

# New Tax Bill May Be Made to Apply to Two Instead Only One Year

## And Martin Madden of Illinois, Chairman Appropriations Committee, Favors Plan of Making Tax Reduction Automatic Whenever Treasury Surplus Exceeds Certain Fixed Sum

By DAVID LAWRENCE

Washington, Nov. 17.—Definite steps will be taken at the forthcoming session of Congress to make the new tax law cover more than a single year.

The bill being framed by the House ways and means committee will apply on all earnings of the year 1925 which are payable next March but there is a feeling in Congress that even when the estimates of the Treasury as to the probable surplus for the next fiscal year are analyzed there will be an opportunity or at least a demand for further tax revision a year from this December, too.

Shall the law be constantly revised? Treasury experts say it is expensive to administer a constantly changing law and that avoidance and evasion multiply when there is an expectation of a lower tax rate right along.

The Democrats in 1918 framed a law that specified the rates for two succeeding years and thus hoped to go into the 1920 Presidential campaign with the credit of having reduced taxes. The Republicans were unable to make any further reductions—at least with the condition of the revenue then they did not like to tackle it so they let the law alone.

If the Republicans who are in power fear that they may lose control of the Senate, as seems to be possible judging from the apprehension expressed by Republican Senators themselves, it might be to their political advantage to reduce taxes on a sliding scale downward to take care of the next two years so that the last half of the Coolidge administration will be conducted under a tax reduction written by a Republican Congress.

Representative Martin Madden of Illinois, chairman of the appropriations committee, will insist on his plan for an automatic reduction of taxes every time there is a surplus above \$50,000,000. He feels that the taxpayer should get a reduction as a matter of course, if the receipts exceed the expenditures and that Government expenses should be held to a minimum.

No one Congress can, of course, bind a succeeding Congress, but once the principle is established it would be followed. The objection made to the Madden plan is by those Treasury officials who think it would mean rigidity and prevent larger payments being made to the public debt if the funds are available.

Mr. Madden's amendment will be difficult to defeat and it would not be surprising if it passed the House and provoked considerable debate in the Senate. The purpose of Mr. Madden is to make it possible for the tax payer to calculate his reduction as soon as the probable surplus is known, and he thinks also that the stimulus to Government economy will be unparalleled.

### MEDALS FOR WAITERS ARE GIVEN IN FRANCE

Paris, Nov. 17.—Medals for waiters, chambermaids, porters and valets in a country where every other man in the street wears a decoration, is the latest manifestation of the French passion for self-adorment. The Hotel Managers' association of France has awarded 550 medals to members of hotel and restaurants' staffs "in recognition of their devotion to duty in looking after the comfort of the guests."

If medals were given in place of tips, some of the recipients would be unable to walk with the weight of them after last summer's prosperous American season.

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### CURRITUCK FAMED FOR MINT AND CANNAS

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could be no great spot of profit in whiskers, save the satisfaction that their owners may get out of combing them, if they did comb them. Or perhaps them, Mr. Bagley was at least going to be diverting, and there were obvious possibilities in a piece with a headline on it that would say Currituck raises bumper whisker crop sale to the man forecast this year.

"The colony begins along here. This canal is the line," said Mr. Bagley.  
Stretching away to the dim, blue line of swamp forest to the left were illimitable fields. Waving seas of corn, blue-green and gently undulating in the soft winds that came from somewhere off the sounds.

Here and there were trim, white houses, set back from the roads that followed the canal banks.

Out of a field of corn a group of men and boys came suddenly into the road ahead. Tall, almost gaunt men, fair skinned and blue-eyed. And their faces had never been sullied with a razor. Not even the youths among them, with beards just beginning to come through, had shaved themselves.

Some of the boys were of a tropical luxuriance, blonde and brown and with the older men white. Undoubtedly Currituck had a great whisker crop. We marveled at its magnificence.

"What are those patches of deep green there?" we asked after due consideration had been accorded the whiskers of the colony.

"Mint," said Mr. Bagley. "That's what I thought you'd like to see."

"Mint?"  
"Yes, they raise a lot of it out here. I believe this colony supplies most of the mint to the big chewing gum manufacturers. I am sure that all the well-known 'Spearmint' flavor comes from right in here."

Conditions in other sections of the country have driven the industry here.

It sounded exactly like an additional item for that imposing list of things which North Carolina possesses supremely, an item to be put down beside the towel factories, the table linen factories, the denim factories, and perhaps to be put in the company with Mt. Mitchell itself.

It began to shape itself into the formula used— "North Carolina raises more mint than any other state in the union."

