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WHOLE NUMBER 2546.

TAX LEVY IS INCREASED OVER 1917

NEARLY 52 MILLS THIS YEAR AS AGAINST 47 MILLS LAST YEAR

STATE TAX REMAINS THE SAME

Removal of the Beet Sugar Factory Decreased Assessable Property Noticeably

The tax levies of principal interest that will be applied to the 1918 assessment-roll are given below, the figures being supplied by Assessor Helus Pollock. For comparison, the levies for last year on the 1917 rolls are also given:

	1918	1917
State and county	21 5/10	20 4/10
City Grants Pass	21 7/10	19 9/10
School Dis. No. 7, 8	7 1/10	6 7/10

Total levy within city of Grants Pass 51 9/10 47
Gen. road levy 4 4
Amt. State tax \$25,645.90 for 1917.
Amt. State tax \$25,464.40 for 1918.
Total assessment for whole county for 1918, \$8,644,984.07.
Total assessment for whole county for 1917, \$9,006,550.03.

The shrinkage in valuation is partly responsible for the raise in rate. The greater part of this shrinkage is due to the removal from the county of the beet sugar factory. Of the 51 school districts, six have the same levy as last year, 15 have a lower levy, and 30 have a higher levy.

The highest levy made by any school district is 23 6/10 mills, by District No. 4, being Takilma and Waldo, and will produce over \$4000, much of which will be applied to the payment of bonded indebtedness. School district No. 53, Alameda, comes next with a special levy of 14 4/10.

REMARKABLE ESCAPE FROM HUN TORPEDO

London, Nov. 30.—(Special correspondence.)—Now that censorship rules have been much relaxed, extraordinary stories of close shaves and unexpected happenings are being published. Hard to beat is one related by the Liverpool Evening Express. It tells how a torpedo from a U-boat passed under an intended victim—which at the psychological moment was lifted beyond its reach by a big wave—and administered the quietus to another enemy submarine on the other side of the steamer. Here is the paper's account of it:

The British steamer Algorie, commanded by Captain Frederick Taylor, was off Bardsley Island and had a cargo of timber from Rosslare to Garston. There was a heavy sea on and the ship was pitching about.

The first to see the first submarine was the gunner who also spotted the track of a torpedo which, if something like a miracle had not happened, would have struck them amidships. Nothing could be done in time to turn the ship clear of the danger, but a heavy sea lifted high on its crest the steamer which was only drawing a few feet of water and then those who had just been expecting to be torpedoed themselves, saw a second U-boat which was working in conjunction with the one on the other side of the steamer, struck by the torpedo.

They heard a deafening explosion and saw a mountain of spray thrown up into the air.

GOVERNMENT WILL RELEASE TANKERS

To Retain Only Sufficient Tonnage Required to Supply the Navy With Fuel

New York, Dec. 21.—Plans for the prompt release from government requisition of a part of the fleet of 174 tank steamships, 18 of them Pacific coast vessels, with approximately 1,400,000 dead weight tonnage, was announced by the United States shipping board today. Only the tank steamers necessary for the supplying of the army and navy with fuel will be retained by the government.

MORE AMERICAN SOLDIERS RETURNING FROM FRANCE

Washington, December 21.—The war department today reported the sailing of five more transports sailing from France, bringing home American troops.

GERMANY HAS ACCEPTED HINDENBURG'S PLAN

London, Dec. 21.—The German government has accepted Von Hindenburg's plan to form a people's guard or national army. It is said the German army under this plan will be stronger than ever. Details are kept secret. It is reported that women will be employed for auxiliary service.

DISCHARGES NOW REACH THIRTY THOUSAND DAILY

Washington, Dec. 21.—With a total of 188,562 men discharged during the week ending December 14, General March said the war department has about reached the daily average of 30,000 as planned. General Pershing has reported 3,210 American prisoners repatriated. Very few American prisoners are left in German camps.

Additional units in this country designated for demobilization brings the total of men so selected to 200,000, General March has announced. To date, 29,900 officers have been honorably discharged.

S. F. CALL EDITOR IS SUED FOR LIBEL

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—Fremont Older, editor of the San Francisco Call, was arrested today, charged with criminal libel by John O'Gara, former district attorney, following statements concerning O'Gara's official conduct recently made by Older in published reminiscences.

