HE TAX PROBLEM OF THE MARYLAND FARMER

(BY MILES H. FAIRBANK, MARYLAND BUREAU FEDERATION)

It must always be remembered that there is nothing new or novel about the fact that we read and hear everywhere today of the "tax problem."

Since history began, men have worried about their tax problems; wars have been fought over taxes and this nation of ours had its inception in a controversy over differences in opinion on the tax question of that early day.

"Taxes are the contribution," some one has said, "that a citizen pays to the community of which he is a part, in exchange for what he receives from the community."

This is splendid theory, but practical government has reversed the procedure until today "taxes are the tribute exacted by the community in exchange for the services requested by the citizen." We say requested because, in a democracy such as ours, the matter of taxes lies largely in the hands of the voters.

The high cost of government is the sole reason of high taxes and with few exceptions the citizen is responsible for the high cost of government. One exception is, probably, the debts accruing from the World War since it is doubtful if by any theory of democracy the war deyts could have been contolled by the rank and file of the citizens of this country.

But, by an large, the bonded indebtiness of our counties, cities, and states has been brought about by the demands for improved roads, viaducts, airports, bridges, etc., by the citizens of our communties, usually aided and abetted by various civic organizations which we, as members, support.

Our school system and costs of education have grown apace largely because of overly enthusiastic parent-teacher association, community clubs, well-meaning delegations and other bodies, advocating something special or extra for their own particular community, little realizing that numerous similar movements elsewhere, by requesting the same thing, help make it a permanent fixture.

Thus, by our organized demands or, in some cases, by our lack of protest, we have permitted the development of a system that many thinking people believe today is beyond our financial ability to maintain.

Certainly, with a national tax bill of over fourteen billion dollars annually, we can well question whether or not the time has not come to call a halt. Unfortunately, when hard times come, government cannot retrenrh as can private busiesses. Aside from the fixtures we have developed, with the development of these more elaborate services of government, the purely administrative cost must, of necessity, increase since supervision must be supplied, with each new governmental function. In tax revision programs the administrative costs are usually the first attacked.

It is highly possible that a desire of keep down the administrative costs in some governmental units is responsible fo htrieeghhr c flcjtashrdlucmfywpsr for the higher total expenditure, since fixed items, such as roads and schools, might not be as efficiently managed and, in the long run, be more wastful than if properly supervised. There is much evidence that we are sometimes pennywise and poundfoolish.

We have had developing in our country, almost unnoticed by many of us, a never-ceasing growth of industrial and scientific developmet. Being human, few of us have grasped the possible significance of this development in its relation to our national life.

Since our legislators are also human, they too have failed to properly gauge the meaning of these changes. The result is that our method of handling a new industrial or scientific development is to seek to control it by creating a new board or commission or regulatory body, or pass a new controlling measure without eliminating or changing existing agencies. The net result is that these bodies are today overlapping, interfering, and are reaching a point of cost that is prohibitive. ....

The tax structure, of course, rests o n all clases—farmers, as well as others. The farmer is interested in seeing the total tax bill reduced nationally. But, more than that, he is interested in seeing the burden readjusted so that he will not be required to carry more than his just share.

(Nept week Mr. Fairbank will discuss the farmers' tax burden, as compared to other groups.)

EXPENDITURES OF AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

Secretary of Agriculture Arthur M. Hyde in his annual report to the President, whic was made public today, analyzes the expenditues of the Department of Agriculture and shows what the taxpayers get in return. He says that more than four-fifths of the outlay in the fiscal year 1932 went to the genral public rather than primarily to agriculture. Out of every dollar, only 10 cents was spent on the department's ordinary research and service activities. More than two-thirds of the total was allocated to the States. Federal-aid road construction absorbed $212,000,000. Nearly $11,000,000 was for emergency relief loans. Emergency appropriations for road work, to relieve unemployment, and for agricultural relief carried the total expenditure to $306,000,000. In the 8 years prior to 1931, the department's annual expenditures, including road funds, ranged from $125,000,000 to $180,000,000.

GALENA

Mrs. Clifton Mulford, of Salisbury, Md., spent a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. James Mulford.

Mr. Hiriam Powell has been quite ill at his home, but at this writing is somewhot improved.

Dr. and Mrs. Earle Gilfillan and daughter, Dorthea, spent Sunday in Wilmington, Del., visited the formers mother who is quite ill in a Wilmington hospital.

Miss Annie Hayes returned home last Sunday after spending two months with relatives in Delaware and Pannа-

Mrs. Harry Todd and Miss Jennie Parr are spending Thanksgiving holidays with their cousin, Mrs. J. A. Dytch in Philadelphia, Pa.

