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THE BUDGET DILEMMA

The budget committee appointed by the County Court under the statute passed by the 1921 legislature, to assist the court in preparing the 1922 budget for submission to the mass meeting of the taxpayers on December 15 found itself in a predicament.

First, it found that when all the requests were tabulated that the total was nearly \$100,000 beyond the legal limit, including the six per cent increase allowed by law.

Second, it was face to face with

the stubborn fact that there is already a deficit in tax receipts of \$300,000 of 1921, showing that without a single increase the people are unable to pay the bill already assessed against them.

Third, the budget makers found that, under the existing laws there were many sums which had to be included regardless of their personal opinions or judgment. For example the budget had to provide for the millage taxes for common schools the high school tax to pay for the tuition of pupils from districts where no high school is maintained to the districts where these pupils attend; and also the millage tax for higher education. Also the budget makers had to include the state tax for state government and the general road and market road taxes.

When these items were all included and the sums resulting were computed, there was not a wide margin left upon which the budget committee could use its discretion.

One of the most flagrant mandatory items, however, was that for coyote bounties. This source alone used \$18,000 of county funds this year, and under the law must be paid, even if it should be double that amount, so unjust is that statute.

Of course the county officials had their budget demands adequate, at least, according to their views of the importance of their particular offices. With these the budget committee had some leeway in which to act and they will undoubtedly be somewhat curtailed, but the difference between the total minimum with which they can act is relatively small compared with the sum total of all the budget that the saving thus secured furnishes but slight relief to the taxpayer.

TAXES AND INCOME

It has long been the theory of taxation that property values should be the basis upon which the state must depend to arrive at the sum the individual owner should contribute as his or her share of the cost of government.

Of late years, however, a new theory has been advanced; which is a variation of the above rule; and is this; that a man should pay in proportion to his ability that is by ascertaining his income and taking a proper percentage thereof.

It is still a debatable question whether the tax investigators are more successful in securing an accurate statement of the incomes of the rich that they were in locating the property of the wealthy.

In Malheur county, as in every county, in every state in the Union, there are wealthy men who never have had an appreciable percentage of their property on the tax rolls, or if they were represented on the roll it was at figures which were but a percentage of the true value.

As a going business the average county has two principal functions which must be maintained; first to levy taxes, and second to collect them. In dodging both these functions the wealthy citizen is able to beat the game so often that the burden of government falls unevenly upon the less fortunate. As the result, since the functions of gov-

ernment are multiplying, the tendency has been to increase the taxation on land, which is the one form of property most easy to locate.

If a list of all the taxpayers in Malheur county, for example could be published, and the public thus be made acquainted with the values for taxation purposes some men return to the assessor, it would be an illuminating document. It would be filled with surprises for everyone.

Sometimes one is compelled to believe that the only way in which tax evasions can be curbed is to adopt the Australian system, where, if the authorities believe that property is undervalued for taxation purposes they are empowered to purchase it at the value which the owner returned.

VERSAILLES AND WASHINGTON

Two things stand out in a consideration of the differences apparent in the reception of Secretary Hughes disarmament program, and the outline of the League of Nations set forth at Versailles.

First and foremost, it is apparent that what Secretary Hughes proposed has been maturely considered by representatives, not of the State department alone, but by the naval experts and by the senatorial representatives who will be called upon, if an agreement is reached embodying these proposals, to present the treaty to the senate for confirmation.

Then too, the Hughes proposals are very definite, very specific, tersely written and subject to no apparent ambiguities.

But the greatest difference is manifest in the temper of minds of the people, shown by the reception the proposals received.

This is due, in part to the difference in time, and the difference in place where the programs were proposed.

The Versailles treaty was given the world in Paris, practically on the battle ground of the world war. It was given at a time when the poignant pains of war were still acute. All the world was still reacting to the horrors of the conflict, demanding retribution from the perpetrators of the awful outrages Echoes of Lisle, Louvain, the Somme and the Argonne were still to be heard at the council chamber in Versailles. The world was in no mood for idealistic enterprises.

Today conditions are different. Washington is far removed from the battle fields of Europe. The burdens of war taxation, without the stimulus of patriotic fervor for victory, press heavily upon the nations. The cry for relief from the people has been heard by the governments and they must be answered. Secretary Hughes has outlined the hopes of the world. He has declared America's position in no uncertain terms. Leaders of other nations must reply in kind or admit their insincerity. Hughes has won for America a great moral victory.

HEMSTITCHING — Mrs. Bird Jacobsen, Payette, Idaho, 1231 1st. Ave. South. Mail orders promptly returned. 50-54p.

KINGMAN KOLONY

Roy Crouch is shipping out a car of hay this week.

