THE TRANSCRIPT

Foreign Advertising Representative
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WHILE SPEAKING OF tax relief, there is one phase that has not been mentioned in the various meetings. Regardless of the tax rate, taxes can not be paid unless money is made available to pay them with. The problem of increasing the revenue of the large tax payers of the county is a big one but it can be helped by the people of the county purchasing home grown products and doing business with local county business houses. The farmers and business houses of the county pay the bulk of the taxes and a part of evry dollar spent with them remains in the county.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE

Two local bills were introduced in the Senate this week by Senator S. Scott Beck, of Kent County.

One bill refers to ducking on the Kent side of Chester River. This bill would allow hunters to shoot wild water fowl any day in the week on Chester River during the open season and permit the shooting out of booby blinds in the territory from Durdings Creek to Deep Point. This bill would repeal the present law which designates that hunters may shoot only on certain days in the week, and also the law which prohibits the use of booby blinds in certain sections of the above mentioned area.

The sentiment at Annapolis indicates that the county levy for schools may be reduced from 67 cents to 40 cents and that indirect taxation will be favored to make up the additional State revenue to bring about this reduction. A State sales tax is fast gaining favor together with a State tax on certain luxuries.

Up to the present time there has been no definite proposal to relieve Kent County's 20-cent levy for maintenance of dirt roads. The only part of the gasoline tax that would relieve this item in Kent county is the maintenance fund or the grade crossing fund, as Kent's share of the lateral road fund is tied up for several years to come for payment of road bonds. The sentiment at Annapolis favors the diversion of the lateral road fund, although an effort is being made to divert some other part of the gasoline tax so as to relieve Kent and three other counties who are similarly involved of their local road burden.

(COMMUICATED)

To the Editors:—

I would appreciate it very much if you would give space in your paper to my letter in the hope that it may show many of the indifferent citizens of Kent County how very necessary it is that they take some part in the present tax reduction meetings.

Through error I attended the meeting held in the Court House last Saturday, not knowing until after the meeting was well under way that the public had not been invited. A few others were in the same predicament.

At that meeting I suggested that perhaps Kent County might reduce her expenses along state health work lines by being satisfied with the service we received about two years ago from a part time health doctor and one nurse. I understand the cost to the taxpayers of Kent County for salaries and expenses of the state health workers in the county (not including the cost to the county of the county organization) is well over $12,000 a year.

I know that the treasury of Kent County does not pay all of this money but that the state and federal departments pay a large part of it. But the point I want to stress is that the citizens of Kent County actuallp do pay all of these charges from their federal taxes, their state taxes, and their county taxes. Everybody pays federal or state taxes on practically everything they buy, whether to eat, to wear or to use. The federal government gets the vast amount of money it expends from all of the people. The state does likewise. The taxes paid into the counties are the least of our burdens today. I do not know of one thing, whether necessity or luxury, from a match to a Rolls Royce, that we are not all paying some sort of tax on. This is the tax that hurts the worst because it is with us every day, and it cannot be reduced until the people at large are willing to accept less service from the federal, the state, and the county governments.

Because of the fact that state health regulations have put a very severe burden upon the milk producers, my suggestion that we do away with part (I did not say all) of the state health service in Kent County was warmly received and very favorably acted upon.

A man citizen suggested, or rather made a motion that all Extension Service in the county be discontinued at the present time. During the discussion that followed I suggested that we discontinue the services of the two most expensive workers as there was no need at the present time to teach or stress production and as the women had had fifteen years of home demonstration lessons, and that it might be well to retain the assistant county agent to serve those who felt they wanted some Extension work and to work with the 4-H club members. When the matter was put to vote a large majority was in favor of reducing expenses in the Extension work. Suddenly the chairman of the meeting remembered that the meeting was not open to the public, and the motion and the vote were ruled out. Then a member of his committee made a motion that part of the work be discontinued during these times. Each member of the committee was called by name for his vote and the majority went the chairman's way, which was to keep all the workers.

I am informed that the extension service costs the people of Kent County well over $12,000 a year, in federal, in state, and in county expenditures. The county spends about $3,500 a year, I am told. The recent report in the Baltimore Sun of Kent County's total expenditures for administration purposes was around $15,000, I think. At these figures the extension service uses about one fifth of all of the taxes expended for administration purposes, other than schools and education expenses. Again we must not overlook the fact that the citizens of Kent County pay all of the federal, state, and county disbursements for extension work in the county.

