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Every Year and Plan Calls for More

New Plan of Tax Reform Advocated by the Asheville Board of Trade.

Briefly stated the North Carolina constitution provides that all property, both real and personal, shall be listed at full value and that all shall pay the same tax rate. Of course, this is actually not done and therein lies the reason of all the present inequality and trouble. A change in the constitution has been tried but failed; therefore, the law must be drawn in conformity with the present constitution and the object should be to leave no room for the present inequalities and discriminations; and also the law should be simply drawn because the administrators will be numerous and without technical and legal training.

Heretofore the property tax law has been drawn with the idea of raising certain sums of money that were necessary for the different governments. State, County and City, with not much thought of what should be fair and just to the owner of property. Now every owner of property is willing to contribute yearly some percentage of his holdings towards governmental expenses, but when the law demands more than about ten per cent. of the average possible income from property, or its equivalent in money value, the owner will and in fact does evade payment and in doing so has the sympathy and even assistance of every other owner, as well as of the tax gatherers themselves. As under our present law the government is demanding for taxes forty to sixty per cent of the possible income from property or of its equivalent in money value, naturally there is evasion, as well as bad administration.

The object then should be a complete reversal of our present system and to do this it is necessary to first fix a low definite tax rate, so that the assessments may be at full value and all excess of property owners about the Tax Rate eliminated. To determine this rate the average interest rate over the State should be taken as a base. This is practically six per cent. The owner can and will pay not more than ten per cent. of this six percentum. That would be sixty cents on every hundred dollars worth of property, real or personal, or a rate of sixty cents for the combined State, County and City taxes obtained by the property tax system.

The plan now endorsed and advocated then is this:

First. Before any tax listing or valuation is done let the legislature put a limit of five mills (fifty cents on the hundred dollars), as a total maximum combined tax rate that can be levied by all governmental bodies State, County and City.

Second. Let the legislature then give the Tax Commission and the governmental bodies full power with which to enforce listing and full valuation.

The question of how the five-mill rate should be divided between the State, County and City is a matter of detail. The main object is first to fix the idea that no form of good government should demand more than ten per cent. of the possible average income from property or of its equivalent value in money, and the detail of division can readily be made by those in authority.

It will not take so much argument to prove to the owner of property, who pays the tax, that this would be an equitable and just plan, as it will be to prove to the officials of the present governmental bodies that such a law would raise enough revenue for their requirements. But in any case the present system is not raising enough revenue and again if ten per cent. of the possible average income from property is all that is just and right, why should this not be taken and then look to other sources besides the general property tax for what more is necessary? It is the opin-

ion of some, who should know, that the true value of all the property in any community is really five to seven times the present value on the tax books, that is including both listed and unlisted property in the community, and the least estimate would be that a five-mill rate would give more revenue than at present being raised by the property tax as now administered.

There can be no compromise with this plan, nor the rate raised beyond six mills at the most. If it were raised to eight mills for instance, or if there is left open any opportunity for the people to vote or the official in power to raise the rate after the list taking and valuation is done, the whole thing falls and the desired results would not be obtained any more than they are under the present way of administering the system.

A great deal more could be said in argument, but if any one reading this will study from his own experience the results of what conditions would be after such a plan was put into effect, it is believed that every voting citizen would advocate its adoption.

The Secretary of the Asheville Board of Trade will be glad to receive any inquiries or criticism regarding this plan.

The above seems to have some merit in it, at least furnishes an idea with which to base a revision, if such is needed. A peculiar thing, however, is, we see nothing offered that does not indicate the real intent is to stick the people for more taxes, to increase the amount for our officials to spend as they please. The revision is always upwards and the burdens of the people under one pretext or another are made heavier every time the matter is touched or whenever the legislature meets. We are of the opinion that it is not more taxes that is needed so much as it is a lopping-off of some of the sinecures and useless expenditures being made. For instance in our month we received something over fifty letters from the various branches of the State government on subjects the officials seemed to think were important, but over 95 per cent. of which went straight to the waste basket. This constitutes a positive waste of thousands of dollars monthly.

An Ideal Spring Laxative

A good and time tried remedy is Dr. King's New Life Pills. Its first dose will move the sluggish bowels, stimulate the liver and clear the system of waste and blood impurities. You owe it to yourself to clear the system of body poisons, accumulated during the winter. Dr. King's New Life Pills will do it. 25c. at your Druggist.

The Charlotte Observer.

The Charlotte Observer has an advertisement in this paper to which we call attention. The Observer is probably the most satisfactory all-round newspaper read in Salisbury always, giving the very latest and most reliable news of the State, nation and world, and more, it generally gives the Salisbury news from ten to forty-eight hours earlier than any other paper published. The Observer is sane, safe and is not constantly prodding the public to obey its personal views, commonly called "boasting."

