

THE MOUNTAINAIR INDEPENDENT

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TAX VALUATIONS ON LIVESTOCK ARE CUT 25 PERCENT

State Tax Commission Recognizes Falling Prices of Cattle

Santa Fe, N. M., Dec. 21.—The State Tax Commission has announced its decision to make reductions in tax valuations on livestock, varying from 25 to 28 1-2 per cent. Sheep, goats, horses, swine and mules are reduced a straight 25 per cent. For cattle a sliding scale is adopted, ranging from 25 to 28 1-2 per cent reduction from last year's valuations. The sliding scale works from the east to the west part of the state, in a progressive reduction as a result of higher freight rates which western cattle growers must pay to get their stuff to the markets. In announcing the decision of the commission, Chief Tax Commissioner J. E. Saint gave out the following statement:

"The commission has been confronted with the necessity of meeting the rapidly falling values on livestock, especially on sheep and cattle. In fact, the declines seem to have affected nearly everything produced on the ranch and farm, together with merchandise of all kinds, since the Tax Commission increased the value of this class of property, from a prewar level in 1914, from year to year as markets advanced until the high peak was reached in 1918. It is now apparent that the decline in values as reflected in the market must be met by a corresponding decline for assessment purposes. This decline will average about 25 per cent on livestock. The commission, recognizing the difference in freight rates from various points in the state of Kansas City and Denver markets, has classified the state into three cattle districts, making allowances for the difference in freight rate, taking the freight rate from the different shipping points in each district and striking an average for that district and applying that differential in the freight rate to the differential in the value of cattle in each district.

For instance: We take the eastern counties of the state and applying the freight rate we find a base value for the state in that district of \$30 per cow, and all other grades of cattle in the same proportion. Then we take the same value for the other two districts and for the second or central districts we deduct 2 1-2 per cent for freight differential which makes the \$30 cow in the first district, a \$29 cow in the second district, and applying the same proportion or differential in freight to the third district we deduct 5 1-2 per cent from the base in the first district which makes \$25.35 for the third district for the same cow. This plan of equalizing values in cattle, the commission believes, will meet the difference in freight rates from the different points in the state to the Denver and Kansas City markets."

WEBB-HOPKINS

Miss Julia Webb and J. D. Hopkins surprised their many friends Wednesday of last week by motoring to Estancia, where they were married. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins are greatly loved by a large circle of friends who wish them a long and happy life. They are members of the Christian Church. They are at home on the Hopkins farm southeast of Mountainair.

To Former Patrons

Having disposed of my Insurance business to P. A. Speckmann I desire to express my gratitude to those who favored me with their business in this line, and bespeak for my successor, a continuance of your patronage. And furthermore I feel confident that your business is in good hands, and will receive careful attention.

J. H. DOY

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FOR MORE AND BETTER EDUCATION

With the beginning of the New Year, it is my wish to take this opportune time to express to the loyal teachers and school officials of the State of New Mexico, my sincere appreciation of their splendid cooperation during the past four years, and to extend to you my sincere wish that you receive the fullest measure of the blessings of the Yuletide Season. And further to assure you of my purpose to continue, through every effort, the program for more and better education so well established during the administration of Superintendent Jonathan H. Wagner.

Through the State Department of Education we shall seek the cooperation of all persons interested in the immediate improvement of our public schools and we shall at all times try to solve the problems which are of deep concern to the whole state. We are set upon a great task and in order to make our work fit into the happiness and growth of the youngsters we must also bring it into accord with the communities in which they live. Old standards and old traditions are being rapidly shattered and the world will be built upon a new foundation which will be the work of the young men and women, the charge of the school teachers of today. Our greatest problem is to secure competent teachers for the rural communities. Progressive commonwealths are now demanding at least two years of professional training beyond the high school. Our slogan should be "A competent teacher for every boy and girl in New Mexico."

The fundamental educational principle upon which we are working is that team work shall prevail and that there be complete co-ordination of our educational forces. We believe that the best interests of the state can best be served by developing the rural life and special stress will be made upon the improvement of the rural schools.

An important factor in rural school improvement are the county rural school supervisors that are being employed through the efforts of the State Department of Education. These supervisors are employed by the County Board of Education and work under the direction of the County School Superintendent. The salaries, traveling expenses and duties are fixed by the county boards of education. The general duties of the Supervisor are to supervise and improve the instruction in the rural schools, to look after the improvement of school houses and surroundings, playground equipment, warm lunches, industrial education, give instruction on sanitation and health conditions, and demonstrate for the rural teacher the best methods of instruction. The rural supervisor is also the County Truant Officer and look after correct enrollments and regular daily attendance in the rural public schools.

My earnest desire is to serve you in every way possible in the promotion of good schools in New Mexico and your suggestions and ideas are asked for and will always receive consideration. With good wishes for the New Year I am

Most sincerely,
John V. Conway

JOIN THE CROWD AT "WATCH NIGHT" SOCIAL

The pastor and members of the Methodist Church are arranging for a Watch Night Social at the Church tomorrow (Friday night). There will be "something doing" in a social way so that all may enjoy the evening, games and music playing an important part. Light refreshments will be served, and the closing hour of the year 1920 will be spent in devotion and worship. The invitation is general, so if anyone has not received a special "bid" consider yourself invited and come. You will be welcome.