The notice in the Enterprise of the Citizens Tax Committee's meeting which will be open to the public on Saturday, February the 4th, specifically says that only county matters shall be discused "and will not deal with state wide or national problems." This is a very significant statement and should not be tolerated by the citizens of Kent County.

My understanding is that the present committee is a self-appointed committee, not elected nor appointed by the people at large. It started about a year and a half ago with a small group of Farm Bureau and Extension workers, although I am happy to see that some of the later additions to the committee are practical farm and business men. I do not discredit the work they are trying to do, but I think it somewhat high-handed that they should attempt to tell the people what they may or may not discuss at such a meeting. I think every phase of the tax situation should be discussed, if the people so desire.

I cannot see that slashing the salaries of a small number of county workers is going to materially improve general economic conditions. I think we must all do our bit toward reducing federal, state, and county expenses before we can hope to see a general business improvement. Without a general business improvement our incomes cannot improve. The government's paid economists agree that expenses must be reduced before we can have profitable business conditions. What good would it do to reduce our county taxes to fity cents if we did not have an income sufficient to pay taxes at that rate?

This is the time to put all personal and political prejudices aside and to actually do without all unnecessary bureaus, departments, jobs, etc., whether it hurts or not. This is the time to consider the masses, not the individuals. As a matter of fact we are no better than our ancestors and they got along very comfortably without the expensive federal, state, and county governments we are punishing ourselves with today.

I cannot too strongly urge all of the citizens of Kent County to throw off their seeming indifference to the present tax situation and to be present at the meeting on Saturday the 4th. If the majority of the people will not make this effort then we must all abide by the decisions of a few. Any citizen should be permitted to discuss any phase of the tax situation looking toward lowering expenses.

Helen M. Baker.

(COMMUNICATED)

Golt, Maryland.
Feb. 1, 1933.

The Curbstone Diplomat,
Chestertown, Md.

Dear Sir:

At the Taxpayers Meeting of January 21st, my original question was, "what were the school children learning today that makes it necesary for their education to cost four times what it did fifteen or twenty years ago."

You have answered how the teacher's requirements have been raised. The point I tried to make was that in 1914 it would only take approximately 100 bushel of corn to pay a teacher's salary for one month.

When the salaries were raised due to the increased cost of living, it only took about the same amount of grain.

Now at present prices it will take from three to four hundred bushel to pay teacher's salary for one month.

Won't you please use your column to advocate a real tax reduction program that will benefit taxpayers, instead of merely tax shifting.

Thanking you in advance, I remain an interested taxpayer.

G. Marion VanSant,
Golt, Maryland

P. S. I should like to say, that three of the four teachers where I attended school prior to 1916 were normal school graduates.

Not all elementary school teachers were merely school children in those low standard days.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
STATE OF MARYLAND
STATE ROADS COMMISSION

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

SEALED PROPOSALS for Construction of fender system as follows:

Kent County, Contract K-76-2-27. Replacing fender system of bridge over the Sassafras River at Georgetown on the road from Cecilton to Galena.

The minimum hourly wage to be paid by the contractor on the above project shall be, for unskilled labor, $.25; for semi-skilled labor, add 25% for skilled labor, add 50%

will be received by the State Roads Commission at its offices, Federal Reserve Bank Building, Calvert and Lexington Sts., Baltimore, Maryland, until 12 M. on the 14th day of February, 1933, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read. PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS REQUIRED.

Bids must be made upon the blank proposal form which, with specifications and plans will be furnished by the Commission upon application and cash payment of $1.00, for each separate project, as hereafter no charges will be permitted.

No bids will be received unless accompanied by a certified check, payable to the State Roads Commission of Maryland, as required by Sec. 6, Chapter 539, Acts of 1931, of the amount as set forth in the proposal form.

The successful bidder will be required to give bond, and comply with the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, respecting contracts.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any and al bids.

BY ORDER of the State Roads Commission this 31st day of January, 1933.

G. CLINTON UHL, Chairman.
L. H. STEUART, Secretary.

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It is not things that matter; it is all in the way you look at things—your attitude of mind.

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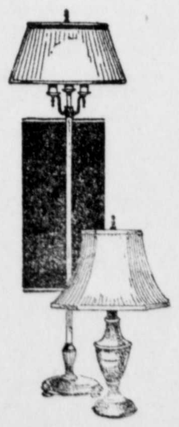
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