

FRENCH ARMY ATTACKS GREEKS

THREATEN TO DETHRONE KING CONSTANTINE

One of the rubber companies of Stockholm is renting automobile tires by the day to owners of cars.

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HOME EDITION

WEATHER
Tacoma: Occasional rain.
Washington: Occasional rain west, rain or snow east, colder east portion tonight.

Pending Suit May Make a Taxpayer of You, Mr. Man-Who's-Exempted

By E. A. Peters
There is soon to go to trial in the Pierce county courts a lawsuit of importance to YOU and to me and to every other owner of property in the state.
It is entitled "The State Tax Commission of Washington vs. James J. Cameron, assessor of Pierce county, et al."
It is a suit to determine whether the little fellows will flip up about twice as much taxes as we now pay, for the benefit of the big taxpayers.
If our assessor loses, there will be thousands of us not now paying taxes—because of the \$300 exemption—on personal possessions, who will begin paying more than 1 cent on every dollar's worth of pianos and furniture and bicycles and carpets and clothing and everything else that we own except real estate.
Something that affects every one of us vitally. Yet, ten to one, you never heard of it before.

For 15 years the assessors of counties in Washington have only taxed us on part of our wealth. In Tacoma, we have paid taxes on half of what we own. And the commonwealth has kindly allowed us an exemption of \$300 on personal property.
That is, married men and heads of families have been allowed this exemption. Bachelors and other independent persons have paid on everything they own. Which is as it should be. But that's another question.
Our assessors have for years followed the custom of subtracting the \$300 exemption from the half-valuation of our personal property, and taxing us on what remained.
For instance, W. F. Adams, 1709 South 8th street, two nicked his name at random from the assessor's books) figured his personal property this year at \$700. Assessor Cameron took out the 50 per cent valuation, as has always been done, and put Adams down on his books as owning \$350 worth. Then he took away the exemption, and found that Adams should be taxed for \$50 worth of personal property. His tax on it is \$2.

But a few weeks ago the state tax commission had an outbreak of originality and decided that Assessor Cameron and all the other assessors of Washington were going at it wrong.
The commission declared that the exemption should be taken from the actual valuation and not the assessed valuation. And it sent orders around demanding that every assessor change his methods.
It overruled all precedent in taxation systems.
Assessor Cameron refused point blank to obey. And the commission immediately jumped on him with a mandamus suit. It is that suit which is to come up for trial in a few days.

Now let's see what happens under this apparently trivial change of method. Take Adams' case, for instance.
At present Adams pays \$2 taxes on \$50 taxable valuation. Under the proposed system, the \$300 exemption would be taken from his \$700 actual value, leaving \$400. Then the 50 per cent valuation would be cut off, leaving \$200 on which taxes would have to be paid. Adams' taxes next year on the same amount of personal property would be \$8.

Here's another example, showing how some of us who don't pay any taxes now because of the exemption, will be caught under the new ruling.
Charlie Epp, a waiter at the Majestic cafe, has personal property worth \$400, or \$200 on a 50 per cent valuation. He doesn't pay any personal taxes, being married, because the \$300 exemption covers him. But the state wants to deduct the exemption from Epps' \$400 worth, divide the \$100 by two, and tax

him for \$50 worth of stuff.
We said a while ago that the new scheme would be to the disadvantage of us little fellows, and the benefit of the big taxpayers. We'll prove it.
Under the proposed new system there would be \$50,000 taxes paid by persons in Pierce county who do not pay a cent on personal property. The taxes of those already paying small sums would be increased by fully \$25,000.
These are conservative figures by Assessor Cameron. This means \$75,000 added to taxation revenue.
The total taxation amounts to \$3,500,000 at present. \$75,000 is one-forty-eighth of \$3,000,000, meaning that we would reduce the total amount of taxation from other sources by 1-48th.
It would mean that the Stone-Webster syndicate, for example, now paying \$200,000 taxes a year in Pierce county, would get a \$1,000 reduction, because the little taxpayers would be digging up the money that the street car corporation had heretofore paid.
Get it?