"Well, I see that clothing is own at last." at suspenders and garo be holding up pretty

1920

Ring out the old

Watch Night Social

at the

Methodist Church

Friday night eight to twelve

Social Games, Devotions, Refreshments

A good time for all

You and your friends are welcome

1921

Ring in the new

LOCAL BAKERY IS PROVING ITS WORTH

The bakery, recently opened by Mr. Auferoth of Albuquerque is one of the popular places in Mountainair at this time. Not only is the proprietor hustling to fill local demands, but the first day he was ready for business, he received telegraphic orders from Albuquerque for a number of Christmas Fruit Cakes. There is a tempting array, not only of breads of various kinds, but pies, cakes, rolls, cinnamon rolls, etc., as well. Mr. Auferoth is pleased with the business Mountainair people are giving him, and was more than pleased that Mrs. Auferoth and their little one arrived in time to eat Christmas dinner with him.

The New Mexican published an item about the Mountainair Bakery placing the capacity at 300 loaves of bread daily. The oven capacity is 200 one-pound loaves, and if pushed, Mr. Auferoth could feed 5000, not with five loaves, but with five thousand loaves in 24 hours.

WHO GETS THE DOLL?

Quite a crowd gathered at Amble's Pharmacy last Friday night to witness the drawing for the Christmas Prize—the Big Doll. Rey Speckmann was selected to draw the numbers, and drew six numbers from the box in the following order:

1st	4016
2d	4226
3d	5814
4th	830
5th	679
6th	2737

The holder of duplicate checks are requested to report to Amble's as early as possible. If the holder of Ticket No. 4016 does not present same within ten days from Friday December 24th, the prize will go to the second number. Should the holder of this number not present same within ten days thereafter, the prize will go to the third, etc. Who holds the lucky number?

FAY DAVIS WINS MINIATURE PHONOGRAPH

In the Santa Claus drawing contest at the Piñon Hardware & Furniture Company store, Fay Davis was awarded the first prize—a Cabinet Phonograph, Junior. Ruth Speckmann was awarded the second prize—a Red Cross Gilmore Ambulance. Maurice Fain was awarded the third prize—an Alabama Coon-Jigger. The little folks had drawn pictures of Old Santa in various poses and stages of his visits.

R. E. LEA SUCCEEDS WHITEHEAD

Having sold my interests in the Bean Cleaner and Water Business in Mountainair to R. E. Lea, I take this method of expressing to my many friends and patrons my appreciation of the business you have given me. I believe you will find my successor a courteous and genial fellow, and ask that your patronage be continued as heretofore.

G. H. Whitehead

JUNIORS WILL ENJOY SOCIAL NEXT SATURDAY

The contest between the "Reds" and the "Blues" of the Junior League was won by the "Blues" and the "Reds" will entertain the victors at a social at the Church on Saturday (New Year's day) afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The contest has proved a lively affair, both the enrollment and the attendance having been largely increased. The interest of the Juniors is shown by the fact that in spite of the cold snowy weather, 62 were in attendance at the meeting last Sunday. Dr. S. A. Bright, the district superintendent looked in on the Juniors during the service and congratulated them and Mountainair on having the largest Junior League in the New Mexico Conference.

The League next Sunday will be led by Estelle Copeland, at 2:30 o'clock.

HOW EASILY ARE RUMORS STARTED!

Yesterday afternoon, J. H. Doyle, Jr., transferred the books and papers, including all necessary blanks of the Fire Insurance Agencies which he has represented to the Independent Office, Mr. Speckmann having taken over the agencies. One of our citizens who saw him bringing over the books and papers from the Mountainair State Bank, remarked to another that "The Mountainair State Bank will open soon—I don't think I just saw them taking the books and records into Speckmann's office to ship them to Santa Fe!"

No, the records and books of the bank are still in the vault, and arrangements are being pushed to open the bank at as early a date as possible. And we have reason to believe, that if those to whom the bank has proved a friend in time of need, will do their bit, it will be but a short time until business will be humming again at the old stand, as in times past.

CHRISTMAS WEATHER VISITS MOUNTAINAIR

Christmas day brought real Christmas weather to Mountainair, the day being cold and snow flurries being frequent during the day. As a matter of fact, it was too cold to do a good job of snowing, only a few inches of the beautiful falling. Saturday night proved the coldest thus far this winter. The weather has again moderated this week.

TOM HUMPHREYS DREW PHONOGRAPH

Tom Humphrey held the lucky number which drew the Cabinet Phonograph at the Willard Mercantile Company store. Tom is also a member of the Mountainair Band, and plays the cornet, so there will be plenty of music in his home. The young ladies musically inclined should not hesitate long, as Leap Year will soon be a thing of the past for four long years.

Stykes in language change frequently. "Making a mash" does not mean in this day what it did when we were boys.—Silver City Independent.



MERRITT C. MECHEM

Governor-Elect of New Mexico, who will be inaugurated at Santa Fe next week.

