

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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W. W. BOOTH, EDITOR AND MANAGER

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CONFUSION REGARDING TAXES GROWS WORSE

LAWYERS who have studied the federal tax laws advise their clients that the excess profits tax is levied on the excess over a certain minimum rate or amount earned in a specified period before the war. The collector of the second, or Wall Street, district says the excess profits tax applies to excess of income earned before the war less a specific exemption. In many cases the difference is vast. Some would escape the excess profits tax, as the collector interprets the law, who have been advised by competent lawyers that they must pay thousands of dollars.

THAT EXTRA LATERAL QUESTION

WE are fully aware of the fact that there are two sides to the extra lateral question but we are also positive that but one side is right. Briefly this is the way we look at it. It's a rather far cry from veins of ore to a butcher shop, nevertheless, to the butcher shop we go for a homely illustration. When you buy a piece of bacon you get the fat along with the meat proper in the particular piece you buy and if you bought three pounds of bacon at 50 cents per pound you wouldn't blame the butcher much if he reached for the meat cleaver when you asked him to give you all the rest of the meat in that particular side and sell nothing but the fat to the other fellow. That is, if, because you had bought a three-pound piece, you claimed that by that act you were entitled to all the meat and only the fat in the remainder of the side.

POTATOES AND INFLATION

SOME of the banking and financial experts who are debating the nature, causes and results of inflation of commodity prices should study the case of the humble potato. Last year the potato crop broke all previous records in North America and the British Isles. In the face of enormous supplies prices were maintained at levels not justified by conditions. Consumption was curtailed, and now, at the end of the season for this crop, farmers have on hand more potatoes than they can sell, and this valuable food must be fed to livestock or allowed to rot. Even now, retail prices in New York and other large cities are excessive because the farmers who have potatoes cannot get in touch with the consumers.

Producers and middlemen did not let the laws of supply and demand operate normally, but they could not abrogate these laws. In accordance with these inexorable laws high prices reduced consumption just as high prices a year ago stimulated planting and production. Perhaps high prices earlier in the season made the game profitable, but they injured all classes except those that sold early in the season. More liberal consumption of potatoes would have saved wheat and other food stuffs needed for export and would have lowered the cost of living if prices had been reasonable. Onions and some other agricultural products now going to waste tell the same story.

For financial authorities the story of last year's potato crop has another side. Prices were inflated more excessively than in the case of any other important food. This inflation, says the New York Commercial, produced unpleasant results, but it will disappear with the close of the season and the trade will deal with the coming crop without any special relation to this one. The potato crop of 1917 will be completely liquidated within ten weeks, partly perhaps by feeding to stock or allowing it to rot; but the inflation of the past nine months will pass into memory with no shock to the business interests of the country. Inflation is an evil and a danger, but many alarmists whose names carry weight fail to distinguish between inflation of staple commodities which are consumed within the year and inflation of securities and real estate which remain in existence.

We have inflation of potatoes and other commodities which is liquidated and disappear with complete consumption. Such inflation carries the germs of its own cure and invariably yields to

them. We have no inflation of securities and, therefore, no danger of a collapse. The only fly in the ointment is inflation of farm lands. Conservative merchandising will take care of inflation of goods and staple commodities. Our banks can help by refusing credit to merchants who speculate instead of trading in goods. Caution is required but not entrenchment of legitimate commerce and production. To return to the humble potato, those who sold early or who bought only what they could sell readily have made money. Those who speculated and overstayed their market are losing sleep if nothing else.

CLIPPED AND CREDITED

THE German shock troops are no match for the American hurricane.—Pittsburgh Post.

Germany has her eye on everything from Aland to Zealand.—Providence Journal.

The Sinn Feiners appear to be anxious to make Ireland a nice place like Petrograd.—Dallas News.

Jonah disagreed with the whale. Will whale meat disagree with the modern appetite?—Troy Record.

The war department wants \$450,000,000 more for airplanes. Flying comes high.—St. Louis Republic.

The Russian bear is disobedient. It just won't stand still while the Kaiser skins it alive.—Atlanta Constitution.

And our guess is that the average patriotic Russian is about as haughty as a freshman in a hazing college.—Dallas News.

Don't set too much store by unremitting industry. The ant has been working steadily for 6000 years and is still an ant.—Topeka Capital.

The Kaiser, unable to eat a Christmas dinner in Paris, may content himself with eating something in Petrograd on All Fool's Day.—Pittsburgh Post.

Now if the government wants to get some real money out of the poker games let it find a way to play kitty and fool the jack-pots.—Houston Post.

About the least Messrs. Lenine and Trotzky could do by way of penance would be to crawl into a hole and pull it in after them.—Birmingham Ledger.

If the Germans seem so interested in Villa why don't they send and get him? He is not wanted on this side of the Atlantic.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Henry Ford was laying keels for submarine chasers two weeks after he got the contract. Henry is likely to be called down by the red tape worm for unseemly haste.—Minneapolis Tribune.

Another provision is that the guaranty shall not be dependent upon action of the President, that "is hereby binding until May, 1919."

