

STAGGERING TAX BURDEN OF MORE THAN \$36,000,000.00 IMPOSED BY WILD THEORIES OF TOWNLEY BUND

Assistant Attorney General F. E. Packard Analyzes Abstract of Taxes for 1919 Just Issued By Commissioner Wallace—Load Shifted from Personal Property to Real, and John Farmer Is Made the Goat

How a staggering tax burden of more than \$36,000,000 has been imposed upon North Dakota by the wild theories, inefficiencies of extravagances of the Townley government, and how the bulk of the load has been shifted from personal property to real estate from the shoulders of bond-holders, mortgage-owners, railways, telegraph, telephone, express and freight line companies to the farmers, is shown in a careful analysis of the abstract of taxes for 1919 made public today by Assistant Attorney General F. E. Packard, formerly chairman of the North Dakota tax commission.

Mr. Packard's statement is as follows: "When I made the prediction last April that the tax burden upon farm lands in North Dakota would be increased more than fifty percent by the new tax laws, a howl of indignation went out from the Townley newspapers. The justification of that prediction it at hand. The abstract of taxes for 1919 has been completed by the State Tax Commissioner, and with Nelson County estimated, the total general property tax levy for 1919 for the state and all its political subdivisions is \$38,201,966.30 as against \$28,260,682.17 for 1918, or an increase of \$9,941,284.13 or 35 percent. This is the most astonishing increase that this state has experienced since statehood, but this does not tell the entire story as to farm lands.

TAX BURDEN SHIFTED
"As I suggested last year, the tax has been shifted by the new laws from personal property and from the public service corporations to real estate. According to a compilation of the State Tax Commissioner, in 1918 farm land, exclusive of improvements, bore 54.89 percent of the total tax burden, while in 1919 it bore 70.36 percent. In other words, in 1918 farm lands bore \$11,197,385.94 of the total tax burden while in 1919 the burden borne by them had increased to \$19,742,966.30; a total shifting to farm lands of \$8,545,580.36, or an increase over the burden of 39.8 of 74.22 percent. This percentage indicates both the shifting of the tax incident and the increase in the tax burden. It means that the farmers' tax bill has been increased on his real estate by more than 77 percent during the last year.

"To be sure there are some offsets to this increase. There is a slight shift from farm personalty to other personalty. In 1918 farm improvements paid 1.977 percent of the total tax burden. Assuming that that rate would have held good in 1919, the owners of acre property saved \$64,579.00 in 1919. According to the State Tax Commissioner in 1918 farm personal property paid 0.183 percent of the total tax burden, or \$1,873,232.00. In 1919 it paid 0.394 percent of the total tax burden, or \$1,608,878.00. Here also is a saving to the owner of acre property of \$84,454.00. Adding this to the saving on farm improvements we get a total saving of \$1,429,652.00. Deducing this from the total 1919 burden upon acre property we get \$19,742,966.30; offsetting the burden on farm land to that extent we reduce it to \$18,313,314.30 or 64.45 percent. THIS FIGURE 64.45 PERCENT REPRESENTS THE ACTUAL AVERAGE INCREASE OF THE STATE IN THE TAX BURDEN UPON FARM LANDS.

MANY SPECIAL TAXES
"In addition to the direct burden there are a number of special taxes. The oil tax is a sales tax upon gasoline and kerosene. That portion of the flat three cents an acre tax for the hail insurance department which is levied upon land not insured and for which no benefit is received, is a direct tax burden upon all tillable land not insured in the state hail insurance department, and will always remain a burden, even under a compulsory law, since it is applied to unbroken tillable land as well as broken tillable land. The motor vehicles have been withdrawn from general taxation and the burden they bore has fallen upon other property, so that the difference between the present tax and the old license fees, is an added burden. The stocks and bonds tax is a tax of fifty cents a thousand on the actual value of stocks and bonds of all corporations transacting business in the state. The miscellaneous burden includes better fat tax, lawyers' tax, and a great many fees and taxes not otherwise enumerated. To recapitulate:

General Property tax	\$28,201,966.30
Oil tax	395,065.32
Acre Hall tax	310,209.76
Motor vehicle	456,842.49
Stocks and bonds tax	215,000.00
Miscellaneous taxes	225,000.00

Total \$30,004,023.99
"Deducting the old taxes from the above total, we get an increase in the actual general and special tax burden of 1919 over 1918 of about 48 percent for the entire state.
"In addition to these burdens which are taxes proper, there is the special property tax and the special city, county and other taxes and fees. (Continued on Page Two.)

