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A SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS PAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF WARRENTON AND WARREN COUNTY

5c. THE COPY

Our Tax System

NORTH CAROLINA'S THREE PLANS OF TAXATION

An Explanation of The System of Revaluation; The \$300 Exemption and The Income Tax Amendment To Be Voted.

All over North Carolina there is much interest in the State's new taxation policy and many inquire as to just what is proposed.

The matter has already been explained in The Progressive Farmer, but since that was several months ago, it seems well to explain the matter afresh to our farmers who are now reporting on their land values.

I. The \$300 Tax Exemption

The new taxation policy of the State aims at three things:

- (1) Honesty in assessments.
- (2) A reduction in tax rate to correspond to the increase in assessed values.
- (3) Provision for lightening the burdens of poverty and industry, and putting a larger share of the burdens of taxation on men with large incomes.

With regard to the latter point, we may note in the outset that the recent Legislature was the first one to take advantage of the authority given it by the Constitution to provide a \$300 exemption for tax-payers, this provision of the new law reading as follows: "From and after the year 1919 there shall be allowed an exemption for each person of wearing apparel, arms for muster, household and kitchen furniture, the mechanical and agricultural instruments of mechanics and farmers, laborers and scientific instruments, and provisions, not exceeding a total value of three hundred dollars."

II. The Revaluation Plan

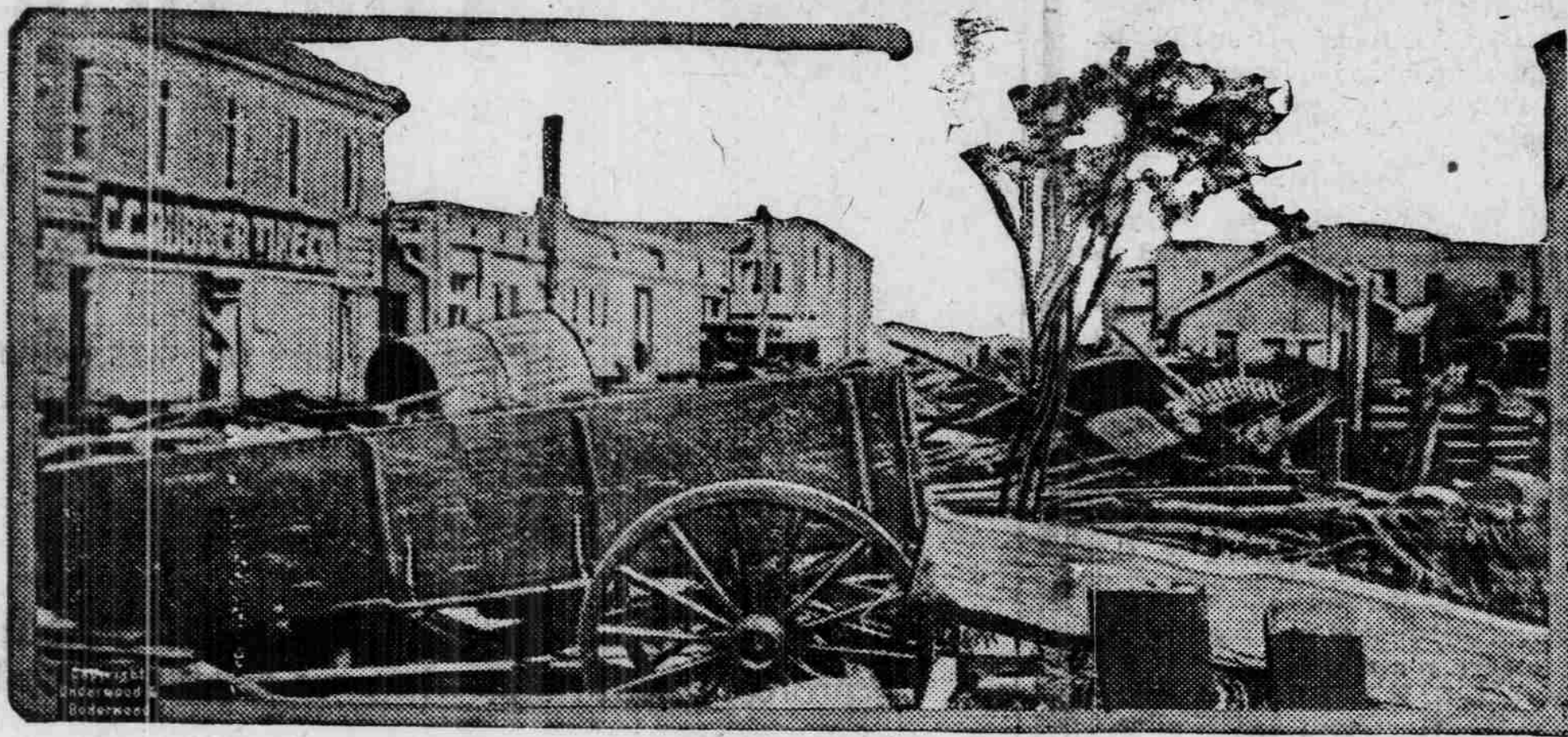
Now about the plans for securing just assessments. In the past everybody understood that he was permitted to list property for something less than its real value; and the result was that the more pliable a man's conscience, the lower the rate he named; and this thing had grown worse and worse year after year until it has amounted to a state disgrace. For a man to list his property at its real value meant that he would have to pay practically twice as much tax as he ought to pay. Such a system encouraged lying, and corrupted public morals at the fountain head. If the sworn officials of the state set the example of assessing real estate at 33 1/3 per cent of its value, how could the state expect the individual taxpayer to list his personal property at 100 per cent?

