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The Athena Press

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Notice!

If this notice is marked RED, it signifies that your Subscription expires with this issue. We will greatly appreciate your renewal—\$2.00 per year

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ATHENA, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1922.

NUMBER 47

GOVERNMENT TO FILE WAR FRAUD SUITS

Recovery of \$75,000,000 Alleged Improperly Spent at Camps Is Planned.

Washington, D. C.—Legal action to recover more than \$75,000,000 alleged to have been obtained fraudulently from the government in the construction of four army cantonments during the war was instituted by Attorney General Daugherty as the first formal step in a far-reaching prosecution of those who held contracts for the building of war camps.

The number of suits to be filed has not been definitely decided, but it was indicated that a dozen or more separate actions were in prospect.

The initial cases are expected to involve construction of Camp Upton, Yaphank, N. Y.; Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C.; Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio, and Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kans.

Unofficial estimates place the total sum that will be sought in all of the recovery suits contemplated at more than \$75,000,000. In one camp, costing \$13,000,000, auditors were said to have found indications of an excess expenditure of \$5,000,000.

In the first group of four suits in which action is to be instituted, the government seeks to recover a total of \$21,500,000; the Camp Upton suit involving \$6,000,000, the Camp Jackson suit \$6,500,000, the Camp Sherman suit \$5,000,000 and the Camp Funston suit \$4,000,000.

DECREASE NOTED IN TAX COLLECTIONS

Washington, D. C.—Federal tax collections during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1922, fell off almost \$1,400,000,000, or 30 per cent as compared with the previous year. Income and profits taxes collected showed a decrease of \$1,141,000,000, or 35 per cent.

Total tax collections for the year aggregated \$2,197,461,083, compared with \$4,595,357,061 for 1921, while income and profit taxes for 1922 amounted to \$2,086,918,464, against \$3,228,137,673 the previous year.

Miscellaneous collections arising from taxation other than that on incomes and profits amounted to \$1,110,532,618 for 1922, a decrease of \$256,686,770, or 19 per cent.

Summary of the income and profits tax receipts during the year by states showed New York far in the lead in amount with Pennsylvania second and Illinois third. Collections by states include:

Alaska \$173,787.12, California \$92,251,113.85, Hawaii \$14,632,590.97, Idaho \$1,372,658.22, Montana \$2,302,231.74, Oregon \$14,934,997.18, Washington \$18,733,630.39, Wyoming \$1,547,987.62.

IRRIGATION AID IS OPPOSED

Desire For Economy May Prevent Any Legislation at This Session.

Washington, D. C.—Opposition to further federal activities in reclaiming arid lands at this time has manifested itself among the members of congress who represent the middle west sections.

This became apparent when President Harding conferred with a number of the most active members of the committee on irrigation and public lands in the house.

In view of the desire for economy in all departments on the part of the administration and of the middle west opposition, those best informed in reclamation matters believed there would be no reclamation legislation at this session.

40 Postal Clerks Involved in Thefts.

Washington, D. C.—Detection of thefts from the mails in the Council Bluffs, Iowa, railway mail terminal and the collection of evidence alleged to involve 40 postal employees, were announced by the postoffice department. Confessions were said to have been obtained from more than 25 of the men and warrants for their arrest, and arrest of the others, have been ordered, it was stated.

Venezelos Agrees to Act as Envoy.

Paris.—M. Venezelos has telegraphed to Athens his acceptance of the invitation extended by the revolutionary committee to take up the task of defending Greece's interests in the allied capital.

H. I. Watts Files Suit For Damage

The Pendleton Tribune gives the following account of a big damage suit filed in circuit court by Homer I. Watts of this city:

Homer I. Watts, prominent attorney of Athena, through his law partner, E. C. Prestbye, yesterday filed a suit for \$50,000 damages against George Gerking, well known Athena farmer, Alf Oftedahl and N. H. Desper both former federal agents, District Attorney R. I. Keator and Mrs. Charles Betts of Athena, in the circuit court. The suit is another chapter in the renowned Watt's liquor case. Watts is reported to have declared his intention of engaging the two best law firms west of the Mississippi to plead his case.

Defendants in the case are alleged to be responsible for a search warrant issued for the Watts home in 1918, which resulted in developments which have been in the public eye ever since.

Plaintiff alleges that liquor valued at \$3,000, which he had stored in his residence in Athena prior to January, 1916, was seized in a raid on his place on December 4, 1918, and after two court trials in which he was cleared of the charge of unlawful possession of liquor and despite court orders, the liquor was never returned, and that he and his family by the proceedings instituted by the defendants have suffered personal indignities and public shame and ridicule by the willful conspiracy to defame his home and character and that the alleged false charges were brought on account of personal malice and spite.

