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Committee Finds Excise Tax Problem

Mellon Takes Position That Levies Should Be Retained.

Washington, D. C.—The excise, or nuisance taxes, one of the most controverted factors involved in present consideration of tax reduction, will be taken up by the house ways and means committee this week.

Retention or repeal of these levies is a question over which the treasury and many congressional leaders are at odds and battle lines already have been formed for the impending fight on this issue.

Secretary Mellon has taken the position that retention of the taxes is necessary to maintain a well-balanced tax system, arguing that "it should never be forgotten that in taxation the idea to be aimed at is a broad base and low rates."

A number of senators and house members, however, contend that the levies are an inheritance from the war and that they should be eliminated from a peace-time tax structure. This group includes practically the entire democratic membership of congress and also a liberal sprinkling of republicans.

Of the group of excise taxes, those on automobile sales and theater admissions principally are contested. Both have a wide appeal and a large number of persons have requested opportunity to present their views to the committee.

Whatever the committee recommends regarding the levies it is certain that the fight over them will be carried to the floors of both house and senate, and there is every indication that before the prospective tax bill finally becomes a law the controversy will be almost as heated as that over the total of tax reduction.

DENIES MOTION FOR DISMISSAL OF MERGER

Minneapolis, Minn.—Having denied the motion of the Milwaukee railway for dismissal of the Great Northern-Northern Pacific merger application, the interstate commerce commission adjourned the Minneapolis hearing, announcing that the taking of evidence will be resumed January 16 at Washington.

At this Washington hearing the Milwaukee railway will present its testimony in opposition to the northern unification and other opponents may do likewise, if they desire, according to Charles D. Mahaffie, director of the commission's bureau of finance, who has presided.

Following the Washington hearing the interstate commerce commission will hold another session in Minnesota, probably in February, to permit submission of evidence by intervenors who do not wish to go to the capital. Immediately after this hearing the proceedings will be transferred to the north Pacific coast, probably Tacoma.

MILLING COMPANIES HIT

Federal Commission Issues Order Affecting Several Concerns.

Washington, D. C.—An order designed to restrict the trade practices of the Washington Cereal Association of Seattle, the Oregon Cereal and Feed Association and the Preston-Shaffer Milling company, Waukegan, Wash., has been issued by the federal trade commission. The three organizations manufacture more than 60 per cent of the flour produced in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

The order is directed against combinations for control of uniform prices, discounts and terms of sale, distribution and delivery of grain products. It also prohibits the exchange of information regarding contemplated changes in prices, discounts and the like and the preparation and distribution of lists of uniform prices, discounts, terms and conditions of sale, distribution and delivery.

Shortages in Pendleton Area.

Pendleton, Or.—Alleged shortages in the accounts of Sheriff Cookingham of Umatilla county and Justice of the Peace Berkeley will be probed by a grand jury now in session. Instructions to that effect were given the jurors by Judge Alger Fee of the circuit court here.

Spreading Disease Told of in Message Found at Portland

The Portland Oregonian says that mystery, gruesome and horrible, confront Portland police with their discovery of a bundle of letters alleged to have been written or received by William Nash, and tending to indicate, police inspectors say, that he is either a communist terrorist, the dupe of an international red web, or a man insanely desperate and embittered.

Inspectors Tackaberry and Phillips arrested the man. He was being held in the city jail without bail. Federal authorities may be called in to make a thorough investigation it was said.

The letters all of which had not yet been perused, discuss the spreading of leprosy and anthrax in America, malign American womanhood and condemn the existing social order of the United States.

Three of the group of letters aroused the keenest conjecture. One of these was addressed to "Commissar, Department V-19, Department of Foreign Trade, Vladivostok, Siberia." Another was sent to someone in Mexico City and was returned to Nash marked "unclaimed." And one had been sent to Nash from Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

Many Attended Teacher's Reception at the Auditorium

The reception to the faculty of the Athena high and grade schools, held in the auditorium Saturday evening and sponsored by the Civic club, was highly gratifying to all concerned. The room was tastefully decorated with bowls of chrysanthemums in pink, white and yellow, and Indian robes gave a touch of color and comfort to the scene.