LEAGUE BEGINS INQUIRY

The Tacoma Central Improvement league today began an active investigation of pending action by the city council, in which power franchises, street car franchises and an auxiliary power contract are involved.
At a meeting called this afternoon in the offices of Dr. R. V. Hoyt, Provident building, president of the league, a large committee of citizens will discuss the council's action.
It is probable that the matter will come up in definite form before the league, when it is to meet next Tuesday night in the council chambers.
"We have none of us received expert advice regarding the technical side of the proposition, therefore we do not care to express an opinion," said James A. Lytle, one of the leaders of the committee, this noon.
"But there is no doubt that members of the league are aroused, and want action taken. We are meeting today for the purpose of determining what action to take. It is a self-appointed investigating committee, and we will most certainly make a report to the improvement league on the result of our investigations."

LINER IS SAFE

BORDEAUX, France, Nov. 15.—The liner Rochambeau, after at sea a few days ago, arrived safely today. Captain Juham expressed himself as undecided over the cause of the accident.

And it doesn't work proportionately for all taxpayers, either. While Mr. Adams of South 8th street would be paying four times as much personal taxes, Mr. Chester Thorne, whose residence at Thornewood is the most palatial in the Northwest, would pay just \$6 more taxes on personal property worth \$33,490.
Mr. Thorne pays \$657 taxes a year now on his personal property at Thornewood, and under the new system he would pay exactly \$663. Figure it out for yourself.
Edward Forsberg, a cabinet maker, 3003 North 7th street, would pay \$2.40 taxes on \$420 worth of property, while he pays nothing today.
A. A. Hinz, a florist, 618 South K street, would pay \$19 taxes on \$1,290 property, where he pays \$13 today.
The law says that a county assessor must obey all mandates of the state tax commission, but Assessor Cameron says that the commission is wrong, and he is making an effort to prove it.

LABOR UNIONS ALERT

Labor unions of Tacoma will protest the city council's action last week of handing over franchises and valuable contracts to the T. R. & P. Co.
At a meeting tomorrow night of the Central Labor Council the city council's action will come up. Secretary Rea last today declared that the unions are exceedingly interested in the franchise business, and that probably would adopt resolutions condemning the council.
Last today attempted to obtain copies at the city hall of the auxiliary power contract and the franchises, but was given evasive directions at each office, and failed to obtain any documents that might throw light on the scheme.

FLASHES

DETROIT—Practically all of the northern states covered with two inches of snow today.
NEW YORK—Cunard liner Saxonia docked from England with 123 Irishmen aboard, but no Englishmen, all being disallowed passage. A large shipment of English gold was aboard.
CALUMET, Mich.—Steamer Alfred P. Wright, laden with wheat for Duluth, burned to the water today.
AMSTERDAM—Nearly 40 Germans were killed and wounded today in an allied air raid of Lichtervelde near Ypres.
PORTLAND—Marconi wireless station at Astoria nearly destroyed by lightning during terrific storm which raged all last night.
PETROGRAD—Vigorously pressing their advantage, Russians on Riga front swept Germans back three or four miles north of Kanger.
VIENNA—That Goritz has suffered heavily from bombardment is officially admitted today. Fifty soldiers were wounded, 58 civilians killed so far. Three hundred buildings, churches and convents badly damaged.
ENLIST MILLION WOMEN IN U. S.
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 16.—The promise to enlist a million women in the campaign for national preparedness was made at the first annual meeting of the women's section of the Navy league here yesterday. A permanent organization was effected.

MAYOR DENOUNCES FRAUD ON PEOPLE

POINTS TO BAD JOKER!

