

# THE CHARITON COURIER

Volume LIII

KEYTESVILLE, CHARITON COUNTY, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1922

Number 47

## AN ORGY OF TAXATION

Assessed valuation in Independence is increasing faster than the population. The population is increasing faster than the number of tax payers. During two or three years the assessed valuation of the town has become increased fifty per cent. There are no more square feet of land in the city than there were two or three years ago. More than half the homes and almost all the business houses are old and have been standing for many years. No assessment has ever shown a depreciation. The government as cold blooded as it is in assessing federal taxes, allows for depreciation. On this basis more than half the property in Independence should be assessed at the value of the ground only.

In 1875 when the constitutional convention was assembled at Jefferson City, a period of post war extravagance was at the peak. Prices had been high and speculation reckless, fortunes had been made without work and wrecks scattered the business world in Missouri. A riot of bonds and taxes still was in progress. The men who composed the convention were hard-headed business men and when the constitution was finished it contained tax prohibitions drawn in an air-tight manner. Cities were forbidden to vote more than a certain percentage of valuation. Schools were limited to certain levies and counties had margins set for the guidance of county courts. Even the people who pay taxes were forbidden to vote taxes above certain amounts. The men who made this constitution were wise in their day and generation and understood human nature pretty well, and human nature has not changed since that time.

Suddenly the administration at Jefferson City has loosed the bonds which held down taxes. On the theory of a full valuation for tax purposes the amount of revenue the tax-levying bodies could assess under the law has been almost doubled. While the theory was that the valuation made no difference if the levy was reduced was entirely correct, yet the valuation makes a big difference if the levy is not reduced. County courts, city councils and school boards suddenly found themselves in a position to largely increase taxes and get additional revenues, and were not slow to take advantage of that opportunity. Jackson county salaries went up with a whoop. One member of the court announced that he would never refuse to vote to increase salaries. It became impossible to increase the salaries of school teachers and the city employees. The tax levy was not as high as it used to be, but the valuation was 50 per cent higher. In a few years the valuation will be still at the high point and the tax levying authorities will be levying the limit just as they did before the valuations were increased.

In the meantime the congress of the United States has discovered how easy it is to tax the whole people and get away with it. Sources of

## TWO GIRLS DISAPPEAR

The young daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Henry and Mr. and Mrs. E. H. White, of this city disappeared from their home Saturday evening. Notes nor information of any other kind were left to explain their reason for leaving. The parents of the girls have used every available source in bringing about the recovery of their fifteen year old daughters, but up until two o'clock Wednesday no word had been received as to where they were.

### Continue Search For Girls

The search for the two girls that disappeared from their homes in this city Sunday morning, is being continued. Information was obtained Thursday that they are in the vicinity of Chillicothe.

Two girls that fitted the description were picked up by Edgar Bricken Monday morning north of the Van Horn church, and rode with him to Stokes Mound, in the north part of the county. The girls told him that they were on their way to Chillicothe. From later information obtained the girls ate a meal at the home of a farmer a few miles beyond Stokes Mound.

The officials of Chillicothe were notified Thursday morning, and the father of the girls left for that place.

The two boys that were implicated in the case have been found at their homes in the west part of the country. They were cleared of all the charges.—Carrollton Democrat.

### Found at Chillicothe.

The two 15-year-old girls who have been missing from their homes since Sunday afternoon were found by their fathers and the officials of Chillicothe, Mo., in the vicinity of Blue Mound, Thursday afternoon. They were ill from exposure and insufficient food.

revenue never dreamed of before, rect taxes appear when the man who were discovered and none overlooked. The old tariff method of indirect taxation became a piker in the business and is hardly considered. Divines a new pair of pants has assessment doubled because he is trying to wear clothing that has no holes in important and prominent places. New methods of dodging taxes have been invented and are being perfected, and the game goes merrily on. Instead of promising to reduce taxes nowadays the candidate winks at the audience and promise to increase taxes and provide plenty of pie for constituents. As one candidate for congress said when accused of promising jobs to everybody: "You elect me congressman and I will climb the plum tree and after I have filled my own pockets I will shake the tree and you can get the balance."

