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FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION—TAXATION.

Revaluation Act Non-Partisan and Non-Political—Guarantee Against Excessive Increase in Taxes—The Organization for Revaluation.

(By A. J. Maxwell)

None of the features of the revaluation act is more remarkable than the manner of its passage by the General Assembly. An ordinary revision of the Machinery Act for the quadrennial assessment of real property usually occupies several days of discussion in each House, and generally sharp division over some of its provisions. The revaluation act—well understood to anticipate a radical departure from past practice, and an appraisal of property at its actual value—was passed without an opposition vote in either House, practically without discussion, and without an amendment being offered except incidental ones offered by the committees which prepared the bill. This showed unanimous recognition for the necessity of the undertaking, as well as complete confidence in the work of the committees which had carefully formulated the plans for carrying it out.

Non-Partisan and Non-Political

The manner of its passage, with support of members of both parties, as well as the provisions of the act, declare its non-partisan and non-political purpose. It is a helpful indication that a fundamental economic reform of this great importance can be undertaken without partisan disagreement upon the main question or upon the details of the measure for carrying it out. The act gives representation to the minority party in each county by providing that one member of the County Board of Appraisers and Review shall be appointed from the minority party, and it also provides that any undue political activity by any appointee under the act shall be cause for summary dismissal.

Guarantee Against Excessive Increase in Taxes

The act carries its own specific guarantee that its purpose is to provide more equitable means of raising revenue, and not to unduly increase the tax burden. When real estate was revalued in 1915 the total increase in valuation was 25.72 per cent. In 1911 the increase was 22.54 per cent, and in 1907 30.38 per cent. These increased valuations did not result in any reduction in tax rates. On the contrary the tendency of tax rates have upon an average during these years been higher. The revaluation act provides specifically that not more than ten per cent increase in revenue shall be raised upon the revaluation of actual value in 1920 than will be raised under the old assessment this year, by the State or by any county, city, town or special tax district. So the net increase in taxes under this reassessment will be less than the increase made in any reassessment year in twelve years.

Special Session to Fix Tax Rates

As a further safeguard and assurance, it is provided that the reassessment, when made, shall not be used until approved by the General Assembly, nor until the tax rates have been adjusted to the new basis of valuation as above indicated, and that the rates when so adjusted shall in all cases become the maximum rates until the General Assembly authorizes an increase. This provision anticipates that there will be a special session of the General Assembly, upon call of the Governor, about the first of July, 1920.

District Supervisors

The State Tax Commission is to divide the State into ten districts and appoint a supervisor for each district. The district supervisors will be given employment for at least a year at a salary of \$250 per month and actual traveling expenses to be paid by the State. They will be expected to give their whole time to the work. They will divide their time between the several counties in their districts, cooperating with the county assessing officers. They will be the direct means of contact between the State Commission and the assessing officers, and will be their duty to see that the work is being done according to law, and according to the same interpretation of the law, in each county, and will be expected to determine this by specific and detailed investigations as assessments are being made in the several counties.

County Supervisors

The State Tax Commission is to ap-

NEW BOOKS AT LIBRARY.

Following is a list of new books recently received at the Public Library.

The Ghost Girl—Stackpool.
Peace of Roaring River—Van Schaick.
Syrider—Sinclair.
Firebrand Trevison—Setzer.
White Man—Chamberlain.
Simple Souls—Turner.
Wild Youth—Parker.
Penny of Top Hill Trail—Maniates.
Apartment Next Door—Johnston.
The Crimson Alibi—Cohen.
Desert of Wheat—Grey.
Joan & Peter—Wells.
Four Horsemen of Apocalypse—Ibanez.
The Tin Soldier—Bailey.
Shavings—Lincoln.
Elizabeth's Campaign—Ward.
An American Family—Webster.
The Sky Pilot in No Man's Land—Connor.
Orthodoxy—Chesterton.
Rocks of Valpre—Dell.
Desert Gold—Grey.
Wild Fire—Grey.
The Last Trail—Grey.
Just David—Porter.
Romance of a Xmas Card—Wiggin.
The Grizzly King—Curwood.
Master in the Vineyard—Reed.
Apron Strings—Gates.
Glory of the Trenches—Dawson.
The Daughter Rays—Reynolds.
World's Almanac and Encyclopedia for 1919.
Little Men—Alcott.
Five Little Peppers and How They Grew—Sidney.
Little Colonel's House Party—Johnston.
Never Too Late to Mend—Read.
Outdoor Girls at Ocean View—Hope.
Outdoor Girls on Pine Island—Hope.
Bobbsey Twins on a House Boat—Hope.
Bunny Brown on an Auto Tour—Hope.
Outdoor Chums on the Lake—Allen.
Outdoor Chums on the Gulf—Allen.
Girls of Central High at Basketball—Morrison.
Girls of Central High on the Stage—Morrison.

