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Not Always Fair.

There is little doubt that there is a widespread feeling of annoyance about the so-called "inheritance tax laws" also a feeling that these taxes are unfair in that they confiscate to the State an unreasonable share of what an individual taxpayer had accumulated—and paid taxes thereon during his life and those who inherited would continue to pay taxes upon—and expected to bequeath intact to his heirs.

The other side of the story is the claim made by the state's tax experts that many rich men evade entirely during their life-time contributing anything whatever toward the support of government and that the inheritance tax affords the only lever to pry out of the accumulation the government's just share of support.

Just the same we fancy the following editorial from an esteemed local contemporary reflects the prevailing opinion:—

"In 1925 New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Massachusetts enacted reciprocal laws, repealing in each state any inheritance tax on intangible property under jurisdiction of any one of them, when such property was part of the estate of a decedent resident in one of the other states. Prior to that agreement to illustrate by example, if a resident of Pennsylvania died owning New York Central Railroad stock, it would be subject to inheritance tax not only in his home state, but in New York, Ohio and several other states, in proportion to the value of that railroad's property incorporated in each state traversed. This was a highly complicated system, expensive and annoying to heirs and executives, and New York led the movement for simplification.

"The action of the four states named was brought to the attention of the National Tax Conference in New Orleans in 1925 and again taken to the same conference in Philadelphia in 1926. It was seen to be so desirable that seventeen other states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws in harmony with those of the original four.

"Speaking generally of inheritance taxes or 'death duties' as they are called in England, they grow out of the necessities of governments and the desires of legislatures for more money to spend than they dared to raise by general taxation. But they are not universally accepted as defensible in principle and as governments come, if they ever do, to be less heavily burdened, such taxes will doubtless be modified or done away with as objectionable and unjust in their present form. The property a decedent has acquired and leaves is as subject to taxation after his death, into whatever hands it comes, unless it is devoted to philanthropic uses. Ancient laws under which estates escheated or reverted to the government or to the lord of the fee have long been done away with, and decedents can dispose of their property as they will. Hence to tax the transfer, whether by devolution or bequest, seems a somewhat illogical procedure, justifiable only by the imperious needs of governments in desperate financial straits. If a citizen could take his property with him out of the world when he goes, there would be excuse for appropriating much of it at the last opportunity afforded. But it remains subject to taxation; and the act of dying, which is commonly involuntary, can hardly be considered an intending to be penalized by incurring an estate."

Just as a matter of information what power has the State Board of Nursing examiners to curtail the activities of a hospital in Rochester? Probably, about as much as the State Board of Charities has to discontinue Sing Sing State prison.

How proud would Father Andrew Lacey's rather have been to see him in the pastorate at Lyons?

Unmasked.

For the sake of the record, we are republishing this significant editorial from the New York Times:—

Whether because he lacks confidence in the sincerity of the Indianapolis Republican Public Prosecutor or because he prefers the serial story effect, Indiana's ex-Grand Dragon of the Klan has released for daily publication in The Indianapolis Times a collection of checks and papers bearing on his relations with the powers of Republicanism in his State. The first installment had the effect of creating the wish for more, as it was the photostat of a check for \$2,500 made out by Stephenson to, and endorsed by, "Ed Jackson."

That is the name of Indiana's Governor, and no such contribution, it is stated, was reported by him. The law requires acknowledgment under oath of all moneys received and accepted by a candidate. The Governor is visiting at Osawatimie, in Kansas, from which celebrated hamlet he told Indianapolis reporters over the telephone that he had "nothing whatever to say." It is likely, however, that from Osawatimie he will soon go marching on to the Hoosier capital, and it is improbable that he can maintain his dignity of silence in the face of newspaper material furnished by the interesting ex-Grand Dragon from his cell in the Michigan City penitentiary. Mayor Duvall of Indianapolis, now under indictment for alleged concealment of a campaign gift, is at present busily engaged in getting out his own newspaper, an enterprise he announces to be a necessity in a community which offered in its press no offensive or defensive arguments for him. But his absorbed editor will probably have to treat as news the revelations of his incarcerated associate. And it is currently believed in Indiana that many others, even more highly placed in State and national politics, will "have their attention called" forcibly to their most curious of modern newspaper serials. What part of it is fiction, what fact, remains to be proved; but there is no doubt that Stephenson is used to rule the roost in Indiana politics, and the Klan was the power behind him.

It was a dark day in American political history when the forces represented by Stephenson and his cronies in public office throttled a great State and misrepresented its citizenship. But they fell out, and it begins to appear that the old adage is coming true again.

Wait!

Automobilists have become accustomed to the "stop and go" signals at street corners and the traffic is speeded, rather than impeded thereby.

