

# CONSCRIPT IDLE LAND WITH TAX IS LANE'S PLAN

Secretary of the Interior Advocates Taxation of Unused Land by Tax on Speculative Value in Order to Raise War Revenues—Owners Must Utilize Property or Pay for Holding

(By Gilson Gardner, Washington Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, June 6.—That the land speculator should bear his share of the war tax burden is an opinion growing in administration circles. Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior, has come out flat-footedly for taxing unused lands into use by putting a tax on their speculative value. So has Carl Vrooman, assistant secretary of agriculture.

"No one is entitled to that which he does not use."

This statement by Secretary Lane is becoming a popular slogan. Lane has tried to force into use the privately owned land in the various reclamation projects.

**Not Public Lands.**

"These lands," said Lane, "are not public lands, they belong to private owners, but if the latter do not utilize their property the time may not be far off when national needs will require confiscation and government cultivation."

This idea has been formally endorsed by C. V. Kegley, master of the Washington State grange and by farmers' organizations in North and South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota, including the Farmers' Non-Partisan league.

The patriotic campaign to raise enough crops to win this war has brought out the fact in the United States nearly half the arable land is unused because it is held by private owners for speculative purposes.

Speculation keeps out of use, not only city lots, but acres and acres of the finest growing land on the continent. There are approximately a billion acres of land which can be cultivated in the United States. Of this amount 520,000,000 acres held in private ownership are regularly left barren and untilled.

**Tax Idle Lands.**

If this were public land, open to use by any man willing to work it, much of it would be worked; there would be less unemployment and the products of land would be cheaper.

These are not the chief reasons, however, which have turned attention of congress to unused lands.

Just now it is a question of making speculative land values bear their share of the war burden.

Incomes and war profits are being taxed, transportation is being taxed, housing, clothing and food—everything that enters into the cost of living—is being taxed.

And still government revenues are not enough to meet the interest and sinking fund to pay off the \$7,000,000,000 war bond issue.

More money must be had. Why not tap the greatest reserve in the world, the speculative value of unused land?

**Rights of Government.**

There is no question as to the right of the government for war purposes to go after this source of revenue. A nation struggling to continue existence as a nation may do things which could not be done in normal peace times.

During the civil war income taxes were levied (with a publicity feature) and no case ever was taken to the supreme court. Congress could tax unused land values at this time without fear of legal controversy.

It probably will be necessary to frame such a tax as this in order to induce capital to take its share of the liberty loan issues.

At present surplus wealth is showing a disposition to avoid the low rate investments of the patriotic war bonds and seek higher profits by putting money into land holdings in the belief that the sale value 10 or 20 years hence will be the equivalent of a much higher rate of interest than the 3 or 4 per cent to be earned by loaning the money to the government.

A tax on such investment would tend to drive capital into more patriotic uses.

# BULLETINS OF INTEREST TO VALLEY RESIDENTS

Recently published bulletins of the Oregon Agricultural College of interest to valley residents:

- Extension Bulletin No. 200, The Control of the Pocket Gopher.
- Extension Bulletin No. 204, Home Canning.
- Extension Bulletin No. 209, Garden Crops.

# EDISON SAYS PAY UP VALUE FOR CITIZENSHIP

"It's First Premium on an Insurance Policy to Guard Against Prussianism," Declares Wizard Who Is Working 20 Hours a Day to Serve His Country in New Inventions.

BL MILTON BRONNER.

ORANGE, N. J., June 6.—Pay what it's worth to you to be an American citizen.

"Figure it cold-bloodedly—if you are built that way. Consider what this country has meant to you, what it will mean to your children and to humanity in future generations. Then when you have thought over these things, take pen in hand and do your bit for the Liberty loan."

The speaker was one who has done and is doing as much for America as any citizen in the land and more than most—Thomas Alva Edison.

At 70, when most men with his money and one-tenth his achievements are content to sit in slippers and ease, Edison is putting in as high as 20 hours a day to serve his country.

**Spirit of Service.**

"The spirit of 1917 in America should be a spirit of service," said Edison. "From the highest to the lowest, the uppermost idea should be how we can serve our common country. Some of us are going to make the supreme sacrifice of our lives on the battlefields of France and on the high seas. Some of us are working night and day to solve the scientific questions involved in conquering our German foes. Some of us are expected to do our bit on the farms or in the factories. There is a niche for almost all of us if we will but look for it with patriotic eyes."

"The great republic, founded by Washington and saved by Lincoln, must be perpetuated under Wilson. I am not one of those who think the old American love of country has died out. I remember the days of '61 and think when the people are fully awake the same devotion to country, the same passion for liberty will make itself manifest."

