

CONGRESS IS FIRM AGAINST TAX RISE

Secretary Is Joy-Killer, Say Republican Chiefs.

WAY IS BUSINESS-LIKE

Congress' Leaders Admit Prophecies of Treasury Department Head Usually Come True.

BY ROBERT T. SMALL.
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WASHINGTON, D. C., April 23.—(Special.)—Secretary Mellon's forecast of a half-billion-dollar deficit during the next fiscal year has not frightened congress and there will be no additional taxes levied at this time to meet it. Congress recently reduced taxes slightly and it is not going to spoil a very pleasant reaction by raising them on the eve of a national election.

Congress has decided to adopt the famous Aquitina motto of "Wait and see." The republican leaders in congress have come to look upon Mr. Mellon as something of a pessimist. They feel that the secretary of the treasury lives in an atmosphere of gloom and they admit that at times figures are discouraging. But given a little optimism and a little political assurance, a deficit dissolves itself in the thin air.

Mellon's Prophecies Fulfilled.
Congress leaders somewhat reluctantly admit that Secretary Mellon's prophecies in the past generally have come true. The secretary has found it necessary several times to breast the current of popular opinion and tell some very plain if unpleasant truths to the law-makers as to the condition of the national finances. The secretary has been direct and business-like always. He has never forgotten his early training, which taught him that two and two make four, and being without political guile, he has told both house and senate that if congress wants to spend certain money it must raise certain other money to pay the bills as they fall due. Congress has been in the mood of saying, "Charge it!" of late and letting the evil day—that the collector comes around take care of itself.

Congress Is Optimistic.
So congress today is optimistic as to the national budget, and there will be no difficulty in meeting its bills when they become due. Mr. Mellon would like to have the income tax raised, but he knows that in right before the money is spent or the obligations contracted. Congress feels that it is time enough to worry about a deficit when it arrives and not to anticipate financial troubles a few months before election.

Income tax returns under the new law are disappointing. Even congress will admit that. But congress insists that the returns for 1922 will show a big increase over those for 1921 and therefore the deficit for 1923 will not be so great as the books seem to show at this time.

Secretary Mellon, on the other hand, is fearful lest the half-billion-dollar deficit be increased to three-quarters of a billion. In his estimate he took no account of possible soldier bonus legislation. He reckoned on a slight subsidy law going through and he failed to calculate the money that may be appropriated under a river and harbor bill.

Congress Not Worried.
Congress is not worrying at this time because it feels that business is of the upgrade all over the country. Better business means more tax money for the government. The year 1921 was admittedly a lean year, and congress confidently believes the depression is over and that normalcy is on the way.

It has been perfectly apparent to everyone ever since the first income tax returns under the new law were announced, that a big budget deficit was in sight. There was no explanation, however, of the enormous sum mentioned in Mr. Mellon's statement of a day or two ago.

Congress was quick to hear from that statement. Word spread throughout the country that new taxes must be levied and the people, breathing a little easier for the first time since the war, began to get a bowed-down feeling. Also they had an impulse to write to their national representatives. The result has been a flood of inquiries to the capitol, with not a few to the White House. If it was true that new taxes were to be imposed forthwith, just as business was beginning to shake off the shackles of depression.

New Taxes Are Halted.
To a man, congress has replied that there will be no new taxes this year. If there are any disagreeable financial tasks to face next year, the next session of congress can deal with them. The congressional elections will be over then and something may have turned up in the meantime to reduce rather than to increase the unwelcome and undesirable deficit.

The country can rest assured that its federal taxes for 1922 are fixed. What may happen in 1923 remains to be seen. Advocates of the sales tax are hoping that by that time they may have overcome some of the objections raised thus far to that revolutionary change in the national tax system. The republicans would like to establish a sales tax before the next presidential election.

MRS. HIGGINS ON VISIT
Mothers and Parent-Teacher President Reaches San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., April 23.—Mrs. Milton P. Higgins, Worcester, Mass., national president of the Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher associations, arrived here today from Reno, Nev., and will remain here until she leaves to open the national convention of the congress in Tacoma, Wash., May 8.

Mrs. Higgins will attend a district meeting of the congress at Portland tomorrow and a like meeting at Palo Alto, Thursday.

GUARD EXCLUDES KU KLUX
Oklahoma Governor Is Against Secret Organization.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., April 23.—A general order, directed specifically against the Ku Klux Klan and declaring that there is no room in the Oklahoma national guard for any officer or man who owes an allegiance to any power, secret organization or society that might become arrayed against the United States or the state of Oklahoma and its laws, was issued here yesterday by Governor Robertson and made public today.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

FIRST WOMAN MEMBER OF BRITISH PARLIAMENT IN AMERICA.



