

THE LEAVENWORTH ECHO

IN THE WENATCHEE VALLEY—HOME OF THE BIG RED APPLE—WHERE DOLLARS GROW ON TREES

VOLUME 22—NO. 1.

LEAVENWORTH, CHELAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1922.

\$2.50 PER YEAR

HAVE THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS KEPT FAITH?

(Continued from last issue)

Since the war, taxpayers everywhere have been clamoring for reduction in taxes. Public opinion has spoken decisively and clearly, saying, "Cut taxes to the minimum; cut out everything not ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY." So strong is this sentiment that in many sections of the state the people have even gone so far as to impair the efficiency of their schools in an effort to get relief. It does not take a Sherlock Holmes to detect the fact that the condition of many taxpayers is desperate and that all taxpayers are seeking a reduction of taxes. Relief from the tax-burden is not a passing popular fancy but a stern reality. Looking at the problem of taxation from the national, the state or the county point of view it is the same—people want taxes reduced and what is more, they are going to get that reduction even if it means new county, state and national public officials to do it. Fortunately the day is passing when public officials can continue for any length of time to disregard the demands of the people in such matters.

Neither is there any question but what the taxpayers in Chelan county are in the same frame of mind as taxpayers generally. The common need of grower, merchant, professional man, and laborer is, "the lowest taxes consistent with efficiency." As far as our county taxes are concerned, have our County Commissioners kept faith with us by reducing all tax levies to a minimum "consistent with efficiency?" An examination of the county records is essential in answering this question. Bearing in mind your requests to county officials for reduced taxes and the urgent need for economy, let us examine some of the tax levies made by the County Commissioners during the years 1919, 1920, 1921, and 1922 with special reference to the new courthouse.

Previous articles in the Echo have pointed out that Chelan county does not need an extravagant or magnificent structure rivaling the pretentious courthouses of larger, older and more wealthy sections of the country. These articles have been in line with the popular demand for economy. The average taxpayer in this county has nothing to gain by the building of an expensive county courthouse. His needs are satisfied with a substantial, frost-proof building, capable of housing the records and officials comfortably and adequate for the business and governmental needs of the county. Beyond this point every additional dollar expended is EXTRAVAGANT AND WASTEFUL. Considering the need of economy, is it unreasonable of the average Chelan County taxpayer to expect the County Commissioners to economize by limiting themselves to a seventy-five thousand dollar courthouse?

Coming back to the county records, we find that the following levies were made in the years indicated for the purpose of building a courthouse and buying a courthouse site.

CHELAN BUILDING FUND CHELAN COUNTY

| Roll | Levy | Tax |
|------|-------|--------------|
| 1919 | 3.193 | \$ 54,881.09 |
| 1920 | 4.5 | 99,528.68 |
| 1921 | 1.22 | 27,490.04 |
| 1922 | 2.00 | 44,817.68 |
| | | \$226,717.49 |

In other words, Mr. Taxpayer, you have paid \$226,717 for a building fund by direct tax during a period when you were being pressed on every side by heavy and burdensome taxation. If the above amount is absolutely necessary for a courthouse, wouldn't it have been better to have waited until now and then bonded for the courthouse? A courthouse ought to last some forty or fifty years. Is it unreasonable in the light of the need for economy and tax reduction, to conclude that the County Commissioners have broken faith with the people of Chelan county by adding to their burdens to the extent of \$226,717.49 when they might have permitted this burden to have been spread over the next twenty or forty years by issuing bonds?

And this is not all. This building fund tax belonged in the "County Current Expense Fund" as it is a purely current expense item. The laws of the State of Washington do not provide for a building fund levy as such. Had this building fund levy been entered in your tax statements under the head of County Current Expense Fund, as it should have been, it would have meant that the levy for current expenses would have exceeded 8 mills in 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1922. Since 8 mills is the legal limit, beyond which no county may go for current expenses, the County Commissioners would have been unable to raise this \$226,717 by direct levy. Mr. E. R. Ennis, treasurer of Spokane county and accountant, who investigated the County Records of Chelan County, says in this connection, "—for this reason the Building Fund levy is illegal. Any taxpayer can pay his taxes under protest and commence action against the county for the recovery of this illegal levy."

In this connection the county records show the following expenditures for the courthouse site.

