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Final State Tax Revision

Commissioners Will Have Power To Hear Appeals On Assessments

The final report of the Rawls Tax Revision Commission has been made public with its scheme to reorganize tax administration in Maryland modified to meet objections of county leaders.

County officials and legislators had objected strenuously to the proposal to take local tax assessment entirely out of the hands of the Boards of County Commissioners.

The final version of the report provides that the Boards of County Commissioners may hear all appeals from assessments made by the county tax assessor, or may appoint a subsidiary board to hear such appeals.

In previous drafts of the plan, appeals were to be made direct to State Board of Tax Appeals, and the County Commissioners would have had no power to redress grievances made to them by local property owners.

As the plan now stands, it would work as follows:

A chief assessor for each county would be appointed by the State Department of Revenue and Taxes.

This assessor would be a local man, appointed from a list submitted by the Board of County Commissioners. It is recommended that the present supervisors of assessments be continued in office as chief assessors.

The chief assessor would have complete supervision over property assessments, and would appoint assistants under the Merit System with the approval of the State Department of Revenues and Taxes. The number of such assistants would be determined in consultation with the County Commissioners.

Appeal from tax assessments would be made in the first instance to the County Commissioners of the respective counties, or to the Appeal Tax Court of Baltimore city, as the case might be.

The County Commissioners, however, would be authorized by general law to create local appeal boards for their various counties to relieve the commissioners themselves of the necessity for hearing appeals.

The general outline of the Tax Revision Commission's plan for administrative reorganization remains the same. It suggests that all State tax collections be centralized in a department of revenue and taxes and that the present State Tax Commission become a judicial body to hear appeals only.

This plan removes all tax-collecting functions from the present State Tax Commission and from the office of the State Comptroller.

Another recommendation makes its first apearance in the final report of the Tax Revision Commission. This is that the State change its fiscal year to begin on July 1.

A fiscal year running from October 1 to September 30 has been used by the State of Maryland since 1878. The counties have used various fiscal years, and at present the situation is as follows:

Nine counties have a fiscal year ending June 30.

Seven counties and Baltimore city have a fiscal year ending December 31.

Four counties have a fiscal year ending May 31.

Two counties have a fiscal year ending March 31.

One county has a fiscal year ending April 30.

Ceiling On State's Revenue

Governor O'Conor said he was unable to comment on a proposal to put a "ceiling" on the state's revenue from the income tax because he had not had sufficient time to consider all the ramifications of the question.

Such a ceiling was contained in a bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Wilmer F. Davis (R-Caroline), minority floor leader. He proposes that if the revenue from the tax on 1940 incomes exceeds $8,000,000, the revised schedule for unearned income automatically will drop to four per cent.

Elkton Council Ponders Daylight Saving

The Elkton City Council, at its meeting last week, discussed the advisability of adopting daylight saving time for Elkton, during the coming summer. No definite action was taken. The proposition will be taken up for further consideration in the near future.

Briefly Noted News

Rising Sun firemen were called out at about 6:15 o'clock Friday morning, to extinguish a bad chimney fire at the home of Henry McFadden, near Hopewell.

The ladies of the W. C. S. Association met in Janes Methodist Church, on Thursday afternoon, with fifty members present. A splendid program was presented.

The mid-week prayer service, on Wednesday evening, was in charge of Russell Johnson, in the absence of the minister, due to illness of his father in a Philada. hospital.

A chimney fire at the home of Mrs. C. H. Cameron, East Main St., a few minutes before nine o'clock Monday morning, was extinguished by firemen called to the scene.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson of Chesapeake City, have announced the engagement of their daughter Pauline, to Mr. Elmo Nelson, of Arlington, Va. The wedding will take place in the near future, after which the young couple will live in Raleigs, N. C.

A meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Community Fire Company of Rising Sun was held Monday evening, in the recreation room of fireman's hall, Mrs. Robert Cameron presiding. The meeting was well attended and a number of new members enrolled.

Fire Companies Hold Annual Elections

The Volunteer Fire Companies in Elkton and at North East, held their annual elections Monday night Feb. 10.

The election held by the Elkton firemen, resulted in the choice of the following: Directors, C. Raymond Arrants, G. Mitchell Boulden, Warren W. Boulden, W. Wirt Bouchelle, Clarence E. Denny, Charles M. Dennis, John J. Denver, John R. Everett, H. Ernest Foster, Richard M. Masemore and Henry Metz.