KOLCHAK'S FATE TOLD BY MEMBER OF HIS CABINET

Peking, Tuesday, Feb. 17.—Details of the capture of Admiral Kolchak, former head of the all Russian government in Siberia who was executed by soviet revolutionists in Irkutsk on February 7, have been learned through the receipt of a telegram by Rear Admiral Smirnov, minister of marine in the Kolchak cabinet, who, a short time ago, reached this city. Czech forces guarding Kolchak evidently were induced to surrender him in order that their evacuation of Irkutsk might be facilitated.

LEAGUE PLACES SLATE IN FIELD OPPOSING G. O. P.

Nonpartisans Repudiate Action of Young Republicans in Recent Meet

PUT UP TOWNLEY SLATE

Men and Woman Active in Movement Recommended for Vote at Primary

Hillsboro, N. D., Feb. 21.—One hundred "progressive" republicans met in informal session at the court house here yesterday, endorsed a ticket of delegates to the republican national convention and presidential election in opposition to the slate picked by the two republican state conventions at Bismarck and adopted resolutions urging William Lemke, chairman of the republican state central committee, to call a meeting of the committee at the earliest possible date for the endorsement of the candidates picked at Hillsboro, who are:

DELEGATES
George M. Gannon, Ashley; Tom Menden, Bismarck; Fred Eckert, Williston; Lieut. Leigh J. Monsen, Fargo; Ole Gilbertson, Towner; H. H. Aaker, Grand Forks; W. J. Moxley, Dickinson; Mrs. M. A. Rudd, Fargo; R. Rose, Minot; R. M. Poindexter, Jamestown.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS
J. S. Underwood, Enderlin, Charles Joyce, Bowman; Miss N. M. Sheridan, Mohall; Albert Bakker, Garrison; Axel Backer, Fargo.

JOHNSON ENDORSED
The Hillsboro convention, called by E. F. Baker of Glenburn, a director in the Equity society, also endorsed the presidential candidacy of Senator Hiram W. Johnson of California.

H. M. Hendrickson of Sincere acted as permanent chairman and Howard R. Wood, lieutenant governor, as secretary.

YOUNG CONVENTION SCORED
Judge N. C. Young and the convention held in Bismarck this week were scored for attempting to "usurp the powers and read out of office the legally elected republican state central committee"; their recent meeting was referred to as a rump convention of "disgruntled and reactionary politicians," who were denounced for their "audacity" in asking candidates for the presidency not to file as candidates in North Dakota, and for their insistence upon an uninducted delegation.

The Hillsboro convention is regarded as strictly a league affair, and the fact that such prominent Nonpartisans as Lieut. Gov. Howard R. Wood of Bowman and others, including Charles Joyce, now sheriff of Bowman county, and who was a witness in the Kate Richards O'Hare case, is taken to indicate that the meeting was prompted by and will receive the official sanction of A. C. Townley and William Lemke.

LACOUNT HELD NOT GUILTY OF SLAYING WIFE

Minneapolis, Feb. 21.—Ralph J. LaCount, charged with the murder of Madelyn LaCount, his 16-year-old wife, last night was acquitted by a jury in district court here. The jury was out six hours.

Mrs. LaCount was found dead on September 12, 1919, at the LaCount cottage on the C. J. Winton estate at Lake Minnetonka, near here, where LaCount was employed as a chauffeur. Mrs. LaCount had been struck over the head with a baseball bat and stabbed in the throat with a bread knife.

WAR'S CRIPPLED HEROES VISIT HOME OF GEORGE WASHINGTON AND ARE GLAD THEY ARE AMERICANS

"Looks Just Like Home," One Boy Exclaimed, and Another Figured on Having "a Place Like It Myself Some Day"



The Washington family circle, the general and Mrs. Washington and her two children, to whom Washington was "father and friend," as well as guardian, is a picture of the Washington coach, now kept at Mt. Vernon, and below is Washington's bed, the bed and furnishings unchanged and scarcely touched by the hand of time.