But pedestrians in Rochester have not yet become thoroughly familiar with and responsive to the street corner stop and go signals. They cannot seem to realize danger of what they are doing when there are no vehicles in sight, yet these same people would proclaim loudly against the autoist who takes a chance at a railroad crossing, because he did not happen to see the fast train approaching just around the curve.

Recent completion of the new East Main street pavement from Fitzhugh street to East avenue has impelled the following editorial comment in a local secular contemporary:—

"Completion of the pavement in Main street from the Court House to East avenue has increased the need of caution in crossing that arterial thoroughfare. Reopening of all the intersecting streets to traffic also has brought about a movement of vehicles and pedestrians that makes imperative a more general observance of traffic signals. 'Attention has been directed in recent weeks to the seeming indifference shown by many persons with regard to the green and red signal lights at Main street intersections. Pedestrians particularly seem disposed to disregard the signals, especially if they see no policeman about. Their attitude seems to be that unless they are in danger of being 'hauled out' publicly by a representative of the law, they are willing to take a chance with the traffic. The idea that the lights are set at the corners for their safety does not seem to register.

"Now that paving annoyances along Main street are virtually ended, traffic moves with speed that is likely to increase, rather than diminish, if the experience of other large cities is to be repeated here. One of the principal objects of traffic signals and smooth pavements is to enable traffic to move swiftly, thus relieving congestion. That being the case, it behooves everyone who crosses Main street or its intersections in the heart of the city to watch the traffic signals and obey them, whether or not a policeman stands on the corner. 'If everyone obeys the signal lights, accidents at the intersections and traffic will move at a minimum and aid greatly in solving the problem of congestion.'"

There is no particular significance in the agitation by the democratic leader of the Board of Supervisors in republican controlled Onondaga county for a county commission governor. There might be some chance for out to become the ins.

To the Ocean.

For the next few years there will be great discussion as to the relative merits and demerits of the proposition to canalize the St. Lawrence River much as we have canalized the Mohawk River enroute to the Hudson and so afford a route from Chicago and Duluth and the North-west direct to Liverpool.

Negotiations are in progress between the United States and the Dominion of Canada looking toward such an achievement rather than the connection of Lake Ontario and the Hudson River by means of a ship canal from Oswego to Troy. There are earnest partisans of each and then there are others who are neutral as is the secular editor or just outside Rochester who soliloquizes thusly:—

Canada's diamond jubilee celebration has led to a stock-taking of Canadian resources and prospects commands attention, as well as respect, on this side of the line. The Dominion communities, only a few decades ago struggling for existence under heavy handicaps, are revealed as preparing for a new era of growth and progress that will give Canada a commanding position among the nations of the British Commonwealth.

Not the least of the projects that interests the friends of Canada is the progress of Montreal's port and channel development. Before the present channel was dredged, the Canadian Metropolis was cut off from the sea by shallows in the lower river. At various places the depth of the river was no greater than eleven feet. Dredging of the bars has opened a channel thirty feet in depth all the way from the Montreal docks to the sea, a thousand miles eastward. The dredges are still at work, the ultimate plan being to increase the channel depth to thirty-five feet, thus allowing the largest liners to dock at the huge stone quays.

Although it is two hundred miles from Lake Ontario to Montreal, the river, for a great part of that distance, is deep enough to accommodate the largest ships afloat. It is because of the comparatively short distance that must be canalized between the lake and sea level at Montreal that engineers look to the Canadian route as the best available for a lake-to-sea waterway, particularly in view of the immense improvements being made by Montreal in the lower river. It remains to be seen whether the friends of the St. Lawrence ship channel will be as successful in removing the political obstacles to a deep waterway from the lakes to Montreal as Montreal has been in opening a channel from that city to the sea.

Why Exclude?

This is a day of advertising. There is no disputing this. And the advertising covers not only display and straight reading matter "ads" that can be billed directly and paid for. There are all sorts of "publicity" and it is difficult to bill and collect.

Circuses and theaters were the only enterprises, in the olden days, that used the display columns of newspapers and magazines. Now the church, the school teacher, the athletic director, the social welfare league, every movement, every institution of every sort, each has its publicity director and each vies with the other as to how much free newspaper and magazine space can be secured. One big automobile industry pays a large bonus for every "first page publication" achieved in the interest of this make of automobile.

No less a publication than the London "Spectator" now urges the League of Nations to advertise its aims and purposes to the world at large, which provoked this outburst from a local contemporary:—

The League of Nations has been advised by the London Spectator to "sell" itself to the world through the medium of paid newspaper advertising. Having the goods, says this paper, the league should advertise them to the world with the exception of the United States!

Just why the United States should be regarded as beyond the pale, is not made clear. It is proposed that the league take a column per day for twelve months in the world's leading dailies; two columns in the Sunday editions, and a page per issue in magazines. The computed total cost per year would be about ten millions of dollars.

