

HUGHES GOES TO NEW YORK; MAY HAVE CONFERENCE WITH ROOSEVELT

County Auditor Corrects Erroneous Impression as to Cause of High Taxes

County Official Submits Tabulated Statement of Tax Levies in Bemidji; Construction of Ditches Not Responsible for High Taxes; County Board Doing Everything Possible to Lower Taxes.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION SPENT THREE WEEKS IN ENDEAVOR TO EQUALIZE TAXES

In a letter to the editor of the Pioneer, County Auditor J. L. George today corrects an erroneous impression as to the cause of high taxes in this county.

The letter and tabulated statement should be studied carefully by every citizen.

Much Misunderstanding.

It is as follows: Bemidji, Minn., June 12, 1916. To the Editor:

There seems to be a great deal of misunderstanding as to the cause of high taxes in this county, and the board of commissioners and the county auditor are many times blamed as being the cause.

For the purpose of correcting this erroneous impression, I herewith submit a tabulated statement of the tax levies for state, county, city of Bemidji and School Dist. No. 7, during a period of the last five years, which, if carefully studied, will show every taxpayer in the city just where the money has gone during that time.

The money will not be wasted. There has been no other levy made on account of the ditches and while I expect and always have expected that after some years the county will have to make levies to meet the shortage, it will be so small compared with the development of the county that people will wonder how it was done. And there has been hundreds of thousands of acres placed on the tax list during the last few years that never would have been owned by private parties without the drainage which has been done.

150,000 Acres Sold.

At the last tax sale alone, over 150,000 acres of government lands were sold for the delinquent interest on the drainage assessment, and in many cases a part or all of the ditch lien was paid, amounting to over \$12,000, besides the interest. Parties purchasing must pay the 1915 interest before patents will be issued. All this helps to clear up the ditch

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TAX LEVIES FOR FIVE YEARS, CITY OF BEMIDJI.

Table with columns for State, County, City, and School levies for years 1911-1915. Includes sub-sections for Rural Highways, Sanatorium, County State Loan, County Sinking, County Road & Bridge, City Bonds & Int., City Library, City Poor, City Perm. Improve, City Revenue, City State Loan, School Buildings, School Boards & Int., School General, Local Mill, and Total City.

The county revenue rate has decreased as the county valuation has increased annually.

Error in 1914.

The county road and bridge levy is made annually for the full amount allowed by law, which in 1911 and 1912 was two mills. In 1913, 1914 and 1915 the legal levy made was three mills. In 1914, through an error, the rate was made for three-tenths of a mill less than it should have been. This was made up in 1915. The rate for the sinking fund is made to supply the needs.

In 1913 and 1914 the state levied an amount sufficient to cover the interest on ditch loans made the county. But for that, the total rate for the county in those years would have been less than in 1912. The amounts collected from these levies still stand intact in the county treasury and there will probably be no further levy.

Sanatorium Increases.

The sanatorium levies of 1914 and 1915 also increased the total for those years.

The state rural highway levies of 1915 is for the purpose of paying the county's share of the cost of those highways and all admit that the money was well expended, and many wish there were more available for the purpose.

In 1911, 66 1-3 per cent of all the money collected by the county came back to the taxpayers of the city in school and city taxes.

In 1912, 64 1-3 per cent came back to the city and school.

In 1913, 66 per cent came back to the city and school.

In 1914, 69 1-4 per cent came back.

In 1915, 75 per cent will come back this year.

Ditches Not Responsible.

You will notice that the state and county levies increase from 18.8 mills in 1911, to 21.9 in 1913, and has since decreased to 20 mills in 1915, in spite of the fact that there was a sanatorium levy of nearly a mill in 1914, and .90 mills in 1915, together with a rural highway levy of 2.25 mills in 1915.

There has been a general idea that the construction of ditches in the northern part of the county has been responsible for the high taxes. This statement shows plainly that such is not the case. For some of the first ditches constructed the money was borrowed from the state and for those loans the state made a levy in 1913 of 2.14 mills and another in 1914 of 2.1 mills.

