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TAXPAYERS URGE MILLAGE TAX CUT

Baker and Malheur Residents Air Views.

VOTING LIMITATION ADVISED

Constitutional Amendment Is Proposed by Senator.

COLLEGE HEADS SCORED

Mr. Kerr and Mr. Campbell Said to Have Suggested One Sum and Recommended Another.

BY JOHN W. KELLY.

BAKER, Or., March 13.—(Special.)—Abolition of millage taxes for schools, limitation of voting on financial measures to taxpayers only and cancellation of every appropriation that can be eliminated were some of the suggestions received by the state tax investigation commission from officers and taxpayers of Baker and Malheur counties today. A poll tax was advocated and bitterly opposed. An income tax met with support from bankers and others and a tax on gross earnings of corporations and assessment of public service corporations at 100 per cent cash value found a responsive sentiment.

Why did the legislature appropriate more than \$100,000 for armories when the nations of the world are disarming and navies are being junked and standing armies reduced, demanded one citizen.

Folder Held Taught.

Children are being taught all sorts of folder and there are instructors for fads and fancies, declared another taxpayer.

On the other hand, Andrew M. Graham, assessor of Malheur county, insisted that the folder be left alone and that the heavy tax burden is caused by the state. Malheur county was almost 10 per cent delinquent in its taxes for 1921, but the assessor expressed no opinion as to the folder, much to the astonishment of the members of the commission.

Interest in the public hearings of the commission was manifested when practically every county official of Malheur traveled to Baker to attend and the Baker county and municipal officials were on hand. It was the general opinion that the tax situation is growing intolerable and that something must be done. Confession was made that the people have been running wild on voting money and there has been little heed taken of the day of payment.

People Want to Talk Taxes.

Members of the commission who have come into eastern Oregon to seek suggestions for tax remedies and to gather first-hand information as to conditions consist of J. N. Day, Coe McKenna, C. S. Chapman and Walter M. Pierce. They will visit La Grande, Pendleton and The Dalles in rapid succession. That the people want to talk taxes is evidenced from the readiness and feeling with which they address the commission.

For the benefit of the public at the hearing the commission gave some statistics.

Out of a \$56 per capita for all purposes in Oregon only \$1.96 per capita is for strictly state purposes. The difference between the \$1.96 and the \$56 for general taxes provides a wide field for retrenchment, the commission informed the officials and taxpayers. The state board of control, according to an investigation, has not been extravagant in the conduct of the institutions in their charge, but the board might effect some small economies.

The way to reduce taxes is to not levy them and then public officials will not have money to spend.

Tax Increase \$21 Per Cent.

Population in Oregon from 1910 to 1921 has increased 18 per cent and property values have increased in the same period 29.3 per cent. The state tax, however, has increased \$21 per cent. The state in 1921 was \$9,493,105 in debt, of which the people voted \$5,057,412, to which is added \$1,040,839 for roads, or a total of \$6,098,251, for which the Baker county and municipal officials are responsible, as it was voted by the people. Of the \$3,214,847 of state taxes over the amount voted by the citizens but \$1,552,644 is used essentially for state government.

Taxes for all purposes in Oregon last year were \$1,000,000. Out of this total, \$18,702,447 was for educational purposes. These high lights of the tax situation were explained to the gathering by the commission, so that general conditions would be understood.

Baker Population Decreases.

Two counties, Baker and Malheur, are meeting with the commission. Baker's population between 1910 and 1921 has decreased 89 per cent, tax values have increased 4.5 per cent and state taxes have increased \$12.5 per cent, while all taxes have increased 157.3 per cent. Of the 1921 taxes, 11.5 per cent are delinquent in Baker. Malheur's population has increased 23.4 per cent, taxable wealth has increased \$9.4 per cent, the state tax has increased 101.9 per cent, and

3000 SEEK ADVICE ON INCOME REPORTS

CROWDS THROG CUSTOMS HOUSE ALL DAY LONG.

30 Deputies on Duty Busy Inspecting Returns and Assisting Befuddled Taxpayers.

More than 3000 income taxpayers were called on to have filled in and out the doors of the customs house yesterday, according to Clyde G. Huntley, collector of internal revenue, and while inside had their tax returns filled out and executed by the staff of 30 deputies on duty there. At least as many more returns were received through the mails, Huntley said.

