

BEGINS WAR ON TAX DODGERS

STATE ASSESSORS CALL ATTENTION TO WHOLESALE EVASIONS.

TO EMPLOY EVERY METHOD

Idle Wealth to the Extent of Many Millions Pays Naught, and Apathetic Owners Continue to Wax Rich.

Jefferson City, Mo.

War upon tax dodgers has been declared by the assessors of Missouri in a recent conference in Jefferson City. All members of the association are urged to take every means to induce property owners to make full and immediate returns on all holdings. The following resolutions were adopted at the Jefferson City meeting:

Whereas, idle and semi-idle wealth, to the extent of many millions of dollars, commonly known as personal property of the invisible class, annually escapes taxation through the failure and refusal of its apathetic and satisfied owners to make return of it to the assessor, as required by law, and

Whereas, declining to return any value is more unjust and unlawful than returning property undervalued; and

Whereas, this kind of tax dodging by predatory wealth is universally recognized as the greatest evil of the general property system of taxation; therefore, be it

Resolved, that this conference, individually and collectively, most diligently employ every power given by law to uncover and assess personal property of the invisible class, valuing same in accordance with the law for valuing this and all other kinds of property subject to taxation; and

Whereas, Section 11384, R. S. Mo., 1909, provides that "the assessor shall value and assess all the property on his books according to its true value in money;" and

Whereas, the statutes in fifteen different places specify said value as the value at which to tax property, and as nowhere is mention made of any other value as the one to employ in making assessment; and

Whereas, section 11344 requires the assessor to take oath that he will "assess all property at which he believes to be its actual cash value;" and

Whereas, no option is given the assessor in fixing valuations to depart from the value prescribed by law, the statute being mandatory and a penalty being fixed for failure, refusal or neglect to comply; and

Whereas, the law provides for varying the rate of levy within the maximum prescribed by the constitution, so as to collect whatever quantity of taxes that may be necessary;

Therefore, be it resolved, that this conference believes that the only legal way provided to regulate the amount of taxes collected is to vary the rate, permitting law and facts, conscience and courage to determine valuation; and

Be it further resolved, that complying strictly with the law in fixing valuations is for the purpose of establishing uniformity, for having only one standard of measurement, and for insuring equality of burden, and not for the purpose of increasing taxes, as any increase or decrease must legally depend on the rate levied, and only on that rate.

How shall prosperity be valued? The above is a live question. The only correct answer is: According to law. Many officers, however, do not know what the law is; therefore, how can the citizen be blamed for not knowing the law?

Refuse to Unionize Shop.

Representatives of the St. Louis concern which has the \$60,000 contract for installing the electrical equipment in the new capitol, told R. T. Wood, president of the Missouri Federation of Labor, and P. J. Grimes, president of the St. Louis Central Trades and Labor Union, that they would not unionize their shop while putting the electrical equipment into the capitol.

This declaration followed a meeting of the union men with the Capitol Commission.

Home Guard Reserves.

Col. A. N. Seaber is preparing to organize a "Home Guard Reserve" company, to be made up of men over 64 years of age, some of whom are at present members of the "Governor's Guard."

The purpose of the company would be to have it ready for service in the event it should ever be necessary for the governor to call out the "Home Guard" for duty outside of Jefferson City.

Asks Lower Taxes.

A special session of the Missouri general assembly has been called by Gov. Gardner for the spring of 1918, to reduce the state taxation rate. Other matters to be considered by the assembly will include expenditures by the state incident to the war.

A letter from Gov. Gardner to the Ray County Taxpayers' Committee is the result of a resolution it adopted dealing with the working of the recently created State Tax Commission. It was based on the theory assessments of property at full value will work hardship upon farmers.

Following is the governor's letter: I have read the article signed by yourselves on the subject of tax assessment. The substance of the resolution, I take it, is that "with a cash valuation the assessed valuation of the state would be trebled, which under the present tax rate would in the year 1918 collect \$7,000,000 more than was ever collected before in any one year by direct tax."

