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THIS PAPER IS DEVOTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BEST IN CLAYTON AND UNION COUNTY

EIGHT PAGES

AUDITOR CORNELL MAKES REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS

Gives Resume of His Work With County Records and Taxation Matters; Makes Recommendations

Clayton, N. M., Jan. 31, 1921.

Messrs:
Edw. Rutledge,
J. H. Zurick,
Grant Denny,
County Commissioners,
Union County,
Clayton, New Mexico,
Gentlemen:

In compliance with the request of the County Commissioners for a summary of the work of this office and the things accomplished in connection with the same, I desire to submit the following general statement:

Causes for the Work Being Started

The deplorable conditions in the tax rolls which obtained as far back as 1903, and in quite a few cases even farther, with special reference to the assessment of real estate, came to a crisis in 1917, through what was known as the Pace case, tried in Clayton, in the District Court. Conditions revealed by the evidence of this case together with events immediately following which transpired in connection with the County Treasurer's official duties, brought to light the whole matter as one of great public concern. We say "public concern," from the fact that many citizens of this county, and also many property owners of this county who live outside the state, have suffered either the loss of their land or have been held up by cunning tax speculators for large sums, and conditions were fast becoming unbearable at that time.

The district attorney was called into conference with the county commissioners of Union county and the entire situation as it existed in connection with the condition of the tax rolls and legal requirements for sale of delinquent taxes by the County Treasurer, who had refused to make such sales, was gone over, and it was decided by the county commissioners upon the advice of the district attorney to have an audit made of the tax rolls.

Purposes and Aim of the Audit.

This proposed audit aimed at several things, although at that time neither the commissioners nor the district attorney knew just what the audit would reveal or what should be done. It was their purpose, however, to relieve the property owner of the existing danger or probability of having sold for taxes under a double assessment, or having his property sold even when his taxes had been paid in full and a receipt for complete payment issued. This latter situation has occurred in a number of cases, and this audit has saved in many cases, the taxpayer, his property. When your auditors received their instructions—we were instructed to leave nothing undone that we could do, to give the complaining taxpayer full justice. We have all through our work scrupulously held this in mind.

Place of Beginning.

In the absence of instructions where to begin our work, we decided we had best begin with the year 1914 tax roll, as that promised the least inconvenience to the county treasurer through whose office we were to work. The things we have encountered in our work have convinced us that the year 1914 was a well selected place to begin.

Matter of First Importance.

We had not gone very far until we soon saw that it was more important to turn our attention to notifying taxpayers with reference to tax sale certificates that were standing open. This we did in order that taxpayers might have sufficient information to protect themselves. This shifting from one feature of this work to another seemed to retard our progress. As near as it was possible, a notice was sent to each property owner against whose property a certificate was standing. In a number of cases this notice has enabled the property owner to recover title to his land.

Double Assessments.

For the years covered in our work we have located double assessments, or tangled descriptions which in many cases were more mischievous than double assessments, covering 200,000 or more than a million acres. Many thousands of acres of these have been cancelled or ad-

Real Primary Law is Before the Senate

Santa Fe, Feb. 23.—While the senate has before it the Wright-Quintana-Phillips excuse for not keeping a primary for county, district and state conventions, Senator D. K. B. Sellers, democrat, of Bernabille, has placed before the senate a genuine primary bill, state-wide in scope and honest in purpose.

The democratic bill follows the democratic platform, conforms to the expressed wishes of Governor Mechem and accords with his campaign promises to the people of the state. The democrats have now placed before both senate and house a state-wide primary bill and will try to "smoke out" those republicans who are seeking to defeat the wishes of their governor.

Zinn Bill Extends City Manager Plan

The Zinn bill introduced first by Zinn, democrat of Quay, and later revised by Senators Zinn and Phillips to give the commission form of government with the city manager feature to cities of from three to ten thousand inhabitants, has passed both house of the legislature and will soon become law.

The measure is designed to convey upon the smaller cities of the state the advantages which previously only Albuquerque enjoyed in the matter of commission government with the savings possible by the use of a city manager.