Now all this is to be changed. Hereafter every property owner in the state is expected to list every cent's worth of property he owns—and list it at what it would bring if offered for sale under favorable conditions, and not merely at its probable selling price at a forced sale.

Now if this plan for revaluing property for taxation were offered without assurance that the tax rate would be correspondingly cut, of course this plan would largely fail. It specifically provides, however, that as assessed values increase, the tax rate must decrease. It is provided that the amount of tax collected by the state or by any county, city, town, or special tax districts shall not exceed a 10 per cent increase in the amount now raised by taxation. Consequently if assessed values are increased 200 per cent, as they probably will be, the tax rate per \$100 worth of property will be proportionally reduced, plus the nominal 1/3 per cent increase. Mr. A. J. Maxwell, who is the state's foremost tax authority, expressed the positive opinion, in fact, that under this revaluation plan, the average tax rates will be reduced to about one-fourth the present rates.

The state tax commission will supervise assessments and valuations through a scientifically designed system so that the man who voluntarily lists his property at full value is going to be compelled to do the same thing. This new valuation recently began, and it will take about a year to get this monumental task done for the whole state. Then the Legislature will be called together and the tax rate per \$100 for state, county, special tax district and municipal purposes

HOW THE TORNADO LEFT CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX.



First photograph from Corpus Christi, Tex., showing some of the destruction wrought by the tornado which killed hundreds of persons and did immense property damage.

es will be cut just in proportion as valuations have been increased.

III. The Income Tax Constitutional Amendment

But some one may say, "While the Legislature forbade an immediate increase exceeding one-tenth in amount of taxes collected, will not this soon be increased as a result of revaluation?"

We think not, and for a very important reason.

The big purpose of this revaluation of property is not to increase the amount of taxes to secure justice and equality in assessment. Then in order to provide larger revenues for the state and give us the necessary money for the many important tasks which an advancing civilization places on the commonwealth—better schools, better roads, better health, better care of the unfortunate, etc.—the Legislature submits to the people another important plan. At the election in November, 1920, the people will vote on a constitutional amendment authorizing the state to tax the income of the wealthy, without regard to whether any particular income is derived from invested wealth or otherwise.

