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PRICE FIVE CENTS

TAX ON PROPERTY HELD UP IN HOUSE

36 Members Sign Agreement on Fair Issue.

SITUATION PREGARIOUS ONE

Substitute Methods to Get Funds Are Offered.

THREE MEASURES ARE UP

Income Levy and Levy on Gasoline Are Proposed—Long Session Not Improbable.

STATE HOUSE, Salem, Or., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—An agreement has been signed by 36 members of the house pledging the representatives against waiting for a general property tax to finance the 1925 exposition. Unless this combine is broken up, no property tax will be submitted to the people at the election next May.

The situation, summed up tonight, was that the 1925 fair project was in a precarious state.

Several substitutes for a property tax are being advocated by the representatives who are in the combine, but sentiment has not been crystallized for any particular solution.

Three fair measures made their appearance today, two in the house and one in the senate. The property tax measure, recommended by the fair directors, was introduced by Representative Kubli.

Speaker Bean offered his state income tax, and Senator Joseph presented a bill to finance the fair by including the tax on gasoline. There is talk of a poll tax and a sales tax as substitutes for the property tax.

Senate Is Not Bound.

While the house members have signed a pledge respecting property tax, the senate has taken no action. The average senator has maintained an open mind.

A hearing will be held tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock by the joint senate and house at which the Portland business men who are directors of the exposition preliminary organization will receive the courtesy of the floor. It is the purpose of this delegation to submit its argument to the legislature and abide by the decision. The hearing will consume the entire forenoon and will probably take up the major part of the afternoon.

Half a dozen members of the house are planning to debate the fair and the financing of it at the hearing and the session tomorrow will largely determine the fate of the exposition, so far as the legislature is concerned.

A majority of the house members have refused to refer to the people a property tax. Their argument is that their constituents do not want such a thing, and these 26 representatives have placed themselves in the attitude of deciding for their counties.

Collecting of signatures to the pledge was done by several representatives and the paper was industriously circulated throughout the day. This afternoon a majority of the house was committed to the agreement, thus making it an important factor. Thirty-one counties, a majority and the anti-property tax advocates have a safe margin, in addition, to clinch the matter.

All members who favor a state income tax, a poll tax or a sales tax have joined the combine. Members of the Multnomah delegation are not in the agreement, yet on the other hand the Multnomah delegation is not acting as a unit for a property tax.

Property Tax Impossible.

With the attitude of the house against the property tax expressed in such a determined manner, this method of financing the 1925 exposition is impossible, irrespective of the sentiment in the senate, unless a break is made by the board. But opinion is divided on this point. Whether this dissolution of the pledge can be brought about remains to be seen. Much depends upon the power of argument at the hearing tomorrow. Apparently, however, the arguments will be unavailing as a majority of the combine are set against a property tax and nothing that is said is likely to have weight. The delegation on the scene evidently senses this hostile attitude but is of the opinion that members should at least have the whole subject threshed out.

Exposition Is Favored.

There is profuse assurance by the combine that the exposition should be held and that members are individually for the fair, but at the same time they protest against a tax on property. The various solutions offered by Speaker Bean, Senator Joseph and others, are not likely to be adopted and without the combine being dissolved there is a very good prospect of the special session adjourning without suitable legislation for financing the fair.

There has been considerable talk about a state income tax, but very little study has been made of the subject. C. E. Spence, master of the state grange, who is in the lobby, has declared that the grange will not ask for a state income tax at the present session. It had been the intention of the grange to request the

INCOME TAX OFFERED TO RAISE FAIR FUND

OTHER MEASURE IN HOUSE IS FOR PROPERTY LEVY.

Exposition Committee of 15 Would Be Named to Have Charge of Expending Moneys.

STATE HOUSE, Salem, Or., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Two measures providing for means of financing the 1925 exposition—one through a direct tax on all land, and the other through an income tax similar to the federal tax now in vogue—were introduced in the house today.

The measure drafted by the exposition committee, which was in the form of a joint resolution providing for an amendment to the state constitution, was introduced by Representative Kubli, chairman of the Multnomah delegation, according to the agreement reached by members of the delegation in Portland a few days ago.

This measure provides for a direct tax on all property within the state, to be levied in 1922, 1923 and 1924. The revenue expected to be raised, if the measure is submitted and approved by the voters at the primary election in May, is estimated at \$2,000,000. Portland, at a recent special city election, authorized a levy of \$2,000,000 to be collected in a period of three years, but this bill is contingent upon the raising of \$2,000,000 by the state in the same period.