Principal Meyer and his able corps of teachers assembled in the receiving line, were met and greeted by a goodly number of patrons of the school, although there was a noticeable absence of many whose presence would have been welcomed.

Mrs. H. I. Watts, president of the club, in happy vein welcomed and encouraged the teachers, and Professor Meyer responded in behalf of his staff.

Games and music followed. Mrs. D. T. Stone singing in splendid voice and a piano duet by Mrs. O. O. Stephens and Mrs. Max Hopper. The community orchestra favored the company with some excellent music.

In the Principal's room, hospitality was dispensed by a committee of ladies, delicious ices, cake and coffee being served. Mrs. W. O. Read member of the board, cut ices, while Mrs. Meyer, wife of the principal, poured coffee.

Thomas J. Kirk and LaVone Pittman Wed

At Walla Walla Sunday afternoon Miss LaVone Pittman and Thomas J. Kirk, popular young Athena couple, were united in marriage.

Both bride and groom are highly esteemed in Athena and vicinity, where they have a large circle of friends. They returned to Athena after the marriage ceremony, and will shortly go to Portland. The couple were tendered an old time charivari by their admiring friends, at the home of the groom's parents, Monday night.

The bride, a graduate of Athena high school, class of '27, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pittman of this city, who several years ago came from Weston to Athena. The groom is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kirk, and since he graduated from Athena high school in the class of 1924, has been engaged with his father in farming.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirk have a host of friends who wish them happiness and prosperity in all the years to come.

Pendleton Paralysis Victim

Gertrude Dutcher, 12-year-old school girl of Pendleton, died Sunday, a victim of infantile paralysis. Iril Wright, 15, employed by the girl's father and who lives in a tent at the Dutcher home, is ill with the malady, his left leg being paralyzed. The school the girl attended has been fumigated.

The First Snowfall

Athena and vicinity experienced the first snowfall of the year Wednesday, when the large flakes melted away as fast as they fell.

Benson Faces Loss OF Season's Work

Wet Weather Bad Element to Encounter in Bean Harvesting.

John Benson, faithful to the last in a valiant fight to save and harvest his beans in the face of adverse weather conditions, smilingly encounters a total loss of his crop.

The fifty acres of ground has been cleared of the vines to which clusters of pods containing damp, mouldy beans clung, and on the wrong side of the ledger is entered Benson's season's work, plus cost of seed.

Despite the failure of Mr. Benson's first experience at raising beans he still clings to the belief that there is money to be made in legumes, and he may try the crop again, hoping for more favorable maturing conditions.

Raising Mexican red beans has become quite an industry on a number of farms in the foothill district, particularly in the Weston neighborhood, where in the past, the O'Harra boys have been successful. On the Barney Foster place, south of Athena, Joe Payant and Newt O'Harra this year cropped 385 sacks of beans from approximately 130 acres of land.

But the season on account of excessive rainfall, proved to be a great drawback in harvesting the crop, and it was only by virtue of being able to jump in and work quickly, spiced with luck, that Payant and O'Harra were able to save it in good shape.

Gus H. Schubert Dies After Lingering Illness

Gus H. Schubert, in former years a resident of the Athena neighborhood, died at Pendleton, Monday, November 7, at the age of 61 years, two months and four days.

Mr. Schubert had been in failing health for a number of years, and lately has been practically helpless as the result of paralysis. Recently he was taken to the hospital at Pendleton for treatment, after having been cared for by his brother Ameil Schubert, and his sister, Mrs. Charles Norris, of Athena.