Dangers of Draft

Drafts feel best when we are hot and perspiring, just when they are most dangerous and the result is Neuritis, Stiff Neck, Sore Muscles or sometimes an attack of Rheumatism. In such cases apply Sloan's Liniment. It stimulates circulation to the sore and painful part. The blood flows freely and in a short time the stiffness and pain leaves. This is suffering from Neuritis or Neuralgic Headache will find one or two applications of Sloan's Liniment will give grateful relief. The soothing pain gives way to a tingling sensation of comfort and warmth and quiet rest and sleep is possible. Good for Neuritis, Loc. Price 25c. at your Druggist.

War on Freedom of Assembly

Chicago Free Speech Meeting Broken up by Roman Catholic Hoodlums.

The Menace.
On the evening of March first one of the boldest attempts to destroy the freedom of speech yet recorded in the present anti-papal crusade was made in the city of Chicago, a brief news report of which is taken from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat of March 2nd, and appended hereto. This report is verified by a telegram just received from a prominent member of the Guardians of Liberty in Chicago who promises us a full report of this outrage for next week's issue of The Menace.

Chicago, Ill., March 1.—Hoods were broken, knives were drawn, shots were fired and Boulevard Hall and the territory adjacent to Garfield boulevard and Halstead Street in a reign of terror tonight when a mob broke up a meeting conducted by Dr. Joseph Slattery and his wife.

Dr. Slattery, said to have been formerly a priest of the Catholic church, was driven under a police escort to his hotel. Charles R. Young, a member of the Board of Education, was struck with a "brass knuckle." Capt. Horace Wild, the aviator, was struck by a club.

The meeting was called at 8:20 o'clock. There are said to have been around 600 persons in the hall when Dr. Slattery arose to speak. Dr. Slattery said there were not more than 500, of which 200 seemed to be disposed to make trouble.

"I was not speaking on an anti-Catholic subject," said Dr. Slattery. "I was retained a Catholic priest and later relinquished my orders. But I merely was lecturing on free speech."

"I had not proceeded far when a band of about twenty young men entered and refused to pay the entrance fee. They were ejected by the police. Later on an old man started out to disturb me by asking questions. I called for order and it seemed that about 200 young men became boisterous."

Dozens of men, escorting their wives and women friends, were taken from them and beaten. A mob of more than 250 ran free in the streets, pulling rolleys off their wires to stop street cars. Cars were entered and passengers eaten and all the surrounding streets scenes of fighting and rioting.

Only one arrest was made. Policemen of the Englewood Station brought in Patrick S. Brennan 321 West Garfield boulevard. He struck and knocked down a passenger in a street car. He was booked on a charge of disorderly conduct. Later J. W. Morrison, 5621 South Peoria Street obtained his release on \$400 bond.

Keep Your Bowels Regular.

As everyone knows, the bowels are the sewerage system of the body, and it is of the greatest importance that they move once each day. If your bowels become constipated, take a dose of Chamberlain's Tablets just after supper and they will correct the disorder Obtainable everywhere.

Nine Rules for Getting Winter Eggs.

1. Keep more pure-bred hens of a good laying strain.
2. Keep one breed, the best you can get.
3. Select your breeding eggs from the best lay.
4. Select the large uniform eggs of even shape and color.
5. Hatch your pullets in February, March and April.
6. Provide good feed and housing.
7. Feed a variety of grains, corn, oats, wheat, sunflower seed.
8. Feed a bran mash of corn meal, wheat bran, cottonseed meal, or beef scrap.
9. Keep a good scratch of straw to feed all grain in to induce exercise.—E. P. Clayton, in The Progressive Farmer.

Must Be Reciprocity

if Mexico is Dragged Into War It Will be one United States Can Never Justify.

Mexico City, March 12.—General Carranza tonight issued a manifesto to the Nation declaring that under no circumstances would the Mexican Government grant the right to the United States to violate Mexican territory by sending in an armed force in pursuit of Villa without consent and the reciprocal privilege being first obtained and admitted. Word was sent to the confidential agent of the Mexican Government in Washington to make immediate representations to this effect. General Carranza says in his manifesto:

"I am sure that I interpret in this matter the National sentiment and that the Mexican people will comply in a dignified manner with their duty by the sacrifices that they may, to sustain their rights and sovereignty if unfortunately, this draws us into a war, a war which the United States can never justify. We will not be responsible for the disastrous consequences. Upon the heads of the traitorous Mexicans who within and without this country have labored to produce this result, will fall the inexorable justice of the people."

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County.

Frank J. Cheney made oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, county and state aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of one hundred dollars for each and every case of catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

Frank J. Cheney. Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

J. W. Gray, Notary public. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free.

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by all druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Road Maps and Tour Book of Western North Carolina.