Old employees who have assisted in handling the income tax rush in previous years said that this was the biggest rush they have ever experienced, both in the number of people dealt with and the number of returns.

Mr. Huntley said that 75,000 returns had been filed last year and that he expected as many if not more this year, although the amount of tax would not be quite as large owing to increased exemptions and also to slightly lower wage scales which have prevailed the last year.

He declared that there were only two excuses for tardiness in filing income tax returns—sickness or absence from the state—and neither will be considered valid unless an application for an extension of time is made. The staff of 30 deputies will remain on duty tonight as long as they are needed and tomorrow until midnight handling the late comers.

JAIL ADOPTS NAVY RULES

Shower Baths Installed and All Prisoners Must Use Them.

ST. HELENS, Or., March 13.—(Special.)—In making necessary alterations to the floor of the court house, the washrooms were moved to the basement and adjoining the jail. Sheriff Wellington, who is an old "deep sea" sailor, prevailed upon the county court to have installed in the washroom two shower baths for the use of prisoners. When the four prisoners had completed the "scrub down" process in the jail Saturday morning, one by one, they were taken to the washroom and allowed to take a shower bath.

The sheriff says that the prisoners must take two baths each week and may take as many more as they desire. He is following the rules of the United States navy, in which he served for many years.

FREE SEEDS RETAINED

Agricultural Appropriation Bill Carrying \$35,000,000 Passed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 13.—The agricultural appropriation bill carrying approximately \$35,000,000 was passed by the house today with the free seeds clause intact.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, March 13.—The three northwest states divided this afternoon in the vote on free seeds as follows: Oregon—For, Hawley; against, McArthur and Sinnott; Washington—For, Halley and Miller; against, Johnson, Sumner and Webster; Idaho—For, Smith; against, French.

While free seeds won, the victory was by a much narrower margin than ever before.

Officials Are Spotted

Floridians, Said to Have Aided Confidence Men, Watched.

MIAMI, Fla., March 13.—William J. Burns, chief of the bureau of investigation of the department of justice, speaking last night to the congregation in one of the churches here, declared the federal government intended to get the confidence men who fleece unwary winter visitors in Florida.

He said the government also would go after state officials through whom alleged confidence men were permitted to continue their activities unmolested.

RAILROAD ORDERS CARS

\$800,000 Contract Let For Los Angeles-Hollywood Line.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 13.—Fifty rail cars, the most modern type, to cost \$800,000, were contracted for today by Paul Shoup, president of the Pacific Electric company, for service between Los Angeles and Hollywood, Cal.

This information was embodied in a telegram received from him by the state Railroad commission today.

AIR DIVING TO BE TESTED

Experiment to Be Tried With Airplanes as Restorer of Hearing.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., March 13.—The possibility of a nose diving airplane as a restorer of defective hearing is to be tried out at Mather field next Sunday. It was announced today by Miss Minnie Fowler, a stenographer who has been partially deaf since she had influenza in 1918, will be a passenger in an airplane which will make the dive.

POSTAL CHIEF SWORN IN

New Hampshire Man Becomes First Assistant Postmaster-General.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 13.—John H. Bartlett today was sworn in as a first assistant postmaster-general.

Mr. Bartlett is an ex-governor of New Hampshire.

TODAY TO DECIDE CHANGE IN TREATY

Senate Is to Cast Vote on Amendment.

MORE BROADSIDES LOOSED

Opponents of Pacific Agreement Launch Attack.

SENATOR JOHNSON LEADER

Borah Declares That Despite Hughes' Letter Someone Else Seems to Be Author.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 13.—

Opponents of the four-power Pacific treaty loosed another series of broadsides against the pact today in the senate, but slackened their onslaught just before adjournment to accept a unanimous consent agreement for a vote tomorrow on the first of the proposed amendments.

Senators Johnson of California and Borah of Idaho, both republicans, took the lead in the all-day attack, the former declaring ratification of the treaty would be a national "surrender" under a threat of danger from the Anglo-Japanese alliance, and the latter asserting that the proposed four-power arrangement would transfer to the Pacific the old balance of power system that dominated Europe for centuries.

Authorship Again Questioned.

A question as to the authorship of the treaty and its supplemental agreements again was raised during the debate, Mr. Borah asserting that the former declaring ratification of the treaty would be a national "surrender" under a threat of danger from the Anglo-Japanese alliance, and the latter asserting that the proposed four-power arrangement would transfer to the Pacific the old balance of power system that dominated Europe for centuries.

