

TOO MUCH TAXES.

Correspondent Thinks There Should Be Material Reduction.

Editor Yorkville Enquirer: That taxes are too high, considering the condition of state and county goes without saying; and it is equally true that taxes can never be reduced until the expense budget for the state and county is trimmed down.

Recently The Yorkville Enquirer made the statement "That there were but five days more to pay taxes and then executions would be issued, yet there were more than \$50,000.00 of 1921 taxes unpaid." And a lady who lives here and who has been to see her niece in the middle or lower part of this state says that "Whole columns of county papers are taken up down there advertising homes for sale for taxes of once well to do people."

The cause of this can be laid to deflation in the price of the staple crops which we raised after being told to plant large crops and fertilize heavily in 1920, high taxes and boll weevil.

York county is right in the midst of the boll weevil pest this year too, just as surely as are those people mentioned above. A reliable party below our town states to a reliable witness that he has already picked about 350 boll weevils off of about three or four acres of cotton. The same party who reported this, said he was watching a patch every two or three days and that he gets weevils every time he looks it. Then too, there is not more than a half crop of corn planted here in York county, although its now the middle of June. The people became alarmed at conditions in the fall of 1920 (surely they should be alarmed now), and sent a delegation to Columbia to try to get relief through the general assembly; but were told to go back home and attend to their own business. Another session of this same body has met, deliberated and adjourned without doing scarcely anything except to shift the burden of taxes. The appropriations for this year were nearly as large as they were last year and the result is as has already been stated, homes are up for sale to maintain these extravagant appropriations, causing one class to live in luxury and ease who do not produce, and another class to live in poverty and degradation who do produce the crops upon which we live; and although they have had to live in poverty, their homes must now be sold to pay taxes that are just due because crops have failed and prices cut in half. Both are matters for which they are not responsible and neither could they control them.

After careful consideration, I have come to the conclusion that the people cannot expect relief from our law makers of this state. It has been tried and the trial was a failure. Because of this, the people are going to have to take this matter in hands themselves at the polls if they are to get relief. In order to do this, it will be necessary for them to decide how much reduction they must have through county delegations at Columbia as to the state and through precinct delegations sent to the county seats as to the counties. When they have determined on the percentage of reduction, they should call the voters together at each precinct, pass a resolution demanding that each candidate agree to said reduction of salary for the office he seeks. In case none of the candidates for any single office will agree to said reduction, the people should select one not now in the race for that particular office who will accept the office at the decreased price and elect him. This decrease should include every office, institution and

position in both state and county, where paid from tax money, except where trades have been made and prices agreed upon. None should be exempt; because the price of all necessities of life have declined at least 40 per cent on an average, thus making \$60 now, buy as much as \$100 would do in 1919 and 1920. This being true one can live as well now with 60 per cent of what was paid in 1919 and 1920 as he did then. This being true, why should the salaried man object especially to a reasonable reduction, when he has had his earning capacity cut about 75 per cent, as shown by the 1921 cotton crop, compared with the 1919 cotton crop? All industrial plants have also slashed the price paid per day to their employees.

If you will figure on the earnings of the class who have to make the stuff to sell from which their earnings come, you will find they are not getting much more as a whole, than about 25 per cent of what they earned in 1919, when the present salary basis was arranged. For instance, take the 1921 cotton crop: The state produced about 1,500,000 bales of cotton. The price was around 35 cents per pound, average. Counting these as 500 pound bales, this cotton yielded the growers \$262,500,000. The 1921 crop was about 750,000 bales for the state. It looks like the average price will be about 18 cents. Again counting these as 500 pound bales, the 1921 crop will yield the growers of the state \$70,000,000, or just about 25 per cent of the 1919 crop.

In the face of these facts, why should those who serve the state continue to demand the same amount of salary when its bleeding the state and counties to death? The proof of this is the unpaid taxes and the homes that are for sale. If the people do not adjust these matters, they will adjust themselves as some positions become undesirable because of shortness of term, or inability to pay salaries when due. If all will pull together and help each other over the present hardships, the efficiency of state and county should not be impaired in the least and all will emerge from our present condition much quicker than if the one class oppresses the other class. It would have been much better if our general assembly had listened to the pleadings of the people when they went before them in Columbia, and granted their request. If they had, there would have been no call or desire for the people to step in and use their authority as some at least now desire to do. That was a strange procedure for the employer to go to the employe begging anyway. When we hire servants around places of business and homes, we tell them what to do and expect them to do it if we pay them. If the laws of the state are such that the party who employs has no say at all as to what the employed shall or shall not do, there is something radically wrong. Now I don't mean by this that the people should dictate to the general assembly in every little detail. The people have too much sense to want to do that, but I do say that in extreme cases, the people have a right to dictate to the general assembly when its for their own well being, and I say further, that had the general assembly been sensible, it would have listened to and obeyed the voice of the people. Of course this charge is not made against most of them for the majority were against the wishes of the people.

