

The Watauga Democrat.

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Thursday, February 7, 1924

WHO OPPOSES TAX REDUCTION?

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon seems to be a potent force for a reduction when it comes to reducing his tax reduction figures, in every point of view, but with a million for an exception, but with a million for an exception, but with a million for an exception...

The opposition to Mr. Mellon's tax reduction program comes, not from the people, but from the professional politicians who continue to harp along the old demagogic lines of taxing wealth. Mellon calmly shows that after you have taxed wealth out of existence the burden of government falls with a double force upon the small taxpayer who has to make up losses while the investor who refuses to utilize his money in productive industry, aims to order a lower tax system be enacted.

If these politicians think the tax reduction measure they will have voted the people of over 400,000,000 dollars for 1924.

FULL SPEED AHEAD

There is every reason to believe that business generally will prosper in 1924, particularly in the states of the middle west, according to Wm. A. Beebe, of Chicago, Vice President and general manager of the Edison Power and Light Corporation.

"In spite of this being a presidential year I believe it will be a good one for the public utility companies and industry in general.

"The banking situation is sound and prospects now appear exceptionally bright.

"I look for a great year in building and improvement in the public utility business which means not only steady employment for wage earners but also earning power for the savings of the thrifty communities invested in the properties that are serving the territory.

MORE TAX FREE PEOPLE—LESS TAX FREE BONDS

Nothing is more constructive than the re-education in Congress by President Coolidge that he has been able to do and that the source of tax free bonds be stopped.

The people demand relief from taxes and they are not concerned as to whose plan is accepted whether it be that of the republicans or that of the democrats, just so the plan adopted shall accomplish the most in tax reduction.

The people realize that the heavy salt tax on large incomes not only detracts to the public treasury large sums which might better be turned into the expansion of commerce and industry in the intimate and the barren family zone on the shoulders of the consumer.

The people are just as insistent on the discontinuance of tax-free bonds, the purchase of which affords investors an opportunity to escape tax burdens entirely while others less fortunate must bear this burden in addition to their own, a condition so devoid of justice and fairness as to effect its own condemnation.

Both these reforms have been put before Congress in a way that permits of no evasion of responsibility. It is up to Congress to act. Failure to act, for whatever reason, will create such a revelation in the public mind that those responsible, whether they be "blows" or other round robins may well prepare for retribution at the hands of a betrayed electorate.

President Coolidge has recommended nothing more than tax distressed people are entitled to. Nothing less will be satisfactory. The people endured war burdens patiently and patriotically. With each succeeding year they now not only ask but rightly demand that these burdens be lifted from their shoulders to the extent that an economical administration of public affairs makes possible.

Let us have more tax free people and less tax free bonds.

That political football—the soldier bonus—if voted upon favorably in Congress and not vetoed into oblivion will absorb varying amounts of tax money, depending upon the bill that is finally adopted.

At best, a huge sum is involved, the minimum possible cost being placed at \$1,569,000,000 and the maximum at \$3,273,000,000, the payments to extend over a period of twenty years.

These are major tax expenditures, yet during the past two decades the cost of destruction by fire of material property alone—a material loss seldom realized by the public—exceeded the threatened maximum bonus by \$329,166,205.

In other words the waste of national wealth by burning from 1903 to 1922, inclusive, amounted to \$5,602,166,205.

Here are two national taxes, one of which is entirely unnecessary and the other 75 per cent available thru the exercise of ordinary care in the handling of common fire hazards.

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TWO CHILDREN LOST ON MOUNTAIN THREE DAYS

Kidnaping Rumors Send Thousands of Kentucky Coal Miners to Searching Hills.

Corbin, Ky.—In a hollow log in the Kentucky mountains two lost children were found at night by a posse of searchers. They were Ernest and Gladys Manning, four and three years old respectively, who had been missing for three days. They are children of Ansel Manning, a coal miner of Packard, Ky.

Playing Indian, the children had wandered away from home. At night they found refuge in a hollow log. When found they were fainting with hunger and numbed by the cold.

The entire countryside was roused by the disappearance of the children. Some one said they had been kidnaped by a man who took them north in an automobile, and a garage man reported that the trio had stopped at his place for gasoline.

All activity in the mining town of Packard was suspended and the populace organized into posses which pursued the imaginary automobile, while others searched the woods. Twenty-five hundred coal miners and mountaineers engaged in the hunt, which extended 30 miles in every direction from the little town.

The children were back in the little mountain cottage of their parents shortly after being found, tired but happy. They were examined by a doctor, who said they probably would suffer no ill effects from their escapade.

Man, 85, Blacks Eyes of His Tenant Who Is 80

New York.—Patrick Carey, eighty-five, owner of a house at 824 Summit street, Brooklyn, was charged in the fifth avenue court with punching the face of James Stanton, 80, of the same address. Stanton complained that wood he had stored in the basement was ruined by water from a defective pipe, and Carey, thinking he was too aggressive, struck him. Both of Stanton's eyes were discolored.

"What's this, Carey," said Magistrate Rayfield. "Are you a Jack Dempsey?" "No, your honor," replied the defendant, "but he insulted me, and I hit him."

The magistrate persuaded Stanton to withdraw the complaint, and the men shook hands and left the court.