There are many chapters to the story of the liquor on record in the courts in this city. The raid was made by T. D. Taylor, now deceased in company with other officers pursuant to a search warrant issued at the request of the defendants in the present suit. Judge Joe H. Parks in the justice court after a trial of Watts on the charge of conducting a common nuisance, dismissed the case and ordered the liquor returned to its owner. A few days later the district attorney filed an appeal to the circuit court.

Following much court procedure and before a final decision was named down by Circuit Judge G. W. Phelps in favor of Watts and ordering the liquor returned, the evidence in the case mysteriously disappeared from the locker of Judge Parks at his office. The circuit court judgment was filed December 8, 1920.

Watts alleges that the liquor was consumed or appropriated by the defendants in the present suit, or by persons unknown to him, that it was of the reasonable value of \$3,000, and can not be replaced. The plaintiff does not ask for restitution of the liquor or its value in this suit filed.

In the seizure were 91 quarts of whiskey and brandy, five quarts of Vermont, 12 quarts of old Scotch whiskey, three bottles of Virginia Dare, one gallon of gin, five gallons of whiskey in keg, two gallons of Scotch whiskey in a jug, and part of a bottle of Kimmel and one bottle of beer.

That the suit does not include a prayer for the return of the liquor seized, is interpreted in local circles as indicative of still another suit for its recovery. The mystery of the disappearance on the eve of the circuit court decision ordering the return to its owner, is still unsolved, and the probable value of the seizure in the present bootlegging game is another question on the street.

AMERICAN LEGION POST HEADS RED CROSS DRIVE

Athena-Weston American Legion Post has assumed management of the local Red Cross Membership drive for Athena and vicinity. Work of soliciting for members began Tuesday.

The county's quota is \$6,000, of which \$3,116 has been subscribed to date. Hermiston is the only town in the county that has gone over the top with its quota, \$300.

The local Legion post will undertake to raise Athena's quota during the coming week.

LEAGUE WILL MEET

A meeting of the Taxpayers' League of Umatilla county has been called for Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock in the circuit court room, at Pendleton, according to a statement made by Norborne Berkeley, vice-president and acting secretary of the organization.

WAYNE SWAGGART AGAIN WINS AT STOCK SHOW

The following from the Montavilla Times, will be of interest to Press readers:

"Wayne Swaggart, who with his parents moved from eastern Oregon to Rt. 1, box 654, Portland, Oregon, last summer, entered the pig contest at the International Live Stock Show just held in north Portland. He was given first prize in district three, which includes everything east of the Cascade mountains, he having started to prepare his pigs in eastern Oregon. He also got first prize for a pen of one. Entering his pigs in the open he was given third prize for fat hogs.

"He received \$40 published prize, \$10 from president Pierce of the stock yards (he giving all the boys \$10 additional) \$10 for a pen of one, \$8 in fat hog contest and \$136.20 for sale, making \$204.20 he realized out of 5 pigs, about seven months old.

"The pigs were pure bred Poland China and weighed 1380 pounds.

"This is a very fine showing for a young boy and it demonstrates what can be done by work, study and perseverance.

"Mr. A. L. Swaggart is justly proud of the success of his son. It is to be hoped the young man may succeed in many more like accomplishments."

GEORGE M. FROOME DEAD BURIAL AT WAITSBURG

After eight years of confinement to bed and chair as the result of a paralytic stroke, George M. Froome, a pioneer resident of this city died Wednesday morning at St. Anthony's hospital, Pendleton, where he had been confined for a long time.

Funeral services were held yesterday in St. Mary's church, at Pendleton, and interment took place at Waitsburg, beside the grave of the departed wife of the deceased.

Mr. Froome was born 70 years ago at Ontario, Canada. In the early '80's with his parents he came to Athena, and for many years conducted a livery stable.

Four children survive him. They are Mrs. Roy Raley, Pendleton; Moscoe G. Froome, Wrentham, Mass.; Mrs. Mabel Wessel, Jamaica, West Indies; and Miss Hattie E. Froome, San Francisco. Two brothers are also living. They are John E. Froome of Athena, and James I. Froome of Los Molinos, California.

LEGION CONFERENCE

At Portland the executive committee of the American Legion of Oregon decided to hold conferences in five districts to maintain interest in the organization. Harry N. Nelson, temporary adjutant, was made permanent adjutant.

U. OF O. ALUMNI

University of Oregon alumni from all over Umatilla county will meet in Pendleton December 20 for a reunion and for the purpose of perfecting a county organization of alumni. The meeting will be addressed by President P. L. Campbell, of the U. of O.