—Photo copyright by Underwood.

LADY ASTOR ENTERTAINED

ENGLISH WOMAN GUEST AT RECEPTION IN BALTIMORE.

Part of Local Society and Foreign Delegates to Pan-American Conference Greeted.

BALTIMORE, Md., April 23.—Part of Baltimore society and all of the foreign delegates to the Pan-American conference of women met Lady Astor today at a reception given by Mrs. John W. Garrett, at whose suburban home the first woman member of the house of commons is a guest. Governor Ritchie of Maryland had a chat with Lady Astor during the reception.

For everyone the lively vicountess had a bright greeting, or a witty remark, and with many she talked over the happy times when she was a debutante beauty of Virginia. All came away smiling.

This morning Lady Astor rested and worked on one of the speeches she is to deliver. "Which one?" she was asked. "I don't know which one," she replied. "Tonight she said her programme was to 'clean my teeth, wash my face and go to bed.'"

Tomorrow she expects to attend some of the committee meetings preliminary to the opening Tuesday of the convention of the National League of Women Voters.

At the reception Lady Astor wore a lavender crepe de chine dress with a necklace of pearls and a black picture hat slanting at a sharp angle over her right eye.

The Garretts entertained a number of guests for a house party during the visit of Lord and Lady Astor, and Dame Lyttleton, who accompanied her from England.

PROPAGANDA IS EXPECTED
British Expect Lady Astor to Get Campaign Idea in America.

LONDON, April 23.—(Special Cable.)—British drys expect Lady Astor will come back to England primed with enough temperance propaganda from America to start another intensive campaign in the British Isles. The drys are now in such a hopeless position that their fight against John Barleycorn has degenerated from a real battle to a skirmish. So far as can be learned, there is no disposition on the part of Pussycat Johnson's sponsors in America to send him to Great Britain to renew a hopeless battle. Nor do the British drys show any great desire to have "Pussycat" on the job again, because of the serious lapse the country has suffered since his campaign. The liquor interests are no longer making a costly fight against the advocates of temperance because they expect little immediate trouble, but they are keeping their weather eye open to prevent any surprise attack.

There is even a divergence of opinion among them as to the wisdom of fighting Lady Astor at the next general election. It has been asserted that the interests would appropriate \$50,000 to try to defeat her. Should she come back and launch a new dry offensive it is probable the interests would exert themselves greatly to prevent her return to parliament.

A bill has just been introduced by a Scottish member of parliament to amend the licensing law of Scotland so as to do away with private bars where habitués often get tipsy in secret. It is argued that if drinkers are compelled to indulge in public they may reform their ways.

AUTO INJURES CYCLIST
Youth Hits Machine, Is Knocked Under Wheels, Run Over.

In an accident on the Columbia highway yesterday, one-half mile east of Fairview, involving a motorcycle and two automobiles, Harold Shaw, 17, 128 Terry street, was run over and sustained a compound fracture of the right leg and painful injuries to head and shoulders. He was taken to the Good Samaritan hospital.

According to William L. Walsh, 89 North Fifth street, one of Portland's vigilante police, who witnessed the accident, Shaw and a companion, Henry Bruever, were driving east on motorcycle. In attempting to pass the automobile of A. Trulove, 202 East Forty-seventh street North, going in the same direction, Shaw's motorcycle collided with the automobile of Dr. C. F. Lauderdale, 1615 East Irving street, who was driving west. The collision knocked the boy under the wheels of Mr. Trulove's car and he was run over.

TENOR BELIEVED SUICIDE
Body of Bert Hobson Found Floating Near Seattle.

SEATTLE, Wash., April 23.—Despondent because he had lost his voice through a slight attack of apoplexy, Bert Hobson, ex-church singer here, was believed to have drowned himself in Elliott bay, where the body was found floating today. After losing his voice Hobson did odd jobs about the city but had suffered continued ill health. Though penniless, he had evidently tried to remain cheerful as cards in his pockets were found with mottoes such as "Keep smiling" printed on them. Churches where he formerly sang had offered to help him, but the pastors stated he was too proud to accept assistance. He was considered one of the best tenors on the Pacific coast, church men here stated.

FLAMES ROUT NOTABLES
(Continued From First Page.)

a puddle dog peeped out from the folds of a cape.

