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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS AND ALL OTHER SUBJECTS

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ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

Foreign Advertising Representative THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1936

GOVERNOR NICE CALLS SPECIAL SESSION

Governor Nice announced on Thursday last that the special session of the General Assembly of Maryland, originally scheduled for the first week in February, would not be called until the first week in March.

The special session is made necessary on account of the relief problem that confronts the State. All money available for relief from the gross receipts tax before the expiration of the levy on March 31 will be allocated to the counties and Baltimore city early in February.

As the special session is for the purpose of enacting relief legislation our legislators should see to it that the usual flood of bills be kept out, and not permitted to clutter up the files and delay proceedings.

Let the special session be devoted solely to the purpose for which it is called.

GASOLINE TAX NETS MARYLAND \$70,852,730 SINCE ENACTMENT

The treasury of Maryland has been enriched by \$70,852,730.58 by gasoline taxes during the twelve years this type of levy has been in effect to raise current revenue.

A statement by William S. Gordy, Jr., State Comptroller, on Friday showed that in 1924, when the first 2-cent-per-gallon tax was levied, the State collected \$1,588,421.89. Last year, with a 4-cent tax in effect, the income was \$8,808,402.25.

For the entire twelve-year period, including both 2-cent and 4-cent tax, the average income was \$5,862,727.54. During the last five years from 1931-35, with a 4-cent tax, the annual average return has been \$8,165,514.84. On the present basis each penny of the gasoline tax brings in about \$2,200,000.

The 2-cent tax was in effect from January 1, 1924, until April 1, 1927, when it was increased to 4 cents. The 2-cent portion of the tax is allocated to road maintenance, another 1 1/2 cent for lateral road construction, or the maintenance and construction of streets in Baltimore, debt service and county road work.

The remaining half cent of the tax is allocated for grade-crossing elimination, but, under an amendment of the law, may be diverted to bridge construction.

Up to 1933 80 per cent. of the gasoline-tax income went to the State Roads Commission and 20 per cent. to Baltimore city. After 1933 the revenue was divided, 70 per cent. to the commission and 30 per cent. to Baltimore city.

Names of more than a score of companies suspected of making munitions without registering with the Government as required under the Neutrality Act of 1935 have been turned over to the Attorney General for investigation by Cordell Hull, Secretary of State.

This action was the first in actually bearing down upon American munitions companies under the neutrality law, although Secretary Hull's warning of Dec. 3, after the deadline for registration on Nov. 30 had passed, brought in a long list of some of the best known munitions firms in the nation.

Before the deadline, 86 companies registered; after the first warning, 29 came along; and now more than 20 are to be investigated and possibly prosecuted by the Attorney General, with a stiff penalty looming before them.

A "money engineer," who would see to it that the money system was made "capable of bearing the load of the widest popular consumption," is one of the ways to solve unemployment, writes Henry Ford in an article in the February American Magazine.

In a world wanting many things, he said, "we have never had over-production,"—only underdistribution or underconsumption, and further insisted there was enough productive work "crying to be done" in this country right now to employ every employable person "for a long time to come."

MORE THAN 4,000 ILLITERATES LEARN TO READ AND WRITE IN CCC CAMPS

Some 4,339 illiterates who entered the Civilian Conservation Corps camps during the fiscal year which closed June 30, 1935, were taught to read and write, it was stated in a communication issued to Mr. Robert Fechner, Director of Emergency Conservation Work, by Mr. Howard W. Oxley, Director of CCC Camp Education for the U. S. Office of Education.

According to a survey by the CCC Office of Education, made with the assistance of the War Department, there were 7,369 illiterates in the Conservation Corps during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1935. A total of 5,406 were persuaded by the educational advisers to receive instruction. Of these, 3,607 were enrolled in classes, and 1,799 were given individual training. About four-fifths of the number who received training achieved the objective set for them by their advisers. Over 1,950 refused to avail themselves of the opportunities afforded.

The proportion of illiterates to the total enrollment was about 2 per cent, but varied in each corps area. The Ninth Corps Area, bordering on the west coast, had the lowest proportion, with a figure of three-tenths of 1 per cent, Mr. Oxley stated.

The survey showed that 78 per cent of the illiterates were under twenty-five years of age; 5 per cent, between twenty-six and thirty-five years of age; and 16 per cent, over thirty-five years of age. Nearly 95 per cent of the illiterates were American-born, and about 4 per cent, foreign-born. More than half of them came from rural communities; about a third, from small towns; and the remainder from large cities.