The board organized by re-electing Warren W. Boulden, President.

Other officers elected were: First Vice-President, Henry Metz; Second Vice-President, H. Wirt Bouchelle; Secretary, G. Mitchell Boulden; Treasurer, H. Wirt Bouchelle; Chef, Richard M. Masemore; Chief of Motors, Clarence M. Denny.

Officers elected by the North East Fire Company, were as follows: President W. C. Harvey; First Vice-President, C. A. Ferguson; Secretary, Carter Simpers; Assistant Secretary, Austin Conway; Treasurer, George Wingate; Chief, Charles Brown; new Directors, Walter I. Smith, Charles Rothermel, Frank Conway, Ira Wells, John Norman and William J. Logan; holdover Directors, J. C. Rhudy, T. Kennard Blake, Jr., George F. Craig, Arthur Harvey and Chas. Preston.

Father And Son Banquet

About thirty-five Boy Scouts of Rising Sun Troop, their fathers and Scout sponsors attended the tenth annual Father and Son Banquet, of District Five Boy Scouts of America, held Tuesday evening at Kennett Square, Pa. A fine turkey dinner was prepared and served by the Mothers' Auxiliary in the American Legion building, five hundred and ten persons sitting down to the banquet at one time, and despite this large number everyone was served promptly.

The speakers included Dr. Walter L. Wright, District Chairman, of Lincoln University; Russell S. Callow, head crew coach of University of Pennsylvania, and others. Music was furnished by a 35-piece Boy Scout Band.

Red Cross Roll Call Drive

Mrs. J. Mercer Terrell, Roll Call Chairman of the Cecil County Chapter, American Red Cross, has announced that the total amount received from the recent membership drive in the county was $1853.02 as compared with $800 taken in the previous year.

The following sums were received in the various districts of the county: 1st district—$134; 2nd district—$145.15; 3rd district—$629.50; the management and employees of Triumph Explosives, Inc.—$100; Conowingo Power Company—$55; 4th district—$57.25; 5th district—$144.81; 6th, 8th and 9th districts—$268.31; 7th district—$319.00.

As Mrs. Terrell submitted her report, she extended the thanks of the Chapter to all those who labored so diligently to make the drive the overwhelming success it proved to be. The chairman also stated that late returns continue to come in and that the reported total will eventually be larger than the report now shows.

Licenses Granted Despite Protests

Liquor licenses were granted to two hotel owners despite protests from delegates representing churches in Perryville, Charlestown, North East, Bay View, and Leslie who, accompanied by their ministers, appeared before the Board of Liquor Commissioners of Cecil County Wednesday afternoon.

The group protested against the granting of liquor licenses to Samuel Sturgeon of North East for his new hotel, "The Madison House", on the new dual highway, and to L. John Croft of Perryville, who has erected a $50,000 hotel at the new Susquehanna River bridge on the Perryville side, known as "White Horse Inn".

There were no charges against the character of either applicant, the board announced, and granted the licenses.

As G. Reynolds Ash, attorney for the board, has been inducted into service with the U. S. Army, James Weinroth was appointed counsel to succeed him.

District Governor Addresses Lions

Forty-four members, visitors and candidates for membership enrollment assembled at the Village Restaurant, Thursday evening, for the dinner meeting of the Lions. Visiting Lions were present from Wilmington, Newark, Claymont and Christiana.

The guest speaker of the evening was William Cummings, of Claymont, Del., District Governor of 22nd District, who spoke of the growth of Lionism, and what it meant to a community in civic activities.

Lions Clubs differ from similar organizations in that each club is required to submit a monthly report to the international office of the Association on the activities undertaken by the club during the month. A Lions Club is composed of the leading men of its community, and membership in it is acquired thru invitation only. The word signifies: Liberty, Intelligence—Our Nation's Safety.

Fifteen new names were added to the membership roll. They included: Wm. R. Cherry, Wm. H. Haney, Alexander Wilson, Robt. W. Cameron, Dudley Rawlings, Carl Hanna, C. C. Harris, Asher S. Roberson, Thos. B. Roberson, Wm. T. Jenness, John A. Bodine, William Liddell, Dr. S. A. Kotz, H W. Ewing, Earl Todd.