Authority to appoint an exposition committee of 15 members would be granted to Governor O'Leary by this measure. This committee would have authority to expend the funds raised. The proposed amendment of the charter would be approved by the voters at the primary election in May.

Speaker Bean's income tax bill, which was the first to be introduced at this session, is similar to the federal income tax now in operation.

BLACKHANDER IS BAFFLED

Intended Victim Fails to Find Extorter at Spot Named.

CORVALLIS, Or., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—W. W. Darnelle, for many years a prominent dairyman here, received a letter Sunday ordering him to walk out on the Ninth-street paving till he came to an automobile whose driver would say "drop it." He was then to hand over to the one issuing the command \$1200 under pain of losing three times as much if he did not. He was ordered to say nothing to anybody, especially the police.

Mr. Darnelle immediately took the letter to the sheriff. He also walked out on the Ninth-street road at the appointed hour, but without the money. He was shadowed by local sleuths but nothing happened. Whether the blackhanders became suspicious of whether the whole affair was a hoax, there is no way of knowing, but the letter in question has been turned over to federal authorities.

MANY PLAGUES FORECAST

Great War, Revolution, Floods and Famine Are Predicted for 1926.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The year 1926 is destined to shake the world to its foundations, both physically and politically. It is to be a succession of plagues, famine, floods, shipwrecks, rioting and revolution. So says the British Journal of Astrology, which has drawn the horoscope for that year, when the planets Mars and Mercury will be in conjunction.

Six years later the great Armageddon is to take place. It will be a final conflict between Mohammedanism, allied with bolshevism, against the united Anglo-Saxon world. It will end in a "universal peace" in 1932, but "there will be so few of us left and we shall all be so tired that peace should happen anyhow," the horoscope says.

VOTERS ARE OVERRIDDEN

Board Votes \$122,618 Levy Rejected by Taxpayers.

BEND, Or., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—After the voters of the Bend school district had turned down a \$124,920 levy Saturday, the district board of directors passed a \$122,618 levy here this afternoon.

According to the statutory 6 per cent limitation, \$39,722.47 could be levied direct by the board. But opinions from Portland bonding attorneys permitted the addition of \$46,350 to liquidate an outstanding note issue. A \$25,455 deficit in the sinking fund was made up, and interest and loan premium charges make up the balance. The levy was filed with the county assessor late today.

REVOLT STIRS PORTUGAL

Hospitals Crowded With Wounded and Dying—Premier Attacked.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—A revolution has broken out in Portugal, according to a dispatch to the Daily Chronicle from Paris. It began with cannonading along the Tagus river and severe casualties have resulted to both sides in the controversy.

The hospitals are crowded with wounded and dying. The dispatch adds that Cunha Leal, who formed a temporary ministry last week, was attacked in the Carlos barracks and he and his followers were compelled to retreat.

The fate of the premier is not known.

Senate Gets Russia Aid Bill.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—The house bill appropriating \$20,000,000 for Russian relief, as recommended by President Harding in his message to congress, was reported to the senate today without amendment.

DAIL'S DECISION ON TREATY WAITS

Debate Grows Heated Pact Is Considered

COLLINS ASKS FOR PEACE

De Valera Attacks Agreement as Blow at Republic.

INTIMIDATION IS DENIED

Irish Leader Declares That Ambassador Can Be Sent to America If Desired.

DUBLIN, Dec. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—When the Daily Eireann adjourned tonight after two lengthy public sessions devoted to debate, nothing tangible had developed to indicate how members would vote on ratifying the treaty setting up the Irish free state.

Deputy Duggan, Mrs. Sheehy Skerfington, Tom Johnson, secretary of the liberal movement, and Colonel Maurice Moore, when interviewed, declared it was impossible to make any estimate of the relative strength of those favoring and those opposing the treaty or to hazard a guess as to which side would eventually gain a majority.

Collins Fears for Result.

The uncertainty of even prominent leaders regarding the result was reflected on the one side in Michael Collins' declaration that he might never again address the Dail and on the other by Charles Burgess' pointed statement that he was "atill in office."

The proceedings are certain to last through tomorrow, as many minor members have indicated their intention of speaking. Some think that the debate may even continue throughout the week.

A feature was the attempt by the peace delegates to deprive Mr. de Valera of his claim of adherence to the republican principle by demanding publication of his plan for alternative settlement, which it was revealed had been submitted at last week's private sessions. The argument was that the nation had a right to know what were the two policies they were expected to decide on and that as a matter of fact, neither was republican.

Party Leaders Speak.

