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REPUBLICANS SPLIT OVER TAX QUESTION

Compromise on Surtax Rates Is Held Inevitable By Leaders.

Washington, D. C.—A split definitely developed among republican leaders of the house as to the advisability of modifying the Mellon tax bill.

Representative Longworth, the party leader, said he realized a compromise was inevitable, particularly on surtax rates—a position also held by Chairman Green of the ways and means committee.

As the breach among the republicans widened democrats who have offered a substitute for the Mellon plan declined to comment on the situation except to reiterate that they were convinced many republicans would refuse to support the treasury bill as written and would lean toward the democratic proposal on a showdown.

The ways and means committee has completed its consideration of administrative features of the plan and Monday began public hearings on the bill. The committee has been instructed to report the measure by February 11.

Split Over Surtax.

The surtax schedule, leaders generally admitted, is the point on which republicans are most likely to split, although some republicans have expressed a liking for democratic proposals to reduce normal rates to two and four per cent and to increase the exemption for both single men and heads of families.

Bonus advocates, defeated in their attempt to pass the bonus before the tax legislation, insist they will get their bill before the house.

Passage of tax legislation at this session of congress has been jeopardized, in the opinion of Chairman Green of the house ways and means committee, by the action of the house Monday in repealing the Underwood rule which sought to restrict amendments from the floor to revenue bills and to curb debate.

After the house had revoked the rule Mr. Green expressed the opinion that such a flood of amendments might be offered to the revenue bill, once it reaches the house, that action might be delayed indefinitely. Three weeks remain before the bill is scheduled to be reported to the house.

Democrats Win Senate Fight.
A democrat, Ellison D. Smith, of South Carolina, was elected by the senate as chairman of its interstate commerce committee, one of the ranking committees of the new republican congress.

Four insurgent republicans and two farmer-labor senators threw their support to Smith, thus not only breaking a deadlock which existed since December 10 but also giving the country convincing manifestation that their control of the balance of power in the senate is as complete as is that of the republican insurgents in the house.

On the 32d and final ballot of the deadlock Albert B. Cummins of Iowa, who had the indorsement of the republican organization for re-election, received only 25 votes, as against 29 for Smith and 8 for Senator Coudens, republican, Michigan. Smith received only one vote more than the necessary majority of the 74 senators voting.

The constitutional amendment to stop issuance of tax exempt securities, more than \$14,000,000,000 worth of which are now outstanding in the United States, was reported favorably to the house by Chairman Green of the ways and means committee. The resolution approving the amendment is expected to be passed by the house next week.

Borah Heads Committee.

Senator Borah, republican, Idaho, was named by Chairman Lodge of the senate foreign relations committee to head the sub-committee which will hold public hearings on the Borah resolution favoring recognition of the soviet government of Russia.

Other members of the sub-committee are Senators Lenroot, Wisconsin, who has supported the administration policy of non-recognition in senate debate, and Pepper, Pennsylvania, republican, and Swanson, Virginia, and Pittman, Nevada, democrats.

Administration officials, authorized by President Coolidge, will take steps to urge the passage by congress as soon as possible of a bill creating a governmental agency to consider offers for the Muscle Shoals, Alabama, water power and nitrate projects.

Creation of an agency would be in line with the ideas expressed by the president in his message to congress. It would be composed of experts qualified to pass upon all phases of the Muscle Shoals project.

Opposition to the proposed consolidation legislation of the war and navy department under the departmental reorganization plan was reiterated by Secretaries Weeks and Denby, who appeared before the congressional reorganization committee.

SENATOR SMITH



United States Senator E. D. Smith of South Carolina, a democrat, who was elected chairman of the senate interstate commerce committee, defeating Senator Cummins of Iowa, a republican.

1923 BUILDING BREAKS RECORD

Chicago.—Building operations of the country in 1923 broke all records, exceeding 1922, the previous record year, by 25 per cent, according to reports issued by S. W. Straus & Co., placing the year's total at \$5,500,000,000.