In closing I want to say, that owing to conditions which caused some of our people in the state to be unable to pay their taxes, I fully believe their taxes should be remitted. We

PALMETTO GLEANINGS.

News Paragraphs From All Sections of South Carolina.

—Clinton June 13: In a hotly contested election held here today, W. H. Simpson won over James P. Copeland incumbent. In the mayor's race by a vote of 671 to 344.

—Greenville, June 13.—John Henry Hooper, popular young man and son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hooper, was drowned late this afternoon in Stone's lake. A popular swimming lake near Greenville.

—Laurens, June 12: Today shortly after the noon hour, as the burial exercises of the late Captain Joseph B. Humbert were being concluded at Mount Bethel church, the late home of the deceased was totally destroyed by fire.

—Greenwood, June 13.—The towns of Greenwood, Abbeville, Anderson and Laurens, were organized at four county baseball league, comprising a meeting here today, the two months season to open next week.

—Greenwood, June 13.—Four hours after he was struck on his head by parts of a broken pulley wheel in a local cotton mill and after he had walked home, J. B. Bowie, mill operative, yesterday afternoon became unconscious and died of cerebral hemorrhage following an operation.

—Columbia, June 13.—Forty-five law graduates were admitted to the South Carolina bar today by the Supreme Court. Two of them were women, Mrs. L. T. Lester and Mrs. C. Y. Reamer, both of Columbia and both prominent club women. These ladies state that they will practice law to a certain extent.

—Greenville, June 13.—Miss Lizzie Mae Kellett, 20 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Kellett of Fountain Inn, died at the city hospital today as a result of injuries received Sunday in an automobile accident about two miles north of Fountain Inn. Miss Kellett suffered a fracture of the skull.

—McColl, June 13.—Bernice Thompson left Monday for Troy, Ala., to play ball there on a team managed by Clay, head coach of Georgia Tech. The entire Troy team is composed of the Georgia Tech varsity team and Thompson will be coached all summer by Clay and will likely go to Georgia Tech this fall.

—Chester, June 12: An infant girl, probably only a few days old, with skull badly crushed, was found in Sandy river about two miles from here late this afternoon. After the person who perpetrated the crime had made certain the child's death, he or she wrapped the corpse in a common ce-

help unfortunates in Europe and elsewhere, when caused by Providence or other forces out of their control, then why sell out our own people for tax money when placed in similar condition? I believe our governor should issue an order, revoking the order of sale of homes in every case where the individual is not responsible for his or her impoverished condition; (testimony of neighbors of unfortunate should be accepted in determining these matters) also that he should call on the officials and others who are paid by the state from taxes to make up this shortage, together with all others who are able and feel disposed to help. If any have had their homes sold under like conditions, they ought to be restored in the same way. The people should feel and know that the state protects them in their rights and provides for them in their need, even as the rights and needs of the state are protected and provided for by the people. Which of the state's fortunate citizens, if failure should come to you as it has to these from causes completely out of your control, would say, sell my home and turn my wife and children out into the world to be half cared for, when you had done your best and yet had failed? There is not a man or a woman in good or fair circumstances who would say that, placed as these unfortunate ones are placed. Let the state and counties too, hunt up the golden rule and apply it.

Porter B. Kennedy. Sharon, June 14, 1922.

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Hundreds of unsolicited testimonials received during the past fifteen years from doctors, druggists and appreciative mothers prove its efficiency beyond question of doubt. If it fails to help your child your money back without question. Twelve numbers in a package with full directions. 25c a year druggist advertisement.

ment sack, and after tying the sack securely with a rope, fastened it to a large rock and threw it into the river at a lonely point.