PEACE CONFERENCE DATE AGAIN DELAYED

Paris, Dec. 21.—Newspapers say the preliminary peace conference at Versailles has been postponed until the beginning of February at the earliest, due to the change in President Wilson's plans in going to England, and the British elections.

STEEL COMPANY FORMED FOR FOREIGN TRADE

New York, Dec. 21.—The organization of the North American Steel Products Corporation, a combination of larger independent steel companies to advance foreign trade, was formally announced today.

BOLSHEVIKI FORCES PUSH TOWARD MITAN

RED HORDES DISARM GERMAN TROOPS IN EASTERN LIVONIA

POPULATION FLEEING TO RIGA

Date For German Elections Advanced From February 16 to January 19

Berlin, Dec. 21.—German troops have been sent against the Bolshevik forces advancing on Mitau, 30 miles southwest of Riga on the Dvina river, it is reported today. German troops have been disarmed by the Bolsheviks at various points in eastern Livonia. The population is fleeing toward Riga.

Berlin, Dec. 21.—The congress of workmen's and soldiers' councils has decided that elections to the national assembly shall be held January 19. Those opposed to the summoning of a national assembly polled only 40 votes out of a total of 240.

The changing of the date for the elections from February 16, originally agreed upon, to January 19, by this virtually overwhelming majority was greeted by loud applause from the floor of the house and hisses from the galleries, which were filled with sympathizers of Dr. Karl Liebknecht, leader of the Spartacus group of socialists.

WILLIAM HOHENZOLLERN'S CONDITION IS IMPROVING

Amerongen, Holland, Dec. 21.—The former emperor of Germany is able to walk about life castle today.

DECOY BOATS "MYSTERY SHIPS" LURE HUN SUBS TO DESTRUCTION

London, Nov. 30.—(Special correspondence.)—One of the most exciting chapters of the war against German U-boats is a series of accounts of notable engagements between British Decoy ships and the submarines, made public by the British admiralty. While the whole story of the part played by the decoy vessels, "mystery ships" of "Q" craft has not been revealed, it is evident that several of them were used to lure the Hun undersea craft to their destruction.

Some incidents in this campaign have already been made known, dealing chiefly with a few of the exploits of Commander Gordon Campbell as master of the decoy vessels; but others in which he and other captains participated now are available. That at least a small fleet was used in this work is evident from the fact that Campbell at different times appears as the master of the Farnborough, the Pargust, the Dunraven and the Q-5.

The Prize, another decoy ship, was commanded by Lieut. William E. Sanders and the Stock Force by Lieutenant Harold Auten.

Stories of the encounters between these ships and the U-boats are filled with deeds of heroism and instances in which the discipline of the British navy was displayed under the trying circumstances. For many months the decoy ships, heavily armed but with their guns hidden behind false bulwarks, steamed zig-zag paths in the seas which were the hunting grounds of the submarines.

In their character of lazy colliers or slow cargo craft they presented to the submarine commander an inviting object of attack but once he was well within range of the British guns, the false superstructure hiding the guns fell away and the helpless collier became suddenly trans-

ATTEMPT TO SPLIT U. S. AND ALLIES

GERMAN PROPAGANDA TO UNDERMINE HARMONIOUS RELATIONS IS SEEN

NO QUARREL WITH AMERICA

Americans Do Not Forget the Lusitania and German Sneers at the United States Troops

Paris, Dec. 21.—A French official who has just returned from the zone of American occupation in Germany says a tireless German propaganda is in progress to undermine the harmonious relations of the allies by pretenses of effusive gratitude and good will toward the American troops, in sharp distinction from the German attitude toward the French, British and Belgians.

Everywhere are heard German professions of regret and indignation that America was brought into the war. The propagandists say they never had any quarrel with the Americans, and have always felt friendly toward them. These professions produce only quiet and incredulous amusement among the Americans who do not forget the Lusitania or the German sneers which preceded the appearance of American troops in the field.

American soldiers after their recent experience in living amid the devastation and squalor of ruined French towns and villages appreciate the comforts of life in Coblenz and other German towns, and they avail themselves freely of them, but their relations with the inhabitants are regulated strictly by army orders.

LODGE QUESTIONS WILSON'S POINTS

Believe Five of Them Should Be Postponed Till After Peace Convention

Washington, Dec. 21.—Five of the president's 14 points are held in the senate by Senator Lodge as questions which might lead to division among the allies, and which certainly should be postponed until after the peace conference. They relate to secret diplomacy, freedom of the seas, economic barriers, reduction of armaments and league of nations. Senator Lodge said that as the senate must consent to any treaty it should express itself freely in advance, passing resolutions to show its ideas.