Continuing, Mr. Oxley said: "In teaching illiterates, advisers have employed a variety of techniques. Individual instruction has been found to be the most beneficial. The use of visual aids, such as motion pictures and newspaper comics, has proven helpful. Advisers seek to begin their earners with words and phrases common to daily life. Simple stories and news-items are read to the men; then they are taught to read them; or write up the material in their own way. Later on, the men are shown how to express their thoughts in the form of a letter or a brief account."

The Administration legislative field marshals are busy trying to whip in shape a new farm-relief program to submit to Congress, that will take the place of the AAA, that the Supreme Court killed. Thus far the different "schools of thought" have not gotten together.

"Privately," said an official of one of the organizations involved, "we are nowhere near agreement. Publicly, of course, we will all officially deny this."

"One school—call it the Administration school—believes in shrinking American agriculture down to the size of the domestic market and abandoning all hope of obtaining export outlets for our surpluses."

"The other school believes in 'a fair price for a full crop.' This school—and it is the majority group—believes in keeping our land. It also believes in higher protective tariffs and in the transfer of some agricultural commodities from the free list to the dutiable list."

Do you have an empty whiskey bottle around your home with the words "Federal Law Forbids Sale or Reuse of This Bottle," blown in on the shoulder?

If you have, technically you are violating a Federal law. Under the Federal statute enacted on January 1, 1935, every bottle must be broken immediately the contents are consumed—under heavy penalties.

It is the small college that offers nothing but an education—and sees that you get it.

When a suit newly cleaned doesn't get a grease spot in the first three days, it will hold out for three weeks. But this is extraordinary.

RELIEF LEGISLATION

Senator Coburn Offers Suggestions And Invites Criticism

To the Citizens of Cecil County: The Legislature will be called into Extraordinary Session the first week of March to consider the Relief problem. Being desirous of assisting in a plan that will produce a result without the terrific overhead and unnecessary expense that now prevails I am offering the following for your consideration and criticism. It is hoped that its weakness, if any, may be determined and such changes made therein as may be necessary.

The Gross Sales Tax was inaugurated at the last session of the Legislature, the purpose of the tax being to raise revenue necessary for the State's portion of the Relief program and Old Age Pensions. The Federal Government has since discontinued Relief contributions to the State so that the burden of providing for these people that were formerly cared for by Relief now falls directly upon the State of Maryland.

To take over the machinery of distributing Relief as erected by the Government would be out of the question. According to figures furnished by the Maryland Emergency Relief Administration it cost, in Cecil County, during the month of September, 1935, \$1,223.53 to distribute \$3,494.46 in Relief. This figure is probably a fair average for the Executive Secretary receives \$166.67 per month; three Junior and Senior Workers receive a total of \$25.00 per month; a Financial Officer at \$78.00 per month; three Clerks receive a total of \$277.90 per month and a Commodity Distributor at \$86.67 per month. During that same month there were 254 Relief cases in Cecil County, which number has materially decreased and will continue to decrease as the Government launches projects under the Work Relief Program. In view of the enormous cost it is obvious if a continuation of Relief were decided upon some new and more economical method of distribution must be devised.

I voted against the Gross Sales Tax law which we now have, my reason being that it was, in my opinion, the most vicious and discriminatory tax ever forced upon a free people. To illustrate my objection to this form of taxation: In my immediate community there are probably a sufficient number of citizens among whom there are twelve persons, therefore, are carrying a responsibility which should be borne by the entire eight hundred. They are we have independent merchants and chain stores. The chain stores can absorb the tax, their wealth and resources force the independent merchant to do the same. Instead of this being a 1 per cent Gross Sales Tax, it is, to the independent merchant, a 10-15 per cent tax. This is a tax which violates the principle of taxation under our theory of government that all taxes should be borne equally.

The real question thereupon presents itself. Shall we have Relief as at present constituted? If the sum of \$2,500,000 is insufficient to carry on as heretofore shall we continue the Gross Sales Tax, or some similar tax, and pass out the proceeds in the form of a dole or shall we attempt to raise all taxes for this purpose and permit the Counties and Communities to care for their citizens that have met with adversity? I am opposed to the latter in the same manner that has obtained since the birth of civilization.