This is a huge sum and yet it is not a tithe of the totals expended in commercial advertising of any one of a number of commodities. The Spectator says as much money was spent in one hour during the Great War.

The London paper's proposal has merit, all but the exclusion of the United States from the advertising apportionment. If the league has the goods, this is the one large nation which ought to know about them. If it has anything to sell, we are the people best psychologically prepared to buy through advertising.

Sort of looks as if Clip Eastwick and Joe Wilson would travel in separate political harness this fall. Justice B. B. Cunningham would add lustre and dignity to the Court of Appeals bench of New York state should he be nominated and elected.

Shame!

The assassination of Kevin O'Higgins four or five years ago would have operated against institution of the Irish Free State. Even today it impels a suspicion in certain quarters that the Irish never will be fit for self-government.

It is reassuring that the Free State functions. Emphatic assurances by Eamon de Valera that he and his extremist associates deplore the murder and are not responsible for it help to quiet certain Free State sympathizers who have intimated that American money contributed to de Valera for propaganda purposes had been diverted to criminal practices. Murder and assassination cannot be tolerated either in Ireland or the United States.

Paying Investment.

Comparing Monroe County's recently instituted county park system, the Rochester "Times-Union" remarks:— "Westchester County embarked some years ago on an elaborate park and boulevard program, under the direction of its county park commission. Support given this program by the people of the county was not based on any expectation of financial return. Improving recreation facilities was adjudged a sufficient end in itself.

"Now the statement is made by the commission that the burden assumed by the taxpayers, in authorizing expenditure of millions for the park and parkway program, is being met in large part by income from rentals and concessions and more particularly by the rise in land values along the new parkways and near the parks.

"Property owners cannot object to paying larger taxes in view of the marked rise in the sale or rental value of their holdings. This additional revenue to the county will go far toward meeting interest and sinking fund charges on park bonds. This should interest Monroe County. Perhaps to carry out the plans of the Monroe County Park Commission would not result in such an increase in values as is being realized in Westchester. But the expenditure required, including average cost of purchase of land, would also be modest in comparison with program.

"Having a program of park and parkway development laid out by experts, Monroe County might well go ahead vigorously in carrying it into effect, relying on this development to create new taxable values."

This argument is sound in great part. But, right or wrong, there are many homeowners, home-makers, who cannot see the justice or logic in paying increased taxes for the benefit of the traveling public when the improvement paid for does not add to the value attractiveness of their home because they are not real estate speculators but homeowners from sentimental and economic reasons.

They should pay for the improvements asked and urged by the public at large.

Ran Johnson will now be left alone by the scribes and publicity hounds.

Labor Of Capuchins As Carriers of Mail In Africa Recalled

Paris, July 4.—The inauguration of a new General Post Office at Addis Ababa, in Abyssinia, on the occasion of the recent visit of the Duke of Abruzzi, prompts Father Seraphin de Misson, Apostolic Pro-Vicar of the Mission of Gallas, to recall that from 1892 to 1908, it was the Capuchin missionaries who assumed, without remuneration, charge of the postal service there. Mail was transported by camels, relayed night and day between Djibouti and Harar, then by mules and runners between Harar and Addis Ababa.

In 1900 about sixty miles of railroad were put into operation and the increase of mail was amazing. The governor of French Somaliland begged the Vicar Apostolic to have the Capuchins continue their cooperation.

"In face of numberless obstacles which arise, and the fruitless attempts to organize a regular service, I do not see any solution except in the intelligent devotion of the Fathers," said the governor.

This benevolent service was thus prolonged over sixteen years. Officials of every rank, business men, private individuals, explorers in unison every time that the Superiors of the mission manifested a desire to free themselves from an employment which took the missionaries from the direct apostolic ministry.

Finally, on June 1, 1908 yielding to the solicitation of Mgr. Jousseau, Vicar Apostolic, the French and Abyssinian authorities reached an arrangement which gave the country a postal service.

The Apostolic Vicariate of Gallas now keeps in its archives, with the annals of the mission, the records of the service which it gave, and the letters of thanks from private individuals or from officials praising the untiring devotion of the twelve Capuchins, who procured for the country, throughout sixteen years the benefits of a regular postal connection with the outside world.

Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

Sunday, July 17.—St. Alexius. Born in Rome of noble parents, St. Alexius by God's special inspiration secretly quit the city of his birth on his wedding night and journeyed to Edessa in the Far East, where he was content to live upon alms, gathered at the gate of Our Lady's church in that city. After 17 years, when his sanctity was miraculously manifested by the Blessed Virgin's image, he drifted back to Rome, where he managed to subsist on charity begged from a mean corner of his father's palace. St. Alexius died early in the fifth century.

