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HE WANTED TO SERVE

I am writing these lines on a train leaving Charleston, South Carolina. Beautiful old Charleston rich in history and the traditions of the Old South. I love the South. I was born in Missouri, a slave state, and my great grandfather Breckenridge owned slaves.

Charleston is a peaceful city now, but less than four score years ago an event occurred there that shook the world. I refer, of course, to the bombardment of Fort Sumter. There followed the most devastating war the world had ever known, started by hotheads of the North and South. As we look back it all seems to have been so unnecessary, so tragically unnecessary. It created bitter hatred among friends; brothers quarreled and killed each other—and broke their mother's hearts. Cotton weavers in far-off England died of starvation as the result of that war. Lifetime careers were wrecked overnight, and, as after every war, men had to make fresh beginnings.

I thought of all this as my train sped Northward, and I thought of one in particular whose career was tragically blasted; a hero of the South, yet revered in the North—General Robert E. Lee.

One day he was summoned to Washington to choose between warring on his own people, or sacrificing his already glorious career. For the South was seceding rather than yield the right to govern itself. Lee abhorred slavery and already had freed his slaves, as had many others. But he was convinced that the South would be ruined if abolition were forced upon it while it was unprepared.

Can you imagine what it meant to General Lee to turn his back on the comrades with whom he had studied, fought, dreamed; to lay down a career which had been his very existence? But a gentleman does not desert his principles. We know which way he decided.

After the war, Robert E. Lee had no career. There was no place for a Rebel in the Union Army: the army he had chosen no longer existed. He had to begin all over again!

But there still a place to serve. Educators were needed. He accepted, at a meagre salary, the presidency of Washington University, Lexington, Virginia. Later, he received many offers from commercial firms. One from an insurance company at $10,000 a year, and one, from New York if you please, offering him a salary of $50,000 to become its president. His answer to all was the same: "I am needed where I am."

"But, General," said one, "we won't interfere with your duties. We only want to use your name."

The General's pride came to the fore: "I cannot take money where no service is rendered."

Robert E. Lee was a soldier and a gentleman! And General Robert E. Lee was man enough to start all over again at fifty-eight years of age!

STATE REVENUES TO CARRY OUT SHERBOW PLAN

To carry out the provisions of the Sherbow program and to provide funds for, among other things increased salaries for teachers and an improved highway system, Governor Lane submitted a budget totaling more than $219,000,000 to the recent Legislature along with a multimillion-dollar road and bridge program.

Consequently, new sources of revenue had to be found.

Here's how the new taxes will affect the taxpayer and what the taxpayer reasonably may expect to get out of them.

First, there is the much-discussed two per cent retail sales tax designed to raise $18,400,000 a year for the State.

The sales tax becomes effective July 1.

On that date the retail sales of goods costing more than 9 cents—other than food, medicine and certain other items—will be taxable.

Thus for every dollar's worth of retail goods—excluding certain exempted items—purchased, the purchasers will pay $1.02.

Second, then there is the increase in State income tax. This increase is estinated to produce an additional $5,528,000 a year.

Taxes on individual earned income in 1948 will be raised from 2 per cent 2 1-2 per cent, while the tax on corporation income will be increased from 1 to 4 per cent.

Third, gasoline will cost 1 cent more a gallon after July 1, as legislation which increases the State tax from 4 to 5 cents a gallon goes into effect..

Already in effect is a motor vehicle program which has increased the fees for trucks and trailers using the State highways. Private automobiles are being taxed at a flat fee of $15, up to 3,700 pounds, and $23 for vehicles weighing more than 3,700 pounds.

This is what Governor Lane expects to give the taxpayers for their money:

First, increased educational facilities, including new school buildings, adequately trained and paid teachers and smaller sized classes.

Second, a modern system of highways and expressways. It is proposed to spend $139,000,000 on roads in the next five years.

Third, a Chesapeake Bay bridge, estimated to cost $24,000,000.

Out of the new taxes will come an additional $20,500,000 in revenue to be distributed among the political subdivisions of the State.

Without this new revenue the real estate tax would have been increased.

Under the roads program bill, the roads commission is also directed to improve its accounting procedures and to submit three public reports to the Governor annually.

These reports would be in addition to the yearly report of the commission. They are designed to analyze in detail the use and status of construction, maintenance funds and the proceeds from the $100,000,000 bond issue.

In addition, the Governor is empowered to create a department of public improvement headed by a chief engineer at a salary of $8,000 to supervise the State's construction projects.

Included also in the financial program passed by the Legislature is the $12,000,000 capital improvement program designed to care for emergency construction at State institutions.

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CAVE WARFARE BEING STUDIED

Man will revert to cave warfare—atomic style—in the event of another world conflict, American military experts believe. This opinion has evolved after an exhaustive study of German and other underground installations in World War II.

Investigation of natural subterranean areas in the United States and the possibilities for constructing huge artifical underground sites for storage, factories and defense points was ordered before the end of the war by the joint Army and Navy Munitions Boards in Washington.

Little can be obtained from the hush-hush organization concerning the conclusion reached so far in study, but it is known that army engineers are going ahead full steam in gathering data and preparing plans for further investigations.

At Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, at the headquarters of the Air Material Command, a staff of army officers completed the first report on investigations of underground facilities used by the Germans in the war. Further studies will be made of the use of caves by the Italians and others. Russia also is known to have a staff of military leaders busy on the same project, as a result of having used successfuly during the war the vast salt mines scattered through out the nation.

Abandoned mines, quarries and the extensive caves in the nation's national parks already have been surveyed by the military authorities. The Army sees nothing romantic about the possibility of huge underground cities; but, instead, is studying the problem from the standpoint of storage for food, medical supplies, military equipment and for factories.

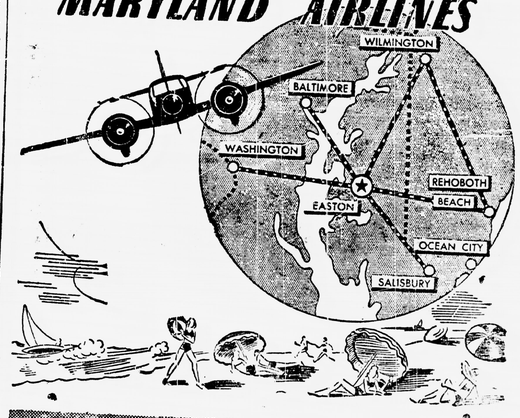
The air forces, as a result of convinced that underground is the place to go with aircraft when enemy planes are overhead.

During the war, quarries and natural caves near rail sidings were used by the United States for the storage of food and other supplies. At some military outposts, especially in the Pacific, entire headquarters branches were installed in caves, or in tunnels blasted into volcanic peaks.

One major problem confronting the military when it tackes the problem of cave warfare of the future is the decision of just what and who should go underground. Not everyone in the United States will be tagged for a subterranean hideout; then, too, there is the matter of maintaining food stocks above a stravation level.

This brings up the problem of what to do with livestock, quite as vulnerable as human beings to atomic radiation. There also is the matter of growing food, a problem which may be licked by an expanded application of chemical gardens, which used successfully on a small scale in the war.

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