"There has been prepared by the North Carolina Good Roads Association, in co-operation with the State Highway Commission and the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey, a book containing maps and routes of Western North Carolina, which is now in the hands of the printer and will be ready for distribution at an early date. This book is of especial value to the automobile tourists as it will be the means of not only bringing them into this section but will serve as a guide in their travels."

This information and more is sent out by Joseph Hyde Pratt, State Geologist and Secretary of N. C. Good Roads Association, evidently with the idea that the State's money is thus being well spent. Of course the State should do everything in its power to see that our automobile owners are cared for to the full extent of its ability, while the millions of us who have to foot it can pay taxes and take care of ourselves. Great is our modern version of "Equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

The Court of Last Resort.

Around the stove of the cross roads grocery is the real court of last resort, for its final over-rules all others. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has been brought before this court in almost every cross roads grocery in this country, and has always received a favorable verdict. It is in the country where man expects to receive full value for his money that this remedy is most appreciated. Obtainable everywhere.

Call for Sale.—Two years old, broke and work anywhere, weight 875 pounds, O. L. Watson, Route No. 4, Box 118, Salisbury, N. C.

Mexican Troops May Cross Border

United States Enters into Formal Agreement with Mexico to Catch Bandits.

Washington, March 18.—The United States Government entered into a formal agreement with the de facto Government of Mexico today under which American troops will cross the border to hunt down Villa and his bandits with the expectation of hearty co-operation from the Carranza forces.

Secretary Lansing made public the text of a note, accepting General Carranza's proposal for a reciprocal arrangement between the two Governments and announcing that the United States held this arrangement to be now in force and binding upon both parties. General Funston will carry out his task under this agreement.

Official announcement was awaited tonight that the American forces had crossed the border. Plans for the troop movement have gone ahead with no regard to the diplomatic exchange. Mr. Lansing also made public a statement issued in the name of President Wilson, reiterating every step being taken by the Administration was based on the deliberate intention to preclude the possibility of armed intervention in Mexico.

San Antonio, Texas, March 18.—A sufficient force is now gathered at the Mexican border under the command of Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing, to begin pursuit of Francisco Villa, it was announced tonight by Major General Frederick Funston.

The General said that only the completion of plans for backing up the expeditionary forces now was needed. He was non-committal, however, as to the time needed to accomplish this.

General Funston said that reports that American troops already had been ordered to cross the border were untrue.

Reiterating previous statements that the expeditionary force will be a strong one. General Funston declared that when the expedition was fully organized there will be only six or eight regiments other than those on the border, left in the United States. This did not take into account troops in the Canal Zone and the Philippines.

Columbus, N. M., March 18.—Approximately 12,000 troops with 40 mountain and field gun batteries were on the border tonight between Douglas, Ariz., and El Paso, a line about 200 miles long. A little more than one-third of this force was cavalry.

From a camp of a few hundred men, Columbus today grew to a military establishment of nearly 2,000 with indications that about 4,000 men are to be concentrated here immediately. Further evidence here that this point may be the starting place of the largest column in immediate pursuit of Villa appeared in the erection of headquarters for Brigadier General John J. Pershing, whom Major General Funston announced today would be the leader of the expeditionary force.

Officers here talked of a march straight southward in pursuit of Villa. Troop movements seemed to bear out reports that while the Columbus column is striking south, another movement will be made from the vicinity of El Paso and a third from the Arizona line somewhere near Douglas. Both the El Paso and Douglas movements would be able to follow rail lines, while the central column here would have to go overland across a desert.

Belief here tonight was that the Columbus column would be ready to start by Thursday or Friday. Intelligence department officers secured maps and topography charts of the mountainous Sonora-Chihuahua border in which it seems possible for Villa to enter easily, with his present start.

Troop trains bearing cavalry, infantrymen, artillery signal and hospital detachments and several trainloads of freight unloaded

here today. Lumbering gray wagons rumbled all day through clouds of dust, each wagon piled high with supplies, such as arms, munitions, knapsack's, boxes of uniforms, shoes, blankets, forage and food.

In the town of Columbus the conducts of Mexicans who are strangers, was closely watched. This work was tendered delicately by the large numbers of Mexicans who are American citizens by birth, and among the new-comers were difficult to distinguish. One prosperous American ranchman, off Hermosas, who comes of a Mexican family, was taken into custody before his identity was established.

Lieut. Col. D. O. Cabell of the 1st Cavalry, who it is understood, here, will act as adjutant to Brigadier General Pershing, arrived today from Douglas and began preparations for the arrival of General Pershing.

For Your Child's Cough

If your child has a cold, cough or coughs much get a small bottle of Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey. It's a pleasant Pine-Tar-Honey syrup, just what children like and just the medicine to soothe the cough and check the cold. After taking children stop retching, sleep good and are completely well. Insist on Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey. 25c at your Druggist.

Printed Stationery Pays.