WAR CRIMINALS WILL BE TRIED IN OLD LEIPZIG

Preliminary Steps For Arraignment of Accused Now Being Taken

Berlin, Feb. 21.—Preliminary proceedings in a number of cases of German accused violators of the laws of war have already begun and progress is being made in the collection of documentary material. Dr. Schiffer, minister of justice, told the representative of the Zwoelfblatt yesterday. The minister said that accused persons would be tried at Leipzig by a court consisting of the customary seven judges.

FIRST MEMORIAL SERVICES TO BE HELD TOMORROW

Program at Auditorium in Afternoon in Honor of Soldier Dead

The first memorial exercises held in honor of those who died during the late war will be held tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock at the Auditorium. The exercises will be conducted by the Loyd Spetz post of the American legion and the public is cordially invited to attend.

The program, which is similar to programs given every section of the country tomorrow, includes an address by Rev. George Buzzelle and a pageant symbolic of America's assistance to France and France's appreciation of the supreme sacrifice made by many American soldiers. The next of kin of those who died while in the service, either at home or abroad, will be the guests of honor.

WASHINGTON NOT WORRYING ABOUT ADRIATIC CRISIS

Washington, Feb. 21.—With President Wilson's reply to the note of the allied premiers on the Adriatic question almost ready for dispatch, officials here let it be known that they do not regard the situation as acute nor do they expect the negotiations will take such a turn that the United States would be forced to consider whether it could become a party to the treaty of Versailles.

CAPITAL CITY TO CELEBRATE NEXT MONDAY

The capital city will celebrate Washington's birthday on Monday although tomorrow is the actual anniversary of the birth of the father of his country.

Washington's birthday is the first of a series of three national holidays which fall on Sunday, and which by law will be observed on the day following. The other two are Memorial Day, May 30, and the Fourth of July, which falls this year on July 4, as usual.

All Bismarck banks and every municipal, county, state and federal office will close Monday. The day will be formally observed in Bismarck tomorrow with the American legion services in honor of its hero dead at the Auditorium, and it will be noted in all of the churches and in the public schools.

OLSNESSE MAKES REPLY TO HAIL SYSTEM ATTACK

State Insurance Commissioner Analyzes Objections of Mr. Packard

CHARGES INCONSISTENCY

Says Assistant Attorney General Pleads for Still Greater Socialism

S. A. Olsness, commissioner of insurance, today issued the following statement in response to an attack upon the Townley press' claim for the state hail insurance plan, written by Assistant Attorney F. E. Packard, and which The Tribune published in this column February 17:

It is with reluctance that I ask space in the press for anything, except when departmental reports must be published as required by law. But the appearance of such statements as the one published by Mr. Packard in The Tribune for February 17, as well as your editorial in the same issue, makes it imperative that the false and misleading conclusions presented, should be refuted or corrected.

I had hoped that the state hail insurance would escape such attacks. The principle was acceptable to the entire people, and unassailable therefore, as such. Not that the law is perfect, in itself, nor the management of it; not at all. Being responsible for the successful administration of this law, we welcome any constructive suggestion and wholesome criticism. But, the article referred to contain any such?

ANALYSIS STATEMENT
Mr. Packard states that according to the state insurance department (meaning the annual report of 1918 business) there were \$26,097,911.04 written by the line companies in the state, at an average of 75 cents an acre on \$100.00 risks, or 52 1/2 cents for \$7.00 risks. This makes 70 cents an acre on \$7 risk. But this is not all. The difference here is, of course, that this rate is not excessive, as the line companies profit for the entire state was only a little over \$2,000 for that year. It is true that the companies have operated, even at a loss, some years. But agents never did. Fifteen to 20% for getting the business is a big item and this is reduced under the state system to less than \$3 for every \$100 paid in premiums.