**To Buy Liberty Bonds.**

"One thing is sure—the minimum service any of us can render America and the democracy of the whole world is to buy Liberty bonds. The loan should not only be fully subscribed, it should be oversubscribed. No government in the history of the world ever asked money for a nobler purpose."

"To buy a bond is to pay the first premium on an insurance policy against the death of democracy, against brutal Prussian militarism, against future wars with their resultant deaths and sorrows and horrors."

He said these things in his soft, well modulated voice. Then he indicated goodby and went back to his laboratory, his wires and testing tubes and batteries.

# BRAZIL REPLIES TO GERMAN PROTEST

RIO JANEIRO, June 6.—Brazil has replied to the German note protesting against the requisitioning of German ships with a declaration that the republic has acted within the strict limits of the law, even as interpreted by Germany. The Brazilian reply said in part:

"The utilization of German ships by Brazil follows the torpedoing of Brazilian merchant ships and assures, directly and immediately, although by force, satisfaction for the losses caused by German submarines. Brazil has taken a step which all nations take, even without abandoning its state of peace, for the sole reason of forcing an offending nation to make due reparation."

# WORKERS AND POLICE CLASH IN STOCKHOLM

LONDON, June 6.—Clashes between crowds of workers and the police and soldiers in Stockholm during a debate in the riksdag on socialist interpellations are reported in a dispatch to Reuters from the Swedish capital. During the debate the streets near the parliament building were barred by a double line of soldiers and police. Considerable crowds gathered and stones were thrown. The police used swords and batons and several persons were injured.

# AMERICAN INVENTOR CLAIMS NEW EXPLOSIVE WILL END WAR WITHIN 48 HOURS AFTER ITS USE

Chemist's Discovery Equals "Dundonald's Terror," Say Military Experts, if Claims Are Borne Out by Official Tests—Offered to the United States Government.

NEW YORK, June 6.—A secret equal to the famous "Dundonald's terror" has been offered to the United States government, if the claims of Dr. Dayve B. DeWaltoff, vice president of the American Medico-Pharmaceutical league are borne out by official investigations.

"The war could be ended in 48 hours," if Waltoff's explosive will do as he says it will, in the opinion of military and naval experts—but there's a great big IF.

**Name Is Terroral.**

"Terroral," discovered by DeWaltoff and son, was announced to the league at its annual convention here.

Five grains of "terroral," costing less than one cent, would blow up the Woolworth building, DeWaltoff says. A few cents' worth would wreck the Palisades of the Hudson.

It was discovered during experimental search for a cheap gasoline substitute.

It can be put up in capsule form; an aviator could carry an unlimited supply.

The unsolved problem is how to make it safe to handle.

Aviators dropping "terroral" could wreck the Kiel naval base and all munition bases behind the German army lines with a few charges, says DeWaltoff. They could destroy Berlin in a few minutes.

**New Dundonald's Terror.**

The chemist's reputed discovery has the properties of "Dundonald's terror," the secret of which, locked in the Tower of London, is guarded by the British government.

If used, it is said, "Dundonald's terror" could destroy all a nation's enemies; but its secret would then be open to the world, and it might result in destruction of the human race.

Britain refused to use Dundonald's invention in 1810 and 1814 against France. During the Crimean war the admiralty once voted to use it against Russia, but Dundonald insisted he be the operator, saying he would be killed himself in annihilating all the Russians.

Disagreement resulted in revocation of the admiralty's decision to use the secret.

Military men say DeWaltoff's invention, if vindicated, will equal Dundonald's in power.

Psychologists declare DeWaltoff shows a facial resemblance to the published portraits of Dundonald.



D. B. DeWaltoff.



Earl Dundonald.

# GENERAL JOFFRE GODFATHER OF AMERICAN ARMY

PARIS, June 6.—A semi-official note says that Marshal Joffre, while in America, had a conference with American military chiefs at which a plan of organization for the new American army was elaborated in agreement with the British leaders.

The note says: "It will surprise none that the marshal took a preponderating part in the plan, literally everything which he advised being adopted. His collaborators styled him 'The godfather of the American army.'"

"At a moment when the first elements of this army are getting ready to take their place on our front beside our allies, the French government considered it only fitting to confirm the marshal in his sponsorship."

"The program for this collaboration has already been drawn up. Marshal Joffre is officially entrusted with the mission of putting constantly at the disposal of our great sister republic what France has learned in three years of hard campaigning."