point a county supervisor in each county, who is to be the executive officer in charge of the revaluation work. No township lines are recognized. All the property within a county is to be assessed by the same authority under direct supervision of the county supervisor. He appoints his own clerks and assistants. The compensation of county supervisor is graduated with reference to the total value of real and personal property listed in the county, from \$100 to \$250 per month, according to the following schedule:

In counties of less than \$3,000,000, \$100 per month.
Between \$3,000,000 and \$6,000,000, \$150 per month.
Between \$6,000,000 and \$10,000,000, \$200 per month.
Between \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000, \$225 per month.
Over \$15,000,000, \$250 per month.

County Board of Appraisers

The county supervisor, or one of his assistants is to inspect each piece of real property in the county, and to require the owner to give a statement under oath and in detail as to its quantity, quality and value. Blank forms for this purpose are to be furnished by the State Tax Commission and are to cover such inquiries as in the judgment of the Commission are necessary to disclose its real value. These statements, when complete for a township are placed before the County Board of Appraisers, and it is this board which fixes the value. The county supervisor is chairman of the board and its two other members are to be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, and are confirmed by the State Tax Commission.

Appointments to be Made First Monday in April

Appointment of district and county supervisors is to be made by the State Tax Commission during the months of March and April. The Board of County Commissioners in each county is to appoint, at their regular meeting the first Monday in April, two members of the County Board of Appraisers and Review, one from each political party. These appointees receive \$5.00 per day when the Board is in session, and the same mileage as members of the Board of County Commissioners.

CAPTAIN RICKENBACKER, AMERICA'S ACE OF ACES, AUTOMOBILE MEN'S GREAT HERO



Premier Ace is Hero of Motordom.

America's ace of aces, Capt. Edward Victor Rickenbacker, is the automobile men's great hero of the war. Rickenbacker is America's air champion. In the final summing up of the aviation records he was officially credited with bringing down twenty-six German planes.

One story from "over there" relates that he fired the last shot of the war. The story states he was flying over the German lines at 10:59 on the morning of Nov. 11, and that he kept his hand on the trigger of his machine gun for just sixty seconds, driving Germans helter-skelter until the minute was up and the war ended.

Capt. "Rick" was leader of the 94th aero pursuit squadron. In a recent letter he said that on the day the armistice went into effect his squadron was transferred from the First army to the Third army, and was the only pursuit squadron in the American flying service to accompany the Army of Occupation. This unit was credited with bringing down sixty-nine German planes.

May Race This Season

Capt. Rickenbacker plans to be back in the automobile racing game this season. His presence will do much to

bring about the racing boom that automobile men predict for 1919. He is one of the picturesque figures of the war, and his mere entry undoubtedly will draw thousands to the tracks.

"Rick's" exploits won him decoration after decoration. War censorship allowed only the news of his repeated victories to reach this country, but since the armistice wonderful tales of his daring have come across the ocean.

It is known he has received the Distinguished Service Cross with four oak leaves, equivalent to five citations; the French Croix de Guerre, and the decoration of the Legion of Honor. He may have been honored even further, but those decorations were officially reported.

Capt. Rickenbacker enlisted early in 1917. His first work after reaching France was a job as chauffeur to Gen. Pershing. That proved too slow for the daredevil of the speedways and he secured a transfer to aviation. After completing his course of instruction in April, 1918, he won his title of "ace" in one month by bringing down five German planes. Then victories came so fast that "Rickenbacker downs another Hun" was headlined in the papers every little while.