Mr. de Valera resisted publication of his alternative plan, explaining it was put forward only in an attempt to secure unanimity in the Dail and was now irrelevant. He promised, however, later to indicate in his own way the alternative proposal.

Mr. de Valera, Griffith Collins, (Continued on Page 4, Column 1.)

TEXAS MARU LEAKING; TWO LOST OVERBOARD

JAPANESE STEAMER SUFFERS FROM STORM OFF COAST.

Carrier En Route to Japan Has on Board Cargo of Cereal and Lumber for Orient.

A message stating that the steamer Texas Maru had lost two men overboard and was leaking badly as the result of encountering a violent storm about 900 miles off the Columbia river was received here yesterday by H. S. Toda, manager of the shipping department in the local office of Suzuki & Co., owners of the vessel, according to the wireless message, were the chief officer and an apprentice.

Records of the immigration service give the chief officer's name as Yasuo Matsumae, and his age as 24 years. No apprentice seaman is listed, but a fourth mate, believed to be the other man lost, is Takichi Shirai, aged 20. The master of the Texas Maru is Captain Kakushi Okura.

The Texas Maru is a steamer of 5677 net tons. She left here for Japan December 15 and passed out to sea from the mouth of the Columbia river at 6 P. M., December 16. She carried 48 men, all told, in her crew and officers, and had a mixed cargo valued at \$327,822, composed of 273,343 bushels of wheat, valued at \$330,125; 346 barrels of flour, valued at \$125, and 115,532 feet of lumber, valued at \$594. The valuations are according to the export declarations filed at the local customs house.

Upon receipt of the wireless message giving the first information of the Texas Maru's trouble, Mr. Toda sent another radio message asking for full particulars, but had received no answer to this second message at 5:30 P. M.

The cargo aboard the vessel was consigned to Kobe and Yokohama.

MR. AITCHISON NOMINATED

Interstate Commissioner Practically Sure of Second Term.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—Clyde B. Aitchison was nominated today by President Harding for a second term as member of the interstate commerce commission. Mr. Aitchison was first appointed to the commission by President Wilson in 1917 and served one year as its chairman. It is not expected that there will be any unusual delay in confirming his appointment.

The second vacancy in the commission was filled this afternoon by the appointment of Henry C. Hall of Denver. Mr. Aitchison is a republican and Mr. Hall a democrat.

LISBON CABINET REMADE

Cunha Leal New Prime Minister of Portuguese Government.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—A new government was formed last night at Lisbon, Portugal, the state department was advised today.

Cunha Leal, is prime minister and Julio Falcas, ex-minister of public instruction, minister of foreign affairs.

ASTORIA MAN SLAYS WIFE; KILLS HIMSELF

EDWARD M. KUHNERT SLASHES THROATS OF BOTH IN RAGE.

Woman Drops Dead on Porch and Husband, Upstairs, Clings to Suicide With Revolver.

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Edward M. Kuhnert, 25, a painter and decorator, killed his wife, Eva M. Kuhnert, 25, and then committed suicide, about 4 o'clock this afternoon at the family home in Irving avenue.

The cause of the double tragedy is said to have been a quarrel between the couple early Sunday morning, when they returned from attending a party, Mrs. Kuhnert packing her grip and going to a local hotel, where she remained until today.

Mrs. Kuhnert was employed as bookkeeper by the Sovey Motor company and went to her home this afternoon. Kuhnert was there, as was Mrs. Mary E. Slater, Mrs. Kuhnert's grandmother.

The couple went to the second story of the dwelling and a few minutes later Mrs. Kuhnert came down the stairs, holding her throat and rushed to the porch, where she dropped dead. Mrs. Slater hastened to the woman's side and then heard two shots upstairs. She summoned the neighbors and an investigation showed that Kuhnert had cut his wife's throat with a razor, then cut his own throat, and fired two bullets into his right temple with a revolver, which was still clasped in his hand when his dead body was found. Kuhnert had recently returned from Louisiana and is said to have been preparing to go away again.

Mrs. Slater, the woman's grandmother, says the couple lived happily, but it was learned this evening that a few months ago Mrs. Kuhnert gave a neighbor a revolver to keep, saying she did not want it about the house, as she feared "it would kill her."

Later she secured the revolver, saying she wanted it as a protection while living alone. This is understood to have been the weapon which figured in the tragedy.

The bodies have been taken in charge by Coroner Hughes, who will hold an inquest. Mr. and Mrs. Kuhnert had resided here for several years, but had no children.

DRIVER BLOWN TO PIECES

Nitroglycerin Explodes When Auto Drops Into Rut.

