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**SOME AMENDMENTS TO
THE TAX BILL APPROVED**

Washington, Oct. 10.—Amendments to the tax bill proposing repeal of all transportation tax including those on oil by pipe line, and on parcel post packages; a minimum surtax of 50 per cent and increased State taxes were approved today by majority members of the Senate finance committee.

The majority also approved amendments for reduction of the corporation capital tax and for repeal of the \$2,000 exemption allowed corporations in the case of corporations having annual incomes in excess of \$25,000.

A flat tax of \$6.40 on distilled spirits also was agreed upon but with a proviso that there would be a rebate of \$4.20 a gallon where it was shown to the satisfaction of the commissioner of internal revenue that the spirits were used for manufacturing or medical purposes.

The excise tax proposed for repeal under amendment included the rates on sport goods, chewing gum, electric fans, thermos bottles, smoking and hunting equipment, moving picture films, toilet soaps and powders, photographic apparatus and accessories, furs and perfume and cosmetics. The tax on works of art would be reduced from 10 to 5 per cent.

PROGRESS STATE ROAD WORK.

Eighty contractors, employing 6,500 men actively at work building 896 miles of road; 900 men at work maintaining 4,500 miles of road; 3,200 men working at rock quarries and gravel pits; 500 engineers and clerical help; and \$5,763,000 in contracts and approved construction that before May 1, 1922, will total 1,500 miles, costing \$14,000,000, is the record of the first half of the State Highway Commission's first year under the Connor-Doughton-Bowie road bill, says the Raleigh News and Observer.

Reviewing the past six months' work yesterday, State Highway Commissioner Frank Page and State Highway Engineer Charles M. Upham were modestly proud of the results that have been obtained in the brief time since the Commission began the expansion of its activities. Progress of road work was indicated in the mileage of roads let to contractors each month, beginning with July, when 34 miles were let.

In August the lettings amounted to 41 miles; in September to 85 miles, and during the present month advertised lettings will total 130 miles. November will probably amount to 150 miles. The end of commission's year next May will bring the total to around 1,500 miles of road under construction, and 5,000 miles under maintenance. Results have been attained more speedily than was anticipated when the year began.

Of all the suggestions made to bring about a restoration of normal business conditions none is more timely than that of a national pay-up campaign. Such a movement, if put into effect throughout the country, would help business and relieve conditions wonderfully. It would be the electric spark needed to fire the fabric of the nation's business life. The wheels are locked. They have been locked for months. Nobody has paid anybody else. Credit has been extended to the limit. The country has done all the business on paper that it can afford to do. Some ready cash is needed to unlock the wheels and start the procession to moving.

Early planted wheat makes the best yields.

"THOU SHALT NOT KILL."

Editor Progress:

I notice an editorial in last issue touching the subject of capital punishment, with the above quotation oft repeated. What I wish to say is that I wish every one, and especially Church members, would read the Bible and study it to profit. I wish to quote some passages from the same source as the above quotation.

When the children of Israel made the same request to king Sihon the Kaiser made to the king of Belgium, they received the same answer. "And the Lord said, I have begun to give Sihon. . . . And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, women and little ones of every city, we left none to remain. (Deut. 3-34.)

"Bashan came out against us. . . . And the Lord said, unto me, Fear him not, for I will deliver him. . . . And we took all his cities. . . . threescore cities. . . . And we utterly destroyed them. . . . destroying the men, women and children of every city." (Chap. 3 Deut.)

"But if any man hate his neighbor, and lie in wait for him, and rise up against him and smite him mortally that he die and fleeth unto one of these cities (of refuge) the Elders of the city shall send and fetch him thence, and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die. Thine eye shall not pity him, but thou shalt put away the guilt of innocent blood. . . . that it may go well with thee. (Deut. 19: 11-12.)

"If a man have a stubborn son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother. . . . and they shall say unto the elder of the city, this our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard, and all the men of the city shall stone him with stones, that he die." (Deut. 21.)

The 22nd Chapter of Deuteronomy has the same penalty for a woman for adultery before marriage, and the same penalty for each defendant in case of adultery with a married woman.

Concerning the 31 cities that Joshua conquered, it is said: "And they smote them and left none remaining. . . . And Joshua did unto them as the Lord bade him. . . . And they smote all the souls that were therein with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them; there was not any left to breathe." (Joshua 11.)

Saul did this in one of his battles; but spared King Agag. Samuel, however, after blaming Saul for this dereliction, took a sword and hewed Agag to pieces before the altar; that is to say, right in the church.

I never had faith enough to believe that the Lord commanded all this slaughter; but it is the record, and shows how dangerous it is to base one's opinion upon one single sentence selected from a collection



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