I favor the latter view. An consensus of opinion, that there are many deserving cases on Relief but I cannot fall to realize the impossibility of the State to furnish funds or machinery to administer them. Without proper machinery this fund, pitifully inadequate, would become political spoils and a small percentage would reach its intended beneficiaries. The machinery provided the fund would be consumed in salaries to officials. Then, too, the distribution of this fund would be a dole and I am opposed to a dole in principle. For the reasons given I shall vote against the Gross Sales Tax when reintroduced.

Should the Gross Sales Tax pass, and I am of the opinion it will, I propose to attempt to amend it that the money derived from this tax may be applied as follows: It is my thought this tax money should be distributed to the Counties, and the City of Baltimore, in direct proportion to their contribution to the general fund, less the amount of administrative expense. In other words Cecil County will have at her disposal the money collected from her citizens less her share of the expense incurred in its collection.

It is my thought also that this money should be held in a special fund, to be used by the County Commissioners, and to be expended by them in the improvement of third and fourth class dirt roads in the County to the end that these roads may be converted into second class, hard surface roads. The material used in the construction of these roads to be procured from within the County, to be procured by the Commissioners and paid for from the surplus that has accumulated in the State Roads Commission, the only relief in the payment of material shall receive in payment of material a sum in excess of 25 per cent of the gasoline tax allocated the previous year. This labor to be procured by the County Commissioners from among the unemployed in our County and the wage scale to be slightly less than the prevailing rate here, to secure an incentive to these men to secure private employment. By expending the money in this fashion we would increase the value of the property along these improved roads and by doing so we would increase our tax base; when we increase our base we decrease the giving employment to many of our citizens without cumbersome and costly administrative machinery.

The figures I have procured by the Comptroller show that Cecil County will pay into the State Treasury from revenues under the Gross Sales Tax approximately \$60,000, which, after deducting administrative expense and Old Age Pension funds will leave, probably, \$35,000 for distribution. The County Commissioners inform me there are 75 men on Relief that are not employed and possibly twice that many unemployed that are not on Relief and that these unemployed will secure employment on the Government projects in this community and these funds will go a long way in providing for the remainder. These funds could be argued to be an appropriation, if it were absolutely necessary. Although this would not be desirable as it would affect the rate. In addition, this method of expenditure would procure for the taxpayers permanent improvements that would be a blessing to the people of the County in years to come.

From my investigation of the figures if this plan is practical for Cecil County it would be for the other Counties, and probably something similar could be evolved for Baltimore City. At any rate by advancing this

W. C. T. U. NOTES

Following are a few matters of Legislation which W. C. T. U. women are interested in which are being considered in Washington.

First of all—Legislation dealing with the Liquor Traffic. Under this head comes the Guyer Bill for Prohibition in the District of Columbia. In introducing this Bill Representative Guyer showed that conditions under repeal in the Capital City are probably worse than in any other city in the country, and the residents of the District are powerless to do anything about it. It is up to the Committee having charge of District Affairs of which Mrs. Mary T. Norton is chairman.

Senator Capper has introduced a Bill to limit liquor advertising and protect dry territory. He is always on the job.

And did you know—"U. S. Supreme Court Rules \$1000.00 Liquor Tax Unconstitutional." This tax was collected in Dry States from liquor dealers and was used as a Federal License to cover up Bootlegging.

Senator Sheppard has also introduced new Constitutional Amendments—two of them to take the place of the 18th. You can take your choice. More will be heard from them later.

Next—Legislation of interest to Peace-makers.

Neutrality. What a lot of things it suggests. We all sincerely want legislation which will keep the United States out of War, but at the same time we want to see wars throughout the World done away with and must co-operate with the rest of the nations to that end. Why spend more money than ever before to build war machinery when we have already outlawed war by the Briand-Kellogg Peace Pact? Peace methods must be relied on in place of War Methods to settle disputes. Senator Nye's Committee is showing the Country as nothing has ever done before a very real source of war encouragement.

Senator Nye and Representative Kvale have introduced bills in both houses to provide for Optional instead of Compulsory Military Training, which is now generally in force, known in schools and colleges as R. O. T. C., and admitted to be the most expensive and least effective from a military point of view method of training soldiers.