By A. V. FAWCETT
Mayor of Tacoma.
Again the Stone-Webster power trust is seeking a strangle-hold on Tacoma.
And as usual the subsidized press is busy with half truths and misstatements trying to trick the people for the company's benefit.
When the subject of restoring the cancelled franchise to Stone-Webster was broached I was told it was a neighborly deal by which they would furnish current at a satisfactory price to the city in case of break down.
I was favorable to that, but I was amazed when the proposition was brought into the council and Commissioner Mills said he and Atkins had been working with the company on it six months, to find that there was nothing neighborly about it.
It was a cleverly concocted deal to grab a franchise worth probably half a million to the company, and then hog-tie the municipality for 15 years for Stone-Webster benefit.
This noise about "protecting the city power plant" is just to blind the people so they will not see the dark gent in the woodpile. The Tacoma plant ran about three years with one break of 40 minutes and we had but one transmission line then. We have two now.
There is hardly one chance in a thousand of our plant's breaking, and to guard this slim chance the four councilmen would give Stone-Webster a franchise worth half a million, grant other valuable concessions besides, and then make an agreement that would put this city at the mercy of the corporation and enable it to gouge \$150,000 a year from the city.
The proposition is to furnish current to the city in case of breakdown at 3-4 cent a kilowatt, if the break is repaired in 2 1-2 hours. If it takes more than 2 1-2 hours to fix the break, then the city must pay the company \$2.50 a kilowatt for the entire month. With 10,000 kilowatts needed this means \$25,000 the first month.
This is the joker in the scheme. I do not say it would happen, but it presents a fine chance and tremendous incentive for corporation tampering with city power plant employees to see that something does go wrong with the city plant. And the people should recognize that Stone-Webster are determine to control and dominate the power situation in the Northwest, and the Tacoma municipal plant is in their way.
The sinister motive is shown in the joker when it is realized that it is improbable that any serious break 20 miles from town could be fixed in 2 1-2 hours. If the company can furnish the city juice for 2 1-2 hours for 3-4 cent a kilowatt why should it ask \$2.50 a kilowatt if the city takes the juice for two hours and thirty-one minutes? Any legitimate proposition would incline to reduce the price with the increase of the business.
The whole deal is simply an entering wedge of Stone-Webster to get a grip on the Tacoma plant. The company by control of the legislature last winter prevented any expansion of the city power business. It is preparing now to marshal an army of lobbyists and attorneys at Washington this winter to control congress and get concessions that will enable it to grab all power sites. When this is accomplished the city will be hedged in. Then it will know how to use this agreement to put the city plant out of commission and finally grab it if possible.
Tacoma rejected the advertisement and refused to be tricked and deceived by the subsidized organs when they

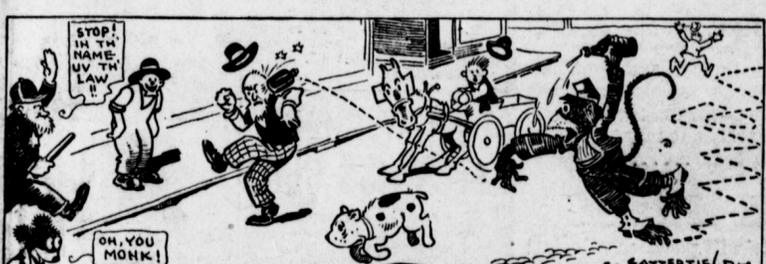
BELIEVE THESE OR NOT---



KAPOWSIN, Nov. 16.—Bud Hatchette, a rancher near here, has succeeded in utilizing the intelligence of his pet pig, Roscoe. Roscoe brings in the newspaper, helps round up the cattle and follows Hatchette to the Tacoma Eastern station when the train comes in.



LONDON, Nov. 16.—A Red Cross physician at Nish, Serbia, writes that Nela Groujet, a widow of a Serbian infantryman and mother of nine children, has received permission from the Serbian staff to shoot with her own hands all German spies caught within Serbian lines. Thus will she take her revenge.



CENTRALIA, Nov. 16.—Blondo, a trained vaudeville monkey, got away from the baggage car of a Union Pacific train here and finding himself in the rear of a saloon, proceeded to empty a bottle, as he does water on the stage. (But this one contained whisky!) Then he proceeded to paint Centralia red.

built the power plant. They should not be bunked out of its advantages now by the same gang that tried to prevent its construction.
The proposition agreed to by Mills, Atkins, Woods and Drake is a fraud on the people and not an honest move to protect them. It is putting this city at the mercy of a soulless corporation that we know by dear experience will stop at nothing to destroy the city's light and power business.
It is time for the people to get busy if they do not want to be robbed.

BEAN WON'T DISCUSS IT
Louis Bean, manager for the T. R. & P. Co., was invited yesterday to prepare a statement giving his side of the power matter, for publication today, but this morning he declined to have anything further to say.—Editor.

BATTLE AGAINST BANDITS

SAN JOSE, Cal., Nov. 16.—Two unidentified men, who early today held up the bar of the Swiss-American hotel here, robbing four persons and the till, were overtaken by a sheriff's posse at Mountainview.
In the ensuing battle, in which many shots were exchanged, one bandit was killed and another wounded.
None of the officials was injured.
The bandits entrenched themselves in machinery on the flatcar of a freight train on which they escaped from San Jose.

