

The River Press.

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ALL TAXPAYERS ARE AFFECTED.

The assessment of railroad property in Montana by the state board of equalization is of interest to every taxpayer, a fair and equal apportionment of the tax burden being necessary to secure justice to all property owners in the state. The railroad assessment last year was at the rate of \$17,250 per mile for the main lines, but at a hearing before the interstate commerce commission, to determine the fairness of freight rates, Great Northern and Northern Pacific officials declared their railroads were worth over \$60,000 a mile. This discrepancy between the actual cash value and the assessment of the railroads provokes these remarks from the Helena Independent:

Justice, sentiment, patriotism, even law, argues now for the proper tax assessment of railroads. It isn't a question of loyalty, or politics, or selfish interests. It is a question of fulfilling official oaths, of doing duty, of being honest, so far as the Montana state board of equalization is concerned.

The law says that they shall tax the railroads at their full cash value.

The railroads swear that their full cash value is \$62,750 a mile.

The board of equalization has, to the best of its ability applied this law to everybody except the railroads.

We don't want to give the railroads "the worst of it." What we insist upon is that the railroads be required to pay just as we pay.

Every real property in every city and town, every ranch and garden, of Montana, is taxed for all it is worth. And that is right. That is what the law requires.

Why then, are the railroads left exempt? Why are they favored over all the wage-earning, tax-paying producers?

The question is now up to the members of the Montana state board of equalization.

The railroads are the most prosperous, the richest, the best protected and the most safeguarded of any industrial enterprise within the limits of Montana.

The law says they shall pay the full limit of taxes on a basis of their actual cash value.

If the state board does not assess them, then we want to know the reason why.

Every small merchant, householder, flockmaster, rancher, gardener, home-builder in Montana is assessed for all he is worth as the law requires.

Why not the railroads?

Nobody would believe for an instant that the Montana state board of equalization could be subsidized to break the law which its members are sworn to maintain.

Then why not assess the railroads? Why not obey the law? Why not prove legal, good and faithful stewardship? There is Governor Norris, a fine and able man who knows the law. There is Albert J. Galen, our young and able attorney general. Of course he knows the law. And Secretary of State Yoder, and Treasurer Esselstyn and Auditor Cunningham: they all know the law which they swore to maintain.

The law says explicitly that all property shall be taxed at its full cash value.

All of "us little fellows" are so taxed and we are not complaining. The railroads are not so taxed. Why? We would like to know that the incumbent board of equalization has the sense of duty, the squareness, the common decency to do what it is sworn to do—assess the railroads in Montana at their full value as sworn to and subscribed by themselves.

This editorial is written to Governor Norris; to Attorney General Galen; to Secretary of State Yoder; to State Treasurer Esselstyn and to State Auditor H. R. Cunningham.

We want to hope and believe that they will do their sworn duty.

Will they?

HOMES FOR THOUSANDS.

With so many thousands of people registering in order to get a chance of drawing a piece of land on the three reservations which are soon to be thrown open, the great majority of those going to this trouble cannot help being disappointed. There does not begin to be enough land to go round.

Under these conditions it seems just as well to remind those who are now registering that if they fail to get a good farm on any of these reservations, that there are vast areas of fine land in this state that are still open to be homesteaded.

There is a good deal of land in different portions of Montana that can be taken up by settlers, that is just as good as much of the land upon these reservations.

There is not a county in the state that has not land that can be taken up under the homestead law, so that those who fail to draw a lucky number at

the reservation openings need not feel discouraged if they really want to obtain a farm.

Those who do not desire to try dry land farming can still obtain irrigated homesteads on the Huntley project near Billings.

Then there is a chance to obtain Northern Pacific lands in eastern Montana at reasonable prices, and many settlers prefer land of this kind because they are not compelled to live upon it for any stipulated time in order to acquire title.

The state has some very fine agricultural lands that can be obtained for from \$10 an acre up, the law providing that none shall be sold for less than the figure mentioned.

It will be seen that there are plenty of opportunities in this state to acquire land, and many different methods of obtaining it.

It seems a pity that many of those who have come from distant states to register for the reservation drawings, have not secured another string to their bows, by seeing what other lands can be obtained, if they fail to get what they want on the reservations.—Butte Miner.

Explosive Force of Water.