No state should collect more from the taxpayers than is required to economically and efficiently administer its affairs, giving the maximum service at the minimum expense. I beg to say that after the State Board of Equalization has finished its work in March, 1918, and the true valuation has been ascertained and certified, I shall call a special session of the legislature for the express purpose of reducing the state tax rate to a figure meeting only the legitimate expenses of the state. It is my opinion that the rate can be decreased and each biennial period thereafter the rate may be decreased further.

The county courts, school boards and other levying bodies will be informed of the assessment as finally determined by the State Board of Equalization; and the said bodies will in the spring reduce their tax rates. The upshot of the whole proposition will be that taxes will be equalized honestly, justly and fairly to all citizens. Our present system, which invites hundreds of thousands of citizens, together with assessor and board, to annual perjury, will be abolished in this state, as it has been in practically all others. Such a change will be in conformity with the plain law.

Open Sale of Prison Products.

Governor Gardner has taken personal charge of the affairs of the Missouri penitentiary. He called the prison board into conference and directed it to place all the products of the prison factories on the market and advertise them for sale in the metropolitan newspapers. His action followed an investigation into the penitentiary industrial department, which revealed that D. M. Oberman, a private contractor, had enjoyed a monopoly on the output of the largest prison factory for the past six months.

The investigation also revealed that the contract labor system, prohibited by law, had been carried on right under the Gardner administration by Gardner's appointees, though the statute abolishing the system decreed that all contracts should terminate on December 31, 1916.

The abolition of the contract system by law was accomplished after years of effort by humane societies and progressive legislators. Newspapers announced, on information made public by prison authorities, that this contractor, who owned the overall factory, had moved from the prison, as had other contractors.

Records of the industrial department show that Oberman continued to pay for labor at the old rate of 75 cents per day until April 14, when the terms of his arrangement seemed to have been changed, but the relative cost of his labor remained about the same.

After that date he paid \$1 per task for labor, instead of 75 cents per day. A task represents the amount of work an experienced machinist can turn out in a day, while day labor is paid for on the basis of every man employed, including the inexperienced, whose mistakes frequently cost the contractor more than their services are worth.

Access to the records of the industrial department was obtained after much difficulty and only after an appeal to Governor Gardner, since repeated efforts to see the records at the prison had failed.

To Buy Penitentiary Goods.

Heads of state eleemosynary institutions were notified by Gov. Gardner to come to Jefferson City and confer with the State Prison Board about the purchase of all institution supplies from the state penitentiary.

The conference has for its principal object the standardization of the clothing, shoes, brooms, mops, etc., which the institutions purchase.

Mrs. Knott Appointed.

Mrs. John A. Knott, wife of the former state inspector of oils, who committed suicide a few days ago, will fill out the unexpired term of her husband under an appointment from Gov. Gardner. She will hold office until August 18.

HAPPENINGS of the week IN MISSOURI

Crop conditions in Daviess county continue excellent. The biggest crop of oats in the history of the county has just been harvested. The yield averaged around sixty bushels, quality fine and the acreage largest ever grown. The wheat crop was excellent, but not large. A big hay crop of fine quality is now being harvested. Local showers and intensive cultivation give a fine outlook for corn. Some sections need rain, but the crop is not seriously impaired. Buckwheat, millet and other late planted crops are doing fine.

Luther Buster, 52 years old, a widely known farmer living near Callao, Macon county, was struck by a motor car driven by State Senator Walter C. Goodson and died as a result of his injuries.

The officials of the Missouri State Fair Association have written to Theodore Roosevelt urging him to come to Sedalia Monday, October 2, to deliver an address at the sixteenth annual state fair on Patriotism Day.

U. W. Lamkin, state superintendent of schools, delivered the address at the graduating exercises of the Springfield State Normal school recently. Certificates and diplomas were awarded to nearly 300 students.

St. Louis brewers recently said a thousand saloons in Missouri would go out of business if a tax of \$3.50 is placed on beer as planned by the senate finance committee.

Nine children were bitten by dogs in St. Louis recently and two of them are in a critical condition. All were given emergency treatment for rabies.

W. E. Barnard of Lamar, a wealthy land owner, was killed when Santa Fe No. 17 crashed into the motor car he was driving. The accident occurred at a crossing near Carrollton Junction.

