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TAX ASSESSORS GO TO WORK MAY 1

AN INCREASE OF \$100,000,000 OF PROPERTY VALUES IS ANTICIPATED.

EFFORT TO EQUALIZE TAXES

The Present Property Assessments in North Carolina Aggregate Upwards of \$613,000,000—State Tax Commission Instructing County Assessors.

Raleigh.—Numbers of the county tax assessors recently appointed by the corporation commission as state tax commission under the new machinery act are coming to Raleigh from day to day for conferences with the commission as to their duties which begin May 1. The commissioners are going over with the assessors the features of their duties, which include the supervision of the assessments by the assistant township assessors, sitting with the county commissioners and a county board of equalization and representing the state tax commission in assessment matters generally.

The present property assessments in North Carolina aggregate upwards of \$613,000,000 and the leaders in the legislature, in basing the revenue legislation, figured at least an increase of \$100,000,000 of property values. Many in close touch with the approaching work of the tax assessing officials believe the totals will run considerably more than the hundred-million increase.

The state tax commission will soon issue a general letter of instructions for the county assessors and there will be special instructions as to conditions in specific counties. The effort is to secure a more thorough equalization of standards of value in the several counties as they relate to standards in other sections of the state and avoid complaints that figured so prominently during the legislature as to inequalities.

Second Detail Officers to Texas.

There came from the war department the official call for five more officers of the North Carolina National guard to report at the San Antonio, Texas, Mexican border camp for field training, this being the second delegation called. They are to report at camp April 25. Adjutant General Leinster announces the following appointments, which had to be selected with regard for the ranks of officers called for by the war department: Maj. T. S. Pace, second infantry; Wilson; Capt. S. C. Chambers, third infantry; Durham; Capt. W. A. Jackson, first infantry; Mount Airy; Capt. E. L. Black, regimental commissary, second infantry; Charlotte; Capt. Don E. Scott, regimental adjutant, third infantry; Graham.

Rich Chinaman in Trouble.

The state authorities are being asked by friends in Wilmington to intercede with the department of labor and commerce at Washington for a Chinese laundryman of Wilmington, who accumulated a considerable fortune in Wilmington, went to his native land to carry the body of a dead brother, and on his return to this country was refused the right to land, under the Chinese exclusion act, on account of some oath he signed to be allowed to return to China on his sad mission. Through intercession of Wilmington friends, he was permitted to go to Wilmington until May 1, and now the effort is to completely remove the disabilities. He has quite a good deal of property there and also stock in banks and other enterprises.

Scientists Will Meet in Raleigh.

April 28 and 29, there will be held out at the A. & M. college the tenth annual meeting of the North Carolina Academy of science that has for its principal feature of its sessions the presentation of scientific papers bearing on investigations of its members during the year. The titles of 17 have already been registered by members. There is also an annual banquet in connection with the meeting.

March Fire Losses in This State.

Commissioner of Insurance James K. Young, is calling the attention of the people of North Carolina to the fact that the fire losses in this state for the month of March, according to the showing the New York Journal of Commerce amounted to \$518,700 considerably more than should have been with proper attention to the elimination of fire waste and precaution as to condition of buildings in the towns. The loss for the United States and Canada was \$20,000,000 more than in March.

Webb has in the House

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FREIGHT RATE REDUCTION

Long Haul Discriminations to be Abolished May 15—Railroads Are Denied Rerearing.

Raleigh.—There was received from the interstate commerce commission by the North Carolina corporation commission official notification that the interstate commission decides not to grant the petition of the Norfolk & Western, Southern and Seaboard Air Line railroad companies for rerearing in the case of Corporation Commission vs. Norfolk & Western for a reduction of freight rates to Winston-Salem and Durham from Cincinnati from Lynchburg to Durham and from Roanoke to Winston-Salem, thus leaving intact the order of the interstate commission for reduced rates to go in effect May 15. The original order was effective October 1 and there have been three postponements of effectiveness, pending effort on the part of the railroad companies for a rerearing.

This is a phase of the fight in North Carolina against alleged long-haul discriminations in rates to Virginia "gateway cities and North Carolina shipping points," the fight being that rates from Cincinnati to Winston-Salem and Durham, Roanoke to Winston-Salem and Lynchburg to Durham were excessive, constituting discriminations against the North Carolina towns.