Coe Howard, democrat of Roosevelt county, attempted to save the farmers of the state from paying an excise tax of two cents a gallon on gasoline used in pumping plants.

Howard declared that the gasoline bill would unjustly tax 25,000 people on the east side who use gasoline engines in raising their crops and that it would cost them \$200,000 annually. The republicans rode rough-shod over his protests and, if the senate does the same, the small farmer will be compelled to bear additional tax burdens.

Republicans Seek Weak and Evasive Primary Law

The republican majority in the legislature has decided that the party pledge for a primary to select delegates to county, district and state conventions was not likely to result in conventions which bosses might dominate. They decided to dodge rather than face the results of a wide-open state convention.

Accordingly, the majority primary bill has made its appearance, sponsored by Wright, Quintana and Phillips. It provides for primaries to pick delegates to county conventions, but permits the old boss system after that.

Governor Mechem, supposed to be head of the republican party, sought a state-wide primary; but Boss Bursum said "no" and the "noes" had it.

The house of representatives in which the republicans are strongest, has been performing queer antics. In passing committee substitute for house bill one, an excise tax on gasoline, it provided that \$30,000 of the road money produced by the 1919 gasoline tax, should go for the construction of one of Tom Gable's fish hatcheries.

The democrats opposed the transfer, insisting that they could not see the connection between "gasoline" and "fish" unless the republicans were trying to infer that the people of the state are "suckers" to allow their road money to be diverted.

Protesting Against County Division

J. W. Seoyer, J. H. Crane and Otto Maas, all of the Hayden community, were in Clayton this week circulating a petition asking the legislature of New Mexico, now in session at Santa Fe, not to include them in the new county of Harding. The petition specifies three townships, 10, 20, and 21, in range 23. All the people in these townships have good roads leading to Clayton which is also much nearer than the proposed county seat of the new county, and they desire to continue their residence in Union county.

Mr. Crane and Mr. Maas left for Santa Fe Wednesday to present the petition, which was signed by practically every business man of Clayton and all of the people living in the three townships mentioned.

THREE MEN ACCUSED OF VERY SERIOUS OFFENSES

Hammi, Haynes and Blake in Toils Accused of Concealing Stolen Property, and Other Offenses

Sheriff D. T. Roberts placed E. E. Hammi, H. W. Haynes and Glen Blake under arrest Saturday of last week, charged with concealing stolen property. Mr. Hammi was also charged with assisting prisoners to escape. All three of the men were taken before Judge Snyder who, acting on the advice of the district attorney, placed their bonds at \$5,000 each, except Mr. Hammi, who was forced to give a bond of \$10,000 because of the double charge. The bonds were promptly signed by friends of the parties and the men were permitted their liberty a few hours after the arrests were made.

The trouble all started about a year ago when it was alleged by parties from Denver that a car stolen in that city had been traced to Clayton where it was being concealed. Also, on the 24th of January of this year, five prisoners escaped from the county jail. Two of these men were later arrested in Woodward, Oklahoma, and were riding in an automobile belonging to E. E. Hammi, who claimed that his car had been stolen, and made a trip to Woodward to recover his property. Preliminary hearings in these cases will be heard before Judge Snyder on March 5. District court will convene in Clayton on the following Monday, and should the grand jury find indictments in these cases, it is very likely that they will be heard before Judge Leib during this term of court.

M. W. A. Entertain

Monday night, February 21, Clayton Camp M. W. A., held a regular meeting with Greenville Camp visiting with five candidates for initiation. The Clayton Camp's "Royal Bumper" was brought forth and he certainly did jump to the delight and satisfaction of all. At 10 o'clock the meeting was notified by Pullman that the feast was ready and business was suspended. Fifty loyal Woodmen repaired there and enjoyed a spread such as only Perry Miller can prepare. After the sumptuous feast they returned to the lodge hall and finished the degree work. The Greenville Camp extended an invitation to the Clayton Camp to visit them in the near future; the invitation was accepted and another fraternal meeting will be held soon.