The amendment on which it was agreed to vote at 4 o'clock tomorrow was proposed by Senator Robinson, democrat, Arkansas, and will be the first issue of the four-power treaty fight to come to a roll call. As modified today by Mr. Robinson it provides that the rights of nations both in and out of the four-power group are to be respected, and that non-signatories, as well as signatories shall be invited to any conference held to consider controversies affecting their insular interests in the Pacific or "any far eastern questions."

Defeat Is Predicted.

Administration leaders declared tonight they had sufficient votes to defeat the amendment. Senator Robinson made a short speech today favoring its adoption in the interest, he said, of fair play for Russia, China and other non-signatory nations, and Senator Lenroot, republican, Wisconsin, argued against it on the ground that it would place the Pacific in the hands of the "haunted house" of the phenomenon.

Farm Loans Are Approved.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 13.—Approval of 15 advances for agricultural and livestock purposes aggregating \$2,504,000 was announced today by the war finance corporation. The advances included: Idaho, \$136,000 and Montana, \$35,000.

SCIENTIST ABANDONS SEARCH FOR GHOST

EXPERT WON'T SAY WHAT HE SAW IN HAUNTED HOUSE.

Boston Man Thinks Queer Phenomena Caused Only by Currents Between Radio Stations.

HALIFAX, N. S., March 13.—Word was received here today that Dr. Walter Franklin Prince, director of the American Institute for Scientific Research in New York, had left the famous haunted house in Caledonia Mills, to return to Halifax.

With the investigator departed an army of movie men who hoped to snap the ghost at play. These unofficial investigators were ordered out of the Macdonald farm house by Dr. Prince last night, so that he might occupy the dwelling and his new ally, the "ghost" of the house.

Did he see anything? He declines to say.

BOSTON, March 13.—Edward J. O'Brien, scientist and author, declared today that the ghost of Antigonish was in reality the product of electrical energy.

After a month's investigation in the Nova Scotia country, where he was lecturing at St. Francis Xavier university, when the ghost stories first came from Antigonish, Mr. O'Brien said he found that strong wireless currents between the two great radio stations at Wellfleet, Mass., and Gloucester, N. S., ran through the valley at Caledonia Mills, where stands the home of Alexander Macdonald, scene of the events.

"The Macdonalds," said Mr. O'Brien, "will have to move their house out of range of these powerful radio currents if they wish to avoid the ghostly incidents. If not the house may be burned down when the atmospheric conditions are just right as they apparently were when the fires were set around the barn."

The braiding of the tails of the Macdonald cows, which has been considered another of the manifestations of the unseen influence, was done by Mary Ellen, the Antigonish farmer's foster daughter, because it was good fun, in the opinion of Mr. O'Brien.

Harold Whidden, the reporter who had experiences of his own when he went to investigate those of the Macdonald family, continued Mr. O'Brien, was "completely carried away by his enthusiasm and really believed that a ghost slapped him."

"Whidden slapped his own face when he suddenly woke in a temperature of 25 below zero and his numbed arm became suddenly suffused with good warm blood," Mr. O'Brien said. "Take a map, trace the line, apply your scientific knowledge of wireless operation, study the curious effects of electrical currents in fires on ships and on land, and you have the solution of the fires charged against the ghost of Antigonish."

Mr. O'Brien predicted that Dr. Walter Franklin Prince, New York director of the American Society for Scientific Research, who has spent the past week in the "haunted house," would find to any other causes of the phenomena.

MUCH CONSTRUCTION BEGUN BY RAILWAYS

MORE PROJECTS UNDER WAY THAN IN SEVERAL YEARS.

Plans to Lay More Than 500 Miles of New Track Announced; About Half Contracted.

CHICAGO, March 13.—More construction work is actually under way or projected by the railways of the country for 1922 than for several years, according to statistics presented today by the Railway Age.

This was attributed to the shortage of railway facilities and the improvement in railway net earnings within recent months.