Water, looked upon as the tamest of liquids, is as great an explosive as dynamite under certain conditions. In one day water breaks up more earth and rock than all the gunpowder, gun-cotton and dynamite in the world do in a year. These explosives can be controlled by human agency, but water does not hold itself accountable to man. It runs into the ground, freezes, expands, and splits the soil into little pieces. Finding a crack in a huge rock, it reports the same process, forcing it asunder. If frozen in the pores of a tree it often explodes with a report like a gunshot and the force of a dynamite bomb.

Missouri River Celebration.

Anaconda Standard. Some time not far in the future, when Great Falls is a city of 50,000 or 75,000 population and Fort Benton is as big and bustling as Great Falls is now, there will be a Missouri river celebration along lines parallel to those of the approaching Hudson-Fulton pageant in New York. The craft that plowed the Missouri in the early days may not possess to the world the historic interest attaching to Hudson's Half Moon and Fulton's Clermont, but just the same they will be picturesque and pleasant reminders of the advance that have been made in scientific invention and commercial activity.

Stockman Wants Damages.

BILLINGS, Aug. 2.—Charging that the Burlington Railway company had been negligent in the transportation of stock to the Chicago market and that by reason of delays beef cattle were not got to that city until days later than they should have arrived, and that by reason of this the cattle shrunk in weight and the market price had fallen in the meantime, M. J. Howell is suing that company for damages in the sum of \$1,185.59, the case having just been filed in the district court.

LIVING HORRORS.

Men Made to Look Like Beasts by Chinese Methods.

To transfer a man into a beast would at first seem to be impossible. It is accomplished, however, by the Chinese, to whom nothing seems to be unknown. The skin is removed in small particles from the entire surface of the body, and to the bleeding parts bits of the hide of living animals, bears and dogs, are usually applied. The operation requires years for its full accomplishment. After the person has had his skin completely changed and becomes a man-beast or a man-dog he is made mute to complete the illusion and also deprive him of the means of informing the public he is intended to amuse of his long torture. A Chinese journal, the Hupao, prints a description of one of these human animals exhibited in the Kiangsi. His entire body was covered with dog skin. He stood erect (although sometimes the feet are so mutilated that the beast is forced to walk on all fours), could not utter articulate sounds, rise and sit down—in short, make the gestures of a human being. A mandarin who heard of this monstrosity had him brought to his palace, where his hairy skin and bestial appearance caused quite as much terror as surprise. Upon being asked if he was a man the creature replied with an affirmative nod. He also signified in the same manner that he would write. A pencil was given him, but he could not use it, his hands were so deformed. Ashes were then placed on the ground in front of him, when the man-dog, leaning over, traced in them five characters indicating his name and district. Investigation showed that he had been stolen, imprisoned for years and subjected to long tortures. His master was apprehended and condemned to death.—London Spare Moments.

LEWISTOWN, Aug. 4.—Frank Kopec, the coal miner of Roundup, who foully murdered his wife, will never stand trial for the crime. He has been adjudged insane and will be taken to Warm Springs in the morning. Kopec had been out of the asylum only a short time when he murdered his wife.

WASHINGTON LETTER

[Special Correspondence.]

Destruction of the far famed White House tennis court, where played the so called "Roosevelt tennis cabinet," to make room for additional working quarters for the executive clerical staff, began a few days ago, when excavators marked off the ground for pick and shovel.

This was the beginning of a renovation of the White House and further improvements ordered by President Taft.

White House Renovation.

Each succeeding administration orders a renovation of the executive residence. Sometimes the changes are radical and elaborate. The Tafts have decided to have it done on a less extensive scale. The cost of the present improvements will be but a little more than one-tenth of that of the changes made by the Roosevelts during their first year in the White House. Seven years ago about half a million dollars was spent in remodeling the interior of the White House proper and in erecting the east and west wings, including the present executive office building. President Taft will expend not more than \$15,000 for improvements in the main building and \$40,000 in increasing the size of the office.

Special Waiting Room.

Both in the White House proper and in the new offices no attempt at grandeur will be essayed. Provision will be made, however, for better accommodations for the scores that flock to the White House daily to see the president. A special waiting room will be provided for representatives and senators, but it will be in marked contrast with the gold adorned chamber that congress provides for the president's use when he goes to the capitol at the end of each session.

The president's efforts at public economy are shared cheerfully. It is said, by Mrs. Taft. So far in the direction of simplicity and economy is she willing to go that her present intention is not to avail herself of the customary privilege of purchasing china of new design, to be handed down to posterity as "the Taft set."