Acceptance of the amendment by the house is hoped for by its champions. But despite the overwhelming vote by which the senate wrote the price increase into the bill, administration leaders do not believe it could prevail finally if, as has been reported, the opposition of the food administration would cause a presidential veto.

Under a proclamation by the President acting under the food control law as it now stands with the \$2 guarantee, the basic price for 1918, wheat has been established at \$2.20 per bushel. Senators favoring the increase argued that wheat at \$2.50 would not increase the price of flour beyond \$13 or \$13.50 per barrel. The price now is around \$11 a barrel.

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, March 22.—Trappers and traders of the northern rim of the continent are of the opinion that Vilhjamur Stefanson, the Arctic explorer, now wintering at Herschell Island, can cover more distance and go more places than other explorers because he lives entirely off the barren country through which he travels.

Captain A. Laje, a former member of the Stefansson party, who arrived here recently, said the explorer can find seals, "bees" and even sea gulls for food waters an ordinary person would see no him; but a bleak expanse of ice.

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ADOPT WHEAT PRICE AMENDMENT AFTER FIVE DAYS DISCUSSION

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The wheat price amendment was adopted 49 to 18 after five days' discussion in which its advocates urged the necessity of stimulating production, and criticized government price fixing. The bill, carrying appropriations of \$28,000,000, was passed without a roll call, the principal fight being centered on the wheat provision.

Besides increasing the federal guarantee the Gore amendment, also provides that the guaranteed prices, for the 1918 crop, shall be based upon number two northern wheat or its equivalent instead of the number one variety, as under existing law, and shall be payable at local elevators or railway markets instead of at the primary markets as is done now. These provisions are designed to increase further the farmers' returns.

Another provision is that the guaranty shall not be dependent upon action of the President, that "is hereby binding until May, 1919."

STEFANSON EXPERT AT GATHERING FOOD

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TO SHIP REINDEER MEAT TO MARKETS

NOME, Alaska, March 22.—About five hundred dressed reindeer will be shipped to the food markets of the states on the first boat leaving here after the breakup of the ice on Bering Sea this spring. All winter long a marketing firm has been slaughtering and preparing a certain number for shipment "outside." Several hundred are in cold storage here now waiting the boat.

LA FOLLETTE'S MAN LOSES IN PRIMARIES

MILWAUKEE, March 22.—More or less complete returns from every county in the state yesterday sustained the lead of Congressman Irvine L. Lenroot, the loyalty Republican candidate, for senator, in yesterday's primaries.

Belated returns today give him 2326 more than James Thompson, the LaFollette candidate.

Thompson did not concede the defeat pending complete returns. Joseph E. Davies, Democratic candidate, had 54,173 votes compared with 13,262 for Dr. Charles McCarthy. The same advices made the Victor Berger (Socialist) vote 26,615.

WANTS TO HEAR 15000 MEN SINGING

CAMP LEWIS, Tacoma, Wash., March 22.—When the war is over, you will find the singing instruction at Camp Lewis has started something," said Robert Lloyd of San Francisco, camp singing director, who is teaching the soldiers to sing rousing march songs. "There will be singing classes all over the country. There will be community singing everywhere. It will spread and become just as popular as singing has become among the soldiers stationed here."

Mr. Lloyd is enthusiastic over his work and carries his enthusiasms to the men as he directs them from the stage of the Liberty theater in their morning lessons.

With the aid of Hugo Kirchhofer, sent here by the Y. M. C. A., Mr. Lloyd expects to make the Ninety-first Division of the army a singing unit within the next three months. Mr. Kirchhofer recently came here from California to co-operate in teaching the soldiers how to sing. He formerly was instructor in the high school at Hollywood, Calif., and the high school is paying half of his salary at camp as its effort to help win the war.

Mr. Kirchhofer took Mr. Lloyd's place during the latter's furlough and also has been working with the Y. M. C. A. in directing singing. At every lecture in a Y. M. C. A. building, Mr. Kirchhofer leads the audience in song for a few minutes and the same procedure is followed at motion picture shows and other entertainments in the association buildings all over camp.

Mr. Lloyd is curious to know what it sounds like to hear 15,000 soldiers singing at once. He said he had led classes of 5000 but he is planning on a bigger event. He wants to fill the Butte athletic building full and this will hold 15,000 men standing.

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NEW TODAY WHEN WEAR OR RUN DOWN by chronic or acute rheumatism and long trouble which often causes disability and means life itself, try ECKMAN'S ALTERNATIVE. This is a Calcium preparation... \$2 size, now \$1.50. \$1 size, now 80c. Price includes War tax. All drug stores. Eckman Laboratories, Philadelphia.

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MOBILIZATION TO START

SACRAMENTO, March 22.—General Borro has announced the dates for the movement of the special draft. Imperial county's quota will move Friday; Merced and Tulare, Saturday; Fresno, Sunday; Mendocino, Humboldt and Lassen, Tuesday.

USE AUSTRIAN ARTILLERY

VIENNA, March 22.—The war office has stated that Austrian artillery participated against the English and French on the western front.