The deceased is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Jessie Heater, Pasco, Washington; Mrs. Edna Carry of Alberta; one brother, Ameil Schubert Athena; two sisters, Mrs. Charles Norris Athena; Mrs. L. H. Howell, Rosalia, Washington.

Funeral services were held at the Baptist church in Athena, Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock. Rev. Bollinger, pastor of that church, conducted the services.

Ex-Eugene Girl Weds

Of interest to U. of O. Alumni and a number of Athena people is the recent marriage of Miss Bertha Dorris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Dorris of Eugene, in New York City November 4, to Guy Richards Carpenter of that city, according to announcements. Mrs. Carpenter was graduated from the University of Oregon in 1910, later taking her M. A. degree in 1914. Mr. Carpenter is a graduate of Dartmouth college in 1910. Mrs. Carpenter has been on the staff of the New York Evening World for the past six years, and her sister, Mrs. Ruth Dorris Koepke, is also on the World.

Annual Bazaar

The Ladies Aid society of the Christian church are making elaborate preparations for their annual Bazaar and dinner, which will be held in the basement of the church on Saturday, December 10th. This is an event looked forward to with interest as it is the purpose of the ladies to sell many articles suitable for Christmas presents, as well as to give an excellent six o'clock dinner.

Frat House Raided

Federal and state agents raided the Sigma Chi fraternity house at Iowa State college at Ames, and reported confiscation of a still from the basement, and finding liquor in nearly every room. No charges have been filed against any of the 35 to 40 students who live at the house.

Fred Welch was in town Monday

from his farm near Spofford Station and renewed his yearly subscription to the best paper published in Athena.

PROF. C. F. SHAW



Prof. Charles F. Shaw, head of the division of soil technology at the University of California, who was appointed to represent the United States at the First International Congress of Soil Science in Washington.

New Books That Have Been Received at County Library

Creative Youth: how a school environment set free the creative spirit. 1925—A really thrilling book to any one interested in poetry and the writing of it, or in teaching literature. The first part of the book tells how English literature is studied in Lincoln high school, New York, the second is an anthology of the best verse written by the students themselves.

East of the Sun and West of the Moon, by T. and K. Roosevelt, 1926—An account of the Roosevelt brothers of their adventurous journey through the Himalayas in search of game trophies for the Field museum. The photographic illustrations are very fine.

Log of the Sun: a chronicle of Nature's Year, by William Beebe, 1926—Short delightful essays on insects, birds, animals, etc., one for each week of nature's yearly calendar.

New Art Books

American Spirit in Art, by F. J. Mather, 1927—Chapters on nineteenth century painting, especially the romantic and impressionistic movements, closing with a discussion of modernistic movements in the twentieth century.

Etchings of Anders Zorn, 1923—A collection of reproductions with a brief introduction.

Furniture, by the Century Furniture company, Grand Rapids, 1926—A very good handbook, well illustrated, showing the period styles in furniture.

New books of practical value to those putting on amateur theatricals, bazaars, socials and parties of all sorts: Planning your party, by E. R. Burt 1927; Make your Bazaar Pay, by E. R. Burt, 1925; Stage Costuming, by A. B. Young, 1927; The Scenewright; the Making of Stage Models and Settings, by Andre Smith, 1926; Official Rules of Card Games, ed. by R. F. Foster, 1926; Hoyle up-to-date.

Ask Me Another: the Question Book, by Spafford and Esty, 1926—The book that started the questionnaire craze. It contains 30 general quizzes and ten on special subjects. Heading each quiz is the score made by two prominent people.

Brownlee's Parents Sue for Insurance

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brownlee, parents of Leslie J. Brownlee, the Portland youth who was lost in a storm on Mount Hood last New Year's day, are seeking to recover \$5000 insurance their son carried, according to a suit they filed in circuit court against the Mutual Benefit Health & Accident Association of Nebraska.