"It is significant," the magazine said, "that public announcement has already been made of plans to construct more than 500 miles of new line this year and contracts already have been let for at least half. Among the projects authorized are an extension of 55 miles on the Atchafalaya, Topeka & Santa Fe from Statuta, Kan., west, and a line 40 miles long from Pawhuska, Okla., to Owen, which are understood to be the first of several projects which this road has in contemplation." The Dallas-Terrell, a Texas road, has awarded a contract for the construction of 34 miles of line; the Portland, Astoria & Eastern is now building a 32-mile extension at a cost of \$3,600,000, and the Kansas & Oklahoma Southern has been authorized to build 71 miles.

"With reference to a second track, the Santa Fe has announced that it will reduce grades and provide an additional track between Yampai, Ariz., and Griffith, 75 miles; the Great Northern will build 47 miles of second track in Washington and elsewhere, and the St. Louis-San Francisco has awarded contracts for 20 miles.

"Insofar as terminal facilities are concerned, the Pere Marquette has appropriated \$1,400,000 for the construction of locomotive shops at Grand Rapids, Mich.; the Missouri, Kansas & Texas has awarded contracts for the construction of a new gravity classification yard and shops at Denison, Tex., at an estimated cost of \$3,300,000; the Santa Fe has undertaken the construction of additional shops at San Bernardino, Cal., estimated to cost \$224,000, and the Canadian Pacific has announced its intention of proceeding with the construction of a large ocean terminal on Burrard inlet, Vancouver.

"In this summary no attempt has been made to present a complete list of the larger projects which have been authorized or those which are in contemplation, but concerning which no specific announcement has been made, or to include the smaller projects such as stations and yard extensions. The list enumerated is, however, sufficient to demonstrate conclusively that the railways are viewing the future with more optimism."

GHOST CLEARS UP MURDER

Haunted Negro Confesses Crime Committed Five Years Ago.

NEW ORLEANS, March 13.—Haunted by what he believed to be the ghost of the man he killed five years ago in Houston, Tex., Sam Spivey, 23 years old, a negro, walked into the police station late last night and surrendered.

He said he killed "Monk" Gibson in a dice game in self-defense.

Foreign.

LONDON, March 13.—(By the Associated Press.)—Latest advice from Johannesburg tended to show that the situation, which last week was extremely grave with many hundreds of casualties on all sides in the fighting, tonight was well controlled by formidable forces of the government. The prompt quelling of the disorders was largely due to the free employment of bombing airplanes to disperse the rebels and drop food and ammunition to besieged loyalists.

Johannesburg, which on Saturday was invested on three sides, was quiet tonight. Krugerodorp, the western limit of the fighting, has been captured by the troops. The Pretoria-Germiston railway line was still being contested on Sunday, but with the capture of Benoni and Dunswart, announced tonight, it was believed most of the resistance had been overcome.

An agency dispatch from Johannesburg this afternoon said:

"Through the capture of spies and documents, it was learned that the money for the 'red revolution' came from abroad."

"It is expected that peace will soon be restored."

It was believed in official circles, the message stated, that there would continue to be small setbacks, such as the loss of isolated posts, but as regards the general result, little doubt was felt.

Heavy Casualties Inflicted.

Heavy casualties have been inflicted upon the revolutionaries, in addition to the capture of more than 2200 of them.

Premier Smuts issued a statement today, Reuter to Johannesburg correspondent said, declaring that the present revolutionary movement was the work of extremists, who are using the strike at the mines as a cloak for the dissemination of syndicalist views. The premier declared the military position was well in hand. He added that while a general strike in South Africa had been declared the mass of workers and trades unionists outside of the Rand had refused to be stampeded into it.

The outstanding feature of the situation he said, has been the exemplary behavior of the natives.

CAPETOWN, March 13.—A dispatch from General Smuts was read in the assembly today announcing that General Vandevanter, after the capture of Benoni, was marching on Brakpan. Colonel Hussey had occupied Roodhooft and Florida, and was marching on Maraisburg, where the revolutionists occupied a strong position in the hills to the north.

Bend Bread Price Goes Up.

BEND, Or., March 13.—(Special.)—Bend bakers announced today that on tomorrow morning the price of bread would be advanced from 9 to 10 cents for one-pound loaves, and from 13 to 15 cents for the pond-and-one-half loaves.

STRIKING MINERS ARE BOMBED AGAIN

Party of 500 Blown Up After Railway Attack.

RATIONS DROPPED TO POLICE

Fighting in South Africa Causes Many Casualties.