The reduction involved from Cincinnati runs from nine cents down to two cents in the schedules 1 to 6 of the freight classifications. Reduction for classification 1 is nine cents; 2, eight cents; 3, seven cents; 4, five cents; 5, three cents, and 6, two cents on the hundred pounds. Then there are corresponding cuts in the local rates from Roanoke to Winston-Salem and Lynchburg to Durham, the schedule being 1 to 6 and A to P.

The corporation commission is hoping that this reduction will be the opening wedge for ultimate developments that will largely relieve North Carolina points of the discriminations that have hampered the shipping interests of the state for so long and have been unsuccessfully fought, the new Durham and Winston-Salem rates possibly forcing readjustment concessions by all main lines of roads having Northern and Western connections.

Raleigh Gets Teachers' Assembly.

Raleigh will be the place and November 30th to December 2nd, the time for the next annual session of North Carolina teachers' assembly.

President C. L. Coon, of Wilson; Vice President E. C. Brooks, of Trinity college, and Secretary R. D. W. Connor, of Raleigh, to whom the executive committee has delegated the power, ratified this action.

Greensboro was bidding by offering to guarantee membership fees of \$500.00, however Raleigh went them one better by offering \$500 cash.

Primary Wanted for all Officers.

A number of state officers are outspoken in their view that if there is to be a Democratic primary next fall for the settlement of the Simmons-Kitchin contest for the United States senate for the seat now filled by Senator Simmons, then there ought to also be party primaries for the selection of the Democratic candidates for the state officers.

Gold Medal for Best Drilled Men.

North Carolina national guardsmen the state over are enthusiastic in praise for the spirit manifested by Brigadier General B. S. Royster of Oxford in offering a gold medal to the individual in the North Carolina brigade who makes the highest mark in the approaching rifle-range contests of company teams to be held by regiments at Raleigh, Goldsboro and Gastonia within the next few weeks.

This Law Protects the People.

Commissioner Young says it would be well to look out for parties who are attempting to sell stock in this state. This stock cannot be sold in this state by any agent unless he and the company he represents are licensed by the insurance commissioner. This law is for the protection of the people, and no one should buy stock until they are certain that the seller has the necessary license.

Chapel Hill.—President Arthur Hadley, of Yale, will deliver the McNair lectures for 1912.

Teaching North Carolina History.

A recognized factor in the furtherance of the interest in North Carolina history is The Booklet, published by the ladies of the North Carolina Society Daughters of the Revolution with Miss Mary Hilliard Hinton as regent of the state society and as editor of The Booklet. The revenue from the letter, by the way, is devoted by the society to patriotic work such as the erection of the memorial to the Revolution Tea Party now in the state.

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FIGHT IS PLANNED ON FREE LIST BILL

REPUBLICAN MINORITY IN HOUSE WILL TRY TO BLOCK DEMOCRATIC PLANS.

WOOL SCHEDULE OPPOSED

It is Said Senator Bailey Will Aid the Republicans in Their Fight.

Washington.—Following the consideration of the Canadian reciprocity bill, the ways and means committee will report other tariff legislation.

The next bill will provide for radical reduction in the wool schedule, admitted to be the most indefensible schedule in the whole list. Even in his Winona speech praising the Payne-Aldrich tariff, President Taft admitted that some of its schedules might be a trifle high, particularly in the wool schedule.

Not only will the duty on woolen manufactures be greatly reduced, but it is proposed to put raw wool on the free list. This latter step is a radical departure, and it is expected to stir up the farmers of the middle and far west, Texas and Wyoming.

Free raw wool will be bitterly opposed by a faction in the Democratic party headed by Senator Bailey of Texas and by the Republican insurgent, led by Senator Warren of Wyoming, who is himself the owner of hundreds of thousands of sheep. The annual wool clip from the ranches of Senator Warren probably equals that of any other wool grower in the United States. Free raw wool can only be secured after a bitter fight, if at all. A lively fight will be made on this provision, nominally in the name of the farmer.

Democratic leaders refer with pride to the achievement of passing the bill for popular election of United States senators and the campaign publicity bill in two legislative days, and to bringing before the house the Canadian reciprocity agreement with assurances of its ratification by an overwhelming majority by the middle of this week. To all these features of the legislative program, however, little opposition has developed. The wonder of it to the experienced observer was the demonstration of the smoothly running Democratic machine.