Following the dinner and regular business meeting a Zone meeting was held, attended by the Presidnt and secretary of each club in District Twenty-Two.

Injured In Auto Accident

Mrs. Frank Bitner, Mrs. John Bitner, Misses Ella, Anna and Gertrude Bitner of Port Deposit, were painfully bruised and cut when their car skidded on the ice and struck a pole, as they were returning from a visit with relatives in Media, Pa. The accident occurred near Sylmar.

Mrs. Lily Hill, a teacher in the Seventh Day Adventist School at Blythedale, recently suffered very severe injuries when her car collided with another coming in the opposite direction, near the John Cullen property a short distance from Cather's corner.

Her son Earl, who was driving was also injured about the knees. Dr. Dodson rendered medical aid at the scene of the accident, several stitches being required to close the cuts on Mrs. Hill's face. Their car was a complete wreck and they wre taken to the home of relatives near Oakwood.

Cecil County Chapter Red Cross

The Annual Meeting of the Cecil County Chapter of the American Red Cross was held at the Howard Hotel in Elkton, Maryland, February 10, with about 65 members and officers attending. After a most enjoyable luncheon, the meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mrs. A. Victor Davis. The minutes and reports of activities were read and approved.

The officers for the coming year were nominated and elected as follows: Cecil County Chairman, Mrs. R. C. Dodson; Cecil County Vice-Chairman, Miss Grace Price; Cecil County Treasurer, Mrs. C. A. Ringgold; Cecil County Secretary, Mrs. Lynn Gillespie. Delegates to the National Convention in Washington—Mrs. R. C. Dodson, Mrs. Mercer Terrell; alternates, Mrs. A. V. Davis, Miss Grace Price.

Jury List For March Term Of Court

Associate Judge James F. Evans has drawn the following jurors to serve at the March term of Circuit Court for Cecil County, which convenes at Elkton Monday, March 3.

From Cecilton district—L. Wickes Davis, Jr., Walter Allen, Jos. A. Sullivan, Porter L. Davis, Alexander Wilson, Sr., and J. Robert De Lauder; Chesapeake City district—Jos. J. Wolf, Robert Fears, Sr., Charles E. Schrader, Francis De Lancey, Tullard Buckworth and Samuel W. Caldwell; Elkton district—C. Harry Buckworth, Wm. C. Feehly, Charles H. Gatchell, E. Robert Everingham, John J. Carroll, Douglas J. Ayerst, and Earl Dean; Fair Hill district--Harry Lungren, H. R. Mendenhall, W. Ray Kerr, Walter E. Brown and Geo. F. Kirk.

North East-Charlestown district--Guy G. Kirk, Frank Conway, Rufus K. Wells, Wm. H. Bishop, III, L. B. Akers and Wharton Wallis; Rising Sun-Colora district--Arthur A. Armour, Charles A. Hutchins, James J. Lamdin, Horace G. Hill, and Arnold B. Harrington; Port Deposit-Perryville district--Donaldson Cole, Wm. D. Reed, Charles H. Reckefus, Arthur W. Hornburger, E. J. Stively, Paul Patterson and Pierre N. Le Brun. Oakwood district--M. Thomas Meaders, Paul E. Burkins and Fred P. Conally; Calvert district--S. Henry Montgomery, J. Lawson Crothers and Stanley M. Smith.

Cecil Group Fights Anti-Fireworks Bill

Before an obviously hostile House judiciary committee, representatives and officials of the Triumph Explosives Company, Elkton fireworks manufacturers, on Wednesday put up a desperate fight against House Bill 29 which would prohibit the sale of fire works in Maryland.

Arguments flew thick and fast that passage of the bill would mean economic ruin for Cecil County, in which the industry is located; that national defense would be hampered, and, finally, that the fireworks company voluntarily intended to stop manufacture and sale of pyrotechnics of the "dangerous' 'type.

Two attorneys for the company and the superintendent of the plant took the floor at various times to plead for their own bill, which recently was introduced in the Senate by Senator Cecil Squier (Dem., Cecil).

The Squier bill would permit the manufacture and sale of fireworks which its proponents declared were of non-dangerous variety.