# OSTEND DAMAGED BY ALLIES AIRSHIPS

LONDON, June 6.—Photographic reconnaissances of the Belgian port of Ostend, recently attacked by British aviators, show that a majority of the stock yards and work shops were damaged, it is announced officially. Serious damage was done to other harbor work and several vessels were sunk.

# WAR TAX BILL REDRAFTING MADE MOST DIFFICULT

WASHINGTON, June 6.—Demands from business interests for eleventh hour changes are making the senate finance committee's task of redrafting the house war tax bill increasingly difficult.

"Tremendous pressure is being brought to bear," said Senator Lodge, a republican member of the committee. "Hundreds of telegrams and letters are received daily. A score of lobbyists also are personally active."

The committee plans to complete the bill by Friday. Work went forward today while both houses of congress were in recess observing registration day and liquor and tobacco taxes finally were disposed of.

Revenues of \$151,000,000 from liquors, including beer, and about \$68,000,000 from tobacco products, estimated from the house rates, are expected to show but slight reduction by the committee's revision, despite its decision to place prohibitive taxes upon grain used in distilling whiskey and other spirits.

Doubled taxes on beer were changed.

A new federal license tax upon automobiles of one per cent of their original selling price, to be paid by owners, is being considered by the committee, altho it virtually decided several days ago to establish taxes ranging from \$7.50 to \$25 per car.

Taxation of newspapers, magazines and other publications was reopened today when several members of the committee informally received a delegation of Pittsburg newspaper publishers, headed by former

# TO MAN SEIZED GERMAN VESSELS WITH ENGLISHMEN

WASHINGTON, June 6.—Many of the German vessels seized in American ports at the beginning of the war may be manned by British merchant marine officers if enough American officers cannot be found for them. The shipping board recommended to President Wilson today an extension of the Panama canal proclamation of 1914, which would permit this.

The government expects to have great difficulty in finding both officers and men for the German ships and for the great fleet of vessels the shipping board are preparing to build.

Congress will be asked soon to empower the president to suspend certain provisions of the navigation laws to permit an interchange of American and Canadian shipping on the Great Lakes and to allow British vessels to ply between American ports and Porto Rico.

A shortage of coastwise shipping on the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts, it is believed, may be met under the law creating the shipping board. The law permits the board to operate in coastwise trade any vessels it may charter. Foreign vessels, therefore, may be chartered and operated by the board for coast ships. At present they are barred from engaging in coastwise trade.

Senator Oliver, who urged adoption of the house plan, providing for increase of second-class postage rates. The committee took under advisement the arguments made by the Pittsburg publishers against the proposed sub-tax of two per cent upon publishers' advertising receipts.



## The Sign of Perfect Service

Look at it—remember it—for wherever you see it displayed by a tire dealer you will know

- that there you can obtain tire service,
- that merely selling you a tire is not the end,
- tire service which will give you one hundred and one courtesies, little and big, which will keep down your tire costs.
- Dealers displaying this sign are the best dealers;
- they carry a complete line of United States Tires,
- the 'Nobby', the 'Chain', the 'Royal Cord', the 'Usco', the 'Plain',
- a tire for every need of price and use.
- Deal with these Sales and Service Depots—depend on their judgment—and you will have supreme tire service.

## United States Tires Are Good Tires

A Tire for Every Need of Price and Use  
'Nobby' 'Chain' 'Royal Cord' 'Usco' 'Plain'

United States TUBES and TIRE ACCESSORIES Have All the Sterling Worth and Wear that Make United States Tires Supreme

# JOSEPHINE COUNTY VOTES ROAD BONDS

GRANTS PASS, June 6.—A total of 1553 votes was cast in Josephine county in Monday's election, of which 701 were in the city of Grants Pass and 853 in the rural precincts.

In Grants Pass the road bonds carried by the vote of 530 yes to 171 no. In the country precincts it failed to carry, the vote being 307 yes to 546 no.

The completed vote of Josephine county on all the measures was:

- To allow ports to incur indebtedness, yes, 691; no, 645
- To limit bills in legislature, yes, 305; no, 1083
- Implied repeal amendment, yes, 442; no, 781
- Uniform tax amendment, yes, 640; no, 627
- City and state elections on same day, yes, 934; no, 446
- New penitentiary, yes, 297; no, 1120
- \$8,000,000 road bonds, yes, 836; no, 717

# ONLY ONE MAN IN OREGON OPPOSED DRAFT

PORTLAND, Ore., June 6.—Officials today were checking up the large lists of Oregon men who registered yesterday for selective draft. A man named David Coroff, Portland, a Russian, aged 21, is believed to be the only man in jail in Oregon for refusing to register. Coroff told the police early in the day he would not register and when the booties closed he was arrested.