ENGLISHMEN MOB MORMONS

John Bull Won't Stand for the "Latter Day Saints."

Birkenhead, England.—The anti-Mormon campaign led to serious disorders here. An organized demonstration against Mormonism was carried out and an ultimatum was issued requiring the Mormon missionaries to quit the town within eight days. Later a great crowd attacked the Mormon meeting house and stoned and smashed windows. The police had great difficulty in restoring order. Two persons were injured and five were arrested.

In January W. P. Monson, chief of the Mormon missionaries in England, addressed a letter to the home secretary, Winston Spencer Churchill, according to the request of certain English clergy that the home office investigate Mormonism in England. Monson declared that the Mormons were being persecuted. An anti-Mormon campaign was organized at Liverpool by the bishop of Liverpool and other prominent churchmen. The object was the expulsion from England of the Mormon missionaries, who were charged with sending many recruits, chiefly girls, to the United States. The movement was taken up by the clergy of other cities.

Life Sentence for Doctor Pearce.

Anniston, Ala.—Dr. John E. Pearce, who has been on trial here for several days on the charge of killing Shell Kennedy in this county on January 14, was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Pearce's plea was one of self-defense. Cross Pearce, who is alleged to have killed Sarge Kennedy, a son of Shell Kennedy, and William and Ada Kennedy, father and sister, respectively, of Shell Kennedy, and also alleged participants in the conspiracy, will be tried in May.

Forty Rebels Killed.

Chihuahua, Mexico.—Forty or more insurgents were killed and over one hundred were wounded in a battle fought between Sauc and Santa Clara canyon, about fifty miles north of here. Couriers brought orders to have hospital cots ready for the Federal wounded. The Federals report five killed, but later developments may change the figures. A number of women and children are believed to be among the killed. Coming across from Casas Grandes, with prisoners, the Federals were attacked.

JUST BUBBLES



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RECIPROCITY BILL ADOPTED

MAJORITY MEMBERS OF HOUSE MEET IN CAUCUS AND DECIDE ON MEASURES.

Measures Adopted by the House Democrats May Fail in the Senate.

Washington.—The Democrats of the house in caucus agreed upon the initial steps in tariff revision. By a vote of 128 to 29 it was decided to pass the Canadian reciprocity within the next week without amendment.

The following articles are to be put upon the free list as a sop to the farmers along the Canadian border who will be adversely affected by the reciprocity agreement, though the effect of the action will be widespread. Agricultural implements, including plows, harrows, reapers, binders, mowers, boots and shoes, harness and saddlery, barbed-wire and other fencing, cotton bagging and ties, coarse sacks, burlaps, flour, dressed meats and meat products, salt, sewing machines, seed and hardware. Another caucus will probably be held within the next two weeks to decide what shall be done to the woolen and cotton schedules.

The biggest single item for the Southern farmer is free bagging and ties, which, it is estimated, will save him \$1,000,000 annually. President W. B. Thompson of the New Orleans cotton exchange figured that at the present duty of .927 cents per bale for steel ties, the total cost of a 12,000,000-bale crop would be \$224,000. The present duty on jute bagging amounts to .64 1/4 cents a bale, or \$630,000 on the whole crop, making \$954,000 annually the farmers are required to pay.

The revenue from imported bagging and ties is now only \$100,000. There is no doubt that the house tariff program makes the American farmer a separate class and legislates in his favor to an extent not known or practiced in years. Practically everything he buys for his farm, his house and his table is put on the free list. The only schedules that affect him which were not touched are the woolen, cotton and the steel schedule under which is listed cutlery.

TORNADO SWEEPS 3 STATES

Cyclone Traverses Over Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

Kansas City, Mo.—Twenty-three persons are reported dead, at least a hundred injured, two towns practically swept away, scores of buildings demolished and thousands of dollars' worth of property damaged as the result of a tornado that raged in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

The tornado was accompanied by rain, hail and lightning. Many buildings were struck by lightning and burned. Western Missouri was visited by a rain and hail storm, but this section was not in the main path of the tornado.

Telegraph and telephone wires were rendered useless in the worst stricken sections, and it is probable that the complete report of the death toll and the property damage will prove much greater than they now appear.

The tornado levied its greatest toll of dead at Big Heart, Okla., where eight persons were killed, ten injured and almost every building in the town wrecked.