M. L. SHIPMAN DROPS IN.

M. L. Shipman, Commissioner of Labor and Printing, was in town for a couple of days in the latter part of last week, stopping here on some matters of business after making a trip up into Avery County on an investigation for his department. Mr. Shipman says that the last session of the legislature was a warm number, and that he for one felt like singing the Long Metre Doxology when the lawmakers finally adjourned.

Mr. Shipman was returning to Raleigh from Cranberry, N. C., where he had been making an investigation of a fatal mine explosion on the property of the Cranberry Furnace Company, on March 24th. It seems that two machine drill runners were putting in a hole for a blast, when their drill bit ran into a "failed" charge, put in for a former blast, and which for some reason had failed to explode with the rest of the charges in that blast. The charge exploded on contact with the drill, killing the colored drill runner and seriously injuring his white fellow workman.

KING RESIDENCE BURNS

The Flat Rock residence of McMillan C. King, together with all contents, was totally destroyed by fire early Tuesday morning.

The fire, which apparently started from a defective fire-place flue, was discovered about four o'clock in the morning before it had gained great headway, but the terrific wind of Tuesday night made any sort of fire-fighting a hopeless task, and before any of the furnishings could be gotten out the entire structure was a mass of flame. The loss is between \$65,000 and \$40,000, partially covered by insurance.

OPERA HOUSE

The person who likes vaudeville, comedy and the one who likes singing, the party who likes dancing and the one who likes all four, those who like a goodly dash of novelty bills, all will be wholly pleased with the program that comes to the Hendersonville Opera House Friday and Saturday so states Henry Loop who has just recently made arrangements with the city to book and put on good attractions for us this season.

Every member of "Shorty Yager's" show is an artist, and played many large circuits. Condensing many popular musical plays into tabloid form Mr. Yager has succeeded in giving his many patrons a performance entirely different from any here before.

Basket Ball

The game of basket ball which was played between East Flat Rock and Flat Rock teams last Friday afternoon proved to be a very interesting one to the large crowd that witnessed it. The score was 26 to 17 in favor of East Flat Rock.

The line up follows:
East Flat Rock (26): Flat Rock (17)
Pearl Bryant.....Margaret Thomas
Guard
Syble Capps.....Dolly Brookshire
Guard
LuLa Pace.....Nellie Peace
Center
Mildred Michael.....Dorothy Thomas
Forward
Bernice Case.....Gertrude Hall
Forward

REPUBLICANS HONOR OPPONENTS OF WAR

Recreants and Reactionaries Get Chairmanships in House of Representatives.

Washington, D. C., March 31.—Republican recreants and reactionaries—men who voted against war with Germany and against preparations for the war—and veterans of the Old Guard, under the dominion of Senator Penrose and Uncle Joe Cannon, are to share control of the next House of Representatives.

Nearly every member chosen for the chairmanship of an important committee is a Republican with a record of hostility and active opposition to the war or with a reputation as the pleader of special interests. Many of them are in both categories.

In making committee assignments the Republican leaders have promoted men who voted against tabling the McLemore resolution, the war resolution, and the selective draft and who supported the Cooper amendment which sought to nullify the armed neutrality bill.

The McLemore resolution was a warning to Americans to stay off the high seas. The war resolution was that declaring a state of war to exist between this country and Germany. The Cooper amendment was intended to prevent the arming of merchant ships to protect them against German submarines. The selective service law was that under which was organized the great national army that contributed to the glorious victory over Germany and her allies.

It is not surprising that the opponents of the war with Germany and obstructionists of its successful prosecution should thus have been rewarded. The Mann Committee on Committees by whom they were selected was itself strong with the same taint.

Thirty-one of the thirty-six members of this "steering committee" were in the previous Congress. Eighteen of these thirty-one voted against tabling the McLemore resolution, whose defeat President Wilson characterized as the "acid test" of loyalty to American rights. Seventeen of the old members of the committee supported the Cooper amendment.

Record of the New Chairmen.

If the choice of these leaders and chairmen of the Republican House was inspired by a desire to reward their un-American performances, performances then that purpose has been successfully accomplished.