No Further Levy.

The collections from these levies still remain in the county treasury, and in all probability no further levy will be necessary, and what remains in the fund when the final bonds are paid for those ditches, can be transferred to some other fund, and in this way avoiding a levy for that fund.

debt, and while probably not ten per cent of the purchasers will settle on the lands purchased, they will pay the interest and principal as it becomes due, or someone else will purchase the tax certificates on the land, which, if not redeemed by the owners, will enable new men to get even cheaper lands than the first purchasers.

Aside from the matter of ditch taxes, which are not paid by the county at large, I think an apology is due from the taxpayers of the county to the county board for entertaining for a moment the idea that they (the board) have done one thing towards raising the taxes. On the contrary they have done all possible to lower them, as this table of rates will show.

Spends Full Time.

Regarding the valuations of the county, I want to say that the board of equalization spent three weeks (all the time they could legally spend) in 1914 in the endeavor to equalize the different sections, and while the final result was not just as they would have liked themselves, they felt sure that the property of the county was better equalized than it had ever been, and the only change that could have been made would have been to decrease all the property of the county by a percentage. And the only effect that would have had would be to increase the rate, and the tax would have been the same. The city was not touched, but remained at the assessor's valuation.

Were it legal, and I could do it, I would increase the road and bridge levy to double or triple the present legal levy. We want roads and good roads, and it costs money to get them. In this respect the ditch country is getting ahead of the southern part of the county, as for every mile of ditch there is a mile of road, and while some or them are not the best of roads, some of them are, and any of them are better than none. But the lands benefited pay

(Continued on Page 4)

BEMIDJI NINE DEFEATS BAGLEY IN A SWATFEST

Game is One Sided; Clearwater County Seat Nine is Overwhelmed.

BENTON ON FIRST BASE MAKES HIT WITH FANS

Team Bats Around and Hits at Will; Final Score is 21 to 2.

In a one-sided and uninteresting game, the Bagley baseball team was defeated by the Bemidji nine Sunday afternoon at the new athletic park by a score of 21 to 2.

The visitors were never dangerous except in the first inning when they secured two scores on two hits and two errors.

One Hit in 5 Innings.

Paul started on the mound for Bemidji but was relieved by Kannerberg who allowed only one hit in five innings.

In the seventh inning Ralph, another Bemidji twirler went in and held the visitors safe, allowing only two hits. Wilson and Dexter composed the battery for Bagley.

(Continued on Page 4)

BEMIDJI CITIZENS TO DONATE TO MILL CITY Y. M. C. A.

Money to Be Used to Furnish a Room; Name of Bemidji on Door.

CAMPAIGN IS ON TO RAISE \$1,000,000

W. L. Brooks to Receive Funds; Donations of \$5 and \$10 Accepted.

Bemidji citizens are to be given an opportunity to donate to the Minneapolis Y. M. C. A. fund.

The Minneapolis organization is campaigning to raise \$1,000,000 for the Y. M. C. A. and Bemidji has been asked to aid. The funds raised in Bemidji will be used for the furnishing of a "Bemidji" room at the Y. M. C. A. One hundred dollars must be raised in Bemidji.

Brooks Receives Donations.

Anyone who wishes to donate is requested to give the money to W. L. Brooks at the Northern National bank. Donations of five and ten dollars will be received.

The telegram from Joseph Chapman and Frederick White, Minneapolis Y. M. C. A. campaign managers

ROOSEVELT DECLINES PROGRESSIVE HONOR; THROUGH WITH POLITICS

Colonel Informs Party That He Cannot Accept Nomination Now.

FAIRBANKS ACCEPTS VICE PRESIDENT NOMINATION

Hughes Goes to New York; Hitchcock Not a Candidate for Chairmanship.