Elkton Couple Wedded Fifty-Nine Years

Mr. and Mrs. Miller F. Magraw of Elkton, were tendered a postal card shower by their many friends on Sunday, February 2nd, in honor of their 59th wedding anniversary.

The couple have both spent practically their entire life in Cecil County, and for the past 40 years have resided at their West High St. home. Both are still very active, Mrs. Magraw attending daily to her household duties and Mr. Magraw acting as superintendent of elevators at the new Court House Building in Elkton.

For several years he was engaged in the canning and machinery business. He is active in frateral affairs, especially the Improved Order of Red Men, of which he is a past great sachem of the Grand Council of Maryland.

They have one daughter, Mrs. Bessie Scott, a member of the staff of the Elkton Banking and Trust Company, and one granddaughter, Mrs. Richard Dutrow of Frederick, Maryland.

Joins Perry Point Hospital Staff

Miss Naomi Schlotterbeck, for the past eighteen months employed as nurse by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in Hartord and Cecil counties, has resigned and accepted a position on the nursing staff at the U. S. Veterans' Hospital, Perry Point.

Pastor Invited To Return

At the fourth quarterly conference held at the Methodist church in Rising Sun, on Tuesday evening, February 4th, Dr. W. E. Gunby, District Supt. presiding, Rev. J. B. Dickerson was unaminously invited to return for the coming conference year, as pastor of the church, having served two years at this charge.

Women use calling cards in playing the social game.

Personal And Social

Mrs. Grace Terry has been visiting Philada., relatives.

E. Newell Jenkins, of Philada., spent the week-end with home folks here.

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Cherry enjoyed a week-end trip to New York.

Carlton B. Nichols, of Wilmington, visited Rising Sun friends on Saturday.

Mrs. Charles Ritchie has been among those on the sick list the past week.

Master Harry Roberson spent Wednesday evening with Master Donald Johnson.

Mrs. Charles Reynolds, Coatesville, Pa., was the week-end guest of Mrs. Jennie Taylor.

Mrs. Sara Wagner had as her guest during the week Miss Maggie McFalls, of Media, Pa.

Mr. Frank Tosh recently visited his sister at Airville, Harford County, who has been critically ill.

Miss Anne Roberson, of Washington, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Roberson.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Balling, of Rising Sun, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Foster, of Pleasant Hill.

Mrs. Lillie Johnson, of ntar Rock Springs, suffered a stroke about two weeks ago, and is still in a serious condition.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester T. Kimble, of Port Deposit, observed the 35th anniversary of their wedding on Sunday, February 2nd.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bryson, of Washingaon, D. C., visited the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Brown, during the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Abrahams, of Perryville, are receiving congratulations on the birth of a daughter on Saturday, February 1st.

Miss Dorothy Graybeal, student nurse at Union Memorial Hospital, Baltimore, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Graybeal, over the week-end.

David A. Irwin Narbeth, Pa., a student at F. and M. College, Lancaster, Pa., was a caller on Friday, at the home of his grandmother, Mrs. Clara B. Keen.

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Keim, Rising Sun, celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary on January 25th at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Elwood Foster, of Pleasant Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Leroy Light, near West Grove, Pa., announce the marriage of their daughter, Mary Louise, to Claude McLimans, on Saturday, September 28 at Port Deposit.

Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Kennard were, Miss Mary Noody, Miss Evelyn Handy, Miss Annie Sayers, Wilmington, Del., and Miss Marian Smith, Newark, Delaware.

Mr. and G. Clinton Logan entertained Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Callahan, Baltimore, Mr. nd Mrs. George Logan, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Barr, Port Deposit, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Turner, Oxford, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ritchie entertained at Sunday dinner in honor of the birthday of Mrs. Emma Donache and son, Leigh. Leigh Donache has recently enlisted for military service with Company E, of Elkton.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert McLane, Mrs. R. W. Talbot, of Washington, D. C., and Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Talbot, of St. Louis, Missouri, were luncheon guests on Saturday of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil E. Ewing at "The Bungalow".

Mr. James Carleton, a member of the National Guard stationed at Quanaico, Va., has returned to duty after several weeks vacation spent at the home of his relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson, near Harrisville.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. M. Pogue, daughter Isabelle, Mr. Jesse T. Cameron and James Yerkes left by auto Monday morning for an extended trip to Florida and other points in the Sunny South. They expect to be gone about six weeks.