RECRUITING IS CONTINUED

Premier Smuts Declares Response by Farmers and Others Is Magnificent.

JOHANNESBURG, Union of South Africa, March 13.—Operations against the Rand gold mine strikers continued today in the vicinity of Pretoria. The Germiston railway revolutionaries were heavily bombed, but they persisted in their attempts to damage the railway. The line, however, had been repaired on both occasions.

One commando, 500 strong, which had succeeded in blowing up part of the railway at Driefontein, was located and bombed by an airplane. The airplane dropped rations to a number of detached police officers who were besieged by the strikers.

Government forces have captured the important positions of Benoni and Dunswart, together with many prisoners. The government casualties were slight. The night passed quietly here.

Many Reported Enlisting.

Premier Smuts, in an interview with a newspaper correspondent, said the response to the government's call to form commandos had been magnificent. Farmers and others, men of every shade of political opinion, instantly enrolled, he said.

The official communique, issued today, said:

"The total number of prisoners taken in the operations in the central area, 16-2200. Our forces occupied with but slight casualties the high ground around West Cliff."

Revolutionaries Forced Back.

In the eastern area . . . government troops forced the revolutionaries to retreat. In the western area our forces reached Krugersdorp, 22 miles northwest of Johannesburg, and are pushing eastward. We have occupied Ristfontein, in British Bechuanaland."

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HIRE FAMILY HEADS, PLEA TO EMPLOYERS

MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ACTS TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT.

Release of Married Women Without Dependents, Working for Pin Money, Is Advised.

All employers of labor in Portland will be urged by Mayor Baker, acting under instructions of his committee on unemployment, to give preference in future employment to married men with families or women with dependents and to scrutinize present lists of employees and whenever possible release married women without dependents.

The committee called together by Mayor Baker declared against the married women who work simply to build up a "pin money fund," while men and women with dependents are walking the streets seeking employment.

During normal times, when there is plenty of employment, no objection can be raised to the married women seeking work, it was agreed, but during the present time of stress no employer of labor should give preference to the person who is not in need of the returns that come from employment.

William H. Barton, office manager of the Portland Gas & Coke company and president of an association of large employers in Portland, appeared before the committee and transmitted a resolution, which his association had adopted, in which it was urged that action be taken to substitute men and women with dependents for the married women who are now employed in various places.

The wage scale, but in some cases the employment of married women is resorted to because of added efficiency, but it was held that such cases were isolated. In accordance with a suggestion made by Mayor Baker, each case should be handled on its own merits and the employer is perhaps the best judge of such situations.

The resolution adopted by the committee and which Mayor Baker was instructed to forward to all large employers of labor in the city follows:

"Portland is still in the grip of an unemployment situation which can be relieved to a large extent if preference is given by employers of labor to men with families or women with dependents be substituted in their places."

"In view of this fact the mayor's committee on unemployment urges all employers of labor to give such preference in the future and also that present lists of employees be scrutinized and wherever possible, without reduction of efficiency, married women be released and men with families or women with dependents be substituted in their places."

"If this is done the committee feels that many worthy persons, with dependents can be given employment at this time without inflicting any hardship upon married women who are working simply for the purpose of building up a 'pin money fund.'"

The members of the committee who attended the meeting were Mayor Baker, J. C. Ainsworth, J. C. English, Glenn Ticer, E. B. MacNaughton and Arthur W. Jones.

POLICE, ROBBERS SHOT

Bank Runner Injured in Messenger Holdup in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, March 13.—Two patrolmen and two robbers were shot and a bank runner injured today when three men held up and robbed two bank messengers in the downtown section of the city.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather.

YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 47 degrees; minimum, 39 degrees.

TODAY'S—Rain; southerly winds.

Foreign.

Striking miners are bombed again. Page 1.

Allies are worried by Moscow's notes. Page 2.

National.

Palmer's raids on radicals declared outlawed. Page 1.

Little hopes held of averting coal strike. Page 3.

House asked to cut army to 126,000. Page 7.

America will not let allies take all German normal. Page 1.

Senate to vote today on Pacific pact amendment. Page 1.

Premier's note really may mean showdown with congress. Page 6.

Bonus action waits on views of speaker. Page 8.

Representative Blanton of Texas starts another rumormongering. Page 9.

Domestic.

Shutout of railroads at hearing fails. Page 3.