Senator Tydings rescued a Bill which had a rather bad start in the House and entering it under a new number rushed it through the Senate in the busy days near the close of last session, which is known as the Military Disaffection Bill, and is intended, according to rumors from Washington, to keep Communism out of the Army and Navy. As a matter of fact it says nothing about Communism but, if passed as it now stands on the House Calendar awaiting action, might easily be construed to cover just such an article as this and "get me in Dutch" for preferring Peace to War, and being willing to say so.

That kind of legislation would be all right in Germany or Italy but not in our Free United States of America. BERTHA BALDERSTON.

WOULD "MARSH RABBIT" BE NAMED BY ANY OTHER NAME?

If the "secret" can be kept from the wife of a certain official in the United States Biological Survey, the Bureau has agreed to tell how muskrats can be used to enliven the family menu.

Returning from an inspection trip in muskrat areas of Delaware, one of the Bureau's biologists carried to his Washington home some meat obtained from these fur animals and introduced the food as "marsh rabbit." The results, he says, were delightful, and the dish proved to be an interesting delicacy, but he hopes that in his own home "marsh rabbits" are not identified.

The flesh of the muskrat for human food is variously esteemed, with diversity of opinion as to its palatability. Muskrats are sold in some parts of the East and Middle West. In the retail markets of Philadelphia, Baltimore, Wilmington, and other cities they are sold from about the middle of December to the middle of March as "marsh rabbits," but no attempt is made to conceal the fact that they are muskrats. They are bought and eaten both by well-to-do citizens and by people who seldom indulge in high-priced game.

The animals are trapped primarily for their pelts, but after they are skinned, the additional labor of preparing the meat for market is so slight that it can be sold very cheaply.

Money talks, even with women, when they give it a chance.

Respectfully submitted, HAROLD E. COBURN.

BREAKS AND SURFACE INJURIES TO TREES SHOULD BE REPAIRED

That "a stitch in time saves nine" is particularly applicable to the proper care and treatment of trees, it is emphasized by Walter R. Ballard, horticulturist for the University of Maryland Extension Service. He points out that repairing a break or injury to the tree at an early date may be the means of saving the owner a costly and laborious operation in tree surgery. In any case, all trees should be given an annual examination to prevent entrance of destructive fungi.

To understand the necessity and wisdom for these periodic examinations one must know something of the way a tree grows and functions, according to Mr. Ballard. He explains that the roots of the tree serve to anchor the tree in place and at the same time they extract from the soil a large amount of water in which various chemical elements, essential to the well-being of the tree, are dissolved in a very dilute form.

This liquid stream is then carried upward through channels in the wood to the leaves which act as the digestive apparatus for the tree. The leaves absorb carbon dioxide from the air and through the mysterious action of sunlight, manufacture various products, among them being cellulose, which makes up a large part of the structure of the tree. This nutritive material then descends to every part of the tree through the cambium layer which is located between the bark and the wood. The cells of the cambium layer represent the live tissue of the tree.

For this reason it is important to keep the cambium layer in good repair, since breaks in this layer or protective covering allow fungi to attack the dead cells which form the center of the tree.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES

"Truth" will be the subject of the Lesson-Sermon in all Churches of Christ, Scientist, on Sunday, Jan. 26. The Golden Text will be from Isaiah 25:—"O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."

Among the citations comprising the Lesson-Sermon will be the following from the Bible—II Cor. 13:8—"For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth."

The Lesson-Sermon also will include the following passage from the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy, page 207—"The spiritual reality is the scientific fact in all things. The spiritual fact, repeated in the action of man and the whole universe, is harmonious and is the ideal of Truth."

THE CITY O'ER THE CITY

Evangelist John Moses Baker Baltimore, Maryland

In that city over yonder, Where all is fair and bright, We will meet and greet our loved ones, And there will be no night.

CHORUS

And there will be no night, And there will be no night, We will meet and greet our loved ones, In that city fair and bright.

Far away the bells are ringing; We are nearing Home Sweet Home, Where loved ones wait our coming, And none shall ever roam.

In the west the sun is setting, Let us brighten some one's way, We can make the old world better, If some kind words we say.

To be at Home with Jesus, In that land of peace and love, Where storm clouds never gather, Our Father's house above.

AGENDA BIBLE CLASS

Evangelist John Moses Baker Baltimore, Maryland

Agenda Bible Class, what a blessing; Just five and twenty years old; Good work they have done, helping others.

In this world, will never be told, The old folks and home at Ocean Grove, Where the sunset time draws near; Pleasant memories come and go; Loved ones to them so dear.