We hope every Progressive Farmer reader will now make up his mind to vote for this amendment and urge others to do so. Heretofore we have had a shameful system in North Carolina. Incomes derived from labor have been taxable, while incomes derived from invested capital have been exempt from taxation, under constitutional provisions. Thus it is said that a famous tobacco manufacturer of this state had an income of about a half a million dollars a year from his property, and was not required to pay one cent of income tax on it, while his stenographer or clerk getting \$1,250 a year or more was required to pay an income tax. In England for years it has been the plan to put a heavier tax on "unearned incomes," that is to say, on those derived from one's labor or profession. Our North Carolina plan has been on the other extreme, and the voters of the state ought to pile up 100,000 majority for changing it, just as they did for changing the constitution so as to provide a six-month's school term.

A great part of the state's wealth is concentrated in the hands of a comparatively few wealthy persons, and it only fair that they bear a larger share of the burden of taxation. This is all the proposed income tax amendment means.—Progressive Farmer.

SCHOOL AND FARM

It ought to dawn on some of us fairly soon that better education is not simply a matter of finer buildings and apparatus, more pay, more taxes, more organization. These things are all helpful, but there must be some active spring of life in the child to flow out through the growth channels which schooling can set.

The teacher builds on the solid foundation of new resources, better equipped homes, bigger cattle, more skillfully attended fields, more productive crops. To popularize gardens, to devise better ways of storing, moving, and selling food, to multiply public markets, to clear the entire path from the farm to the family supper table—all such improvements help, directly and mightily, to make a more effective education possible.

In this time of change we must take account of realities and make sure of our foundations. The foundation of the good school is the good farm.—Cliff's Magazine.

Return Is Led By Maynard

Cheyenne, Wyo., Oct. 15.—Lieut. Maynard, leader in the trans-continental air derby, arrived here at 4:24 p. m., after flying from Salt Lake City, in four minutes less than four hours, breaking all records.

Lieut. Maynard said he expected to make New York City by Friday. A reception in his honor had been planned tonight by officers at Fort Russell, but he refused to stay, wishing to make Sidney, Neb., before night. He was in the best of spirits and was still accompanied by his German police dog. He left for the east at 5 o'clock.

At Sidney, Neb., For the Night

Sidney, Neb., Oct. 15.—Lieut. Maynard, blazing the way to the eastern terminal in the air flight, as he did in his trip from Mineola, N. Y., to San Francisco, arrived here tonight at 5:45, mountain time, making the ninety-three miles from Cheyenne, Wyo., in 33 minutes. Maynard will remain here overnight.

He said he had encountered fine weather during the latter part of the day. He plans to leave here for North Platte at Sunrise tomorrow. If he is able to maintain as good speed tomorrow as he did on his westward flight, he will be in Chicago by night. He left Battle Mountain, Nev., at 7:33 this morning, Pacific coast time. The distance from Battle Mountain to Sidney is about 740 miles. The "Flying Parson" is in excellent health and spirits.

PRESIDENT WILSON GRADUALLY IMPROVING IN HEALTH

Washington, Oct. 15.—Absence of any new complication in President Wilson's illness brought from his bedside late today the assurance that he is "getting better," elimination of his recent annoyance caused by a slightly enlarged gland has removed the only outstanding obstacle to his convalescence and about the White House there was manifested a decided atmosphere of optimism.

With the exception of the news furnished him by Mrs. Wilson, the President has learned very little national and international developments although he is given daily a general summary of events. He has at times expressed a keen desire for more comprehensive reports and has asked Rear Admiral Grayson his personal physician, for news but always Dr. Grayson has succeeded in keeping away from his patient information that might prove trying to his nerves with the reminder that as a physician he has been too busy to keep in touch with government subjects.

The President's appetite is reported to be as good as expected and a recurrence of the glandular trouble is not anticipated. Only a moderate rate of recovery is looked for and indications official and otherwise are that the improvement announced today may be continued.