The parents claim that under the terms of the policy they were to be made the beneficiaries in case of accidental death. They claim the policy carried by their son was in full force and effect when their son was injured "through external, violent and accidental means, causing his death," and that the injuries were caused by "stepping, falling and sliding from the mountain side into pits, holes and crevasses, and from exposure."

The plaintiffs seek interest at the rate of 6 per cent from March 21, this year, until the face value of the policy, \$5000, is paid.

The insurance company is said to have denied liability.

Ticket Nominated at Mass Meeting Elected at Polls Tuesday

A total of 55 votes was polled in the city election Tuesday, and the ticket as nominated at a mass meeting of citizens was elected.

For Mayor, O. O. Stephens received a total of 39 votes; H. I. Watts 8, and Otto Reeder 5. The names of the latter two being written on the ballots.

For the office of councilmen, Henry Dell, E. C. Rogers and A. E. Shick were elected. Dell received 42 votes, Rogers 49, Shick 38, Radtke 8, Pinkerton 10; scattering 7.

J. F. Kershaw was elected city treasurer, receiving 53 votes, and B. B. Richards was re-elected to the office of city recorder with 50 votes.

Death of Dr. Moffitt

Dr. J. A. Moffitt, formerly a practicing physician in Athena, died at Sacramento, California, November 5th as the result of blood poisoning. Dr. Moffitt married Miss Mabel Walter daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Clark Walter, who with three sons and two daughters, survive him.

A Wonderful Time They Had In Europe

C. L. McFadden and Wife Visited in Many Countries.

Back from their trip to Paris and a number of European countries, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. McFadden of Athena, and J. M. Banister of Weston, Mrs. McFadden's father, are recounting many interesting incidents to their friends.

Mr. and Mrs. McFadden returned home Monday, coming direct from Quebec, where they took the steamer Montclair for Paris, and returning to the Canadian port on the steamer Montroyale. Mr. McFadden describes the march of the American Legionnaires through the streets of Paris as one of the grandest sights he has ever seen. Between 15,000 and 20,000 were in the line of march, which wended its way through lanes of dense masses of French people.

The Americans were well received, and so far as he could observe, Mr. McFadden says they were well treated by the French, and the people of other European countries visited. The Athena man was struck with surprise at the rehabilitation of the cities, towns and countryside from the ravages of the war. When he left over there nine years ago the war zones were a vast wilderness of destruction. Towns and cities, farms and factories had been razed to the ground, and the very soil was dreadfully seamed, furrowed and rent with the wastage and wreck of battle.

But all has been miraculously changed. Cities and villages have been rebuilt, and where cannon roared devastation, fertile fields are to be seen. They are tended mostly by women, for it is to be remembered that since the war, there are more women than men in France.

Mr. and Mrs. McFadden and Mr. Banister were in Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Germany and England, after leaving Paris. Switzerland appealed to them as being the most beautiful European country visited. They enjoyed the trip immensely, and not one accident was encountered or heard of on the entire pilgrimage, despite the fact that apparently there were no traffic regulations to observe, where automobiles turned at will, even in the middle of blocks, and only one woman was seen driving a car.

Strangler Nelson Hangs at Winnipeg Friday, January 13

Winnipeg, Manitoba—Earle Nelson of Palo Alto, California, convicted of murder last week and sentenced to hang Friday, January 13, 1928, has resigned himself to his fate.

Guards stationed about the death cell of the alleged "dark strangler" and "tiger man," reported that Nelson has assumed a cheerful air since his trial and has devoted most of his time to reading the bible.

"Now that they have sentenced me to death, I hope the police are satisfied," Nelson is quoted by the guards to have said.

When Nelson bade farewell to his wife and aunt, who traveled to California in an effort to save him from the gallows, he remained unmoved as the women sobbed out their convictions that he was innocent. Guards said he smiled as the women left the cell.

He was convicted of the murder of Mrs. Emily Cowan of Winnipeg. One other slaying here was charged against him and authorities of several Pacific coast cities expressed the opinions that Nelson was connected with stranglings in their communities.