Cecil County Medical Society

The Cecil County Medical Society met Jan. 24, at Union Hospital, Elkton, and elected the following officers: President, Dr. C. I. Benson; vice-pres., Dr. M. H. Sprecher; sec. and treas., Dr. R. C. Dodson; delegate to State Convention, Dr. R. C. Dodson; alternate Dr. H. A. Cantwell.

Swallowing his pride does not satisy a hungry man.

Teachers Pay May Be Cut

Maryland Legislators Study Way To Meet Problems Of Equality

A reduction in the salaries of white teachers to offset—at least in part—the cost of equalizing the white and negro pay scale in 20 of the 23 counties of the state is being considered.

This—the reduction in the pay scale—is one of several possibilities being canvassed by a special committee named by Governor O'Conor to determine the best means of financing the equalization made mandatory by a federal court decision.

The other possibilities include placing the entire burden for the raise of the negro teachers pay to the rate for white instructors—which will cost $412,000 in the next school year—on the 20 counties involved; making the matter a state obligation and a joint state-county financing operation.

Governor O'Conor named a committee to study the subject upon introduction in the House of Delegates by Elmer Jackson (D-Anne Arundel) of a bill that would establish the same base pay for negro teachers as for whites throughout the state and thereby put the burden of meeting the cost on the state rather than the counties.

Although it has been known since last year that either the state or the counties, through mandamus proceedings, could be forced to equalize the pay in the counties where different rates exist, no provision for it was made in the budget Governor O'Conor submitted to the legislature last month.

So far the attitude of the executive office has been that it is a county problem.

Anne Arundel County, against which the decision that it was discriminating by having two pay schedules was rendered by Judge Calvin Chesnut in the Federau Court at Baltimore, was obliged to put more than $40,000 of county funds to defray equalization costs in this school year.

Kent County is another that has a broad differential.

School Attendance In January

Attendance Officer Edwin H. Barnes, of Elkton, has issued his report showing the percent of attendance in the public schools of Cecil county, during the month of January.

Pilot leads the one teacher group; Elk Mills the two teacher schools; Kenmore the graded schools; Calvert the high schools: Cokesbury-the colored schools.

Attendance averages were lower in January because of the extreme bad weather. The averages follow:

One teacher schools--Pilot 88.4, Wesley 84.5, Chapel 84.2, Principio 82.3, Pleasant Hill 80.5, Oakwood 80.5, Liberty Grove 79.7, Blake 79.3, New Valley 77.9, Jackson 77.0, Jefferson 74.8, Hart's 74.1, Charlestown 73.6, Union 69.9, Rowlandsville 59.8.

Two teacher schools--Elk Mills 84.8, Leeds 84.0, Cherry Hill 79.0, Colora 76.1.

Graded schools--Kenmore 85.3, Elkton 84.1, Chesapeake City 83.5, North East 81.9, Calvert 81.9, Rising Sun 81.2, Cecilton 79.3, Perryville 77.9.

High schools--Calvert 92.9, Kenmore 89.7, North East 88.9, Cecilton 87.9, Chesapeake City 87.1, Rising Sun 85.5, Perryville 82.0, Elkton 80.8.

Colored schools--Cokesbury 85.0, Port Deposit 84.5, Wilson 82.9, Elkton Elem. 77.9, Cecilton 77.5, North East 70.0, Conowingo 69.4, Cedar Hill 58.1.

Elkton Col. H. S. 81.0.

Smith--Jeffers

Mr. and Mrs. William S. Smith of 401 West Twenty-fourth St., Wilmington, announce the marriage of their daughter, Miss Jeanette Hughes Smith, to Mr. Ralph Aubrey Jeffers of Wilmington, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Jeffers of Elkton. The wedding took place Friday night. After a wedding trip, Mr. and Mrs. Jeffers will live at 1303 Van Buren St. Wilmington.

Carson--Sentman

Announcement has been made of the marriage of Miss Gladys Carson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Carson, and Mr. Edward Sentman, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Sentman, both of Perryville. They were married Tuesday, January 28th, at Perryville Methodist parsonage, by Rev. H. N. Bailey. Their honeymoon was spent in New York.