Referring to the freedom of the seas, Senator Lodge said: "If it means abandonment of belligerent right of blockade, I think the United States will hesitate before it abandons the weapon absolutely necessary for its own safety."

FOOD PROFITEERING STILL UNDER BAN

Portland, Dec. 21.—A warning against profiteering has been issued through the national food administration through the state administration. While minor food regulations are being dropped, the license regulations remain and the margin profit is still fixed by the administration, which will brook no profiteering.

RED CROSS MEMBERSHIP FOR COUNTY NOW 1700

The Red Cross Christmas enrollment reached 1700 today. A large number of out of town people are subscribing on the streets or at the booths.

Josephine county has not only maintained, but has exceeded, her previous records, but there is yet until Monday to swell the total membership.

In the churches tomorrow an effort will be made to secure a 100 per cent membership. Make it unanimous for Josephine county. It can be done.

MONOHER APPOINTED TO HEAD AIR SERVICE

Washington, Dec. 21.—The appointment of Major General Charles Monohr, who commanded the Rainbow Division in France, as director of the air service, succeeding John D. Ryan, was announced today by General March.

VIENNA ASKS FOR ALLIED OCCUPATION

Paris, Dec. 21.—Zurich newspapers today printed a Vienna dispatch reporting that the Austrian government "in order to avoid fresh disturbances" has asked the allied authorities to occupy Vienna.

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE TO RESUME NEXT YEAR

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—All indications are that the Pacific Coast baseball league will resume the game next season and that the followers of the national sport on the coast will be provided with a regular schedule. Officials connected with the coast league are sanguine that there will be a big revival in all lines of sport, in which baseball will participate.

PRESIDENT IS CONFIDENT OF JUST DECISION

SAYS STATESMEN WILL EARN GRATITUDE OF THE ENTIRE WORLD

LONDON TIMES INTERVIEWS

Calls Vienna Congress Meeting of "Bosses" and Versailles as the Meeting of "Servants"

Paris, Dec. 21.—"I am confident that the big council of statesmen of the world will be able to reach a just and reasonable solution of the problems that will be presented to them, and thus earn the gratitude of the world for the most critical and necessary service which has ever been rendered it," said President Wilson today in an interview, referring to the approaching peace conference.

The interview was given to the correspondent of the London Times. In it the President is reported to have stated his views on the discussion of the freedom of the seas and to have contrasted the evils of the Vienna Congress with a hopeful outlook for the Versailles congress.

The congress of Vienna, the correspondent said President Wilson told him, was a congress of "bosses." The delegates were concerned more with their own interests and the classes they represented than the wishes of their people.

"Versailles," as President Wilson said, the interviewer continues, "must be a meeting place of the servants of the peoples represented by delegates" and he added: "There is no master mind who can settle the problem of today. If there is anybody who thinks he knows what is in the mind of all peoples, that man is a fool. We have all got to put our heads together and pool everything we have for the benefit of the ideals which are common to all."

DRIVE FOR VICTORY GARDENS HAS BEGUN

Los Angeles, Dec. 22.—Under the direction of Douglas White, regional director for agricultural agents of the railroads, the drive for Victory gardens is on. Two thousand posters from the national war garden commission at Washington arrived today and these are to be distributed to the agricultural agents for posting at various stations in the zone operating under Mr. White. These states are California, Utah, Nevada, Idaho and Oregon.

J. I. Edwards, director of agricultural agents for the U. S. railroad administration at Washington, has appointed regional directors for other parts of the country and similar plans are being worked out to boom home food production in co-operation with the national war garden commission.

"There is more need of Victory Gardens than there ever was of war gardens," says Charles Lathrop Pack, president of the commission in a letter to Director White today. "The first food administrator in history was Joseph, and now Uncle Sam must become the Joseph of the modern world. Every one of us must produce food for himself as never before because of the new millions to be fed in Europe."

GENERAL PERSHING IS SEEKING OUT PRISONERS

Washington, Dec. 21.—General Pershing announced search being made for isolated American prisoners. British and French officials in Switzerland, Holland, Sweden and Germany are aiding in the search.

(Continued on page 2.)