Monday, July 18.—St. Camillus of Lellis, at the age of 19, took service with his father, an Italian noble, against the Turks, and after four years' campaigning found himself a discharged soldier in bad circumstances. A few words from a Capuchin friar brought about his conversion, and he decided to enter the religious life. He was ordained and formed the community of Servants of the Sick which was confirmed in 1586 by the Pope. He died in 1614.

Tuesday, July 19.—St. Vincent of Paul, who was born in 1576, devoted his life to the care of the poor and the instruction of the rich in the ways of charity. Soon after his ordination he was captured by corsairs and carried into Barbary, where he converted his renegade master and with him escaped to France. The Saint was chaplain-general of the galleys, where his charity brought hope into those prisons where only despair had reigned before.

Wednesday, July 20.—St. Margaret, virgin and martyr, suffered at Antioch in Pisidia in the last general persecution. She is said to have been prosecuted by her own father, a pagan priest, and after many tortments, to have gloriously finished her martyrdom by being killed with a sword.

Thursday, July 21.—St. Victor, martyr, was an officer in the army of the Emperor Maximian. Because of his perseverance in the faith, and particularly because of his exhortations to the Christians of Marseilles after the slaughter of the Theban Legion, he was put to death after frightful tortures.

Friday, July 22.—St. Mary Magdalen, whom Jesus raised from a life of sin to take her place among the Saints of the Church, was one of the family "whom Jesus so loved" that he raised her brother Lazarus from the dead. She stood with the Blessed Virgin and St. John at the foot of the Cross. When the faithful were scattered by persecution it is said she found refuge in a cave in Provence, where she lived for 30 years.

Saturday, July 23.—St. Apollinaris, bishop and martyr, was the first Bishop of Ravenna. He won the crown of martyrdom in the year of Vespasian. He was a disciple of St. Peter.

Irish St. Vincent Society Bestows \$350,000 On Poor

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Dublin, July 9.—The three hundred and twenty conferences of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, with 6,689 members now in the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland have distributed \$350,000 in relief to the poor, reports to latest annual meeting of the presidents of the society's local branches show. The meeting was held here.

For the last few years, there have been continual increases in the number of members of the Society. Now there is a Conference attached to almost every public church in Ireland, where the population is large enough to need it. During the last year, the Conference in Coalbrook, Tyrone County, has undertaken the supervision of local small graveyards. This work is undertaken by the Conference on account of some isolated cases, within the last year, of desecration of cemeteries. The Conference at Granard, Longford, has also taken up this work.

Sir Joseph Glynn, president of the Council of Ireland of the Society, represented the Free State Government at the recent Labor Congress at Geneva, Switzerland, organized by the League of Nations.

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Millions Tendered For Camden Church: Refused by Pastor

Philadelphia, July 14.—Several offers one of them a tender of \$10,000,000 for the old church of the Immaculate Conception, in the heart of the commercial district of Camden, N. J., opposite Philadelphia, have been refused by the Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Walsh, Bishop of Trenton, and Msgr. W. J. Fitzgerald, rector, because of their sentimental attachment to the historic edifice and the parish it serves.

The latest offer of \$10,000,000 following at least two others, one of \$8,000,000 and a later tender of \$7,000,000, was made by a syndicate said to have been headed by T. E. Mitten of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company. These interests have been attempting to buy the property as the site of a 26-story office building and bus terminal, it is said. The church, the rectory and the school occupy the block bounded by Federal, Market and Seventh streets and Broadway. Almost all the bus lines entering and leaving Camden traverse one of these four boundary streets.

When the various offers for the property were made to him, Msgr. Fitzgerald was reluctant to sell the church, but referred the proposals to Bishop Walsh. Bishop Walsh shared Msgr. Fitzgerald's disinclination and dismissed the tenders with the statement that the diocesan authorities would not sell "at any price."

The Church of the Immaculate Conception was built sixty years ago. Virtually all the work of construction was done by members of the parish. So difficult was it to obtain funds as they were needed that the plastering and interior decoration had to be delayed for five years. The plot on which the church and school stand today was acquired for an amount that is said to have been but a very insignificant fraction of the sums recently offered for its purchase.

Salesians' School In California Town Given \$54,700 Fund

Watsonville, Calif., July 12.—The mayor and members of the city council of this town attended the commencement exercises here of the pupils of St. Francis School for boys conducted by the Salesian Fathers. The boys in uniforms of white and blue presented a pleasing appearance, the band of 43 pieces bringing applause from all. The recent drive for the school was a great success. A total of \$54,700 was reached, nearly \$2,000 above the amount set. The new fund is to replace buildings destroyed by fire.

Marquette Summer School Grows

Milwaukee, Wis., July 12.—With all attendance records already broken, late arrivals have swelled the enrollment of the 1927 summer session of Marquette University. The school has just been announced.

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