That the building shortage in many sections of the country is not being made up is shown in the fact that 25 leading cities, representing 20 per cent of the country's population, are absorbing 50 per cent of the nation's building activities.

Reports from 266 cities showed \$3,321,041,799 in building permits had been issued, compared with \$2,687,283,372 in 1922.

Pacific coast cities showed the greatest increase in activity, with a jump of 31 per cent over 1922. The central states showed a 30 per cent gain, the east 18 per cent and the south 14 per cent.

Leading cities ranked as follows: New York, \$792,911,599; Chicago, \$320,604,217; Los Angeles, \$260,123,121; Detroit, \$125,642,711; Philadelphia, \$123,511,935; Cleveland, \$69,390,540; Washington, \$49,623,605; San Francisco, \$49,594,011.

Oakland, \$27,628,897; Portland, Or., \$25,247,135; Long Beach, Cal., \$23,603,580; and Seattle, \$22,492,675.

BRIEF GENERAL NEWS

British locomotive engineers threatened to strike because the negotiations for a wage increase have broken down. Senator Watson of Indiana, has announced that he would not become a candidate for the republican presidential nomination.

Governor Pinchot announced he will be a candidate for delegate at large from Pennsylvania to the republican national convention next June.

A blanket indictment charging seventy-four persons with election irregularities in the 1922 August primaries in St. Louis county, Missouri, was returned.

Canada will be represented by an ambassador at Washington within a short time, according to George P. Graham, minister of railways and canals in the dominion cabinet.

More than 20,000 of the 22,900 French factories destroyed by the Germans during the war have been reconstructed; 88 per cent of the destroyed land is again under cultivation, 595,000 of the 741,000 homes destroyed have been rebuilt, and the population of the devastated regions has returned to the pre-war normal.

Republican Chairman Quits.

Seattle, Wash.—Charles Hebbard of Spokane has tendered his resignation as chairman of the republican state central committee to become effective February 12, when the committee will meet in Seattle. Mr. Hebbard's retirement is due to a pressure of private business, it is learned.

Oregon School Bill Case Is Up.

Portland, Or.—To determine the validity of the compulsory school law, the case of the Hill Military academy versus the state of Oregon was argued Monday before Federal Judges Wolverson, Bean and Gilbert sitting en banc.

Banker Sinclair Found Guilty. Chehalis, Wash.—Percy L. Sinclair, president of the defunct Southwestern Washington bank at Ilwaco, was found guilty of knowingly having signed a false report of the bank's condition and having sent the report to the state banking department at Olympia.

Murdoch to Quit Trade Commission. Washington, D. C.—Victor Murdoch of Kansas, chairman of the federal trade commission, has sent his resignation to President Coolidge, to take effect February 1.

REPARATIONS STUDY BEGUN BY EXPERTS

General Dawes at Head of Committee to Delve Into German Resources.

Paris.—With Brigadier General Charles G. Dawes presiding, leading business men and financiers of the United States, Great Britain and France, Belgium and Italy, sitting as a board of directors and creditors, began to examine the assets and liabilities of Germany, their nations' debtor, with a view to saving something from the ruins of the most stupendous bankruptcy in the history of the world.

"Strictly business and no politics" was the motto under which these representative men of the leading nations of the old and new worlds assembled. "The success of this committee," said General Dawes, in opening the meeting, "depends chiefly on whether in the public mind and conscience of the allies and of the world there is an adequate conception of the great disaster which faces each ally and Europe unless common sense is crowned king."

General Dawes stressed the value of unity of command in war to show the bad effects of present conditions.

"We had come to know," he said, "in common with the citizens of all nations, that at last that lack of power to agree upon a common attitude and common action had brought all Europe to a most critical and dangerous situation. This is no time to mince words."

The first meeting was absolutely lacking in any of the military display which marked the conferences at Spa, San Remo and Genoa. Not a single soldier was in evidence.