Corn replanted on overflowed bottom lands in the Chariton Valley is good. J. G. Yutz, a farmer near Callao, had thirty acres of corn destroyed by the flood. He was unable to replant until July 1. His corn now is more than twenty-four inches high. Its growth has been more than an inch a day. Lowland farmers are confident they will raise as good crops as though floods had not drowned them out. The losses, which had been estimated at thousands, will nearly all be made good by the development of replanted fields.

Rock road building in Clay county is delayed by points concerning the 1 1/2 million dollar bond issue still before the supreme court, but the Clay county court is getting state aid in permanent road work. The Liberty and Kansas City road will be widened to thirty-two feet and graded from Liberty to Winwood under specifications that will meet requirements for state aid. There will be only one hill between Kansas City and Liberty having a grade of more than 5 per cent.

Subscriptions exceeding \$57,000 for the equipment and maintenance of two regiments of home guards in St. Louis were obtained in fifteen minutes the other day.

Dr. B. F. Menefee, coroner of Montgomery county, received a telegram notifying him to report at Fort Riley August 10, having been selected as surgeon with the rank of lieutenant in the United States army.

The Rich Hill chapter of the national surgical committee, with one hundred members, has made its first shipment of surgical dressings to the national headquarters of the association in New York City.

Four stalwart sons of Mrs. Margaret Burke of near Liberty—Kirk, John, Wallace and Pence—were among the first drawn in the selective draft for army service. None claimed exemption.

Roy Todd, charged with killing Mrs. Elizabeth Hudnall, was found guilty of murder in the second degree by a jury at Springfield and his punishment fixed at ten years in the penitentiary.

United States Deputy Marshal W. T. Brown has announced the arrest of Marvin and Homer McManis, brothers, on a charge of failing to register for the draft at their home, fifteen miles east of Nevada recently by Brown and Deputy Marshal Marrs of Joplin, on instructions from the district attorney's office at Kansas City. The sheriff of Vernon county furnished the information leading to the arrests.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. P. E. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.) (Copyright, 1917, Western Newspaper Union.)

LESSON FOR AUGUST 12

JOSIAH'S GOOD REIGN.

LESSON TEXT—II Chronicles 34:1-13. GOLDEN TEXT—Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.—Eccles. 12:1.

The reign of Josiah is in striking and pleasing contrast with that of many of his predecessors, especially that of his father, Amon, and grandfather, Manasseh.

I. Time of Beginning (v. 1). He ascended the throne when only eight years of age. At this tender age he evidently had a sense of the import of the service of God's house. This sense must have been strong to enable him to withstand the corrupt influences of his surroundings. The prevailing idolatry influenced this boy, but influenced him in the opposite way in which boys are usually influenced. It aroused his hatred for it. This serves to demonstrate the fact that circumstances do not necessarily determine the direction a life may go. Each individual has the ability to determine the course of his life; and moreover, his responsibility so to do. It is a most perilous thing to be thrust into such a prominent position while so young. However, sometimes such responsibility has a sobering effect, calling forth one's latent powers. That his aspiration for God and the right was genuine is proven by the fact that he persisted therein for thirty-one years.

II. The Character of His Reign (v. 2). "He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand nor to the left." He not only maintained upward order and decorum as to the worship of God, but doubtless at heart desired to please God.

III. Josiah's Reformation in the Kingdom (vv. 3-7). He first set out to root out idolatry from the land. This was a prodigious task, requiring great courage and skill. He did this with a strong hand. Without pity he swept out from the land these abominations. In the execution of this task he—

1. Broke down the altars of Baalim (v. 4). This form of idolatry was first brought into the land by Jezebel when she married Ahab. The images seem to have been such as would appeal to the sensual nature of men; therefore it was but natural that the grossest licentious practices should be associated with this worship.

2. He broke in pieces the groves, carved images, and molten images (v. 4). He even made dust of them and strewed it upon the graves of those who had been offering unto them.

3. He burned the bones of the priests on their altars (v. 5). He not only showed no pity for them, but he manifested a decided fierceness in the execution of his task.

4. He extended this destruction to certain districts in the northern kingdom. It was not until all this was done that he returned to Jerusalem (vv. 6, 7). His reformation thus began at home, but was extended to the widest extent of his kingdom.