It is hardly correct to state that the average premium paid line companies in 1918, was 75 cents per acre. All the companies, (except the two mutuals and the state), charged two percent more, or 95 cents an acre on all business written west of the river, also on all barley, rye and speltz over the whole state. This would probably bring the rate up to 87 cents an acre for \$10 insurance for 1918.

WILSON REVEALS ANOTHER SECRET UNDERSTANDING

America Pledged, With Congress' Consent, to Pay Allies for Ships

Washington, Feb. 21.—President Wilson's statement to the senate disclosing that he had entered into a tentative agreement at Paris whereby the United States would pay to the reparations commission the difference between the nation's merchant tonnage loss during the war and the appraised value of seized German ships, gave a new angle today to the informal discussion in congress of the ship controversy precipitated by the recent effort of the shipping board to dispose of the fleet of former German passenger liners.

Existence of the agreement not hitherto made public was disclosed by the president in a communication flatly denying that he had entered into any agreement or understanding with British officials concerning the disposition of the ships.

In explaining the agreement, the president stated it was conditioned upon the approval of congress and that in no case should the title of the ships held by this country pass from the United States.

RAIL FACTIONS LINING UP FOR LAST STRUGGLE

Final Vote on Esch-Cummins Bill to Be Cast Before Adjournment

WILSON ASSURES WORKERS

Return of Roads March 1 Not to Affect Negotiations, Says President

Washington, Feb. 21.—Opposing factions of the railroad reorganization bill lined up for a last stand in the house today with a final vote on the Esch-Cummins compromise measure scheduled to be cast before adjournment. Indications, however, were that the vote would not be reached before early morning.

To assure disposition of the bill today the house met an hour earlier than customary. Five hours having been allotted to debate and with a series of roll calls in sight the possibility of an early decision was blocked, but Representative Esch, republican, Wisconsin, in charge of the measure announced he would press the final vote so that the report if approved might go to the senate Monday for consideration Tuesday.

In addition to a majority of the democratic members lined up against the bill largely because of the financial provisions there were members on both sides ready to attack it because of the objections of organized labor.

TO NOT AFFECT NEGOTIATIONS
Assurance was given railroad labor organizations by the railroad administration that return of the roads on March 1 would not affect negotiations now pending as to the interpretation of the various wage agreements which were made with the labor group during federal control.

Director General Hines announced that while the divisions of operation and labor as such would be discontinued March 1, representatives of the railroad administration would carry to a conclusion consideration of all grievances.

CONTROL COST \$636,000,000
The railroad reorganization estimates placed the net cost to the government of federal control of the roads at \$636,000,000, Chairman Esch of the interstate commerce committee told the house today in opening debate on the conference report on the compromised railroad bill.

"This \$636,000,000 will have to be charged off as a war loss," he said. "One may say it was expensive but it was worth the price. Without the railroads transportation would have failed to supply our troops overseas."

Total appropriations of approximately \$1,300,000,000 including those already made were the "experience of federal control," Mr. Esch said, but he added of all of these amounts approximately \$1,250,000,000 were "investments" in the form of improvements made for the roads and for which they ultimately will pay.

Less than a hundred members were in the house when it met for the final night. Many days of partisan wrangling over the peace treaty promised to give way today to actual progress towards disposal of the pact, just one year since debate started on the league of nations.

A vote on the first proposed modification of the reservations adopted at the last session of congress was expected to be reached during the day.

GRONNA BEGINS DEFENSE OF HIS RECORD IN WAR

Admits Voting Against War and Preparedness in 1917

Washington, Feb. 21.—Declaring certain newspapers recently had printed "malicious" misstatements about his war record, Senator Gronna, republican, North Dakota, told the senate today that a campaign press attack evidently had been "inspired" by Julius Barnes, president of the U. S. Grain corporation, and Herbert Hoover, former food administrator because of his criticism of them in senate speeches.

Senator Gronna said that while he voted against the war declaration and against the draft act he supported all of the war appropriations and bond issues that came up for action while he was present in the senate and had five relatives of his own name in the army.

"If I alone could bear the burden of these malicious lies," he continued, "I would make no complaint but my family did as much to win the war as any other family in the country."

ELKS' BAND
There will be a special rehearsal by the members of the Elks' band to be given on the Elks' club at 3 o'clock.

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