and Teutonic diplomats since Germany and Austria were said their intention of sinking and burning enemy merchantmen after February 29.

Nicaraguan Treaty is Ratified.

The senate by a vote of 55 to 18, ratified the long-pending and persistently opposed Nicaraguan treaty, whereby the United States would acquire a 99-year option on the Nicaraguan canal route and a naval base in the Gulf of Fonseca for \$1,000,000.

Included in the ratification resolution was a provision declaring that the United States, in obtaining the naval base, does not intend to violate any existing rights in the government of Costa Rica, Honduras and Salvador, which had protested against the proposed acquisition.

Five democratic senators voted against the treaty. They were Chamberlain, Martine, Clarke of Arkansas, Thomas and Vandaman. Republicans who voted against the ratification were Borah, Clapp, Cummins, Grossa, Jones, Kenyon, La Follette, McCumber, Nelson, Norris, Smith of Michigan, Smoot and Warren. Fifteen republican senators joined the administration forces in support of the treaty. They were Brandegee, Colt, Dillingham, Dupont, Fall, Gallinger, Harding, Lippitt, Lodge, McLean, Page, Peindexter, Sutherland, Wadsworth, and Weeks.

Great Britain's Delay Vexes U. S.

State department officials are impatient at Great Britain's delay in replying to the recent American notes concerning the trading with the enemy act and interferences with mails.

The London foreign office some time ago promised a reply to the mail note, but nothing has been heard of the American protest against enforcement of the trading with the enemy act against American firms.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Important Occurrences of Past Week Briefly Compiled for Our Readers.

Baker lumber mills are seriously crippled by car shortage.

Organization of a paid fire department in Klamath Falls is being discussed.

It is estimated that over 3000 head of sheep have died during the winter in Curry county.

J. M. Alkorn, of Brownsville, has been appointed temporary agriculturalist for Lane county.

The Friends of Oregon held their state convention on February 23, 24, 25 and 26 in Portland.

Lloyd Carriek, of Portland, was elected president of the Oregon State Christian Endeavor Union.

A total of \$45 cars of livestock have been shipped from Klamath county within the past seven months.

Train service has been suspended indefinitely on the Shaniko branch of the O. W. R. & N. because of washouts.

Henry Tyson, a rancher living in the vicinity of Drew, in southern Douglas county, is the father of 21 children.

Attorney General Brown holds that fees received from enforcing the dry law shall go into the general fund of the county.

Two hundred delegates attended the state convention of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor held in Grants Pass.

A ministry and missions conference held under the auspices of the Christian associations was held at the Oregon agricultural college.

For the week ending February 17, a total of 126 accidents was reported to the state industrial accident commission, of which one was fatal.

Fifty per cent of the China pheasants of the Hood River valley and more than 75 per cent of the quail, were killed by the recent cold.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Hood River Apple Growers association a distribution of \$75,000, returns on apples, was ordered.

An initiative petition having for its object the enactment of a law "to protect salmon in the Columbia river and its tributaries" was filed at Salem.

A big public reception for all newcomers to Bond, planned by the Bond commercial club, was held on the afternoon and evening of February 24.

Representative McArthur will hold a competitive examination in Portland the last week in March to select a candidate to enter Annapolis on April 18.

Henry M. Hauke, 14-month-old son of Mrs. Erick Hauke, fell into a can of sugar in the pantry at the Hauke home at Astoria and smothered to death.

Two hundred and forty-three recruits have been added to the various organizations of the Oregon National Guard throughout the state since January 1, 1916.

An election has been called at Roseburg for March 11, when the voters will be asked to authorize bonds in the sum of \$75,000 for a new high school building.

It is reported that the Polk county court has determined to abolish the office of county roadmaster on the ground that the results do not justify the additional cost.

Excursion fares for the Rose festival, based on a fare and a third for the round trip, were agreed to at the meeting of the North Coast Passenger association at Portland.

Governor Withycombe has reappointed W. B. Ayer of Portland as a member of the board of trustees of the Oregon State library for the period ending June 1, 1920.

Frank Boutin of Bayfield, Wis., has purchased the mill and timber of the Sheridan Lumber company at Sheridan and the mill will be started up as soon as logs can be secured.

Railroads operating in Oregon have been notified by the public service commission to report daily on the number of cars which are available for use by Oregon shippers.

William Branson, convicted of the murder of William Booth at Willamina, October 8 last, was sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge Belt of the circuit court at McMinnville.

A series of schools for adult orchardists is being conducted in various parts of the Willamette valley by W. S. Brown, extension horticulturist of the Oregon agricultural college.

The Willamette Valley Merchants' association was organized at Woodburn by merchants from Hubbard, Aurora, Barlow, Canby, Gervais, Silverton, Scotts Mills, Molalla and Woodburn.