At Powhattan, Kansas, a woman and child were killed. A high school building was wrecked at Eskridge, Kansas, a number of houses damaged and from fifteen to twenty persons injured.

At Hiawatha, Kansas, a schoolhouse was blown down, an 8-year-old boy named Pelton was killed and several buildings were struck by lightning. Several persons are known to have been hurt at Netawka, Kansas. A boy was killed at Manville, Kansas.

Iowa Elects Senator.

Des Moines, Iowa.—Judge William S. Kenyon (Rep.) was elected United States senator to succeed the late Senator Jonathan P. Dolliver, on the sixty-seventh ballot in the Iowa legislature. He received 78 votes, just enough to elect, against 25 for Supreme Court Justice Horace E. Doremus, his Republican opponent. The deadlock has existed since January 17, when the first ballot was taken. Judge Kenyon was born in Eliza, Ohio, in 1849, and received his law degree from the University of Iowa.

UNITED STATES TO CALL MEXICO TO ACCOUNT

FOR DEATH AND INJURY OF AMERICANS CAUSED BY STRAY BULLETS.

REBELS SHOW SHREWDNESS

Protracted Conference Held at Washington By President and Members of the Cabinet.

Washington.—The Mexican government, according to the view at the state department, will be held accountable for the loss of life and injury to Americans of Douglas, Ariz., during the fighting between federals and insurgents at Agua Prieta.

No matter whether the fire of the federals or that of the insurgents inflicted the injury it will be the federal government to which the United States will look for reparation.

As soon as official reports upon the fighting and the casualties sustained by Americans shall have been received, representations will be made to the Mexican government, it is said, and in due course the claims of those injured will be presented. It is pointed out, however, that in some cases Mexico will have a counter claim of contributory negligence on the part of injured Americans.

As a renewal of fighting at Agua Prieta is looked for, it is expected that formal notice will be served upon both federals and insurgents that American lives and American property on this side of the border must not be endangered.

Insurrecto shrewdness is recognized in the fact that they attacked from the north of Agua Prieta, so as to force its defenders to fire toward Douglas. The apparent ruse has aroused comment here. The rebels are believed to have scented the possibility that such a movement might result in complications and the entanglement of the Mexican government with that of the United States.

Secretary of State Knox was at the White House consulting with the president about the situation arising out of the battle of Agua Prieta. The conference was a protracted one.

At the meeting of the cabinet the situation may be discussed by the president with all of his advisors.

PUBLICITY BILL PASSES.

Fight Over Extent to Which Campaign Publicity Should Be Applied.

Washington.—The passage of the campaign publicity bill by the house today by the overwhelming vote of 393 to 0 makes the second important measure passed in two days.

The party, however, met its first serious trouble in the house. At the close of a session marked by insurgency in the Democratic ranks, by reason of which the Republicans narrowly missed scoring a triumph, the house passed the Rucker bill.

The fight arose over the extent to which publicity should be applied.

But for the vigorous use of the Democratic party whip an important Republican amendment extending publicity to the individual receipts and expenses of candidates for congress would have been retained in the bill when it finally passed.

As it was, the amendment was adopted over the protest of the Democratic leaders by the support of fifty-two of the Democrats, who voted with the solid Republican strength. Resort to a parliamentary move enabled the Democrats later to get rid of the amendment, but twenty-eight of their number refused to change their attitude and stuck with the Republicans in opposition the Democratic majority.

Aero Club wants "Joy Ride" Law.

New York.—Profiting by the experience of the public with automobile joy riders, the Aero club of America, is considering the framing of a bill making it a misdemeanor for any person to use an airplane not owned by himself without the consent of the owner. The matter is in the hands of the law committee of the club, which will draft a bill similar to the automobile laws recently passed in several states covering similar conditions with the automobile.

Imprisoned For Conduct in Election.

New Orleans, La.—Paul Felix, former mayor of Kenner, La., and W. W. Stiles, deputy sheriff, both from Jefferson parish, were sentenced to pay \$1,000 fines, Stiles to also serve eleven months and Felix six months in the parish jail at Convent, La., when the United States circuit court of appeals refused a rehearing on the charges of interfering with a federal election. On election day in November, 1908, the defendants, according to testimony, assaulted Col. E. A. O'Sullivan, clipping the latter's beard.