COST OF SITE

| Warrant | Name | Amount |
|---------|--------------------|-------------|
| 833 | De V. Utter & Vera | \$10,000.00 |
| 834 | Geo. K. Seaman | 2,800.00 |
| 835 | Margaret Simpson | 3,000.00 |
| 836 | A. H. Sylvester | 9,000.00 |
| 837 | Mary A. Reed | 5,000.00 |
| 838 | Mary E. Palmer | 4,000.00 |
| 839 | Ruthe A. Morrison | 1,100.00 |
| 840 | Anna A. Mercer | 6,400.00 |
| 841 | O. W. Mintzer | 4,500.00 |
| 842 | Susan E. Lindow | 2,900.00 |
| 843 | P. R. Hester | 3,150.00 |
| 844 | Mattie E. Groves | 1,200.00 |
| 845 | D. W. Drake | 3,750.00 |
| 846 | Marshall A. Dean | 1,400.00 |
| | | \$58,200.00 |

Above warrants deposited in escrow with J. S. Mooney & Co., April 10th, 1922, pending clearing of titles.

These various purchases include the actual ground for the site as well as the houses on the various lots. The following prices were probably made on the basis that the purchasers pay for moving the houses.

SALE OF HOUSES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 211 Washington St., J. A. Gellatly | \$ 100.00 |
| 209 Washington St., E. J. Reason | 250.00 |
| 217 Washington St., E. J. Reason | 150.00 |
| 343 Douglas St., R. P. Crago | 1,000.00 |
| 304 Orondo St., L. S. Phillippe | 825.00 |
| 310 Orondo St., J. H. Geyer | 125.00 |
| 318 Okanogan Ave., R. P. Crago | 650.00 |
| 326 Okanogan Ave., G. G. Wolfberger | 150.00 |
| | \$3,250.00 |

In addition to the above houses we understand that five houses were moved to the County Farms. Without further data one can not comment upon the prices for which these houses were sold except to say that a comparison of what the county paid for the houses and the lots, with amounts received from the sale of these houses would indicate that practically all the \$58,200 went for the lots and very little for the houses. Isn't \$58,200 excessively high for a few lots for a courthouse site?

We all recognize that the duties of a county commissioner, like that of all public officers, is a difficult position and a thankless job. But we also recognize that some county commissioners fulfill their duties for the best interests of the public at large and others DO NOT. In coming to a conclusion as to whether or not any public official is playing "fair" and obeying the will of the majority of the voters it is necessary to get the "facts in the case." Hearsay is of no value in determining the merits of the case. Therefore in asking the question, "Have the County Commissioners Kept Faith?" an attempt has been made to be perfectly fair in the matter by backing up the answer to that question by actual FACTS, STATISTICAL DATA, AND INFORMATION from the county records.

The record is given above. You can read it and draw your own conclusions. The facts cannot be refuted by even the ablest and smoothest lawyer. During the years 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1922 our County Commissioners levied Building Fund levy which netted \$226,717.49. This increased the county taxes by that amount during a period when TAX REDUCTION and not TAX INCREASE was the need of every taxpayer. Not only did they disregard the demand for lower taxes in this matter of a building program but the "Current Expenses," as explained above, were actually in excess of the legal limit of 8 mills. Add to these, the fact that the courthouse will cost at least \$25,000.00 besides the cost of the site, foundation and furnishings, and it is difficult to come to any other conclusion than that these same County Commissioners are flagrantly EXTRAVAGANT and DERELICT in their duties to the interests of the taxpayer and his needs for economy.

LIGHT ON PROPOSED TAX CHANGES

According to announcement by state headquarters of the Washington Tax Limit League, the state income tax which it proposes, to bring about reduction of taxation on property to 40 mills, will not hit the average man who makes \$200 a month or less, and will actually save money for the average home-owner who makes up to \$5,000 a year.

"Take the average wage-earner, married, two children, who has bought a little home from years of saving. The home valued at \$4,000, assessed at \$2,000. With the tax rate at 70 mills, he pays \$140 in taxes, out of his wages. With the 40-mill limit he would pay only \$80 taxes, saving of \$60.

"The state income tax is to take care of those essential governmental costs, over and above what a 40-mill levy on property will pay for. The wage earner, suppose, makes up to \$200 a month. For himself and his wife he is allowed \$2,000 exemption, and \$200 for each of the children (or other total dependents), making at least \$400, or a total exemption of \$2,400. Since he is allowed as much in exemptions as he actually makes, he will pay no income tax."

"Take the average business man, corner grocer or merchant. Suppose he is making up to \$5,000 a year, and has a \$5,000 home. On the home he is paying, with a 70-mill tax, \$175 in taxes on the 50 per cent valuation. Under the 40-mill levy he would pay but \$100 taxes. Give him a wife and two children, and his exemptions, too, would total \$2,400. He would pay state income tax on \$2,600, then. Under the income tax rates proposed by the League, this man would pay \$74 in income tax. This, with his reduced property tax, would total \$174 for the two taxes, \$1 less than he is paying under the present system."