Night Bulletin

Washington, Oct. 15.—Only the following brief statement was issued by Rear Admiral Grayson, the President's physician, at 10:30 o'clock tonight:

"The President has had a satisfactory day."

The headache from which he was suffering early in the day, it was learned, had disappeared.

The New Law For Juveniles

(By Royland F. Beasley, State Commissioner of Public Welfare.)

The juvenile court is the means whereby it is found that dependent neglected and delinquent children can be saved from lives of failure and disaster and made to grow into useful and law-abiding citizens.

This is very good for the child; all will admit. It is equally good for society. Paupers and criminals are liabilities to the taxpayers. Law-abiding citizens are an asset.

The juvenile court principle is now being applied all over the United States and in foreign countries. It is one of the great forward steps of the age, and the most important advance in court methods in years. It can no more be checked than the public school. It is here to stay and to improve.

The juvenile court can't save every child. But it has been proven that when the system is properly carried out it will save seventy-five per cent of them. That is more than worth the money.

It costs the taxpayers ten times more to capture, try, punish, and maintain an adult criminal than it does to save a juvenile delinquent.

All the children in North Carolina under sixteen years of age who are delinquent, neglected, or dependent, are under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

Every juvenile court has a probation officer whose business it is to investigate every case of such children, lay the facts before the judge, and then carry out the decision of the court. This is called probation work.

The court stands in the relation of parent to such children, and will discipline, guide and control them through probation, just as a wise father would.

The court may punish a child if it is necessary, but wayward children are more in need of wise guidance and just discipline and friendly help than of punishment.

The judge is the kind and wise father, the probation officer is the big

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MICKIE SAYS

YA NEEDN'T COME IN HERE WITH ANY KNOCKS ON ANYBODY, 'CAUSE WE WON'T PRINT 'EM! IF YA AINT GOT THE NERVE T' BANLTH' GUY OUT T' HIS FACE, WHY'NT YA CALL HIM UP OVER TH' PHONE? HOW DYA GIT THAT WAY, 'N' POOR PRUNE!



Prints Apology

NEWS & OBSERVER MAKES AMENDS AND RETRACTION

For Article Asserting "Warrants Are Issued Against Court Officers Charging Them With Theft"; Four Roses Case

The following editorial from the pen of our neighbor the News & Observer is but doing simple justice to Mr. John D. Newell and his deputy Mr. Frank B. Newell, Jr. Of course, we all make mistakes in Newspaperdom, and we are quite sure the News & Observer gladly retracts the damaging misinformation it gave to its readers. In fact there is too much prones among the Press to print the sensational; to bring out in big headlines news, that too often should not be printed, to magnify the news, so to speak. Of course this applies to all of us, but that does not prevent it from being bad policy. We are therefore glad to reproduce the editorial from the News & Observer because it is simply doing justice to Mr. Newell, and because we are quite sure the News & Observer is glad to give all publicity to its

RETRACTION AND APOLOGY

In the News and Observer of September 10 there was printed a special from Norlina in which certain statements were made that reflected upon Hon. John D. Newell, clerk of the Superior Court of Warren county, and his chief deputy, Frank B. Newell, Jr. The special was published in regular course. On September 11 Hon. John D. Newell sent a statement correcting the special in question and setting the matter aright. This was promptly published in the edition of September 13.

It was, of course, far from our intention to misrepresent or injure Mr. Newell or those in his office. In the busy round of a newspaper office the editor has no opportunity to put his information to a final test.

Mr. Newell has formally complained of us, however, and we desire to fully meet his wishes in the matter. He has pointed out three particulars in which the special complained of contained false statements, as follows:

1. That part of the headlines to said article which says, "Warrants Are Issued Against Court Officers Charging Them With Theft."

2. That part of the body of said article which says: "Charging the theft of eleven quarts of whiskey, warrants were sworn out yesterday against John D. Newell, clerk of the Superior Court, and his chief deputy, Frank B. Newell, Jr."

3. That part of the body of said article which says: "Warrants were issued and the case goes to the Superior Court next week for a full and complete investigation."