OIL CITY, Pa., Dec. 19.—Charles Kirkwood, an oil well shooter, was blown to pieces, two other persons were seriously injured and two houses damaged by an explosion of nitroglycerin today.

The explosive was discharged when Kirkwood's automobile dropped into a deep rut on a road near here.

STUDENTS GO ON STRIKE

Youngsters Indignant Because Principal Is Discharged.

PORT WORTH, Tex., Dec. 19.—One hundred and fifty students in the Rosen Heights public school went on strike today because the trustees had discharged a principal.

The attendance is normally 250.

FRANCE WILLING TO YIELD SOME

Exact Attitude on Ratio Is Still in Doubt.

AGREEMENT TO BE SOUGHT

Delegates Told to Go As Far As They Can Safely.

AMERICANS ARE HOPEFUL

Specific Instructions as to Tone Acceptable Are Not Given in Premier's Orders.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—France has taken steps to reconcile her views on the naval ratio problem with those of the other powers, but her precise attitude—now the crucial issue of the arms negotiations—remains in doubt.

Unofficial advice from abroad today indicated Premier Briand had decided to accept the American proposal for a French capital ship fleet of 175,000 tons in place of the 250,000-ton plan drawn by the French delegation.

Secretary Hughes, as chairman of the arms conference, also received from the premier a communication construed at the state department as meaning that the French group had been directed to accede to the American program.

Definite Orders Denied.

But the French delegates did not so construe a long message of instructions received from the premier. They described it as advising them to go as far toward meeting the American views as they could without sacrifice of French national interests. It was said not to embody a specific decision nor to make reference to any specific tonnage plan.

With the negotiations in that situation, Mr. Hughes and Albert Sarraut, head of the French delegation, held a long conference late today. It was said only that the conversations were proceeding and that there was a mutual expectation of ultimate agreement.

France Expected to Yield.

In other quarters also there was apparent a distinct note of optimism despite the day's disappointing developments. Among American officials an almost unanimous belief prevailed that France eventually would take the American figure for her capital ship allotment even though she insisted on an increase of submarine tonnage as an offset. For the moment, the negotiations are concerned solely with capital ships, and to many delegates a five-power agreement on that subject does not seem far away.

It is pointed out by the Americans that even an effort by the French to adopt a conciliatory attitude towards the views of the United States may be regarded as a long step toward settlement. The American position has been that ratios should be adjusted on the basis of existing strength, while the 250,000-ton proposal of the French was predicated on the principle of national needs. So if the French premier has done nothing more than approve the American "status quo" principle, he has contributed a great deal, in the view of American officials, toward final agreement.

How Believed Averted.

The message to Secretary Hughes was a sequel to last night's conference between Mr. Briand and Ambassador Harvey at London, which press reports say resulted in the premier's acceptance of the American plan. Today there were signs that the situation might develop further complications because of the direct method of negotiation adopted by Mr. Hughes, but the apprehension of the French delegates appeared to be quieted when it was explained that the secretary had acted as chairman of the conference and had addressed M. Briand as head of the French delegation.

The delicacy of the position in which the French delegates found themselves was increased by announcement of the results of the London conference in press dispatches which came ahead of the premier's instructions. In the flurry at delegation headquarters some leaders French officials talked of the possibility of a cabinet crisis in France, should it prove true that M. Briand had suddenly thrown over the 250,000-ton plan for which his representatives have been stoutly contending.

Message Not Disapproved.

Delegates would not go into details regarding the premier's message, but there were indications that they had not found it distasteful. It was declared to be rather in the nature of counsel and advice than a mandate and was said to leave the real decision to those on the ground here. Whether the 250,000-ton plan is to be pressed again, when the committee of 10 assemblies tomorrow was not revealed.

There were many indications that with any recession on the capital ship question, the French would attempt to associate some form of assurance that they will be given the privilege of increasing their submarine strength.

It is not improbable that the French representatives also will want such a modification of the naval holiday plan as will permit them to

ANTI-ALIEN LAND LAW BIG FEDERAL DECISION

CALIFORNIA ACT DECLARED TO BE CONSTITUTIONAL.

Treaty with Japan Not Violated, Is Ruling—Lense Is Regarded as Interest in Property.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 19.—The constitutionality of the California anti-alien land law forbidding aliens ineligible to citizenship to own or lease agricultural land was upheld today by a court of three federal judges.

Several other states have enacted laws patterned on the California act. The decision, written by District Judge Dooling of San Francisco and concurred in by Circuit Judge Hunt of San Francisco and District Judge Bledsoe of Los Angeles, arose out of the leasing feature of the act.