Department Clerks Get Busy.

Clerks in the big government departments are bustling these days. No more do they loiter to their desks in the morning. They are trying as hard as they can to get over the clock watching habit which has prevailed among them for years. Typewriters click merrily all the livelong day, and a general atmosphere of concentrated industry prevails.

This great boost in energy is due to the fact that a well defined impression prevails that the Taft administration proposes to see to it that idlers will not be maintained on Uncle Sam's payroll.

Clerks Not Overworked.

The average government clerk in Washington—and this fact cannot be disputed by those who know their national capital—regards himself as a much abused person. The clerks now have an organization and are conducting a movement to have congress establish a system of civil pensions. All the clerks receive each year thirty days of sick leave and thirty days of vacation leave. Salaries are not large in comparison with the increased cost of living, but it is true that the average government clerk receives more money than he would be able to earn in outside employment.

New Design For Barry Statue.

Because Irish American societies objected to his original model Andrew O'Connor, the Irish American sculptor, located in Paris, has submitted a new model of the statue of Commodore John Barry, to be erected in Franklin park, in this city.

On account of these protests the commission required Mr. O'Connor to submit another model eliminating all the features of the original model relating to purely Irish history. The new design is simply a figure of Barry on a plain pedestal inscribed with his name and the arms of the United States navy, in front of which is a group of two female figures in flowing drapery representing "Erin" and "Columbia" and typifying "the sacred fire of Erin for the republic."

A Soft Hearted Statesman.

Senator Robert L. Taylor of Tennessee delights to tell a story on himself which illustrates how he came to be known as "the pardoning governor of Tennessee." Senator Taylor has one of the tenderest hearts of any man in public life. He served as governor of Tennessee for three terms and signed pardons for more than 2,000 inmates of various penal institutions in the state.

In one instance he pardoned an old mountaineer from eastern Tennessee who had gone to the penitentiary, and a few months later he let out a member of the same family. When the mountaineer had been home a few months, hardly long enough for the community to forget he had been in jail, a camp meeting revival was held in the neighborhood. The mountaineer, who was more or less of a heathen, dropped in. During the meeting several of the "sisters" gathered around the old man and begged him to "shake hands with the preacher" and "consecrate his soul to the Lord."

"My good man, do not forget the pardoning power of the Lord," said one of them. "He will not hesitate one minute if you dedicate yourself to him."

"Well, I don't know much about the pardoning power of the Lord," replied the mountaineer, "but if he don't know Bob Taylor will."

CARL SCHOFIELD.

FUNDS FOR RECLAMATION.

Eleven Million Dollars To Be Expended Next Year.

PORTLAND, Aug. 2.—An apportionment of the reclamation fund among the various government irrigation projects for the year 1910 will not be determined until Secretary of the Interior Ballinger holds further conference with the officials of the reclamation service tomorrow.

Mr. Ballinger today held a preliminary conference with these officials in this city at which were present the supervising engineers of the six divisions into which the entire reclamation field is divided. There is to be apportioned for these projects about \$11,000,000, but the demands for funds aggregate fully double that available.

"Today's conference was only preliminary and there is nothing definite to announce regarding the probable apportionment of the reclamation fund, for the reason that final conclusions were not reached today," said Mr. Ballinger tonight.

"The various supervising engineers presented their demands for funds with which to carry on the work undertaken by the government during the ensuing year. These requests will be considered further at another conference which will be held tomorrow. It will not be until after tomorrow's hearing that I will be able even roughly to determine how the fund available for this work shall be expended. It may be several days before I can announce officially just how the fund will be distributed. From the fact that the demand for money far exceeds the amount of funds that will be available I find it will be a difficult job to decide on any apportionment that will satisfy all."

While Mr. Ballinger declined to discuss the probabilities of the government taking up additional projects next year, he manifestly did not hold out much hope in that direction.

Western Senators Protest.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—Tariff legislation has been delayed again by the hide and leather question and the conferees were called together once more today. Western senators will compel further changes in the hide and leather schedule. These senators complain that the leather schedule as arranged by the conferees with the approval of the president is unfair to states interested in protected hides. It was agreed that some action must be taken to conciliate them if the conference report is to be adopted. The westerners claim that they have been led to believe that all boots and shoes of leather were to be dutiable at 10 per cent and that all harness was to be dutiable at 20 per cent.