Agenda Bible Class did not forget The old folks, but remembered one and all; Christmas and sunshine baskets sent; Just answering the Master's call.

Two thousand dollars and over, To the building fund was paid; And five hundred dollars for organ; This was the pledge they made.

Friendliness, friendship, understanding, Comrades one and all, Liberty and love for each other, No harm to any befall.

ORPHANS' COURT

Bonds Approved—M. Amanda Bryson, administratrix of Lewis F. Bryson.

Accounts Passed—First and final account of Carrie F. Borden, administratrix c. t. a. of Duane Secor; first and final account of Street E. Riley, administrator c. t. a. of Robert F. Pierce; sixth account of J. Frank Tush, guardian of Genevieve Turner Tush and Janet Ann Tush; first and final account of Loraine Wilson, administrator of John G. Wilson.

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES

A number of National Youth Administration Work Projects are getting under way throughout the Eastern Shore District, according to Max Chambers, District Representative, and others are being sponsored by various civic bodies such as: Chambers of Commerce, Women's Clubs, Rotary Clubs, etc.

The work is being done by youths—boys and girls—between the ages of 16 and 25 and are classified under the following four divisions:

- 1. Projects for Youth—Community Development and Recreational Leadership.
2. Projects for Rural Youth Development.

- 3. Public Service Projects.
4. Research Projects.

The youths are employed one-third time at one-third the security wage which ranges from \$11 to \$19 per month in the Eastern Shore Counties. The work involved is only a part of the program, as the Advisory Committees are planning uplifting activities that will give the young people opportunities to find a place in life for themselves.

Mr. Chambers reports that a number of students are receiving NYA aid at Washington College and Salisbury Teacher's College in addition to needy high school students in the several High Schools. The work projects are for young people who are out of high school and not in College.

The new location of the Eastern Shore Office is 206 Stewart Building, Easton, opposite the Court House. Young people interested in college or craft work, counselling and guidance, may find valuable assistance by communicating with this office.

AIM AT PREVENTION

"More police" is the answer to the growing problem of highway safety, in the opinion of J. Borton Weeks, President of the Keystone Automobile Club, who declares "our ideas with respect to enforcement must be changed, and the aim of our gunners must be pointblank at the major target—PREVENTION."

Writing editorially in the current issue of Keystone Motorist, official publication of the Club, Mr. Weeks compares highway casualties with war losses, and continues: "If we are confronted by a situation analogous to war, it is apparent that the forces to deal with the problem—if it is to be dealt with adequately—must be well trained and numerically adequate."

"The education of youths and adults, and improved engineering of highways, especially the establishment of center separations of opposite-bound traffic, are highly important in the safety movement, but enforcement by adequate number of thoroughly trained men is vital if the accident toll is to be reduced."

"A large percentage of accidents can be prevented if the roads are adequately patrolled. This was proved on the Black and White Horse Pike in New Jersey over the last Labor Day holiday of three days when not a single fatal accident occurred on either of those great highways under the heaviest traffic they ever bore, simply because there was one motorized New Jersey trooper patrolling every ten miles of road."

"Enforcement does not consist of getting promptly on the scene after the accident, but being there in plain view for the purpose of preventing accidents. We cannot win the war with an untrained corporal's guard. We must have trained men and plenty of them, working eternally on the job."

Dredging operations, which have been started on the Long Marsh ditch between Caroline and Queen Anne's counties, will improve the drainage conditions for 43,000 acres of land. This is one of the projects handled by the CCC drainage camp at Goldsboro.

KILLS RATS

snice, roaches and beetles—that's RAT-SNAP, the old reliable rodent destroyer. Comes in cakes. They eat it without any bait. Doesn't matter how much other kinds of food is around. Apply it 1st, 4th, and 7th day and eat each cake in 30 pieces, place it where the vermin is seen to run.
25c size—1 cake—enough for Pantry, Kitchen or Cellar.
35c size—2 cakes—for Chicken House, coops, or small buildings.
75c size—5 cakes—enough for all farm and out-buildings, storage buildings, or factory buildings.
R. M. Dempsey, Limestone, N. Y., says "Rat-Snap certainly does the work. It was well worth \$10.00 to get rid of the Rats and Mice in my own house."

Sold by Ashby's Drug Store, Jos. S. Fogue, Sons & Co., Rising Sun, Md.

A man with a paunch needs suspenders. Why should he keep up the struggle against them?