FIFTY KILLED IN JAPANESE QUAKE

Tokio.—Fifty persons are believed to have been killed in Tokio, Yokohama and the outside districts in Monday's earthquake, while many persons were injured. No casualties among foreigners have been reported.

The earthquake which rocked Tokio and vicinity Monday morning, the first heavy tremor since the disastrous convulsions of last September, occurred at 5:45 o'clock. The shock approached those of September 1 in intensity, but was comparatively brief in duration.

The Imperial hotel, filled with American travelers, many here as a result of reconstruction necessitated by the September catastrophe, quickly emptied as the hostelry trembled and shook during the earth shocks. A near panic ensued as the guests rushed for safety outside the structure. No casualties were reported, however.

Except for windows smashed by the shock, plaster shaken from the walls and tiles from the roof, no serious damage was caused to the Imperial hotel.

All the serious casualties in the affected district are said to have been confined to Japanese.

DIVIDED SESSION FAVORED

Severance Tax on Timber Is Also Advocated.

Salem, Or.—A divided session of the Oregon legislature to the end that proposed laws may receive more careful consideration than under the present system was advocated in a resolution adopted at the closing session of the annual convention of county judges and commissioners here.

It was proposed by the convention that the legislature should meet for ten days to receive bills and then adjourn for a period of at least 30 days. The final session would be devoted to consideration of the proposed measures introduced.

In another resolution the judges and commissioners recommended that a bill be initiated and placed upon the ballot to be voted on at the November election providing for a severance tax on timber in this state. The rate of taxation, under the resolution, was fixed at not less than \$1 for 1000 feet.

Inland Empire Would Exact Reprisal.

Portland, Or.—Complete severance of business connections between communities of the Inland Empire and Portland has been urged in resolutions passed by commercial clubs and farm federations of Walla Walla, Wash., Moscow, Idaho, and Pendleton, Or. Advice of this drastic action was received by the Portland chamber of commerce as a result of the resolution adopted last week in opposition to the American Wheatgrowers' export plan.

Astoria Masonic Building Fire-Swept.

Astoria, Or.—Fire, declared to have been of incendiary origin, caused property damage estimated at \$35,000 in the newly completed Masonic temple, a three-story structure that was to have been dedicated next Saturday.

Notice of Estimated and Proposed Tax Levy for Sherman County, Oregon, for the Year, 1924.

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, the 28th day of January, 1924, the Budget Committee of the County Court of Sherman County, Oregon, will be in regular session at the County Court House in Moro, Oregon, at the hour of 10 o'clock a.m., and any taxpayer of Sherman County, Oregon, will be heard in favor of or against the proposed tax levy, as hereinafter itemized.

ITEMIZED STATEMENT

Prepared in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 118 of the 1921 General Laws of Oregon, showing an estimate of the amounts of money required to be raised by taxation by Sherman County, Oregon, for the year 1924, to maintain each department of the county government, county office, or county officer, and for each county improvement, the maintenance of each county building, structure, or institution, and for the salary of each county officer or employee, and for the improvement and maintenance of public highways, roads and bridges, and for other contemplated expenditures.

Also showing the probable receipts of Sherman County, Oregon, from sources other than direct taxation upon real and personal property for the year 1924 and also the approximate amount of the balance of the various funds of Sherman County Oregon upon January 1, 1924.

