Tunney Farm Suit To Be Tried

Whether former heavyweight boxing champion Gene Tunney ever becomes an Eastern Shore "gentleman farmer" may be decided in Circuit Court here Saturday, when a hearing is scheduled in the Talbot county courthouse before Judge J. Owen Knotts on exceptions to the sale. These were filed by Harry O. Levin, Baltimore attorney, on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Naylor, former owners of an estate Tunney bought last February.

The prior holders of the estate, which is near Bellevue, seek to have the sale invalidated, charging they were "deceived and misled" by Tunney's agent and that the price paid for the estate was grossly inadequate.

Tunney, now in active service in the Federal training camp recreational program, is expected to be present at the hearing on Saturday.

The farm involved in the litigation is one of two adjoining places on the Eastern Shore recently bought for Tunney. Both purchases were made for the former world's champion by John McKinney, of Centreville, Md.

The Repajo farms at Benoni Point were bought for $64,000 late in 1940, and the Naylor place was purchased early this year for $23,000. Following the transactions, McKinney said he expected Mr. and Mrs. Tunney to settle on the shore eventually, probably in the house on the former Naylor estate.

In the protest to the sale filed by Levin it is charged that the sale was not properly advertised and that consequently, the sale price was inadequate.

The Naylor, who claim to have spent approximately $120,000 on the estate in the past ten years, charge McKinney led them to believe the sale might be conducted privately.

McKinney previously told them, they said, that Mr. and Mrs. Tunney were willing to pay $40,000 for the estate, which has a large rambling house overlooking the Choptank river.

The farm, according to the court action, is assessed for tax purposes at $38,870.

The estate was purchased at an assignee's sale, the assignee being Oliver S. Mullikin, acting for the Easton National Bank, holders of a $23,500 mortgage.

The farm includes a large marshland suited to duck hunting.

Judges Must Pay Income Taxes

William C. Walsh, Attorney General, ruled in an opinion made public yesterday that the 1940 salaries of judges and other public officers living in Maryland are subject to the State income tax, of which one fourth becomes due next week.

The ruling was made at the request of J. Millard Tawes, State Comptroller, who was not certain whether or not the tax provisions enacted by the 1941 General Assembly were retroactive on this point.

The Court of Appeals held two years ago that to levy an income tax upon a judge's salary was to diminish his compensation during his term of office in contravention of the Maryland constitution.

Subsequently, the voters approved in November, 1940, an amendment to the constitution, asserting: "Nothing in this constitution shall exempt the salary or compensation of any judge or other public officer from the imposition by the General Assembly of a non-discriminatory tax upon income."

Mr. Tawes was concerned as to whether the fact that the constitution was not changed until November protected a judge's 1940 salary from taxation until that time.

The Attorney General asserted that the General Assembly by legislation enacted February 26 of this year "expressly made this amendment applicable to 1940 income."

"We therefore have the situation of a tax due in 1941 on income returnable in 1941 computed at rates and in a manner enacted in 1941," he contiued.

"Inasmuch as all these factors of liability, report and statutory imposition occur subsequent to December 2, 1940 (effective date of the constitutional amendment), it seems to us to be immaterial that part of the measure of the tax is income which until December 2, 1940, enjoyed a constitutional exemption.

"To hold otherwise would be to exempt from tax, compensation which, at the time the tax is due, the constitution expressly declares shall have no exemption."

Sabu, the Elephant Boy, as he appears in the all technicolor production "The Thief Of Bagdad", with Conrad Veidt and June Duprez

Co-op's Responsibilities Cited By Dr. Corbett

If a cooperative is not needed, or cannot do the job as well as some other organization or individual, then it should die, Dr. Roger B. Corbett, director of the University of Maryland experiment station, told members of the Inter-State Milk Producers' Association at their regional meeting April 4. Producers have no responsibility, he said, to a cooperative association that is less effective and less efficient than some other organization.

Dr. Corbett outlined five things that members should do in carrying out their responsibilities to their cooperative. "The most important single thing a member can do," he said, "is to keep himself informed on the organization, its program, and its problems, as an uninformed member can be of little assistance to his association.

"Second, the producer should see that his cooperative is adequately financed; it is set up to do a job and must have the tools with which to carry out the task.

"Third, the member must learn to work with his fellow members. It is essential that there be a spirit of give and take and an understanding of the problems of the entire area covered by the cooperative.

"Fourth, the key to success in most organizations is the selection of able men as representatives for the whole membership; this is certainly true of cooperatives.

"Fifth, the membership should refrain from making unreasonable demands upon the cooperative; if it is known that a request cannot be granted to all members, then a producer should not expect that it can be granted to him as an individual."