IV. Josiah Repaired the Temple (vv. 8-13). Having rid the land of its idolatry, he set himself to the repairing of the temple which had been so long neglected. This neglect, coupled with gross abuses at times, made it to be sadly in need of attention.

1. His deputies (v. 8). This work he entrusted to a committee of three—Shaphan, the royal secretary (II Kings 22:3); Masiel, mayor of Jerusalem; and Joah, the recorder, the historian of the nation. In the matter of ridding the city and country of idolatry Josiah took the lead in person, but now the work had gone far enough forward that he could work by deputy. He chose his deputies from among "laymen" instead of the priests.

2. Method of procedure (vv. 9-13). (a) Collection of money (v. 9). It would seem that for some time collection of money for temple repairs had been going on. Perhaps it was begun in connection with the destruction of idolatry some six years before. The agents in this work were the Levites. They collected it from all over the kingdom, even giving the remnant of Israel an opportunity for fellowship in this matter. This shows us that religious interests of the people should be sustained by all the people adhering thereto.

(b) Money placed into the treasury (v. 9).

Hilkiah, the high priest, was the treasurer. From this treasury the overseers drew the money and paid it to the workmen who repaired the temple.

Was Laid Up In Bed

Doan's, However, Restored Mrs. Vogt to Health and Strength. Hasn't Suffered Since.

"I had one of the worst cases of kidney complaint imaginable," says Mrs. Wm. Vogt, 6315 Audrey Ave., Wellington, Mo., "and I was laid up in bed for days at a time."

"My bladder was inflamed and the kidney secretions caused terrible pain. My back was in such bad shape that when I moved the pains were like a knife-prick. I got so dizzy I couldn't stoop and my head just throbbled with pain. Beads of perspiration would stand on my forehead, then I would become cold and numb."

"My heart action was affected and I felt as if I couldn't take another breath. I got so nervous and run down, I felt life wasn't worth living and often wished that I might die so my suffering would be ended. Medicine failed to help me and I was discouraged."

"Doan's Kidney Pills were recommended to me and I could tell I was being helped after the first few doses. I kept getting better every day and continued use cured me. My health improved in every way and best of all, the cure has been permanent. I feel that Doan's saved my life." Doan's before me. HENRY B. BURKAMP, Notary Public.

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No Kindergarten Role. He—I offer you my heart's first fresh young affections. She—George, I have often thought I'd like to teach—but I have never cared for kindergarten work.—Judge.

For genuine comfort and lasting pleasure use Red Cross Ball Blue on wash day. All good grocers. Adv.

The Quicker Method. "Molke, Ol was just thinkin'. Suppose Ol had a fit an' yez had a pint of whisky, would yez kneel down an' put the bottle to me lips?" "Ol would not." "Yez wouldn't?" "No; Ol could bring yez to yer fate quicker by standin' up in front of yez an' drinkin' it meself."

Narrow Escape. Out of breath, with the perspiration running down his cheeks and puffing like a grampus, Sandy reached his abode. He had run as he had never done before.

Mas, his "auld fren," was astonished at Sandy's condition. "What's wrang, mon?" he inquired. "You look as if the very de'il himself had been running after you."

"Hoots," said Sandy, "I've had a narrow escape frae ruin." "You dinna see so," said Mack.

"Yes," replied Sandy, wiping his brow. "A wis standin' listening ta a band playin', an' all of a sudden yin o' the players came roon w' his hat collectin'. Ma conscience, Mac, A've had the rin like the mischief ta get oot o' his way."

As He Heard It. Little Raymond returned home from Sunday school in a very joyous mood. "Oh, mother," he exclaimed, as he entered the house, "the superintendent said something awfully nice about me in his prayer this morning!"

"Isn't that lovely! What did he say, pet?" questioned his mother.

"He said, 'Oh, Lord, we thank thee for food and Raymond.'"—Harper's Magazine.

An Insinuation.

"Is Julia's color natural?" "Well, you can hardly tell it from the real thing."

Bobby SAYS "Try a dish of Post Toasties with cream for lunch on hot days" 