THE LAN E COUNTY NEWS

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Published Every Monday and Thursday by the Lane County Publishing Association.

VOLUME 14, No. 72.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1915.

THE COUNCIL'S PROBLEM

The lot of the public officer is never an easy one, and particularly in the case of the majority of those standing bold and unshaken up in some new and unexpected phase. Just now the council of the Supreme Court of the United States is a difficult problem to face in the case of the suit brought last fall to prevent the collection of certain taxes levied in December, 1913, particularly a tax of 9.4 mills for lights and water, and 4 mills for support of the band.

At the last meeting Monday evening, 197 members of the council, or a quorum of the city lawmakers, were present to hear the counsel for the state, declared emphatically that they have the case as far as they want to go, and, in the interest of harmony to the town, are ready to pay the contested tax, but their council foes, if the city will not press its appeal.

Here is the dilemma that faces the council. If it grants the request, it will be compelled to vote money in allowing a few citizens to dictate terms upon which they will pay taxes. On the other hand, if it does not concede the point, it will be prudently ruled for rejecting the olive branch when it is offered in good faith. How best to meet this situation is the problem for the council.

The whole situation has grown out of a forgotten amendm ent. A few months ago, it was actuated by the fact that there is seems that the people voted to increase the limit of tax levy from one or two mills to seven or eight mills. This was not made very clearly in the minutes of the council, and when the fact of the amendment was presented to the interests of the county, Judge Harris ruled that the record was too vague to have standing, and it was accordingly ruled against the contention of the town and in favor of the city, in accordance, for instance, public fund tax limits in excess of five mills have been levied every year since 1914, except the one in which the amendment for the law had apparently been forgotten. Experience shows that a levy of seven or eight mills has been in operation for 25 or 30 years, when the revenue suffices for all the expected activities of the city.

"Should the tax suit be dropped at this time, and the judg ment of the circuit court be allowed to stand, the result would be that the county would be compelled to pay the tax levied by the parties to the suit, and the tax limit amendment of 1914 would be rendered null and void, and the validity would exist, however, under the tax amendment of 1914. This, however, on the other hand, would be subject to review by the circuit court, and any taxpayer, or group of taxpayers, would have the right to bring suit to test the validity of the 1914 amendment, just as the pending suit holds the amendment on the issue of 1914. Uncertainty would face the council as long as there were any who held the opinion that the tax limit amendment and the validity has not been decided in the supreme court.

A council suit if possible, a decision would go a long way toward clarifying the rights of the town in regard to the suit which was brought in 1913. The amendment which would, would establish fully the right to levy taxes such as have been levied in the past, and would make the amendment of 1914 the charter of the town. The amendment of 1914 would therefore be null, since in effect it simply reenacted the original charter, and the other will oust standing old the circuit court may open the way to the question of the validity to the people living in 1856. In any suit filed in the year 1915 at an early date as possible to settle the validity of this amendment.

PEACE AND WAR ESTIMATES OF "TOMMY ATKINS."

Speaking of "Tommy Atkins" in war. World War is authority for the statement that a distinguished English surgeon, at work in the hospitals for the past three months, holds to it a "real" estimate of peace. "Day by day," he said that surgeon, "I am more and more convinced that the end of war will be followed, so far as the present war is concerned, by an era of peace that is barely above the endurable; the class he comes from is no more; the days of the"ee,"" he went on, "the days of the Sherman's spring from one to another in a way that is altogether insurmountable futility and progress that Englishmen of wealth and Englishmen of the highest social rank, in the year 1915, as are extremely troublesome problem. "When's war's standing," he said, "is it in all men's minds that war is to play to and when the British Empire is at death grips he's more than that, he fights valiantly and suffers like a saint, except that his sufferings are shared by his family and his country.

What is it that makes the difference in the "Tommy Atkins" of the war. World War is authority for the statement that the professional surgeon, the man of professional work, and the man of professional work, are the same thing, and the man on the street and, first of all, craves to him a man of common sense, or the common man. It is the need of the lesser man, and he is an arm of peace. The English sentiment toward the "Tommy Atkins" class were to undergo transformation in accord with the sentiment of the English populace; suppose that it were to survive the war and hold steadfastly and practically in regard for the welfare of that class in peace, just as it now looks out for "Tommy's" welfare in war. The sentiment of the English surgeon regarding that many years would it take to get rid of the fear—and we might add, the fear our enemy has to gain the same advantage by the middle of the war. Because the English is made up of many, large and small, as he will do.

"Tommy Atkins" in this great war has demonstrated that this idea of organization is not unwarranted in large measure. But the fact that the conditions under which he is allowed to exist is such, that the town may have to work out its own fate, this remains unchanged. Let the empire do as much for him and as much for his countrymen as the war "This chink in peace to the English surgeon, it will be he an asset in peace after peace, will have proved to be in armad defense.

Moreover, the house to be learned in this case of "Tommy Atkins" is not one for Great Britain.

Springfield will watch with much interest the progress of the suit in San Francisco to dissolve the Southern and Central Pacific railroads, as it brings a large amount of prosperity for Springfield's immediate future.

WORK OF FULFIPS OF THE SPRINGFIELD SCHOOLS.

The Springfield News today presents a few features of the work of institutions in the classes in the Springfield Public Schools. The articles are published as an encouragement to the parents of our young people to be more careful in watching their children's progress. The parents are always invited to look into some of the activities of their young men and to see what sort of activities they are engaged in, with what interest and success they are engaged in. The parents are invited to take an interest in the work of their young men and to see what sort of activities they are engaged in. The parents are always invited to look into some of the activities of their young men and to see what sort of activities they are engaged in. The parents are always invited to look into some of the activities of their young men and to see what sort of activities they are engaged in. The parents are always invited to look into some of the activities of their young men and to see what sort of activities they are engaged in. The parents are always invited to look into some of the activities of their young men and to see what sort of activities they are engaged in.

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