Trees Set Out In Athena City Park

As announced last week, the trees purchased by the Civic Club were received and planted Saturday in the city park, under the plan and direction of County Agent Fred Bennion.

The selection comprised forty-eight Carolina poplars, twelve soft maples, six black walnuts, six mountain ash, six white horsechestnuts, six sycamores, five catalpas aggregating 69 trees and 25 privet plants, which were bought at a cost of \$70. Added to these were about thirty locust trees which were dug up about town at no cost save the labor of securing them.

The Club is indebted to several men who contributed labor in setting out the trees, spending the entire day in the task. To the following eight men and to Mr. Bennion, the Club extends heartiest thanks: E. C. Prestbye, John Benson, A. H. McIntyre, J. H. Ridenour, Fred Beckner, Sam Haworth, Geo. Richardson and E. A. Merritt.

ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT COMPLY WITH REGULATIONS

"Many organizations entitled to exemptions from tax on admissions are not complying with an important provision of the revenue law by which that exemption can be obtained," said Clyde G. Huntley, collector of internal revenue, today. "In order to secure this tax exemption, it is necessary for the organization desiring the same to file with this office several days in advance of the date of the entertainment, an affidavit claiming exemption and establishing the right of the beneficiary to be relieved from the tax."

Failure to make formal application of the admission tax in advance of the entertainment makes the person or authority giving the entertainment liable to a penalty of not more than \$1000. If this failure is willful, the offender may be fined \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

Organizations entitled to this exemption upon compliance with the provision of the revenue law referred to by Collector Huntley include religious, charitable and educational societies or institutions, the American Legion, societies for the prevention of cruelty to children and animals, agricultural fair associations, and community improvement societies, and then only when all of the proceeds of the entertainment inure to the benefit of any one or more of the organizations enumerated.

RITNER GOVERNOR, PROTEM

While Governor Olcott spends a month in West Virginia, where he will attend a meeting of governors, Roy Ritner, president of the state senate, will be governor, protem. Among the duties of Acting Governor Ritner will be the consideration of the budget for the next biennium.

ELLEN PAMBRUN BECOMES BRIDE OF PERCY WILSON

At a very pretty home wedding Sunday afternoon, Miss Elin Pambrun, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Pambrun, became the bride of Mr. Percy Wilson. The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride's parents south of Athena, Rev. F. E. Russell of the Athena Christian church, was the officiating clergyman.

Miss Belle Pambrun, sister of the bride was the bridesmaid and Fay Pambrun, brother, was the best man. The bride was beautifully dressed in white satin, with a pearl headress, and carried a shower bouquet of Ophelia roses. The bridesmaid wore pale blue taffeta and carried golden brown chrysanthemums.

Previous to the ceremony Miss Sadie Pambrun sang "O Promise Me." Mrs. S. H. Forshaw of Pendleton, played the wedding march. Members of the families of the bride and groom were present. The wedding dinner was served by the bride's mother, assisted by Evalyn Williams, Delta Morse, Blanche Wilson and Sadie Pambrun.

The bride, a former student of Whitman college, is a member of Sigma Gamma sorority. The groom served in the World War overseas and returned with honors for distinction won in service. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson will reside at Pilot Rock, where the groom is employed as an inspector in the state highway service.

GLASSY CUTWORM IS DAMAGING WHEAT CROP

That the "glassy cutworm," a pest which cuts off young wheat plants a short distance below the surface of the ground, is at work in the Sunny-side district, near Oregon City is the recent discovery made by the United States department of entomology. A farmer in that district reported to the county agent that his fall wheat was being destroyed, and a survey of the land resulted.

The fact that it is unusual for the worm to be active during this season has given rise to considerable speculation. The experts state that the rotation, as the worm will not thrive best cure for the condition is crop on plants other than grains such as wheat and oats. Information concerning any other districts where the same condition prevails is desired by W. A. Holt, county agent.

PLAN DEMONSTRATIONS

Extensive plans for a series of demonstrations in orchard meetings and on orchard soil management, spray equipment repairing, orchard disease control, fertilizers, and thinning were made at the third annual farm bureau meeting of the Milton-Freewater district, held Tuesday. The latest developments in the pruning season was discussed by C. L. Long of the Oregon Agricultural college at the morning session and Fred Bennion, county agent, gave a summary of the year's work.

Athena-Helix Ask For Market Road

A movement is under way to secure for Athena her first market road facilities. The program, as given before the county court is to include the Athena-Helix highway in the county's market road construction. In announcing the proposed road improvement, the East Oregonian states: "A request that the county court include a part of the Athena-Helix road on its market road program for 1923 was made this morning by a delegation of prominent farmers of the Athena-Helix district who visited the court.