BRILLIANT INAUGURATION

Santa Fe, Dec. 28.—Plans are now complete for the inauguration as Governor of New Mexico on New Year's day of Judge Merritt C. Mechem, of Socorro, who was elected November 2. The inaugural ceremonies will be the most brilliant of any in recent years. The oath of office will be administered by Chief Justice Clarence J. Roberts in the hall of the house of representatives in the capitol building. Following the ceremonies there, the governor will hold a reception at the executive mansion. At night will be held the inaugural ball, and this will be the crowning social feature of the inauguration.

THE MCKINLEY'S ENJOY A FAMILY REUNION

The family of A. B. McKinley enjoyed a family reunion on Christmas Day, which they shared with a number of friends, as well. On Thursday night, the crowd gathered for a family Christmas tree, which bore gifts for all. After an enjoyable evening, the crowd departed to return on Christmas Day.

By 11:30 o'clock the crowd had returned ready for the big spread and none were disappointed. In spite of the wind and snow outside, music and glee reigned indoors, and the day was all too short. All of the McKinley children were present except one daughter, Mrs. D. H. Holloway of Rowden, Texas. Seven grown sons gathered around the table and enjoyed the Christmas Dinner.

Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald and family; Carl and Mrs. E. D. Shaw; Mrs. Fannie Parker and family; Mr. and Mrs. Claude Lassiter; Mr. and Mrs. Joe McKinley; Mr. and Mrs. Lester McKinley; Claude Smith; Edw. McAlexander; W. C. Walker; Martin McKinley; Lily Watts; Virgie Huff; Nadene Chisum; Bettie Chisum; Chas. Pedigo; Jack Young; Homer Douglas; Baze McKinley; Gilman McKinley; "Stink"—Louis McKinley; Bail McKinley, and the immediate family of A. B. McKinley.

All had a most enjoyable time and hope that the host and hostess may spend many more a joyous Christmases as this one.

SCHOOLS WILL OPEN AGAIN NEXT MONDAY

After a ten day vacation, Mountainair schools will resume work next Monday morning. During the holidays, the building has been renovated, and much necessary work completed, putting the rooms in good condition to continue the work.

The bi-ennial election of justice of the peace and constable will occur on Monday, January 10th in the various precincts throughout the county. There has been no announcement as yet for justice at Mountainair, and but one—N. Simpson, for constable. Here is a good chance for some one to secure the title of "Judge". Now don't all speak at once.

SAYS MEASURES TO AID THE FARMERS WILL BE PASSED

paandern NNM MMM ESARAA Head of Federation Confident of Legislation by Congress

Chicago, Dec. 28.—A program of legislation designed to provide for agricultural credits was announced today by J. R. Howard, president of the American Bureau Federation, upon his return from Washington where the proposal was placed before members of congress. Assurance that legislation as outlined would be incorporated in bills to be drafted immediately was given him by committee members, Mr. Howard said.

The federation's proposed relief measures were:

Regulatory power over farmers' cooperative marketing associations should be in the hands of the United States department of agriculture rather than the federal trade commission.

The farmers' cooperative marketing movement must not be hindered by the provisions of the Sherman anti-trust law. The federal reserve should be amended so as to reduce preferential rates for low productive purposes.

The warehousing law should be extended to serve the needs of both individuals and cooperative associations.

The federal land bank system should be extended to provide farmers with personal credit.

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

Railway Mail Clerk, January 15, 1921

The United States Civil Service Commission announces an open competitive examination for railway mail clerk on Jan. 15, 1921, at places listed hereon. Vacancies in the Railway Mail Service throughout the United States, at the entrance salary of \$1,600 a year, will be filled from this examination, unless it is found in the interest of the service to fill any vacancy by reinstatement, transfer or promotion.

Applicants must have reached their eighteenth but not their thirty-fifth birthday on the date of the examination, and must be free from physical defects.

Applicants should at once apply for Form 304, stating the title of the examination desired, to the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., or to the Secretary of the United States Civil Service Board at any place listed hereon.

Applicants should be properly executed, including the medical certificate, but including the county officer's certificate, and filed with the Commission at Washington in time to arrange for the examination at the place selected by the applicant.

The examination referred to in the accompanying announcement will be given on the date mentioned therein at the places named below. A request for examination on another date or at a place not included in the list will not be granted.

Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, East Las Vegas, Raton, Roswell, Tucumcari, New Mexico.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Mr. and Mrs. Burl Tate entertained a number of their friends at Christmas Dinner at their farm home in the Cumiford neighborhood. The affair was in the nature of a farewell, as the Tate's are planning on leaving shortly. A delicious Dinner was served. Among the guests were: Messrs. and Mesdames J. H. Cumiford and family, R. C. Giles and family, Burl Brown, Earl Brown and family, Mitchell, and Grandpa and Grandma Brown.

Dick and Jimmy were visiting their grandmother. One day when they were saving their names Jimmy voiced his petitions for Christmas presents in a tone that could be heard a mile.

"Why do you pray for your Christmas presents so loud?" interrupted Dick. "The Lord ain't deaf."

"No," whispered Jimmy, "but grandma is."