(By United Press)

New York, June 12.—Charles Evan Hughes, former justice of the U. S. supreme court, now the Republican candidate for president, is in New York today. It is reported that he will hold a conference with Theodore Roosevelt, who has declined the Progressive nomination.

Just Smiles.

When asked by a United Press representative today whether or not he would meet Roosevelt, the Republican leader just smiled.

At Oyster Bay, the only statement that could be secured from Theodore Roosevelt was, "I'm through with politics." Saturday night the colonel informed the Progressive party that he could not accept the nomination as their candidate.

T. R. Declines.

His statement follows: "I am very grateful for the honor you confer upon me by nominating me as president. I cannot accept it at this time. I do not know the attitude of the candidate of the Republican party toward the vital questions of the day. Therefore, if you desire an immediate decision, I must decline the nomination. But if you prefer it, I suggest that my conditional refusal to run be placed in the hands of the Progressive national committee. If Hughes' statements, when he makes them, shall satisfy the committee that it is for the interest of the country that he be elected, they can act accordingly and treat my refusal as definite. If they are not satisfied, they can so notify the Progressive party, and at the same time they can confer with me and then determine on whatever action we may severally deem appropriate to meet the needs of the country." —Theodore Roosevelt.

Parker Vice President.

Captain John M. Parker of Louisiana, nominated for vice president by the Progressives, did not issue a statement.

Charles Warren Fairbanks of Indiana, nominated vice president by the Republicans, accepted the nomination.

Hughes issued a statement Saturday night declaring his stand on various matters. His statement in part is as follows:

"I stand for the firm and unflinching maintenance of all the rights of American citizens on land and sea.

"I desire to see our diplomacy restored to its best standards.

"I stand for an America which knows no ulterior purpose, for a patriotism that is single and complete.

"I believe in preparedness not only entirely adequate for our defense, but with all thoroughness to the end that in each branch of the service there may be the utmost efficiency under the most competent administrative heads.

"There is no danger of militarism. We have no lust for territory, no zeal for strife.

"In preventing unjust discrimination we must still be zealous to assure the foundations of honest business."

Hughes before leaving Washington

FARMER GETS \$72.15 FOR STEER HERE

Ole T. Haglund of the town of Frohn received \$72.15 for a steer in a Bemidji market this morning. The four quarters of the animal weighed 479 pounds and brought 13 cents a pound. The hide was sold for \$9.88.

DEMOCRATIC CAMP IN GLOOM ACCOUNT OF T. R.'S ACTION

Believed Among Leaders That There Will Not Be a Third Party.

PLATFORM POINTS ARE OUTLINED BY STONE

Entire Convention Business Could Be Transacted in Three Hours.

(By United Press)

St. Louis, June 12.—There is gloom in the Democratic camp today on account of Theodore Roosevelt's action in refusing the Progressive nomination. It is believed by leaders that there will not be a third party.

"Pep" Lacking.

"Pep" is lacking in regard to the convention because everything will be cut and dried and there will be little chance for unexpected things to happen.

Keynote speeches will be given Wednesday. Thursday there will be more speeches and the platform will be considered. Friday there will be more speechmaking and one nomination will be made. There will be scores of seconding. Saturday there will be one roll call for president, speeches and more speeches. Then there will be one roll call for vice president.

May Discuss Weather.

That is about all the Democrats will do at their convention. They may discuss the weather.

For the first time in 16 years there is absolute unanimity of opinion of the ticket. It is believed that they would transact all the needed business in one three hours' session. The only reason for spreading out is to permit the loyalists who contributed for the fund to bring the convention here to get their money back.

Outlines Platform.

Senator Stone today stated that the Democratic platform would contain the following points:

Democratic achievements in revising the tariff, in reorganizing the currency system and in inaugurating the income tax by way of proof of soundness of domestic policies.

Praise of Wilson's foreign policy in keeping the United States at peace while maintaining a strict and honest neutrality.