We hereby retract the above set-out statements, and disavow any intention to misrepresent or injure Mr. Newell or those in his office, and we freely tender him our apologies for their publication. The News and Observer tries to print all the news that is fit to print; and whenever we make a mistake our readers need no assurance that it was unintentional, and that we are at all times glad to make corrections and amends.

"BRIDGET!" HIRE OUT TO US.

"Bridget!" hire out to us and be our cook,

With favor please on our household look,
All evenings to yourself if you prefer;
No washing to do—One Hundred Dollars per.

You shall have a phonograph,
Our "soda-fizz" you may freely quaff;
And when the Sherig's friends drop in,
Serve lemonade, champagne and gin.

The parlor room and bath for you aside,
And if you are not gratified
With the parlor and the bath you to choose;
"Go as far as you like"—to use.

Your expenses whatever the amount
May all be charged to our account,
If you'll but come to our household nook,
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Is Flu to Recur?

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH DISCUSSES POSSIBILITIES

Past Experience Would Say So; Board Urges Adoption of Safe Policy With Every Precaution Against Reappearance.

The epidemic of influenza will recur this winter, if the germ that causes it is not worn out in killing people, if we have no artificial means—quarantine or vaccination—for controlling the disease, or if it has not already affected all of the population that is susceptible. But note the three "ifs"; any one of them can prevent or limit the recurrence of the epidemic. It, therefore, necessary, in arriving at a satisfactory answer to our question, will the epidemic recur this winter, that we understand the three possible factors that limit the duration of epidemics. As suggested, these three factors are:

First: The loss of virulence by the infective germ which causes an epidemic as a factor in the cessation of the epidemic, is an extremely remote probability—almost too remote to discuss. The writer is unable to find any references in the literature available to him on this question; indeed the science of bacteriology teaches the reverse, that infective germs gain rather than lose virulence during an epidemic. Germs are small vegetable forms, and it is a matter of common observation that successive generations of plants, the soil in which they grow remaining the same, become more vigorous rather than less vigorous. It, therefore, does not seem reasonable nor probable that epidemics, including influenza, stop because of the exhaustion of the infective germs.

Second: Artificial means, such as quarantine and vaccination, may be effectively applied in the control of some epidemics, as diphtheria, typhoid scarlet fever, yellow fever, etc., but there is no evidence to show, and there are no health officers of dependable reputation who believe, that any epidemic of influenza has ever been or can be controlled or stopped with our present means. The most that can be done by artificial means, such as preventing public assemblages, is to retard the progress of an epidemic so that available medical and nursing care may be adequate to the emergency.

Third: The consumption of the infective material, susceptible fuel, rendering it immune like the unstricken portion of the population, is, by the exclusion of the other two possible factors, the responsible factor and the sole factor in limiting the duration of an influenza epidemic. To recur to the illustration above used: The farmer knows what clover sick land is; that it is land on which clover has been grown for a number of years until some of the chemical elements of the soil necessary to the life of the clover has been so completely consumed by the successive crops that the soil can no longer produce the clover which for several seasons grew luxuriantly; and in the same way and for the same reason the soil becomes sick, unable to produce any crop raised continuously upon it for a number of years. So with epidemics; they can begin, spread, and exist only on non-immune, susceptible populations, and when the susceptible population has been affected and made immune, the epidemic, under natural laws, must stop.

Now comes the real question: What percentage of the influenza susceptible population did the epidemic of last winter affect? On our ability to answer this question would seem to rest our right to draw conclusions as to the prevalence of influenza this fall and winter. The history of influenza extends back over a period of 800 years and recording about 100 epidemics, indicates that an epidemic usually involves about 40 per cent of the population. Recalling the more recent epidemics (that of last year excepted), the epidemics of 1890, '91, and '92, and that of 1900, '01, and '02, we had involvement during the entire course of these epidemics of perhaps 40 per cent of the population, possible 50 per cent. In both of these last two mentioned epidemics there was during the several years of their prevalence

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