Those who had taken refuge in the "Blue room" found that it was but poor shelter, for within a short time water which had poured down the stairways and across halls, damaging costly carpets in its course, began to seep through upon them. Before that it had found its way into the elevator shafts and the mail chutes, filling up and overflowing the mail boxes on the main floor.

Invading the mezzanine, the water seeping through crevices, trickled down the sides of the huge onyx columns in the main lobby. The main dining room remained dry, however, and as the firemen battled nine stories above, scores of guests sat at breakfast, laughing and chatting as though nothing unusual had happened.

While unofficial estimates of the damage by fire and water ranged all the way from \$100,000 to \$200,000, Frank J. Hight, managing director of the hotel, said the loss could not be determined at present.

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SUIT TO TRY OUT RECALL IS LIKELY

Public Service Body's Friends Expected to Test Law.

TWO ACTIONS POSSIBLE

Secretary of State Also Said to Have Handled Buchtel Petition in Improper Manner.

SALEM, Or., April 23.—(Special.)—A suit to test the constitutionality of the Oregon recall law and possibly a second action to contest the procedure adopted by the secretary of state in receiving and handling the petitions attending the proposed removal from office of Fred A. Williams and Fred G. Buchtel, members of the Oregon public service commission, probably will follow formal filing of the recall petitions by a committee of Portland citizens.

This was announced here today by friends of Mr. Buchtel and Mr. Williams. Under the provisions of the recall law, the petitions will have to be filed with the secretary of state before 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon in case the recall of Mr. Williams and Mr. Buchtel is submitted to the voters of the state at the primary election to be held May 19. A recall election held separate from the primary or general election would entail a cost of approximately \$100,000, state officials estimated.

Chance to Quit Allowed.
After filing the petitions, the officials at whom the recall procedure is directed have five days in which to present their resignations. If they refuse to resign, their names then go on the recall ballot.

Friends of Mr. Buchtel, who have been watching closely the maneuvers of the recall committee, said today that it was their opinion that the recall law was unconstitutional. They intimated that they had conferred with attorneys on the subject, but would not divulge the specific grounds on which a suit to test the validity of the recall law would be based.

The contention also has been made that the secretary of state had no legal authority to accept the uncompleted petitions directed against Mr. Buchtel. These petitions, it was said, contained only 31,000 signatures, or approximately 1300 less names than were required under the recall law. The petitions directed at Mr. Williams were found to have 43,000 signatures, which is sufficient under the law.

Petitions Left for Safety.
Sam A. Koser, secretary of state, made it plain at the time the Buchtel petitions were received at his office that they were deposited there for safe keeping and were not presented for filing. Friends of Mr. Buchtel, on the other hand, contend that when Mr. Koser accepted the petitions they were filed, as there is no law providing for the depositing of petitions of this nature in his office.

Attorneys for the recall committee contend that they have until Tuesday afternoon to complete the Buchtel petitions, and that they will do so. They also contend that they have until Tuesday afternoon to complete the Buchtel petitions, and that they will do so. They also contend that they have until Tuesday afternoon to complete the Buchtel petitions, and that they will do so.

Although reports were received here Saturday from Portland to the effect that indications of fraud had been detected in connection with the circulation of the recall petitions, this is not borne out by the records. In checking over the petitions, only one of them was detected by the state department.

Women Sign 3 Times.
In this case a woman by the name of Mrs. Bailey signed the recall petitions directed at Mr. Buchtel three times. Two of these signatures were eliminated by the secretary of state. In other cases names were rejected by the secretary of state because the signers of the petitions failed to supply sufficient identification.

Under the law, the secretary of state is not allowed to check the signatures against the registration books, and consequently he said it is possible that there may be duplications of names which were not brought to light in the original check. Whether another check of the signatures will be made had not been determined by the secretary of state today.

At the time of offering the completed petitions for filing Tuesday, the names of the recall candidates probably will be announced.

Neither Mr. Buchtel nor Mr. Williams would comment on the prospective legal actions.

SHOOTING VICTIM BETTER
Youth, Wounded by School Girl, Is Expected to Recover.

SAN MATEO, Cal., April 23.—The condition of Harold Galloway, 17, who was shot and seriously wounded in Mountain View near here Tuesday night by Irene Granstad, 14, a schoolmate in the Mountain View high school, continued to improve steadily today and his ultimate recovery was looked for by Dr. A. L. Offield, the attending physician. The shooting occurred after a quarrel. Both Galloway and the girl stated that it was an accident.

Galloway safely passed the crisis in his condition two days ago, after virtually all hope had been given up by Dr. Offield. No visitors were allowed to see him today.

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