Mrs. James Mulford, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mulford and daughter, Miss Helen Mulford, spent Sunday with the formers son, Mr. Errol Mulford at Winterthur, Del.

Miss Lucille Parr, of Baltimore, Md., is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Harry Todd.

Miss Martha Whitaker, of Chestertown, Md., spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. Ernest Hicks.

Mrs. James Mulford spent last Thursday in Baltimore, Md.

Mrs. William LeCates, Jr., spent a few days last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chance in Middletown, Del.

WORTON

Mrs. George N. Coleman, of Rock Hall., visited Mrs. Henrietta Rasin Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Duyer entertained the following at a Wild Goose Dinner Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. John Carter, Mr. and Mrs. John Duyer and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Korycki, of Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wells, of Flushing, L. I., visited relatives here last week, their grand daughter, Joan Crowding accompanied them home.

Mr. Marvin Williams who is taking a course in Embalming in Syracuse, N. Y., is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Davis and daughter, Betty, of Baltimore, spent Friday with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Mason.

STILL POND

Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Ford with Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Ford and daughter, Miss Katherine Ford spent last Sunday in Wilmington, Del.

Mr. Harry Bidwell is spending several days at his home here.

Miss Pearl Coleman has returned home after spending several days of last week with her sister, Mrs. John Atwell, near Kennedyville, Md.

The following have been named by the Sunday School and Epworth League to attend the Youth Conference to meet at Kennedyville on Saturday, Dec. 3rd. Mr. A. J. Hackett, Misses Elizabeth Shallcross and Dorothy Jones, Messers. Thomas Norris and Edward Fellows.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Norris had as their guests for the Thanksgiving holidays Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hart and little son and Mrs. Wilson Smith, of Philadelphia, Pa., also Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wheeler and daughters of Baltimore, Md.

The devotional service of the Epworth League will be lead on Sunday evening by Mrs. Ralph Geary.

Mrs. Busick and daughter, of Baltimore, Md., are spending this winter here with Miss Lillie Parrott and Miss Edna Wroth.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Robinson with their two sons spent Thanksgiving with Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Davis in Baltimore, Md.

The Standard Bearers are holding a bake in Chestertown this Saturday morninrg.

The Epworth League Social will meet on next Thursday evening, December 1st, with Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Anthony.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Mr. W. Irving Walker was in Baltimore on Tuesday of this week and the boat transportation would not get him home in the desired time. He called Mr. Arthur Harris on the phone, who flew to Baltimore, picked Mr. Walker up and delivered him at his home in 22 minutes after leaving Logan field.

WARNED OF RABBIT FEVER

"Frosty days, the hunting season and Bre'r Rabbit are all here together. Also, if you are a hunter or a food handler, the possibility of contracting rabbit fever from handling or skinning diseased rabbits. Therefore, when you handle Bre'r Rabbit in the field, in the market, or in preparing the meat for rabbit pie, or rabbit stew, or rabbit a la Maryland, or for any other use, be sure you are tackling a good healthy specimen, not a diseased one.' Dr. R. H. Riley, Director of the State Department of Health, cautions hunters, sportsmen, food handlers and housewives.

"Rabbit fever or tularemia, to give the disease its medical name," he continued, "is an infectious disease, to which rabbits and other small animals are susceptible, and which spreads from animal to animal through the bite of infected ticks. Human beings contract it either in handling infected aimals, through the bite of infected ticks, or in crushing the ticks.

"The presence of the disease is readily recognized in animals that are being skinned, or prepared for sale, or for cooking, by a characteristic speckled appearance of the liver and spleen which are dotted with white or yellowish spots. Human beings usually pick up the infection through a scratch or break in the skin of the hands or arms. There have been some cases in which the disease has been contracted through rubbing the face or eyes with the hands after they ave touched the infected material. The use of rubber gloves or of gloves of some other impervious material is accordingly advised in skinning rabbits or in preparing the meat for the table.

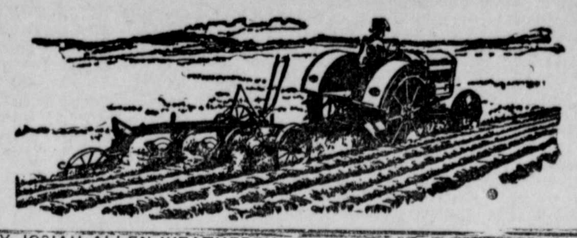
"A disease that corresponds closely to what we now call rabbit fever has been known to market people for a long time, but it is only recently that the source of the disease was discovered. The disease often starts with a severe chill and at first may be taken for an attack of grippe. It is usually characterized by a typhoid-like fever of several weeks duration and is accompanied by great prostration, with long, slow convalescence. In many cases, an ulcer develops at the site of the infection.