As a final word of advice, Dr. Corbett admonished members that they should know the contributions and sacrifices made by men who have preceded them in order that the cooperative might develop.

PORK CROP DECREASES INDICATED IN REPORT

American consumers will have to compete with the British this year for a smaller supply of pork products than was available in 1940.

Although hog prices have been advancing since Government spending for defense got under way, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics said it expected this spring's pig crop to be smaller than last year's. Not before next fall, it said, will the improved prices be reflected in increased pig production. At the same time, pork shipments to Britain are expected to increase under the lease-lend program.

The reduction in pork supplies is an outgrowth of what farmers describe as an "unfavorable" hog-corn feeding ratio. Corn prices were, relatively speaking "too high" for profitable feeding to hogs. The Government's farm program "pegged" corn prices but left pork prices free. Consequently, huge surpluses of corn accumulated.

To overcome this relative shortage of pork supplies, the Government has put a bottom of $9 per hundred pounds on hogs—a price which is considerably above present levels and which is officially described as "remunerative" from the feeder's standpoint.

The beef and lamb supply situation is more favorable. The bureau reports that surveys indicate that more cattle will be marketed this year than last. It says, however, that prices can be expected to average higher on account of improved consumer demand.

It also reports that the 1941 lamb crop may bethe largest on record. However, total live-stock slaughter will be smaller, the bureau says, than last year, because of the sharp reduction in hog production.

Although the British will take large quantities of pork, the United States Government indicates it will continue to distribute pork products among the needy.

Some farm officials said the lower middle-class consumer probably would be affected most Higher prices could be expected to lead him to buy less pork and turn to substitutes.

OVER 50,000 TAX RETURNS FILED EARLY THIS WEEK

Although the final day for filing State income tax returns still is several days off, more than 50,000 persons throughout the State have filed more than $2,000,000 in State taxes, according to an announcement earlier in the week by Joseph O'C. McCusker, chief deputy State comptroller.

Moreover, although the State income tax law provides for quarterly payments, more than half of those who have filed paid their taxes in full, Mr. McCusker said.

Declaring that the State Comptroller's office was "pleasantly surprised" at these early returns, Mr. McCusker emphasized that all State income tax returns must be filed by midnight April 15, a month later than last year.

It was pointed out further that hundreds of persons now employed in defense and other industries who were not compelled to make returns last year will be obliged to file this year.

All single persons who have earned a minimum of $1,000 and married persons who have earned a minimum of $2,000 a year must make returns whether they are taxable or not.

Mr. McCusker said that, compared with last year, "we are far ahead of payments before the due date." Roughly, it is estimated this year's returns will yield $6,500,000.

"Many of those who have paid their income taxes apparently decided to get them out of the way when they made their Federal income tax returns last March," Mr. McCusker added. "People have more money and are spending more and they want to get their taxes over with."

Thirty-five clerks have been assigned to the income tax headquarters in the Pythian Building, Charles and Preston streets, Baltimore, to assist in making out income tax returns.

They are on duty daily this week until 9 P. M., except Friday—Good Friday — a legal holiday, when the office will be closed. It will reopen Saturday for a half day.

On April 14 the office will be open until 9 P. M. and on the last day, April 15, the clerks will be on duty until midnight.

Mr. McCusker urged all who have not filed returns, either by mail or at the Pythian Building, to do so as early as possible. In the latter case, he said, early returns will mean less congestion at the last minute.

Meanwhile, a group of fifteen field workers out of the State Comptroller's office are travel ing in the twenty-three counties of the State to assist countians in making out their income tax returns.

Their itinerary is posted in banks and other public buildings and notices have been placed in county newspapers. The field workers usually set up shop in the county courthouse or in banks, which Mr. McCusker said, are cooperating splendidly.

SAYS HE WANTED TO SAVE HIGHWAYS

Reiterating a previous assertion that a bill passed by the recent Legislature would allow huge, damaging truck loads to travel on Maryland highways, Delegate Charles F. Argabright, (Dem., Fifth Baltimore) yesterday assured truck operators he was not attempting to harm them, but was merely seeking to save the State's roads.

The bill was introduced by Senator Philip H. Dorsey (Dem., St. Mary's) and sets up a new formula for determining maximum legal gross loads. According to Mr. Argabright, the new maximum for the generally used truck-trailer combinations would be thirty-four gross tons. Present law, he said, permits but twenty-one tons.

Mr. Argabright agreed with the proponents of the Dorsey bill which the sponsor said was okayed by the State Roads Commission, that it would limit the length of truck trains to fifty-five feet.

"The proponents," he said, "have stated that the present law permits any number of units to be pulled by a truck and that truck trains of from ten to twenty units are now permitted.

"This might be true, but from a practical standpoint we do not find such truck trains upon our highways.

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