New Car Rumor False Says Ford

"We do not contemplate making any changes in our present car model," stated W. A. Ryan, general sales manager of the Ford Motor Company of Detroit, in denial of the many rumors circulating throughout the country to the effect that Ford intended to change the design of the present car.

The statement was addressed to the Ford branches in the United States, and read as follows: "Several branches have reported persistent rumors in their territory to the effect that a change in body design is contemplated the first of the year, even going so far as to say some of our assembly plants are already receiving shipments of new body material."

"We have never considered it good business judgment to make guarantees covering a definite period on matters of this nature, but you may advise your dealers that these alleged rumors are false, as we do not contemplate any changes in our present car model."

It was also pointed out that many minor changes had been made in the car during the past year, such as installing a slightly different gasoline tank, and changing the size of the steering wheel from twelve to fourteen inches, and that these changes will continue to go through from time to time as they are recommended by Ford's engineers.

Hospital Dance

We understand that the St. Joseph hospital association will give a dance in the Azar building on the evening of March 17 in the interest of the hospital. Full particulars will be given later.

A. B. Christerson of Sedan, was a Clayton visitor the first of the week.

Matinee Benefit European Relief February 26

The matinee to be given Saturday afternoon February 26, at the Mission theatre, should be attended by all, as the money raised in this manner, except the cost of the pictures, will go to the relief of starving children of Europe. The campaign is headed in the nation by Herbert Hoover of New York in an earnest effort to raise \$33,000,000 to feed the starving and needy of the war torn countries of Europe.

The beautiful Anita Stewart will be shown in the great and absorbing picture play entitled "Mary Reigan" at Saturday's matinee. Milt and Jeff will also perform for the special benefit of the children. The price of admission will be 25c and 11 cents.

TAX RATES STILL INCREASING

From figures taken from the 1920 tax rolls returned to the state tax commission, from the various county seats, it is seen that in 25 of the 26 counties of the state the total tax rate for state and county purposes for 1920 is higher than for 1919, showing the continuation of the steady increase in tax rates which has been in progress for the last decade. The columns below show the total of the state and county tax rates per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for 1919 and 1920. They do not include tax levies for incorporated cities, towns and villages or for school districts.

County.	1919	1920	Increase
Bernalillo	\$25.15	\$27.65	\$2.50
Chaves	21.00	22.70	1.70
Curry	25.85	28.12	3.98
De Baca	22.42	24.15	1.27
Dona Ana	22.00	23.58	1.58
Eddy	22.20	23.30	1.00
Grant	17.81	18.49	1.35
Guanajuato	19.99	21.92	1.93
Hidalgo	17.84	21.76	6.92
Lea	25.28	27.25	1.93
Lincoln	22.24	27.27	5.03
Luna	19.61	22.73	3.12
McKinley	19.95	19.98	.59
Mora	20.10	22.57	2.47
Otero	23.64	25.54	.90
Quay	25.95	26.25	.30
Rio Arriba	24.23	25.72	1.49
Roosevelt	23.15	23.65	.50
Sandoval	17.75	19.75	2.00
San Juan	30.05	31.65	1.60
San Miguel	23.25	25.32	2.07
Santa Fe	24.00	25.50	1.50
Sierra	16.67	19.65	2.98
Socorro	21.25	23.52	2.28
Taos	21.75	23.75	2.00
Terrance	21.24	23.67	2.42
Union	21.25	24.05	2.80
Valencia	17.74	19.68	1.14

If the total tax rates be taken in the various county seats, including city and school district levies, it will be found that the total tax rate exceeds three per cent in three-fourths of the county seats of the state. In one-third of such county seats the total tax rate exceeds four per cent for all purposes, the highest tax rate being five per cent in the town of Socorro for state, county, municipal and school district purposes.

T. E. L. Class Entertains Fideles

One of the most delightful events of the season was a party given Monday evening by the T. E. L. Class of the Baptist Church, in honor of the Fideles Class. A large number were present, and the following program was rendered:

Song—"Whispering Hope," Mrs. T. H. Rixey and Mrs. F. H. Clark.