"Take the city professional man, married, two children, living in an apartment. Suppose he makes up to \$10,000 a year in fees. He now escapes real property tax. Under the proposed income tax, giving him the same exemptions as the other two men, he would pay tax on \$7,600, amounting to \$265; this, for the protection and advantages afforded by government, which he does not now pay at all."

"This last man will not be injured by assuming his just proportion of the cost of state and local government. How long would he maintain his \$10,000 income with the business and agriculture of the state stifled by excessive taxation? The increased prosperity brought about by a 40-mill property tax limit law, with its levy distributing features, would be the best insurance policy the city professional man could buy."

As to the farmer, the League concludes, data of the Washington

State Grange shows he has made no income above labor costs during the last ten years, except one war year when he made four per cent on his investment. He could scarcely, then, pay an income tax, but he would be helped by the accompanying law which set his property tax levy at not more than 40 mills on the dollar of 50 per cent valuation.

DIED IN SEATTLE.

Mrs. Sarah L. Davidson, mother of Howard D. Burrington of the Leavenworth Mercantile Co. store, died Sunday at the Seattle General Hospital and the funeral was held Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the Butterworth Mortuary, services being conducted by the Rev. J. D. O. Powers following cremation.

Mrs. Davidson is survived by two sons, Howard, who has made Leavenworth his home for a year or more, and Walter W. Burrington of Seattle; and two daughters, Mrs. Helen B. Tindall of Seattle and Mrs. Louise B. Salnave of Long Beach, Calif.

OUR HEROES.

Are they not heroes? Have they not died Under their engines, side by side? Have they not stood at the throttle and brake? And gone down to death for duty's sake? Calm, undisturbed, be the peaceful repose Of the men who have died in their overclothes.

I would not take from the soldier's grave Not even the blades of grass that wave; Nor do I ask you to hand me down A single star from the soldier's crown: All honor to him; but forget not those Who have lived and died in their overclothes.

'Twould be sweet to know, when they're laid to rest, With hands folded silently over their breast, That their loved ones would come to their graves each year, Bringing wreaths of flowers; that their loved ones' tears Would dampen the dust on the graves of those Who have lived and died in their overclothes.

Published in the Seattle Star in memory of the four railway men who met death while at the performance of their duty November 8, 1922.

A deed was recently recorded at the county seat whereby Otto H. Wagner transferred several sections of land to the Peshastin Lumber & Box Co.

Community Tree Program

1. Community Singing—(a) Silent Night; (b) It Came Upon the Midnight Clear; (c) O Little Town of Bethlehem. Led by Mrs. Woldenburg.
 - 2.—Prayer. Rev. Derby.
 - 3.—Solo. Miss Merle Greene.
 4. Recitations—"Sing a Song of Christmas," Fentress Gardner, "Kris Kringle," Irma Jane Stelzig, "A Christmas Carol," Jean Field.
 - 5.—Tableau—"True Christmas Spirit," 4th Grade.
 6. Reading—"A Visit from Santa Claus," 4th Grade.
 7. Song—Junior Class M. E. Sunday School.
 8. Address—O. F. Gardner.
 9. Song—"O Silent Night," 8th Grade.
 10. Tableau—Gospel Mission.
 11. Benediction.
- Program begins at 6 p. m., Dec. 24, at the Community Building.

COUNTY DIVISION MEETING AT PESHASTIN.

A meeting was held at Peshastin last Friday evening under the auspices of the Peshastin Commercial club to consider the matter of county division. About sixty were present, a few of whom were from Leavenworth. The proposition was thoroughly discussed and a vote was taken which showed a very great sentiment in favor of division.

Preceding the meeting a banquet was served to all present by the domestic science class of the Peshastin schools. It consisted of several courses of most deliciously prepared viands and delicacies, all of which were much relished.

MACCABEE WOMAN'S BENEFIT ASSN. ELECTIONS.

The Woman's Benefit association of the Maccabees, held its usual meeting Dec. 15, in the K. P. hall. Mrs. Katherine Bowen, District Deputy, was guest of honor. The following officers were elected for the coming year:

Commander—Mary Louise Darmody.
Lieutenant-Commander—Mildred Burgess.
Past Commander—Janet Harris.
Record Keeper—Florence Clemens.
Collector—Annie Harris.
Lady-at-Arms—Hazel Neely.
Sergeant—Susan Strome.
Chaplain—Agnes Potter.
Captain of Guards—Ida Hoxsey.

Refreshments were served after the meeting by Mrs. Hoxsey and Mrs. Bowen. D. D. Next meeting will be held in the K. P. hall Jan. 5. Mrs. Darmody and Mrs. Burgess, hostesses.

E. L. Sawyer, manager of the Peshastin Lumber and Box Co., left Wednesday for Helena, Montana, to spend the holidays with Mrs. Sawyer and baby and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Heitman.