We are not very sanguine about the coming constitutional convention because of the way the delegates were selected, but they will do well to study the 1875 constitution and digest its provisions before trying to write a new constitution.—Independence Examiner.

## Is There a Santa Claus?

It will be remembered by Courier readers that the following was published in this paper last year. As long as the Courier editor stays in the business of publishing a weekly newspaper this little story will be reproduced each year. It is one of the greatest storyettes ever written and will live forever in the hearts of both adults and children. More especially in the hearts of all grownups who have in their general makeup a particle of sentiment. And to the rising generation—each year some little child will reach a certain degree of understanding and wonder in their little hearts if there is really a Santa Claus. The parents of all little folks who want to know "if there is a real Santa Claus" can refer each year to the Courier. Here is the answer to their question, a heart-rending, heart-touching reply—a live-forever classic, and it reaches every one at this season of the year—Written by Charles A. Dana:

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible to their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished. Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get our papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys in Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not; but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world. You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."



At Keytesville School Auditorium  
Wednesday, January 3

CHICAGO LYCEUM PLAYERS TO BE HERE  
IN 3-ACT COMEDY, "SARAH SIDESTEPS"

Very Popular Number on Local Lyceum Course—Musical Program Included—Packed House Expected.



CHICAGO LYCEUM PLAYERS.

The Chicago Lyceum Players are an all-star group of professional dramatic entertainers and musicians. They will be seen here soon on the Lyceum course in the popular farce-comedy, "Sarah Sidesteps."

"Sarah Sidesteps" is one of the cleanest and best comedies of recent years. It is especially adapted to lyceum conditions. The plot is so full of amusing situations and surprises that it is one gale of merriment from first to last. Sarah is the young, irrepressible daughter of an absent-minded professor, and is being reared by her aunt, a prim society lady. Sarah keeps the household in an uproar with her scatterbrained ways and her amazing genius for doing the wrong thing. Musical numbers are introduced by way of variety.

## SPEEDERS TO INSANE WARD

Indianapolis.—With a wave of popular indignation fast mounting throughout the country following publicity given the appalling totals of motor car deaths, Mayor Lew Shank has joined jurists and other officials fighting hard against the speeding menace with perhaps the most drastic proposal of all.

Shank plans to fill the insane asylum with reckless drivers, he announced today.

A speeder can get out of jail when his short sentence is served, providing the judge was severe enough to sentence him at all, or he can survive the ordeal of inspecting bodies of car victims in a morgue, but the insane asylum, the mayor declares, holds out the most terrifying prospect of all.

Motorists who drive more than thirty miles an hour are "just plain crazy and will be arrested for insanity like any other nut," Shank declared in his usual homely but direct style.

"So help me God, I'm going to hold insanity inquests on them if I have to swear out petitions and pay for the physicians myself," he continued.

## BIGGER WINS INJUNCTION SUIT

The injunction suit brought against the Marceline school board by Guy Bigger, to stop the payment on a heating plant installed in the high school building some time ago by A. C. Wells of Springfield, was decided against the board in circuit court Monday.

The claim was made that the board merely accepted the Wells bid on the work, and had no contract or bond for its performance. Judge Lamb made the injunction permanent.—Marceline Herald.

## CRUTCHLEY IS DEAD AT HOME IN NORBORNE

Norborne, Mo., Dec. 12.—George F. Crutchley, until last June stationed in Kansas City as collector of internal revenue, and former mayor here, died at his home here this morning.

Mr. Crutchley was widely known in Democratic circles throughout the state. He was publisher of the Norborne Democrat. He was a power in local politics and extended much of his influence into state political matters.

At the time of his death Mr. Crutchley was 66 years old.

A widower, never having had children, he is survived by two sisters, both residents of Norborne. They are Mrs. L. J. Lethold and Mrs. B. W. Burton.