Where Mint Comes From  
And it belongs to Currituck county. Here was something that the expert duck shooter didn't know about the county. He had made no mention of the vast mint fields that are cultivated in the lands that were formerly the Dismal Swamp. By now we had drawn up before a trim white house. Mr. Bagley was greeted cordially by an elderly farmer with a huge gray beard. He spoke with the deep gutturals of the Teuton, German and Mennonite.

He was very happy to have visitors. To be sure he would show them the mint fields, and the distillery where the oils were taken from the plant and reduced to the raw state in which the Wrigley's buy it. Yes, they could also see some of the oil itself. If they would come this way. All of this was said in a language that was somewhat difficult to follow, it being part German and part English, or all English with a thick accent of German over it.

Out back of the house were the fields of mint. They were like the old-fashioned mint beds that

people used to have when there was any use for mint in this country, only they were stretched out until they covered many acres. They were beautifully green, and there was a delicate aroma over the field loomed from the tender leaves as the winds tossed them about, bruising them.

Under a shed at the end of the field was the still. The process of rendering the mint oil is not intricate. Mowing machines cut down the stalks, like hay. They are allowed to wilt for a few hours and then are raked up and taken to the plant. They are packed into a great steel tank and live steam turned in on them. The steam forces the oil out of the plant and it rises to the surface to be drawn off. One acre will produce several hundred dollars worth of oil.

\$100 A Gallon  
The stuff is immensely valuable. After we had seen the plant our host led us to the house. His wife met him at the door and hurled some staccato German sentences at him. None of us knew a word of German, but the language a housewife uses when she protests against the bringing of strange visitors in it before she has cleaned up in the morning is a universal language. The host reassured her with a friendly poke under the chin and led us up stairs.

"One bottle is worth five hundred dollars," he said, briefly. The bottle was a five gallon glass water bottle. He had half a dozen of them stored there. He was waiting patiently for the market to be in greater need of mint oil. There is not much of it available in the world this year, on account of a storm and blizzard in the Middle West that killed almost the entire crop out there.

This colony was established there before the war, and has become a part of the community in Currituck. They are good citizens, having their racial and religious peculiarities, to be sure, but Currituck has been hospitable to them, and they have become an asset. Plans are being made to largely increase the colony. The middle west is too cold for them, and they are prospering in the lands that used to be the Dismal Swamp before it was drained. Mint and corn and beans are their main crops.

"I'd like very much to have your picture, if you don't mind my taking it," I said to the host.

"With us we do not have pictures," he said modestly. "Take the fields, the still, anything you like—but with us we have no pictures of ourselves."

It is a religious belief, I take it. The Amish are a sect of the Mennonite church, established 400 years ago during the Reformation. They have been in America since the beginning, particularly in Pennsylvania and Illinois and Ohio. These migrated here from Illinois. There are several scores of them settled in Currituck. The company which is promoting their colonization holds about 20,000 acres of land there.

"So ducks are not the sole industry in Currituck," we said to Mr. Bagley when we started back.

"Oh, no," he said. "They kill a good many ducks here in winter, but relatively few of our people are concerned with it. We raise a good many potatoes down the county toward Powells Point. You

see this corn here, and beans. There is some very good farming done in the county. I guess more than in any county in the State. It is a right profitable industry."

The White Canna  
"Is that all?"  
"Well, yes, I guess that's all that's of much interest to anybody."

But Bagley is modest before he is honest, certainly about himself. He is a farmer who has taken a small acreage a mile out of Moyock, and made it pay on a different basis than is the custom of most North Carolina farmers. He raises seed for other farmers, lives his life in contentment and peace, and with Mrs. Bagley has been engaged in a search that has lasted for generations.

And he has found it.  
Of rather he has brought it to pass. Canna growers have searched for years for some combination of known sorts of the lily that would give them a white canna.

The flower, as most people know, runs generally to reds and yellows, and combinations of these colors. The experts have been looking through the years for a lighter shade, and hoping that some day there might come a white one.

Out there in the middle of the 20-acre field in front of the Bagley house is a row of cannas that are white. It has been there three years now, with occasional reversions to other types. It has not become definitely fixed as a white canna, or so definitely that he can honestly announce a white canna, but it is coming more and more consistently white. He has hopes that years of painstaking cross breeding has removed all the color from it, and that it will stay white.

So here is another thing in Currituck that may get itself a place in the roster of first things in North Carolina. The Baxleys raise cannas on the scale that people hereabouts raise tobacco and cotton and corn. That field in front of the house, the most bewilderingly brilliant sight in North Carolina, produces a large part of the canna lilies sold by the florists in this part of the country. One of these days it will produce the white one they have been looking for, and it will be a famous field.

It must have been an absorbingly interesting search, and I know of no two people more

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