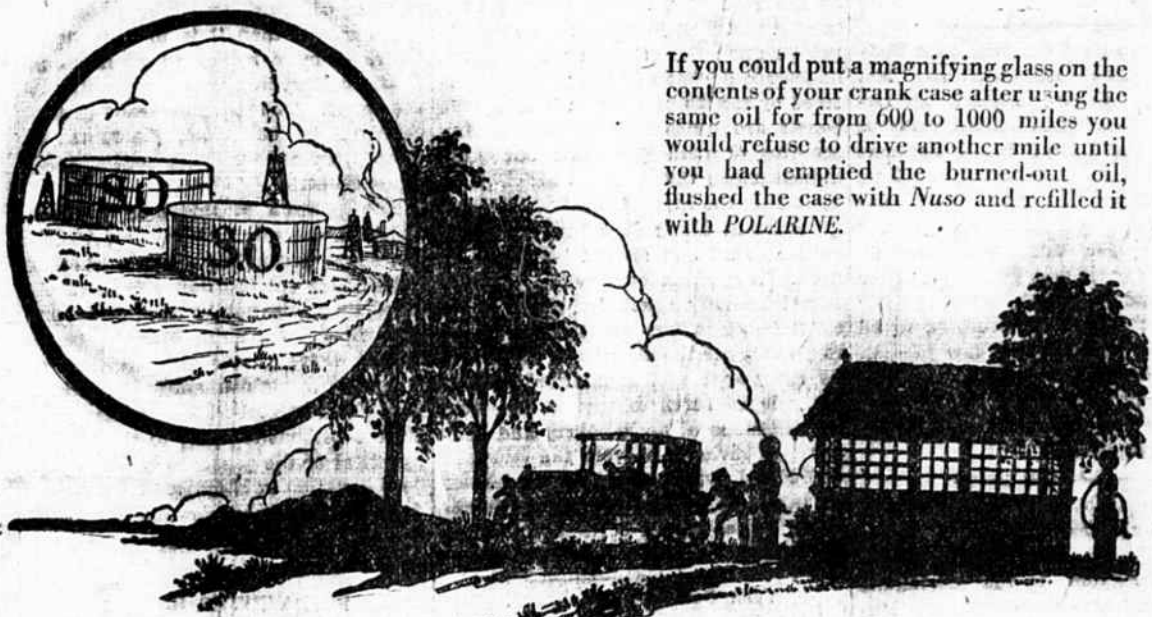
—Columbia, June 12: Mrs. Rogers Drake of Bennettsville, this afternoon filed her pledge and paid her assessment fee as candidate for state superintendent of education. Mrs. Drake is the first woman in South Carolina to offer for state office and her campaign this summer will be watched with more than casual interest. The Marlboro county woman has been highly commended by women's organizations throughout the state. O. D. Seay and Paul Moore of Columbia, and C. H. Seigler of Aiken, are in the race.

—Charleston News and Courier, Wednesday: After a raid at the Ridgewood club, the fashionable country club located near Columbia, charges of violating the national prohibition law were made out against the organization and against one Charles Hughes and other employees of the place. The case came up for trial yesterday in the United States district court here and the evidence was soon terminated. Attorney Clin-

ton Graydon appeared as attorney for the defendants. The jury returned a verdict of guilty as to the club as an organization and not guilty as to Hughes and others. A sentence of \$300 and costs was assessed against the club by Judge Smith.

—A rather sordid picture of Columbia's only recently widely advertised underworld was presented in the United States district court here Tuesday afternoon, when the case of the United States against Arnold Meesand and Mrs. Annie Mae Browning, charging the defendants with having stored and dispensed morphine sulphate contrary to the act of December 17, 1914 came on for trial, this to end in conviction on one of the two counts of the indictment and in an acquittal on the other. There was more than ordinary interest in the case, several witnesses being heard for the government, some of these testifying that they had made purchases from Meesand at the Columbia hotel in Columbia. The defendants were represented by Attorney Clinton Graydon, who opened proceedings by pleading the woman defendant guilty in one of the counts. After the jury had been out for some time it returned

to the courtroom and asked for certain additional instructions. Judge Smith informed the jury that it might, if it deemed proper, find a verdict of guilty in one of the counts and a mistrial in the other; or a verdict of guilty in one and an acquittal in the other. Soon after retiring a second time, the jury returned with a verdict of guilty as to possession and an acquittal as to selling. Meesand was sentenced to pay a fine of \$500 and costs or serve six months in the Orangeburg county jail, while his companion drew first a sentence of thirty days in the Richland county jail, this being later reduced by Judge Smith to two weeks. The woman had stated on the witness stand that she was formerly a drug addict, but that she had persisted in getting cured of the habit. Narcotics Agent Fuchs produced a certificate in her behalf from a Columbia physician to the effect that she was free from the habit and in a good physical condition now. Judge Smith felt that it was most commendable on the part of the woman in getting cured of the drug habit and stated that a sentence of a very lenient sort should be meted out to her.



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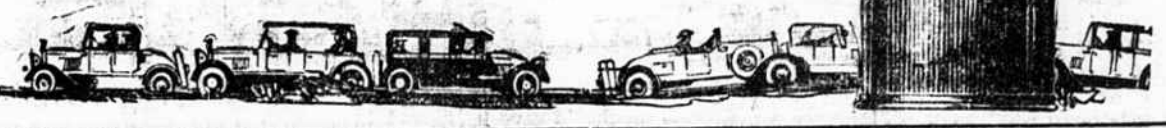
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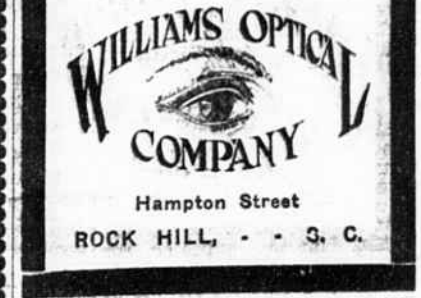
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Alexander, ruler of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and Princess Marie of Rumania, who will be married this month.