The Progressive Farmer says you are judged by the stationery you use. Printed stationery is one of the requisites for a successful millorder business in livestock, poultry, plants, etc. Picture to yourself a man who has answered your advertisement and your competitor's advertisement, holding in one hand your letter written on a sheet from a five-cent tablet, and in the other hand the letter of the other man written on neatly printed stationery, will you or your competitor have the best chance of getting his order?

It pays to name your farm, and have the name and an illustration of the kind of cattle and poultry you specialize in printed on your stationery. THE WATCHMAN office makes a specialty of letterheads for farmers and our prices are very reasonable. You can buy printed letterheads and envelopes in small quantities but it pays to buy two or three year's supply at once. Come in and let us serve you.

He Writes From Trenches.

The following letter has been received by Bruce Worthington, 417 North Charles Street, from his son Charles, who is now stationed in Belgium with the Nineteenth Regiment of the Canadian Contingent:

"A very sad thing happened the other day; two young boys went over to the enemy's lines and stole a box of bombs, and then begged permission to go over again and see if they couldn't steal something more. They armed themselves with grenades and what they thought they would need, but, sad to say, when captured, the devils tied them at night, with gags in their mouths, on top of their parapets and let us shoot them. But don't think that we shall forget it. We never take prisoners if we can help it; we would rather kill if we can, but we don't always get the chance. The pups got down on their knees and cry like babies to be spared. It's a shame not to kill them, but the officers won't let us. The weather is becoming fine now, cold nights and mornings and all that, but not as much rain as there has been. Another friend of mine was killed Sunday through his own fault. A shell caught him back of the head and exploded almost a yard or two in front of him. They had almost to bury him in a bucket.

"But don't worry about me in the least. I am O. K. and expect to remain so, but if they do get me, what's the odds? I must die some time, and it's an honorable death. In fact if they hit you it's ten to one they'll finish you. So that's all.

Germans Hammering at Verdun

Try to Recapture Line but are Repulsed. Artillery Duels on Eastern Front.

March 18.—Switching their activity from the east to the northwest of Verdun the Germans again are hammering at the salient of Le Mort Homme and the region of the Bois Bourguis, in an endeavor to bring their line farther south on the western flank of the fortress.

To the east of the Meuse and in the Woeyre district there has been a noticeable let-up in the bombardments on both sides. The infantry everywhere on the Verdun front has been inactive.

In line with bombardment of Le Mort Homme and the Bourrus, the Germans are assembling men in the region between Forges and the Bois des Corbeaux, probably with the intention of throwing them into the fray should the intense bombardment meet with success. The French artillery, however, have had this assembling point under the fire of their guns. No advantage is claimed by either side in the latest fighting around the fortress.

Back of the German line to the north of Verdun, a French air squadron dropped 180 bombs on the station at Briulles and at numerous points around Verdun. French and German aviators have met in combats in the air with advantage incontestably in favor of the French, according to Paris. At least three German aeroplanes are declared to have been brought down while others were seen in distress.

In the region of Soepois, upper Alsace, the Germans essayed an attack on trenches that the French had captured, but were repulsed with considerable casualties. The French guns have done damage to German positions north of the Aisne, in Champagne and in the eastern portion of the forest of the Argonne.

In northwest Russia around Riga, in the Ikalki district and on the Jacobstadt sector there have been violent artillery duels. In Galicia southeast of Kolki and along the middle Stripa river the Russians have been successful in small engagements with the Teutons.

In the coastal region of the Caucasus front the Russians are still driving the Turks before them.

Lieut. Gen. Jan Christian Smuts, the former defense minister of the Union of South Africa and now commander of the British expedition against German East Africa has had a stiff engagement with the Germans in the mountainous region west of Taveet, along the frontier. The Germans were driven back, although the fighting was of the most obstinate character. The British are endeavoring to cut off the retreat of the Germans who are withdrawing to the south.

Unofficial advices are that Admiral von Tirpitz, the German Minister of Marine, is ill, and that the Ministry is in charge of another official.

More Money and Time for Food Grain.

Keep preaching it, that every one-horse farmer ought to take \$5 worth of papers, every two-horse farmer \$10 worth, every three-horse farmer \$15 worth. Southern farmers spend \$50,000,000 a year to fertilize their lands. If we would spend about \$1,000,000 more a year to fertilize our brains would profits likely be doubled? And have you ever noticed it that the man who is "too poor to take a paper" is not too poor to buy whiskey to stunt what God-given brain he has? Half the money the south has spent for whiskey would give a library and a perpetual newspaper subscription to every home in the south.—The Progressive Farmer.

Whenever You Need a General Tonic Take Grove's The Old Standard Grove's Tasteless and Painless Tonic is equally valuable as a General Tonic because it contains the well known tonic properties of QUININE & IRON. It acts on the Liver, Digestive & Malicic, Enriches the Blood and builds up the Whole System. 50c per bottle.