Mr. Crutchley had suffered from a lingering illness for many months. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

## MARCELINE WINS CASES AT LAW

Last summer Marceline hired a bunch of engineers to make plans for a sewer system. The fee was \$4,100, and the city took the case to court. The case was tried at Linneus and Marceline won. It is reported the case will be appealed. The plans submitted to the city were not accepted.

## NEW POSTMASTER FOR GLASGOW

Saturday President Harding sent in the nomination of Robert W. Haines to be postmaster at Glasgow. Haines will succeed J. H. Hughes who has served the people as postmaster for about eight years and always given entire satisfaction.

## BRUNDRIDGES FIND WAY OF TRANSGRESSION HARD

A gentleman who was in Huntsville the past week from Jefferson City gave out a report of the Brundridge brothers, which will no doubt be of much interest in this neighborhood and it again demonstrates the truthfulness of the old quotation: "The way of the transgressor is hard."

He said that Vern Brundridge is in the consumptive ward at the penitentiary and his health is steadily failing. Walter Brundridge, according to report, is working on a sewing machine between two negroes. It would seem that these two bank wreckers have not such a snap at penitentiary as some thought they would have.—Moberly Democrat.

## BEN POPE CASE REVERSED BY SUPREME COURT

The case of State of Missouri vs. Ben Pope was reversed by the Supreme court last week.

It will be remembered that Pope was charged with burglarizing the store of Jas. Bushnell at Pat, Mo. On trial before a jury Pope was given 4 years in the penitentiary. The supreme court held that there was insufficient evidence in the case to warrant conviction.

Pope was represented by Sen. Jno. D. Taylor.

## OBITUARY

Grant Burge Hurt, son of Moses and Eliza Hurt, was born at the old homestead, March 16, 1853, and died at Citronelle, Ala., December 14, 1922, lacking only three months and two days being seventy years old.

On the 28th of October 1876 he was married to Diantha Taylor Fennell, who survives him. To this union were born eight children, four daughters and four sons, one of each having died in infancy. Those who live to mourn the loss of a loving and indulgent father are Claud D. John A., and Grant Burge, Jr., of Citronelle; and Mrs. Leona L. Johnson, residing at the old home, Mrs. Mary A. Taylor of Spokane, Washington, and Mrs. Anna Lou Hearn of St. Louis, Mo. He was a member of a large family, all of whom have passed to their final rewards except three sisters, Mrs. Alice Allen, Mrs. Lillie L. Whiteside of Salisbury and Mrs. Rebecca L. Pearson of Keytesville. These with the sorrowful and stricken companion and children feel the loss of the companionship of husband, father and brother. He spent all of his life in the community in which he was reared, except the last three years having lived with and managed the farm of his widowed mother many years. He was noted for his hospitality and benevolence, a kind and friendly disposition.

In 1878 he accepted his Saviour and with his devoted wife, a childhood friend and schoolmate, united with the Baptist church at New Hope of which he was a faithful member to the end of life, serving as church clerk about thirty years. Always ready and willing to help in every worthy cause. He is gone, but his good deeds will live on and on. And now in faith and hope may we say "Farewell, but not forever,

There will be a glorious dawn, We shall meet, to part, no never—On resurrection morn."

The body arrived Saturday night and was taken to the family home. Funeral services Sunday afternoon, Heaton and Rice officiating. Interment at the New Hope church cemetery. A large number of his friends were present.

It was quite a shock to Dalton and community when it was discovered Tuesday morning about 9 o'clock that Mr. Chas. D. Turner had suddenly died while in the basement of his home. Mr. Turner was nearly 70 years old, and has lived in Keytesville and surrounding country for many years. He and his wife bought the hotel in Dalton, and were living in a part of it and renting out what they did not use. He was last seen about 7 o'clock that morning and found about 9 o'clock. He leaves one son who is somewhere in the West, and his wife. The funeral was at the home Wednesday afternoon.

## MINNESOTA CONGRESSMAN STRICKEN ON HOUSE FLOOR

Washington, D. C., December 18.—Representative Steenerson, of Minnesota, chairman of the house post-office committee, became suddenly ill on the floor of the house today. He was carried to the lounge room just off the floor where doctors, hastily summoned, expressed fear that he had been stricken with apoplexy.

