

SHERMAN COUNTY OBSERVER

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FEDERAL INCOME TAX HAS SLUMP

Receipts Are \$67,541,349 Less in First Quarter Than in the Same Period Last Year.

Washington, D. C.—Income tax receipts were \$67,541,349.41 less in the first quarter of this year than in the same three months of 1924. It was shown in the first official figures on quarterly receipts by which the revenue producing power of the present tax law was compared with the former rates.

The comparative statement shows total income taxes of \$519,238,820.98 for January, February and March, this year, against \$586,780,190.39 for the same three months of last year. Receipts for each of the three months of 1925 were:

January, \$33,054,831.92; February, \$17,457,051.34, and March \$17,039,466.73; and in 1924 the receipts were: January, \$39,664,855.60; February, \$57,179,527.67, and March \$489,935,407.12.

Officials made no comment on the statistics, explaining that the total for the quarter this year had been about \$8,000,000 above the estimate which they had used from last summer as the basis for calculation of government requirements.

WESTERN ROADS ASK 'FAIR RETURN' ORDER

Washington D. C.—As anticipated for some time, western railroads have petitioned the interstate commerce commission for an increase of freight rates.

Practically all of the carriers west of the Mississippi have united in the request. It is pointed out that western roads have not received the 5% per cent fair return permitted by law. The commission is asked to enter "appropriate orders" raising rates enough to increase returns to that point. The west would pay an additional bill of \$150,000,000 annually if the commission should grant the rise asked.

The railroads have not filed specific schedules of rates they desire to increase. They do not suggest or point out what rates they think should be raised. Rather by the move taken this week they have shot the question of the "fair return" up to the commission, and asked that body what it intends to do about it. If the application is pressed it will bring from the commission an important decision as to what the "fair return" provision of the transportation act means.

SPECULATORS ARE BLAMED

Australia and Argentine Benefited by Artificial Grain Market.

Washington, D. C.—The recent collapse in grain prices after their advance of last fall and winter, in the opinion of G. E. Marcy, chairman of the board of managers of the Grain Marketing company of Chicago, was caused by the tremendous holdings of speculators, and the misleading of the public as to the condition of the world market.

Mr. Marcy, in a statement made public here, declared this misleading information made the American grain prices so much higher than the world prices during the period preceding the collapse that for the time being the American farmer lost his market and at the same time a much higher market was made for the Australian and Argentine farmers.

Woman Imprisoned for Beating Child.
Tillamook.—Mrs. M. C. Paton, the 59-year-old woman who strangled her little granddaughter, Sylvia Louise Descamps, aged 4, to death two weeks ago, pleaded guilty this morning to a charge of manslaughter and was sentenced to the state penitentiary to serve an indeterminate sentence not to exceed 18 years.

Public Lands Shrink 10,000,000 Acres.
Washington, D. C.—Uncle Sam has been giving away his land to the people at the rate of 10,000,000 acres annually. This was disclosed in a survey of the diminishing public domain which has resulted in 39 of the 84 local land offices, located in the various states and in Alaska, being closed.

Bend Rail Line Permit Asked.
Washington, D. C.—Application was made Tuesday to the interstate commerce commission by the Oregon Trunk Railway company for permission to extend its railway from Bend to Klamath Falls.

N. D. Grain Grading Act is Invalidated.
Washington, D. C.—The North Dakota grain grading act is unconstitutional, the United States supreme court ruled.

PEACE ESSENTIAL TO AMERICAN AID

New U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain Outlines New American Policies.

London.—The new American ambassador, Alanson B. Houghton, speaking before a distinguished audience here, which included the prime minister of Great Britain, declared in friendly but firm terms that, unless peace based on good will were re-established in Europe he feared American assistance for the reconstruction of Europe must cease. The ambassador made it clear in the course of his address that he referred not only to moral but monetary aid.

Coming as it did from the former American ambassador to Germany following his recent visit to the United States and conferences with President Coolidge, the pronouncement was calculated to create a profound impression upon the statesmen and diplomats gathered to hear the new ambassador and perhaps be regarded as among the most important delivered by America's envoys to the court of St. James in years. Because of its importance and the authoritative note which it sounded, it was assumed by those trained in diplomacy that he must undoubtedly be voicing the views of the administration at Washington.

Special significance was attached to the fact that the statement comes at a time when considerable suspicion and distrust of Germany are being voiced in various parts of Europe, particularly France, because of the election to the presidency of Field Marshal von Hindenburg, who is asserted by some to represent those reactionary forces which are inimical to the peace and interest of at least some of the allies.

STATE EXCISE TAX DECLARED INVALID

Washington, D. C.—State excise taxes on foreign corporations engaged exclusively, in conducting an interstate business were held unconstitutional by the supreme court.

Disapproving a former decision, rendered in the case of the Baltic Mining company v. Massachusetts, the court in the case of the Alpha Portland Cement company vs. Massachusetts, asserted that the tax under consideration "was not materially different from one declared unconstitutional in another case, that of Cheney Brothers company vs. Massachusetts."

"It must now be regarded as settled," Justice McReynolds declared in rendering the decision, "that a state may not burden interstate commerce or tax property beyond her borders under the guise of regulating or taxing intrastate business. So to burden interstate commerce is prohibited by the interstate commerce clause and the 14th amendment does not permit taxation of property beyond a state's jurisdiction."

FLIGHT SETS NEW RECORD

PN-9 Stays in Air 28 Hours and 36 Minutes.

Philadelphia.—The all-metal hull PN-9 built to fly from California to Honolulu, made a new world's record for non-stop flights for seaplanes when she dipped into the Delaware river after being in the air 28 hours and 36 minutes. She came down only because she ran out of gasoline.

The flight, to test her capacity for the cross-Pacific hop, was pronounced a success in every way by naval officers.


The PN-9, observers said, flew at an average speed sufficient to carry her farther than from San Diego to the Hawaiian Islands. At the end of the 25th hour it was announced she had flown just far enough to equal the distance between San Diego and Honolulu.

Stage Right Held Taxable Franchise.
Olympia, Wash.—The right of an auto-transportation company to operate over the public highways of the state, as evidenced by a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the department of public works, is a franchise, and not merely a license according to the opinion of H. C. Brodie, assistant attorney-general. He adds further that this franchise is personal property and taxable.

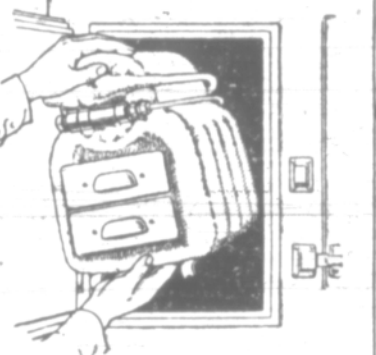
Vancouver Banker Accused of Shortage.
Vancouver, Wash.—O. Jorgen Olson, ex-president of the American Securities bank, was arrested by Sheriff Thompson and placed in the county jail with bonds fixed at \$10,000, on a charge of grand larceny by embezzlement of funds of the bank. Olson retired from active participation in affairs of the bank recently after serving at its head since he organized it in 1918.

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