As Speaker of the House, Representative Gillett of Massachusetts will have the chief post of honor. Mr. Gillett's record is enough to have qualified him under the peculiar standards adopted by his Republican associates. He voted against the shipping board bill, which was to provide the Government with tonnage to transport supplies and equipment and soldiers to Europe, and against the food survey bill. He answered "present" to the roll call on the great war revenue bill of 1918, when the country was in the midst of the conflict with Germany. Two other Republicans and the only Socialist in the House answered "present" with him. Mr. Gillett had the backing of Senators Lodge and Penrose and of Will H. Hays, chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Representative Mondell of Wyoming is Republican floor leader. He voted against tabling the McLemore resolution and against the selective service bill. He charged that this measure was "palatable to those who imagine that by the working of this magic selection they and those they love may be excused and the burden may fall upon those without political social or capitalistic influence."

The Committee on Committees selected Representative Knutson of Minnesota to the party whip. He deserved this of his Republican fellows, apparently for having voted against the war resolution.

Representative Good of Iowa, who is to be chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, gets this important post in spite—or because—of his vote against the tabling of the McLemore resolution and of his vote for the Cooper amendment to the armed neutrality bill.

Recreant and Reactionary
In the person of Representative Fordney of Michigan is combined re-

(Continued on last page.)

TOURISTS GOING TO CHIMNEY ROCK.

Large Amount of Travel Attracted to Chimney Rock Over Asheville-Charlotte Highway.

The beautiful weather that has recently prevailed in Western North Carolina—the kind of weather that we advertise—has caused large numbers of motorists to visit Chimney Rock. Never at this season of the year has there been as heavy travel. Heretofore, Asheville people have been rather slow to recognize the great scenic attraction which Chimney Rock has offered as an objective point for automobilists for the whole of the "Land of the Sky" and the recent appreciable increase of travel has been due to a number of causes probably the most important of which is the excellent condition of the Asheville-Charlotte Highway.

At the present time the last named thoroughfare is probably in the finest condition of any road crossing the Blue Ridge Mountains and the scenery along this new road is among the finest in the East. At the present time there is engaged a large force of men expending \$100,000 on hard surfacing the road in the direction of Chimney Rock, namely; from Biltmore to Fairview.

It will be recalled that the stretch of highway has been macadamized for years but the surface became rough and at the present time the Asheville Paving Co., is making this part of the "Chimney Rock Route" a veritably boulevard by laying a coat of asphalt upon the old macadam base. When this work is completed it will determine at once a vast and increasing travel directly from the Piedmont to Asheville, notwithstanding the considerably lower elevation which can be attained in crossing the ridge over the route which was previously more popular by way of Reedy Patch Gap. Both of these entrances to the resort region of North Carolina, however, are destined to become splendid thoroughfares and nothing should be left undone to keep them in an excellent state of repair. The Hendersonville-Charlotte Highway should be second to none as an eastern entrance to our city.

WOMAN'S CLUB.

The Woman's Club had their meeting on Wednesday afternoon, March 26, in the school auditorium promptly at 3:30 o'clock. The president, Mrs. L. M. Colt, asked the meeting to come to order and Mrs. R. T. Wheelright secretary protem, called the roll. It is the custom for the members to respond with a current event and the following gave interesting ones, Messdames L. M. Colt, W. A. Carrigan, E. W. Ewbank, R. M. Oates, R. P. Freeze and the Misses Carson. The minutes of last meeting were read and approved. No special reports had been prepared by the various committees. There was an animated discussion relative to intertaining the state federation of clubs on June 2. The club will conduct a "Millinery Opening and Rummage Sale," on Saturday, April 5, in the store formerly occupied by Fatterson, to supplement their funds for the increased demands upon them.

Mrs. Michael Schenck's suggestion about singing the Federation song at every meeting met with approval. Mrs. Colt introduced Miss Evelyn Lee who gave some valuable suggestions about "Clean-Up-Week." The club would be very glad to have the rummage that is collected sent to their sale. There were present at this meeting 22.

The new members that were received were Mrs. Bradley and Miss Gustie Dotson. Three other names were handed in for consideration. This program was then given.

"Military Highways." Mrs. E. W. Ewbank.

Illustrations of the Dixie Highway were shown by her.

"History of the American Navy," Mrs. R. P. Freeze.

Both papers were well written and instructive. The president read the program for next meeting and adjourned.

By Way of Explanation.
No, Carrie, the expression "piping times of peace" has nothing to do with smoking the peace pipe.