LEAVENWORTH LODGE VISITS CASHMERE I. O. O. F.

A delegation from the Leavenworth Odd Fellows lodge paid a fraternal visit to the local lodge of the order last Thursday night. They brought along a candidate for degree honors and after the local brethren had concluded work in the third degree helped the visitors with the work they were to put on. After the lodge session the members sat down to a fine repast. About a half dozen came down from Leavenworth—Cashmere Record.

PYTHIAN SISTERS ELECT.

At their meeting Tuesday evening the Pythian Sisters elected the following officers:

Mrs. Doris Brender, Past Chief.
Mrs. Herman Franklin, Excellent Chief.
Mrs. John S. Brender, Excellent Senior.
Mrs. Maude Jones, Excellent Junior.
Mrs. Anna Southworth, Manager.
Mrs. Bert Goff, Protector.
Mrs. Minnie Clemens, Press Correspondent.
Mrs. Emma Hansen, Guard.
Mrs. Eddith Hathaway, Mistress of Correspondence and Records.
Mrs. James Corbett, Mistress of Exchequer.

FUNERAL OF MRS. ANDERS.

The funeral services of Mrs. Frances Cora Anders was held from the Leavenworth Undertaking Parlors Monday, Dec. 18, at 1 p. m.

Mrs. Anders was born August 26, 1888, at St. Paul, Nebraska, and died December 11, at Oakland, California. She leaves husband, son, father and mother and one sister to mourn her loss.

LECTURER COMING.

E. F. Dummeir, professor of economics of the state college at Pullman will deliver two lectures, one at Peshastin and one at Leavenworth. The lectures will be on Jan. 4 and 5, but at this writing it has not been settled which place he would lecture first.

At Peshastin Prof. Dummeir will speak on the subject: "How Does the Tariff Effect the Farmer and Consumer?" At Leavenworth it is expected he will talk on "Taxation."

The Commercial clubs will pay the expenses of the lecture and no admission fee will be charged. Everyone should attend. Dates will be published later. Local organizations ought not allow other meetings to interfere with attendance at these lectures.

MASONS ELECT.

At their meeting Monday evening the Masons elected the following officers for the ensuing term:

W. M.—A. McClellan.
S. W.—O. A. Lee.
J. W.—H. F. Ring.
Treasurer—H. G. Krollpfleifer.
Secretary—D. H. Cameron.
Installation will take place at the first meeting in January.

Rev. and Mrs. Emery and children were up from Peshastin yesterday.

The Helm Bros. have a contract to cut 300 cords of wood for J. H. Hess.

Nick Kincherf was at Wenatchee Tuesday attending to business matters.

Mrs. Tom Featherstone went to Seattle last Saturday to spend the holidays with her folks.

Frank Vaio left Wednesday night to join Mrs. Vaio in Idaho where they will spend the holidays with relatives.

The Seattle Times reports the issuance of a marriage license to Mr. Michael F. Hanahan of Seattle and Miss Flora E. McDonald of Leavenworth.

E. D. Shugart was in from Plain yesterday and said that he was not coming to town again until spring. If the fine weather experienced yesterday should be "prevalent" we'll bet he will be in often.

SLEEPING SICKNESS IS HERE

Dr. Hoxsey reports the first case of sleeping-sickness ever known in Leavenworth.

The case is that of Douglas Hardman, 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hardman, who was first afflicted some two or three weeks ago when he began to feel drowsy all the time. The doctor was not called in until later and had been attending him only a few days at this writing (Tuesday) when he was reported to apparently be getting better. He had been sleeping about 20 hours a day, that being the most hours he had taken but little food for several days. Tuesday he ate quite willingly, and it was then hoped that he would recover.

Prior to his affliction he had been employed in a lumber camp north of town.

Sleeping sickness is a disease which is a puzzle to the physicians. Its pathology after inception is quite well understood, but its cause is not known, other than it seems to be a result of low blood pressure or an anaemic condition. The blood pressure in the brain, however, becomes abnormal, causing sleepiness, and postmortem examinations have revealed that the blood had congealed. Stimulants to accelerate the circulation of the blood are employed in treating the disease, and cold packs on the head and hot packs on the feet are used.

Dr. Hoxsey, who came to Leavenworth before the railroad was constructed here, says that this is the first case of the disease known to occur here, and it is only within recent years that the disease existed, at least as it is now understood. Apoplexy is a similar disease.

Of recent years sleeping sickness has become increasingly prevalent and during the present month an astonishingly large number of cases have been reported from Spokane. Doctors are unable to treat patients with assurance of recovery.

Dr. C. A. Laws arrived home Tuesday from Seattle and says that Mrs. Laws is improving and will soon return home.