Recitation—"The Good Samaritan's Feet," Miss Janet Stephenson.

Recitation—"Play, Make-Believe," Miss Leah Gray.

Quartet—"Little George Washington," Miss Dorine Rodgers, Miss Mildred Rixey, Miss Lucille Edmondson, and Master Lawrence Edmondson.

Several amusing contests were also engaged in. Then a lunch of coffee, cake and ice-cream was served.

The Fideles Class feels that it is lucky indeed in having such a delightful party given in its honor.

THE CLAYTON HOTEL

The Sunday dinner was a grand success—was well cooked and well served. The next dinner at this place will be at 6:00 p. m. \$1.75 p. m. Watch for the date—Mrs. G. T. Whitfield.

The NEWS for The News!

NEW MEXICAN IS TO BE MEMBER OF HARDING'S CABINET

Senator Fall Has Accepted Interior Portfolio; President-Elect Gives Out List of Appointments

Associated Press reports gives the following list of cabinet appointments for the Harding administration:

Secretary of State—Charles E. Hughes of New York, former governor, justice of the supreme court, and republican nominee for president in 1916, defeated by President Wilson.

Secretary of the Treasury—Andrew W. Mellon, of Pennsylvania, banker and financier, member of a family reputed to be among the wealthiest in this country.

Secretary of War—John W. Weeks, of Massachusetts, former senator and in 1916 a candidate for the presidential nomination.

Attorney General—Harry M. Daugherty, of Ohio, who managed Mr. Harding's pre-convention campaign.

Postmaster General—Will H. Hays, of Indiana, chairman of the republican national committee.

Secretary of the Navy—Edwin Denby, of Michigan, former member of congress, who has served as an enlisted man in both the navy and marine corps.

Secretary of the Interior—Albert B. Fall, of New Mexico, now a senator.

Secretary of Agriculture—Henry Wallace of Iowa, editor of farm publications.

Secretary of Commerce—Herbert Hoover, of California, former food administrator and leader in various movements for European relief.

Secretary of Labor—James J. Davis, of Pennsylvania and Illinois, a former union steel worker, who has become the highest official in the Moose fraternity.

If changes are made they are likely to affect the appointments for navy, commerce and labor, all of which are understood to have come to a decision with the past few days.

MEETING OF STOCK GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Albuquerque, N. M., Feb. 23.—Of the 1,200,000 head of cattle in New Mexico on January 1, 1921, over 50 per cent, or more than 600,000 head belong to members of the New Mexico Cattle and Horse Growers' Association, while the members of the association number somewhat in excess of 40 per cent of all the cattle owners in the state. The figures give some indication of the importance, not only to the cattle industry, but to the state as a whole, of the Seventh Annual Convention of the Association, which will be held at Albuquerque March 29th, 30th and 31st. More than five hundred men, members of the association, or directly interested in the cattle industry in this state, attended the convention at Roswell last year, and it is expected that this year's convention will attract not less than one thousand members and interested spectators.

It was announced at the headquarters of the association here today that a special round trip rate for the convention has been made by all the railroads. The New Mexico Wool Growers' Association will hold its convention immediately in advance of the Cattle Growers, and the rate to Albuquerque from all points in New Mexico will apply from March 23rd, with final return limit March 21st.

Current Topics Club To Have Charge of Municipal Swimming Pool

At the last regular meeting of the town board a resolution was adopted placing the ladies of the Current Topics Club in charge of the municipal swimming pool during the coming summer months. These ladies will make an effort to beautify the grounds and put everything in readiness for the people, which will be about the middle of May or first of June.

SITUATION WANTED—Maid and wife want work together on farm or ranch. J. G. Wray, at Watkins' rooming house.

LOST—Large Sulzer wrench on streets of Clayton. Finder please return to office of St. Clair Refining Co., Clayton, N. M.

(Continued on page 3)