Standard Theatre Picture Program

Peter B. Kyne's thrilling story "Breed of the Sea," with Ralph Ince, Margaret Livingston and Dorothy Dunbar, made into an excellent photoplay will be the offering at the Standard Theatre tomorrow night.

Sunday night, Metro-Goldwyn will present Lew Cody and Aileen Pringle in their current uproariously funny comedy, "Adam and Evil," but recently released for first run at Portland.

The Standard will complete its mid-week special offerings under the present schedule on next Wednesday evening, when Lon Chaney will be seen in "The Unknown."

The Hudson Won

Sunday at the Christian church was especially interesting as the "car" contest closed with the Hudson winner. One hundred and ten were present at Bible school, and the entire school was photographed by a Pendleton photographer. Dinner was served in the basement after the church service to the whole congregation and friends, and an afternoon service was held at 2:30.

Prison Uses Tear Gas

Claims of the Oregon state prison officials that it is the first prison in the west to use tear gas are not well founded, C. E. Long, superintendent of the Washington prison said. Tear gas has been used there for three years and was used effectively on the night of September 3, 1925, when fire destroyed the cell blocks at the institution. It has been used at other times in smaller amounts.

Captain Gray the Balloon Flight Victim Was Native of Pasco

Estimated 150 Are Dead and \$1,000,000,000 in Damage is Done.

Captain Hawthorne Gray, who lost his life near Sparta, Tennessee, in the crash of his big balloon, in which he was attempting to set a new world record for free balloons, was a Pasco man. His father, Captain W. P. Gray, is 82, and a veteran Columbia river steamboat pilot. The father is in poor health. Hawthorne Gray's grandfather, W. H. Gray, was a member of the Marcus Whitman missionary party and a victim of Indians.

Captain Gray whose body was found on a farm near Sparta left a log stating that he had reached an altitude of 40,000 feet, a world's record for free balloons, is accepted as authentic.

He is believed to have died from lack of oxygen after becoming unconscious in the rarified upper heights of the air. Had he lived, army men believe, he would have used his parachute to leap to safety before his balloon crashed into a tree. There were no bruises on the body and the oxygen mask still was over the face.

The last record of his fateful trip, was found in his log and simply said: "40,000 feet and all gone."

Further examination of Captain Gray's person and the balloon basket indicated that he had not taken out his health knife to cut the bags of sand and the supposition is that accidentally he cut the tube leading from his mask to the oxygen tank, the result being his early death.

Local Authorities Must Act for Their Own Interests

Washington, D. C.—In refusing to alter the level of milk and cream rates charged in express and railroad service throughout Rocky mountain and Pacific coast territory, the interstate commerce commission laid down a precedent limiting its own authority.

Under its terms the commission will not consider any rate cases based on charges that interstate rates are so low as compared with rates on like commodities moving wholly within a state as to constitute discrimination. The finding was that the commission's power extended only to the point of protecting interstate commerce from discrimination, and that when interstate commerce rates discriminated against state traffic it is the duty of state commissioners to apply remedies.

The commission's findings resulted from the complaint of the Mutual Creamery company of Utah against the western carriers.

Portland to Contest Longview Bridge.

Portland, Or.—Validity of the act of congress authorizing the construction of a toll bridge across the Columbia river between Longview, Wash., and Rainier, Or., will be tested by the Port of Portland commission, which will attempt to bring the case before the United States supreme court by such means as laws and procedure require. Determination to institute legal steps was reached at a meeting of the port commission recently. Authority was voted to retain attorneys to join with Gus C. Moser, counsel for the commission, in the preparation and presentation of the case.

Postal Business Drops in October.

Washington, D. C.—Postal business during October, generally regarded as a banner year for general business conditions, dropped off slightly, the post-office department announced. The total receipts were \$32,449,638.53, as compared with \$32,860,349.45 last month, a decrease of 1.25 per cent.