Pat Conley, a sheepman, last week bought the Morgan, Simon and Martin hay and is planning to lamb in the Kolony. Mr. Conley has fed in the Kolony the past several years and finds the hay and feeding grounds just right.

Philip Koyno who lamed in the Kingman ranch last year has bought the Kingman Powell hay again this year.

Dave Spills and family of Idaho, moved to the Pete Christensen house last week.

Virgil C. Snow of the American Sunday School Union was calling in this community Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. The object of the work is to establish and maintain Sunday schools in otherwise unserved districts in Malheur County and in the counties of S. W. Idaho. The work is inter-denominational. Thousands of churches of various denominations have sprung from Union Sunday Schools in the U. S. in the past 100 years. Mr. Snow's address is Payette, Idaho, and he will be glad to correspond with anyone interested in S. S. work in these sections.

Messrs. A. J. Brocker and Mark Solomon were down from Emmett for the week end with the Fred Powell family.

C. C. Cotton and family of Nyssa took possession of their ranch in the Kolony the past week.

Messrs. Andy Swan and Geo. Hammock of Nyssa spent Sunday at the Powell home.

Pupils neither absent nor tardy in prof. Everetts room during the month of October were: Ruby Reed, Evelyn DeBord, Florence Bach, Juanita Bigelow, Anna Schweizer, Charley Bradford, Avery Christensen, and Theodore Grenver.

Pupils neither absent nor late in the grades, Miss Gladys Johnson, teacher were: Florence DeBord, Mary Ann Edwards, Orville McEwen, Ruth Pinkston, James McEwen, Virginia McGinnis, Margaret Morgan, Violet Pinkston, Leonard Smith, Lloyd McEwen, Agnes Nichols, Ella Reed, Christina Christensen, Jeanette Martin, Kenneth Bach, Gerald DeBord, James McEwen, and Cora Elliott.

ADRIAN NEWS

Herbert Hickox narrowly escaped serious injury Monday morning, while driving a team home from where he had been working. The team which was hitched to a hay rake suddenly became frightened and ran away throwing Mr. Hickox under the rake, and one of the times cut a deep gash in his forehead. He immediately hurried to Parma where a physician took four stitches in the wound.

John Holly, accompanied by Paul Milnap and R. McCreey motored to the public auction sale held near Wilder Tuesday. Good sales as well as prices were reported. Mr. Milnap purchased five cows.

An increase was made in the population of the town this week when a new family moved into the vacant residence of Peter Christensen where they expect to spend the coming winter. They will send their children to school in the Kingman Kolony.

Holly Bros. are running their store on a strictly cash basis now, which in the long run will be of benefit to the public, because of a reduction in prices.

Mr. Echas may be listed among the lucky ones, owing to the fact that he has sold his hay for the sum of four dollars and fifty cents per ton. Mr. Watson of Parma will bale it out.

While playing with his brother, Lloyd, Clarence Elliot had the misfortune to break two or three small veins in his eye. Dr. Numbers was consulted, who gave treatment to the eye and a shade to be worn until complete recovery is made.

A party of trappers were seen this week passing down the river in a boat, fully equipped with a camping outfit. They stopped on "Dead Man's Island" where they seem to be resting for the time.

Mrs. Susie Pomeroy returned to her home in Adrian Saturday, after a week's visit with her daughter, Mrs. Earl Canerhill of Wilder who has been on the sick list for some time but is said to be slowly recovering.

Two loads of sheep were shipped from Adrian this week by Mr. Mendocola from the upper Owyhee.

Bob Driscoll is reported on the sick list this week.

Little Polly Ann Edwards was absent from school this week owing to a slight illness.

Mrs. Earl Canerhill of Wilder was a guest of her mother, Mrs. Susie Pomeroy of Adrian this week returning to her home Friday.

Mrs. Clark Inos and children Lois Ellen and Clarence Edwin, were guests at the D. T. Holly home Sunday.

A large crowd appeared at the masquerade dance given Armistice night at the Big Bend park. Donald McGinnis took first prize being dressed as an Indian chief.

P. B. Anderson shipped a car load of hogs from Adrian Friday.

Mrs. Susie Pomeroy has rented her place to the Schaffer Bros. for the coming year. They expect to begin work Monday.

Mr. Zierlien completed a new potato cellar on his farm this week.

Vicenti Mendocola made a business trip to Omaha, Nebraska Monday. He expects to be gone one or two weeks.

Much corn is being harvested throughout the vicinity at present and a good yield is reported. Mrs. Hockis, who has been staying at the John Holly home returned to her home in Ontario this week. The Hollis returned with her spending the day.

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