- Talk o' the Times -

What an auto looks like coming, and what it smells like going, are two different things.
It is said the world's supply of coal will last 200 years. That beats ours.
Let's give the T. R. & P. Co. all the city autos to be used on the Pacific ave. jitney line Bean is promising.
A Dallas D. D. says: "A man can love more than one woman but only one at a time." What you meant was "should not," wasn't it, doctor?
The best face beautifier is a pleasant smile.
It must nearly have choked certain Tacoma editors to write those editorials "congratulating" the city on making "a wise contract" with the T. R. & P. Co., etc. They didn't believe a word of it, and the fortunate part of it is their remarks aren't fooling anybody.

CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE P. O. SITE BUY

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 16.—Congress, at its coming session, is going to look into the purchase by the government of an underwater sub-postoffice site in Seattle for \$169,500, which it bought on the recommendation of Congressman Will Humphrey.
When the matter of appropriation comes up, and it is expected this will be early in the session, the matter of the "duck pond" purchase will be given a thorough airing. It was declared today by a member of the house.
Assistant Secretary Newton of the treasury today explained additional objections which had been found in the site bought by the government from one of Humphrey's Seattle friends, after the congressman had given his approval of the deal.
It is too small, 30 feet below street grade and entirely too far from the railway stations, he said.
The statement adds that the immediate purchase of the site was recommended by Congressman Humphrey, who, in Seattle a few days ago, declared, "I never had anything to do with the purchase of the site."
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RULER FACES CRISIS

BERLIN, Nov. 16.—Greek and French forces have clashed at Salonika, the point of debarkation for the allied troops en route to Serbia, according to Vienna advices today.
The French tried to occupy a Greek ammunition tower, but was forcibly prevented.
Later the French authorities apologized, saying the affair was a "mistake."
MAY UNCROWN KING
PARIS, Nov. 16.—Greece has refused demands which the allies insist are essential to their safety, diplomats today advised.
Moreover, the allies are prepared to force compliance, while the central powers will help King Constantine resist.

MIGHT SEND FLEET
If necessary, the allies' fleets will be sent to Greece to insure non-interference with Balkan plans, and, it is hinted, Greece's king may be uncrowned if that step is taken.
The allies' fleet is likely to meet strong resistance from Austro-German undersea boats known to be heading for the vicinity of Greece.
WILL BRING PRESSURE
The allied diplomats insist that inasmuch as Venizelos maintained and invited the landing of allied troops at Salonika, Greece has not the right to threaten that the allies, if forced to flee to Greece for safety after the Balkan reverses, he intended. In the meantime the allies will bring pressure to bear on the king to force him to alter his attitude. He is being strongly reminded of his ties to the entente powers and it is the hope of the allies' capitals that he will not dare to defy their warnings.

BOY JUDGE WON'T "SQUEAL," FINED
DENVER, Nov. 16.—Judge Ben Lindsey, of Denver's juvenile court, refused to disclose information given him confidentially through the confession of Neal Wright, a 12-year-old boy. Yesterday he was fined \$500 by Judge Perry in the district court. Lindsey refused to give the information in the trial of Mrs. Herta Wright for murder.

What's Doing

Today
Sacred concert, Church of the Holy Communion; direction Mrs. H. R. Maybin; evening.
St. Leo's bazaar; St. Leo's hall; evening.
"Huskin' Bee"; Commercial club; 7:30 p. m.
National Council of Women Voters, headquarters, 2 p. m.
Ladies' Musical club concert; Commercial club; 2:30 p. m.
Cake and candy sale; benefit Vocational home; 945 Broadway.
"Twin Beds"; Tacoma theater, evening.
TOMORROW
Lecture; "World Bibles"; C. P. S. chapel; by Prof. Georgia Keenan; 3 p. m.
Annual inspection of troop B, by Adj. Gen. Maurice Thompson; for two days, begins; armory; evening.
St. Leo's bazaar; afternoon and evening; St. Leo's hall.

The Merchants Who Advertise

No one can afford to advertise in these days unless they can back up in their offerings the kind of goods that satisfy—
The merchants who advertise are the ones who give the best values—
Turn to the Times' Happy Wednesday Page in this issue—
Leather Goods, Gloves, Hats, Jewelry and a dozen other good items will repay you for your trouble.
It pays to read advertising carefully—
The Department Stores are alive with good offerings again today.
Read their Ads, too.