"The delegation would like for the road construction work to start at Athena and extend as far as possible back toward Helix, some of the men told the court this morning. As an argument for their road being built, the delegation called attention to the fact that approximately 100,000 bushels of wheat are hauled out over the present road now.

"Members of the delegation who were here this morning to press the request were George Gerking, D. H. Santer, Dean Dudley, Clay Jackson, Louis Keen, Sheldon Taylor, D. R. "Mike" Hunt, Joe Cannon and Ed Potts."

Up until this time Athena has held off from demanding market road construction.

FACT WEIR CLAIM BUILT IN N. HAVEN ROAD THAT PROTRUDER IN T. DEM. ATH.

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not worth paying freight to market nor to pay storage on.

TAX REFORM CLUBS

Pierce clubs are being organized throughout the Grande Ronde valley to lend a hand in support of the next governor in his tax reduction program. Farmers' granges, unions and societies are at work to insure relief, should the way prove difficult. The Pleasant Grove Grange has made a constructive program for lending assistance to its former leader, Walter M. Fierce.

GEORGE PROEBSTEL DEAD

George Proebstel jr., a life long resident of Weston, died in that city Sunday evening of heart disease, after a lingering illness, aged 52 years. He was the son of the late George W. Proebstel a pioneer miller and hardware merchant of Weston. He is survived by his widow, two sons and two daughters, four brothers and three sisters.

SEASONS FIRST SNOW

The first snow of the winter greeted Athena residents when they arose from their beds, Tuesday morning. An inch of snow covered the ground, which was not frozen.

POLICY OF U. S. JOLT TO ALLIES

Statement of Opposition to All Secret Treaties By America Causes Stir.

Lausanne.—America gave Great Britain, France and Italy a hard jolt when her spokesman, Richard Washburn Child, declared that the United States government has the support of the American people in its opposition to all secret treaties and agreements, particularly those designed to create zones of economic and commercial influence such as the San Remo tripartite agreement of 1920, which apportioned the Mesopotamian oil fields among the three big powers.

Mr. Child's exposition was merely a restatement of Secretary of State Hughes' aide-memoire of October 30, in which he defined for the benefit of the British, French and Italian government observers to the Lausanne conference and broadly outlined America's open door policy for the near east—but it was a restatement under conditions that made it sensational.

It came as the conference was about to begin consideration of Turkey's Asiatic boundaries and it was a clear warning that America will not remain silent if the three inviting powers in upon preferential rights in oil, coal, railway and power development in present Turkish territory or that which was lopped off by the

was not possible for the delegates to invite powers to conceal their silence at America's insistent reiteration of her policy which they especially because of her refusal to accept a vote in the conference, to any report or to accept any responsibility further than to act as an

the American new attitude, however, is according great satisfaction the neutral countries represented

EARTHQUAKE SHAKES MIDDLE WEST TOWNS

St. Louis, Mo.—Earth tremors strong enough to break windows, shake buildings and homes and rattle dishes were in St. Louis, southern Illinois, northern Indiana and western Kentucky Sunday night, according to reports received here.

St. Louis university seismological observatory, where the tremors were recorded, attendants detected them of moderate intensity, said seismographic indications pointed to the tremors occurring in a westerly direction. A shock which was said was "sudden" and of sufficient intensity to cause slight damage to homes was recorded. No damage other than the breaking of windows was reported up to a late

dispatch from Eldorado, Ill., said tremors on several residences were reported to the ground by the tremors though no serious damage was reported there.

CLEMENCEAU IS CRITICISED

Hitchcock Leads Off in Debate by Attack on the Frenchman.

Washington, D. C.—The Tiger of France again came under fire in the senate Monday, when his utterances on his tour of the United States were the subject of a conflicting debate.

Senator Hitchcock, democrat, Nebraska, ex-chairman of the foreign relations committee, led off in the debate with an attack on M. Clemenceau and on French policies, and was joined in the criticism by other senators, while Senator Myers, democrat, Montana, came to the defense of the aged French statesman. Senator Owen, democrat, Oklahoma, also expressed sympathy with M. Clemenceau's mission to America, but criticised French policies.

New Army Command Created.

Washington, D. C.—A new and separate command, known as the American forces in China, was announced in army orders. Brigadier-General W. D. Connor, former assistant chief of staff, will establish headquarters in Peking at an early date and, it is understood, will act as commanding officer of the American forces in China.

Pronouncing Sentence