The western senators were extremely bitter in their condemnation of the compromise. Finding that the westerners were not amenable to argument, some of the senators and some of the dissatisfied members hurried to the white house. There all were informed that the president had not been fooled. He was reported to have told all of his callers that he fully understood the character of the compromise.

New Pennies in Circulation.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—Lo, the poor red man! Not only has he been driven from his native land, but he is also to be banished from the coinage of the country, if the demand for the new Lincoln cents, issued today, continues at the present rate.

Distribution of the copper coins bearing the head of "Honest Abe" instead of that of the Indian which has ornamented them so long, was commenced today, with a brisk demand. The cents were coined at the Philadelphia mint, but the San Francisco money factory will soon add to the supply.

Good Demand For Wool.

BOSTON, Aug. 2.—Heavy dealings are reported on the local wool market, with prices well maintained. The largest movements have been in territory staple. Dealers are extremely busy opening new lots from the west. Fine territory staple is selling at 75 to 78 cents, scoured, and half blood Montana from 28 to 30 cents in the grease. Ohio fleeces have been fairly active at 36 cents for half blood and at 33 to 34 cents for one-quarter blood, unwashed.

Bust of Hill Unveiled.

SEATTLE, Aug. 3.—Minnesota celebrated today at the A-Y-P. exposition by unveiling a bronze bust of Minnesota's foremost citizen, James J. Hill, the railroad builder, and John A. Johnson, governor of that state, came to Seattle to deliver the Minnesota day address and unloose the flags of Japan, Great Britain and the United States about the monument. Besides the governor and his staff, Mayor James J. Haynes of Minneapolis and several hundred residents of the Twin cities made the long journey to see Minnesota's day at the fair.

Notice to the Public.

All those who are indebted to Wallace E. Chase are requested to settle their accounts as soon as possible. Goods will hereafter be sold for cash only, at reduced prices.

H. J. WACKERLIN, Trustee.

A CHEERFUL OUTLOOK.

Making it Pleasant For the Studious Traveler.

An English tourist traveling on foot through one of our mountainous regions, studying the people, asked a man whom he met to direct him to a certain cabin at which he had been advised to stay overnight. "Going that?" said the man. "Well, Tom's a first rater, take him just right, but he's mighty queer."

"What do you mean?" asked the traveler.

"Well, it's like this," and the man looked at the stranger in a calm, impersonal way. "He'll be setting outside, most probably, and he'll see you coming. He'll take a good look at you, and if you don't suit him he may set the dog on you."

"If he don't and you get to talking with him and say anything he don't just like he may throw you down and tromp on you. But if you're too careful in your talk, on the other hand, he's liable to take you for a spy and use his gun fust and listen to explanations afterward."

"But it's no use trying to get by without stopping," concluded the man, with evident relish of the prospect he was opening up to the stranger. "If you was to undertake that 't'would be all up with you, for he'd think you was proud and biggetty."

"If you want to come out of the mountain whole, don't go past Tom's cabin without stopping, whatever you do!"—Youth's Companion.

"Prints All the News."

If any reader of the RIVER PRESS considers it worthy of recommendation to friends, the favor will be very highly appreciated by its publishers.

Notice to Bridge Contractors.

Sealed proposals will be received by the county clerk of Chouteau county, Montana, up to the hour of 2 o'clock p. m. of August 23, 1909, for the construction of an all steel or combination bridge at Wagner, across Milk river; length 300 feet, with two tubular piers thirty-six feet long. Also two all steel or combination bridges, sixty feet long, across Big Sandy creek, four miles from Big Sandy, Montana. All three bridges to be eighteen feet wide in the clear. Plans and specifications may be seen in the office of the county clerk. Bids must be accompanied by a certified check for 10 per cent. of the bid, and should be addressed to the county clerk, marked on the outside to indicate their nature. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

By order of the board of county commissioners.

W. R. LEET, County Clerk.

Notice to Sheepmen.

Our ranches are in a position to successfully summer eight bands of sheep hereafter. Having been in the business eight years, we thoroughly understand the handling of our range and camp to get the best results. Sheep owners loading up this fall and winter should inspect our outfit. We also have winter range, sheds and hay for two bands for the coming winter to lease. Only 20 miles from Fort Benton. Summer range for one band left yet. Address

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