"The disease requires careful medical attention and the family physician should be called promptly for those who develop symptoms that suggest rabbit fever. The doctor's diagnosis may be confirmed by blood tests and the laboratory of the State Department of Health will make the necessary tests at the request of the attending physician or the County Health Officer.

"Rabbit fever was made reportable in Maryland in 1928. Since then 80 cases have been reported to the State Department of Health, 36 in Baltimore City and 44 in the counties. There have been 7 deaths.

"Tularemia occurs principally in wild rabbits. It has not been found in rabbits raised in rabbitries. Thorough cooking of the meat destroys the germ. Thoroughly cooked rabbit is accordingly harmless."

FURROWS



BY JOSIAH ALLEN WEATHERBY

Some folks dies hard. The election is over but the crabbers is still crabbin. A lot of republicans is now tellin people in advance about the failures o fthis comin democratic administration. They keep sayin Gov. Rooseve lt is a weadlin and a tool of Tamany, and that he can't live up to his promises, and that times ain't goin to be better, and so on. Well, I fer one don't expect much improvement in what people choose to call industry. And the principal reason is one that wuz mentioned in this column some time ago. I will repeat it.

Most of the big industries is controlled by republicans and when the people gits tired of republican misrule and votes a change in Washington, these here big moneyed republicans close down their factories and lay off a lot of workers. They claim that they do this because of democratic tariff tinkerin tendencies. But what is at the botom of it is the pre-election statements to the factory workers that if they wanted factories to continue to provide work fer them and support fer their families they should vote fer Mr. Hoover and the republican ticket.

On the night of the election I heard a prominent republican talkin about what would happen if the democrats got in, and he said the big moneyed republicans would cut down their workin force, and some of them would shut down completely and lay off a lot of people just to convince the workin people of the cities that work and prosperity in this country depends on the republican party bein continued in office. He said that wuz the case in 1913 when Wilson and the democrats took charge of the government down in Washington.

Now, if you folks read the papers much before election you probably saw where several prominent manufacturers told their workers to vote fer Hoover and that unless they did they would find times much harder this winter and probably fer the next four years. And you will probably read in the papers this winter about a lot of factories bein shut down and a lot of workers bein laid off. They may give as their reason that they don't know what the democrats is goin to do about the tariff, and so they have to curtail production so as not to suffer such great losses in case the tariff is lowered and they have to sell their goods in competition with cheap European labor. But that's just an excuse, not a reason.

The only reason we didn't have what the economists call a major depression in 1913 wuz that the war started over in Europe and these fellers found that they could make more by producin war supplies than by stayin shut down. So, times picked up in 1914.

There is one hopeful sign that times won't be so bad as they has been, and that is that some of our biggest industries now is under the control of prominent democrats, and they ain't goin to shut down their works just to show the workers that republican prosperity is the only kind that is worth havin. Another sign is that a lot of prominent republicans supported Gov. Roosevelt in this here election because they wuz tired of Mr. Hoover's high-handed ways of telin Congress and the people that unless a plan wuz thought of by Hoover it wuzn't no good.

But times ain't goin to git a whole lot better till another crop is made and harvested. The country is goin to have to take care of a lot of suffer-in people this winter and we might as well pull up our belts another hole and try to divide up as fer as we can. It ain't no time to quit now and wait fer politics to take care of the unemployed. The politicians is goin to spend most of their time takin care of themselves.

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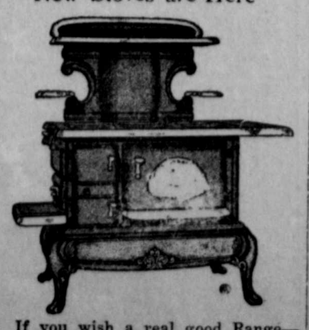

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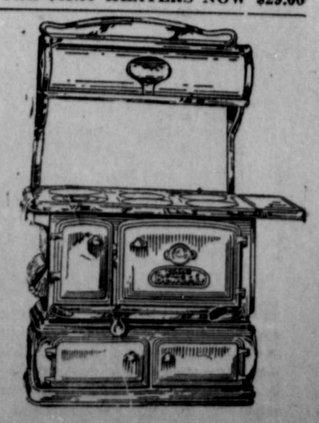

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