Proposed Appropriation for year and Estimate of Expenses during	1921	1922	1923	1924
County Judge				
Salary	450	450	450	450
Incidental expenses	200	200	200	200
County Clerk				
Salary	1620	1620	1620	1620
Deputy salary	1320	1440	1440	1440
Record books and blanks	300	300	300	300
Incidental expenses	100	100	100	100
Sheriff				
Salary	1800	1800	1800	1800
Deputy salary	1500	1500	1500	1500
Traveling expenses	480	480	480	480
Office supplies and incidentals	500	250	250	250
Treasurer				
Salary	600	600	600	600
Record books and incidentals	50	50	50	50
Assessor				
Salary	1920	1920	1920	1920
Deputy salary	630	360	300	300
Rolls, stamps, detail sheets, etc.	230	230	230	230
District Attorney				
Incidental expenses	25	25	25	25
Superintendent of Schools				
Salary	1680	1680	1680	1680
Traveling expenses	600	300	300	300
Incidental expenses	265	265	265	265
8th grade examinations	75	75	75	75
Coroner's Fees				
Fees and expenses	100	100	100	100
Juror's fees and witnesses	50	50	50	50
County Commissioners				
Fees and mileage	300	400	400	400
Surveyor				
Fees and incidental expenses	100	100	100	100
Sealer of Weights and Measures	110	75.95	80	80
State Account Expenses				
Court House Expenses	150	50	50	50
Janitor, fuel, light, water, telephone rental, repairs, furniture, and miscellaneous	1500	1500	1500	1500
Jail				
Board of prisoners	150	150	150	300
Care of Poor	2000	2000	2000	2000
County Physician	300	300	300	300
Burial expenses	100	100	100	100
County Health Officer				
Salary	100	100	100	100
Expenses	25	25	25	25
Relief of soldiers	50	50	50	50
Boys' and Girls' Aid Society	120	120	120	120
Insane, examination and expense	25	25	25	25
Louise Home	75	75	75	75
Elections				
Judges and clerks	500	600	600	600
Ballots	200	200	200	200
Ballot Boxes and fees for Registration	210	210	210	210
Deputy sheriffs, hall rent and booths	200	200	200	200
Scalp Bounty	400	600	600	600
Fruit Inspector	80	80	80	80
Stock Inspector	325	325	325	325
School Library	135	135	135	135
School Children's Industrial Fair	600	600	600	600
County Institute	150	150	150	150
Widows' Pension	150	150	150	750
County Fair	4000	2000	2000	2500
County Agriculturalist	2500	2000	2000	2000
Circuit Court				
Witnesses and jurors	1000	1000	1000	1000
Reporter's fees	100	100	100	100
Stationary	25	25	25	25
Meals for jurors	50	50	50	50
Bailiffs	80	80	80	80
Justice Courts	100	100	100	200
County Schools				
Apportionment of \$10 per capita	12000	12000	12000	12000
County high school tuition fund	5000	5300	5220.56	5000
School board convention	60	60	60	60
State of Oregon state tax	122856.54	112224.80	112224.80	100,000
Market Road Tax	19300	25771	25771	25771
Auditor				
Auditing county books	250	250	250	250
Total	190,771.54	183,020.75	184,220.30	168,321
Income from other sources than taxation				
Approximate balance in general fund	3000	3000	3000	1000
Fees from County Clerks office	1900	1800	1800	1800
Totals	4900	4800	4800	2800
Total amount to be raised by tax	185,671.54	177,920.75	179,120.30	165,521
Roads and Highways				
Salary of road master, laborers, improvements, repairs, and highways	35,967	30,000	20,000	20,000
Bridges over 10 feet to be built from bridge fund	15,000	15,000	10,000	15,000
DeMoss Memorial Park		1,000	1,000	1,000
Interest on bonds		10,000	10,000	10,000
Expense of Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission				480
Grand Total	224,638.54	232,920.75	220,120.30	212,101

Dated at Moro, Oregon, this 26th day of September, 1923.

E. D. McKee, Chairman
J. M. Wilson, Secretary
L. L. Peets
O. L. Belah
Geo. Hennagin
G. E. Mathews
Budget Committee

Increase Sheep Industry.
Argentina has increased its sheep raising industry until now it is the second largest wool exporting country in the world.

American Indians Aaravon?
The American Indians are probably descended from immigrants from Asia by way of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands.

Easy to Twist Meaning.
If you give me six lines written by the hand of the most honest of men, I will find something in them which will hang him.—Richardson.