Praise of Wilson's diplomatic victory in gaining Germany's pledge to discontinue submarine warfare.

Will cite the prosperity and growth of the foreign trade.

Will discuss Wilson's attitude toward Mexico, treated from a standpoint of a friend in need.

Preparedness will be thoroughly considered. Chairman McCombs this afternoon stated that he has prepared a resolution asking a plank for a constitutional amendment preventing a Federal judge from being elevated to any other office. This is an outgrowth of the Hughes nomination.

ED LEONARD PLEADS GUILTY TO \$500,000 STAMP ROBBERY

(By United Press)

St. Paul, Minn., June 12.—Ed Leonard and George Bissett, both of Chicago, today pleaded guilty to the \$500,000 Federal stamp robbery in St. Paul January 6. They were sentenced to three years at the Leavenworth penitentiary.

Ed Leonard is very well known in this city. He formerly made his home at Tenstrike and later was in the commission business in this city.

F. Hanson of Minneapolis, accompanied by his daughters, Marietta and Dorothy, arrived in Bemidji Sunday and opened his summer home at the Gibbons cottage at Grand Forks Bay. Mrs. Hanson motored to Bemidji with E. Barbo who will be a guest at the Hanson home.

RUSSIANS ROUTE AUSTRIANS IN A STRONG ADVANCE

Capture Demidovka, 15 Miles from Dubna; Teutons Flee.

ITALIANS IN OFFENSIVE ALONG TRENTO FRONT

German Attacks on Trenches of Vaux Are Completely Repulsed.

(By United Press)

London, June 12.—The Russian embassy today has a report that the Russians have completely routed the Austrians near Czernowitz. Two entire divisions with generals, artillery and ammunition were captured. The Austrians are fleeing.

Capture Village.

Petrograd, June 12.—The Russians have captured Demidovka, 15 miles from Dubno.

Germans Repulsed.

Paris, June 12.—(Official)—Repeated German attacks on trenches in the Vaux district were completely repulsed.

Are on Offensive.

Rome, June 12.—The Italians have taken a general offensive along the Trentino front. This powerful attack has been timed with the Russian offensive and reported withdrawal of Austrians from Trentino.

ED LEONARD PLEADS GUILTY TO \$500,000 STAMP ROBBERY

(By United Press)

St. Paul, Minn., June 12.—Ed Leonard and George Bissett, both of Chicago, today pleaded guilty to the \$500,000 Federal stamp robbery in St. Paul January 6. They were sentenced to three years at the Leavenworth penitentiary.

Ed Leonard is very well known in this city. He formerly made his home at Tenstrike and later was in the commission business in this city.

F. Hanson of Minneapolis, accompanied by his daughters, Marietta and Dorothy, arrived in Bemidji Sunday and opened his summer home at the Gibbons cottage at Grand Forks Bay. Mrs. Hanson motored to Bemidji with E. Barbo who will be a guest at the Hanson home.

MILITIA TO HAVE IMPORTANT MEETING AT HALL TONIGHT

The Bemidji Naval Militia will have an important meeting and drill tonight at the city hall. Every member is ordered to report.

At the meeting tonight the names and rates of the men going on the annual cruise of the militia will be submitted.

The annual cruise will be held on board the U. S. S. Rhode Island. The militia will report on board at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on July 15 and will disembark at the same place on July 25. The cruise will take in Block Island Sound, sea maneuvers and liberty at Newport, R. I.

CONDITIONS IN MEXICO REPORTED MORE SERIOUS

(By United Press)

Washington, June 12.—The state department today formally announced that the conditions in Mexico are becoming more serious. The administration is considering calling Carranza's attention to them.

Laredo, Tex., June 12.—Fifteen Mexican bandits attacked four whites on the Coleman ranch and drove them in a brush field. They held them there and later escaped with \$3 horses.

SCOOP THE CUB REPORTER



The St. Louis Convention Won't Keep Scoop Very Busy



By "HOP"