## WHO WOULDN'T BE AN OSAGE?

Arkansas City, Kas., Dec. 16.—The biggest Christmas gift in history will be distributed in Pawhuska, Ok., to the Osage Indians next week, it was announced by the disbursing agent there today, when \$2,200 Osages will receive \$3,400 each, making a total sum of about \$7,500,000. This is the largest per capita ever announced by the disbursing agent.

## A ROAD MEETING AT CARROLLTON

The call for the annual meeting at the North Cross State Highway Association, which is to be held at Carrollton on December 28, has been made by H. Frank Holman of this city, president of the association.

The invitation follows: "The annual meeting of the North Cross State Highway Association will be held at Carrollton December 28 at 11:30 a. m. The purpose of this meeting will be the election of officers for the coming year, the appointment of the necessary committees, and a review by each county of the work done during the past two years in construction work and maintenance of this popular route of travel.

"The importance of this highway is emphasized by the fact that it has been made a part of the state trunk system in its entire length.

"Each county will be entitled to have as many representatives as the county may see fit to select. There will be a noonday banquet which will be addressed by a representative of the State Highway Commission and Hon. Otis Arnold, a leading candidate for speaker of the Illinois General Assembly."

The report to be given by each county will include the condition of the highway at the close of the motor traffic season.

H. Piepmeier, chief engineer, probably will be the speaker representing the State Highway Commission. Mr. Arnold's subject will be "Difficulties That Cities and Communities Must Meet and Overcome in the Construction of the State Highway System."

J. W. Hart of Quincy, Ill., vice-president of the Moberly-Quincy Airline Highway Association will make an address. Mr. Hart is chairman of the highway committee of the Quincy Chamber of Commerce.

Chariton County is intitled to 6 representatives at the Annual Convention of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation. The Committee instructed the President, Mr. Richards, to appoint these delegates. The annual meeting of the Farm Bureau Federation will be held at Columbia, Mo., at the same time as the Annual Farmer's Week which commences the week of January 15th. We already know of several Chariton County farmers who are planning to attend these meetings, and hope that we will have a large delegation in Columbia at that time.

## STATE WITNESSES IN HERRIN TRIAL ARE THREATENED

Death threats against witnesses for the state in the murder trial of five miners charged with killing Howard Hoffman during the riots at Herrin on June 21 and 22 have aroused the state to greater precautions.

Williamson County is filled with agents of the government as well as investigators from the attorney general's office. The witnesses for the most part have testified unwillingly, chiefly through fear. Investigators from the attorney general's office reported that owing to the fear of the farmers of the county who have testified and who will testify later that they may be killed, a secret organization has been formed among the farmers to protect their members. "Word has been circulated that for every farmer killed, ten miners will be killed," declared the investigator. This organization is said to spread over Williamson and Johnson counties.

It is reported that William R. Goodman, who testified on Friday, against Otis Clark, begged to be excused from testifying.

He is a farmer as well as a miner. He is reported to have broken down and wept in the offices of the prosecution. "It is not for myself that I am frightened," he is reported as saying, "but I have a wife and a daughter."

Attorneys for the state today said that as the witnesses were reluctant and unwilling, their testimony was proportionately valuable when it was elicited.

State's Attorney Delos Duty declared he was thoroughly satisfied with the progress so far and that next week would produce more damaging testimony and connect the five defendants more closely with the killing of Hoffman.

Angus W. Kerr, chief counsel for the defense, expressed himself as perfectly confident the prosecution could not make out a single case against his five clients and that testimony so far given against them could be refuted completely.

Alibis, said to be ironclad, will be offered for Bert Grace, who has been hardest hit by the testimony so far.

Sam Hiller, who has not yet been mentioned in the testimony will be brought into the picture next week, State's Attorney Duty declared.

The state plans to rest the latter part of next week. The defense, according to Attorney Kerr, will take about four weeks.

C. H. Riddell and C. A. Riddell of Rothville, Mo., were in Keytesville on business Saturday. The gentlemen found time to call on the Courier force.