\$6,000,000 Telescope to Be Presented to France

Geneva.—What will be the largest observatory in the world, with a telescope more powerful than that at Mount Wilson or Greenwich, is to be built on Mount Salève, on French territory, a few miles from Geneva.

The observatory will be the gift to France of the Hindu millionaire, engineer and scientist, Assan Dina, and his wife, who was Miss Mary Wallace Shillito of Chesham. The building, instruments and installation will cost \$6,000,000.

The telescope lens will have a diameter of 105 inches, or five inches greater than that of the Mount Wilson instrument.

U. S. Cob Who Sunk First German "Sub" Is Dead

Chicago.—The man who is credited to have fired the gun that sank the first German submarine during the World war, died here recently. He was Axel Johnson, formerly of the Swedish navy, but of the United States merchant marine during the war. Johnson's boat sank a German submarine in August, 1917, according to his records, but shortly afterward his boat was sunk by a U-boat in the North sea and he was among the crew that floated foodless for 27 days until finally rescued by a British ship.

Convict Who Hid in Hot Conduit Punished

Ossining.—Thomas Jefferson Carroll, charged in the Warden's court in Sing Sing prison with hiding in a hot conduit in the prison in an attempt to escape, pleaded guilty and was "doctored" about two years of his time for good behavior he had previously earned.

Carroll, a Queens county robber whose relatives live in Jamaica, was recaptured after a fifteen hour search by seven prison guards. He was found sweltering in the conduit under the new death house, through which hot steam pipes run.

Shortage of Children Closes \$100,000 School

Middletown, N. Y.—An acute shortage of school children is being felt in the Sterling Mines district of Rockland county, N. Y. A \$100,000 school building was erected by the citizens a short time ago when the mines were running full blast.

When the mines, which afforded the only occupation in the section, shut down the townsfolk emigrated, leaving the school wishin', waitin' and wonderin' when the pupils were coming back. There is no market for education in Rockland now, because the supply is larger than the demand. The school building is empty and desolate.

Uncommon Sense By JOHN BLAKE

CONTENTMENT

TEACHERS of the past, paid and fed by rulers, preached the joy of contentment. They urged the poor to be content with their lot. They discouraged ambition in the peasant. They besought the common people to remain as they were, and not to aspire to the comfort and luxuries of the rich.

It was an excellent gospel—for the rulers. As long as the bondman was contented, the noble had no fear that the right to plunder would be imperiled. If the peasant could be kept satisfied with a novel and a pittance there would be less danger that his sons would nourish a dangerous desire to prosper.

Epicurus, the Greek slave whose teachings were all that his master could wish, and no yearning for in dependence himself, and could not see why it should be craved by others. He said:

"If you were born in Persia, you would not endeavor to live in Greece, but to be happy in the place where you were. Why then, if you were born in poverty, do you yearn to be rich, and not rather happy in the condition where you are?"

And again: "If therefore you acquire a habit of reasoning, you will neither desire riches nor complain of poverty."

Beautiful doctrine, which if faithfully practiced, would have held back the world for centuries.

It is the desire for independence, the desire for better conditions that has brought the human race out of slavery.

Great riches do not bring happiness, it is true. But there can be no happiness without a degree of independence, and the man who is contented with who and what he is, will never be independent.

The poets and philosophers who preach contentment practice it very little. It was their discontent with what they were, that made them what they are.

No thoroughly contented person will ever progress. His contentment will tie him to his present condition forever.

There can be no such thing as contented poverty, for poverty is horrible, and a breeder of horrors. And as long as it exists, no man, whether he suffers it himself, or beholds others suffering it, has the right to be contented.

Do not strive for riches, but strive for independence. And if you find you are getting satisfied with yourself and your condition stop and take your bearings. There is something the matter with you.

(By John Blake)

Old Scotch Universities. Glasgow University, founded in 1450, is the oldest in Scotland, except St. Andrews.

United States Fleet to Have Complete Crews

Washington.—For the first time in many years the American fleet will be completely manned when it goes south for the winter maneuvers, Secretary of the Navy Denby announced.

The department has authorized a six-weeks' special recruit course with the fleet. Men who have served only brief portions of their enlistments will be attached to various Atlantic and Pacific ships and will undergo practical instruction on the Island of Culebra. Other men who have only a short period to serve until their enlistments expire will not be taken south.

Woman Police Officer Braves Bandits' Fire

New York.—Braving the fire of two hold-up men at bay in an open field in Harlem and exchanging shots with them, Miss Jean Barnes recently proved herself worthy of her rank of major in the police reserves.

Engaged in the bandit hunt with Major Barnes were four policemen. Ignoring their pleading that she seek safety, the policewoman, 5 feet 2 inches tall, maintained her stand at their sides, kept a steady hand as bullets dug in the ground at her feet and whizzed by her head, and stayed in the fight to the finish. More than forty shots were exchanged. The bandits escaped.

ONCE IS ENOUGH (Illustration of a hand holding a spoon)

All Preserved Food Should Be Boiled (Text about medical science and food preservation)

An Explanation (Text about laundry work and Boone Steam Laundry advertisement)

Ford ONE-TON TRUCK \$490 (Advertisement for Ford truck with image and text)