The state public service commission has suspended until June 1, 1916, the proposed rate of the S. P. & S. and O. W. R. & N. Co. increasing the minimum of carload shipments of grain, flour and feed, at carload rates, from \$0.009 to \$0.009 pounds.

Spence Wortman, of Portland, has been named supervising field deputy in charge of enforcing the weights and measures specifications of Oregon by Chief Deputy of Weights and Measures Buchtel.

Resolutions favoring publication by the state of textbooks for elementary schools, and the establishment of a naval base at the mouth of the Columbia river, have been passed by the Salem commercial club.

Fire at Portland completely destroyed the main sawing section of the Inman-Poulsen lumber company mill and partially destroyed several other buildings of the plant. The loss is estimated at over \$200,000.

According to affidavits filed with the county clerk of Grant county by the American Express company, only two shipments of liquor have been sent into the county since the prohibition law went into effect.

It is now believed that the recent storm claimed one victim in Lane county. All efforts to locate Lyman Madaris, a boy who attempted to make his way in the deep snow from Saddle mountain to Mapleton, have failed.

Some 22,000 acres of land in eastern Oregon have been purchased by C. D. Hillman, a Pasadena realty operator, as an investment. The lands lie in Crook, Harney and Lake counties and were bought at an average price of \$15 an acre.

The state meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Women of the Relief Corps, the Sons of Veterans, the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Spanish War Veterans will be held in Eugene June 14, 15 and 16.

Registration in Oregon, as reported to Secretary of State Olcott from the various counties, has reached 46,463, of which 30,982 are republicans, 11,605 democrats, 307 progressives, 973 prohibitionists, 1170 socialists and 1426 miscellaneous.

Guarantee of irrigation and drainage bonds and providing a method for the farmer to obtain cheaper money, will be the three subjects to occupy the Irrigation, Drainage and Rural Credits conference to be held in Salem, March 9.

The irrigation of 122,000 acres along the Columbia river west of Umatilla, by water diverted from the John Day river, is proposed in a joint report completed by State Engineer Lewis and officials of the United States reclamation service.

Two Chinese tongmen, one a Hop Sing, and the other a Hoi Yin Quon Shaw, were shot and seriously wounded on a crowded sidewalk at Third and Couch streets in Portland by one of their countrymen, said to be a member of the Bow Leong Tong.

The Roseburg commercial club has under consideration the matter of securing an automobile road from Roseburg to Crater Lake through Tiller and Trail in connection with the United States forest service. Connection is to be made with the Medford-Crater Lake road at Trail.

The Salem Fruit Union has forwarded a resolution to Washington, calling attention of the Oregon delegation to the fact that the government's commissary department has never included Oregon prunes or loganberries in its purchases and requesting that an effort be made to change this program.

Farmers living near Woodburn who have sustained extensive damage to their orchards through the depredations of beavers, are not entitled to recover damages from the state, the game warden or the members of the Fish and Game commission, according to an opinion by Attorney General Brown.

Arno Mersen, general superintendent of the C. A. Smith Lumber & Manufacturing company, at Marshfield, has announced an increase in wages for the company's entire force of help, including mill men, shingle operators, seamen, office men and boom managers, amounting to an average of more than 10 per cent. Six hundred men are affected by the order.

After crossing the McKenzie pass in the dead of winter, crawling a part of the way on hands and knees and being delayed by a terrific storm, and without food for two days, Jack Smith and Walter Horner have arrived in Eugene, having made a trip across country from Deschutes. At one point of their journey they found snow 20 feet deep and crusted on the surface.

A large blue heron, measuring five feet from wing tip to wing tip, flew into the transmission wires of the California Electric company near Tolo, and plunged all southern Oregon into darkness. As soon as the cause of the trouble was located power was turned on from the Fall River plant for Medford, while the Grants Pass and Glendale lines were soon put in commission.

The Marshfield and North Bond chambers of commerce have committees organized for the purpose of planning for the celebration of completion of the Willamette-Pacific railway from Eugene to Coos Bay, but they have been unable and will not likely set the date for some time, as the Southern Pacific officials are still hesitant about naming a time for the road to be finished.

Look Out For The Cars!

This is an advertising paraphrase on that old railroad sign: Stop--Look--Listen.

The railroad sign stands for "safety first."

So does the paraphrase--safety first in spending your hard earned money.

STOP when you pick up your newspaper -- today -- for example and LOOK through the advertising pages.

THINK. Do they offer something better than you are accustomed to use?

Do they offer lower prices? Do they tell you of advantages you are not enjoying?

Think! Investigate! Reason it out for yourself.

But use the advertising for the preliminary guide.

The Argus.