The court refused to restrain Attorney-General Webb and District Attorney Woolwine of Los Angeles county from proceeding against W. L. Porterfield and Y. Mizuno for entering into a five-year lease contract on 80 acres of land in Los Angeles county.

"It will readily be seen that the act itself violates no treaty provision because section 2 thereof expressly protects aliens not eligible to citizenship in their relation to real property to the extent and for the purpose prescribed by any treaty between the United States and their country so that whatever is guaranteed by such treaty is excluded from the operation of this act. The leasehold interest, intended to be conveyed by Porterfield to Mizuno, is an interest in agricultural land and there is nothing in the treaty with Japan which requires that Japanese subjects resident in this country the right to acquire, possess or enjoy agricultural land or any interest therein.

"It is true that congress has the power arbitrarily to say who may be naturalized and that in exercising this power it has limited the right of naturalization to aliens being free white persons and to aliens of African nativity and descent. This limitation excludes three of the five great races of the world—the yellow, the brown and the red. And exercising such power is in no sense arbitrary, it is not without foundation in reason and has been in effect, except for a brief period, practically during the entire history of this government.

"In any event, once established, however arbitrarily and so long as it continues, it furnishes a fundamental and important part of the law which will be adopted by a state in determining who may not own land within its borders."

Deported Women Slain.

Seventeen Armenians Sent Back Home Killed by Turks.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—The murder at Constantinople in September of 17 Armenian women and children who came to the United States seeking safety, but who were deported, was reported to the house immigration committee today by C. V. Flannery, counsel for a welfare organization at Boston. They were deported, he said, as being in excess of the quota allowed for their country.

Details of the killing were obtained. Mr. Flannery said, from an American student at Roberts college, Constantinople, in a letter to an American student at Boston, whose mother and sister were among those killed.

From the best information obtainable, he declared, the women and children were first outraged by Turks and then murdered because there was no means for their upkeep and "they were considered in the way."

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PORTLAND CHILLED BY PIERCING WIND

Several Schools Forced to Dismiss Classes.

NO RELIEF YET IN SIGHT

Snow Flurries and Cold Predicted for Today.

DAMAGE IS NOT GREAT

Water Pipes Broken and Few Wires Torn Down—Streets Coated With Ice and Snow.

Portland and vicinity were gripped yesterday in the coldest weather in two years, accompanied by a piercing east wind, bound from east the Rocky mountains to the Pacific ocean, whistling through Portland and not checking its speed.

Beyond a few wires torn down and a few broken water pipes no damage was reported, but discomfort and inconvenience have been widespread, ranging from frozen milk on the front porch to the closing of several schools.

No prediction as to the probable duration of the freezing weather could be made last night by Edward L. Wells, district forecaster, beyond the fact that such weather at this time of year does not usually last more than three or four days.

The forecast for today was "Snow flurries and continued cold." Mr. Wells said last night that the temperature might go as low as 15 degrees before morning.

Snow Forecast for Today.

Like all good rules, the one about only three or four days of freezing weather at a time for Portland has its exceptions, notably in 1917, when from December 1 to 16 inclusive the temperature did not rise above the freezing point, while it went as low as 3 degrees above zero December 12. The lowest temperature last winter was 27 degrees, recorded January 11.

Planned shirts and high boots replaced white collars and polished shoes in many walks of life and mufflers encompassed necks and ears unaccustomed to such wear.

School Heating Plants Fail.

Failure of heating plants to rise to the occasion resulted in the complete closing yesterday of the polytechnic school, the Franklin primary school and the Hudson grammar school, while three rooms in the Holiday school were dismissed.

Streets in all but the downtown sections of the city were coated yesterday with a glassy mixture of ice and packed snow which discouraged automobile traffic, while pedestrians had difficulty keeping their feet on the sidewalks.

The Portland street-cleaning department was in readiness to undertake the clearing of Portland streets in case of heavy snow fall, following a conference yesterday in Commissioner Bigelow's office with heads of departments. The city plans to keep the downtown section clear and to open up main traffic arteries into the

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PORTLAND AND OTHER OREGON PORTS FEATURE OF OREGONIAN ANNUAL.

Portland, now a recognized world port with shipping facilities second to none, is the principal Oregon port, but not the only one. Astoria, Warrenton, Westport, Rainier and St. Helens, on the Columbia river, figure in a large way in maritime activity. In the annual edition of the Oregonian, to be issued January 2, all of these receive attention.

The terminal and other shipping facilities of Portland are set forth in complete detail, with illustrations of the modern equipment constructed at an outlay of millions; what the port of Portland