

Scavenger Tax Sale Demanded to Lower Taxes

Delinquencies Are Numerous — Penalties for Neglect to Pay May Be Heavy.

Demand for a scavenger tax sale in Omaha, with a view to an appreciable reduction in the coming tax levy, is growing in Omaha.

Decision to hold such a sale, to be the first in Omaha in 15 years, was reported exclusively in The Evening Bee when Henry Paul, county attorney, announced numerous business men of the city approached him on the subject.

Totals, representing the amount of Douglas county property subject to such a sale, differ in the opinion of George C. Plack, who has been checking the figures for the Real Estate board, and various tax buyers.

Totals Are Large. According to Plack who had the figures compiled and submitted to the Omaha Real Estate board, the delinquent regular taxes on property total \$639,637 while the special taxes are estimated at \$524,094.

According to a number of tax buyers who watched a girl for the last week employed by Mr. Plack checking the tax books, she made several mistakes. These same tax buyers say that the total will reach more than \$3,000,000 for both regular and special taxes subject to the call of the scavenger sale.

At any rate, says one Omaha property buyer, the tax buyer ought to know. He is shrewd as well as smooth and for that reason ought to know just about how much delinquent property there is in Omaha. He makes plenty of money, enough to pay commissions to certain people who borrow him money to buy the tax certificates. They can charge only 12 per cent by law.

But this is not the only penalty which ignorance of the law or neglect in payment may bring about according to information obtained by a reporter for The Omaha Bee.

If a property owner allows the two-year redemption period, allowed by law, to go by without redeeming and a tax deed is issued to the tax buyer he places it in the power of the tax buyer to enforce penalties which may be peculiarly the tax buyer's own.

According to one tax buyer, the minute he gets a tax deed to the property he may and does deal with it at a minimum cost to himself and a maximum cost to the property owner.

Forming a "Company." To illustrate what may happen right in Omaha, a "smart" tax buyer usually associates himself close to an attorney who knows the tax laws.

The tax buyer has a wife, two sons, a daughter, a nephew and a hired man. His family together with his hired man is what he terms his "company." The residences of all of them are all outside of Douglas county so that in a large number of cases it is necessary to send the summonses in a suit here outside of the county for service.

Whenever a piece of property is sold for its taxes it immediately places the tax buyer in an advantageous position. From that time, the tax buyer can manipulate matters to cloud the titles.

It is particularly so when he obtains a tax deed certificate of sale together with the tax deed acts as a first lien on the property. Therein rests the cloud to the title.

Dixie Wreck, Killing One, Injuring Two, to Be Probed

Atlanta, Dec. 22.—Investigation will be held next week to determine the cause of the wreck today of the Dixie Limited, Chicago-Jacksonville train of the N. C. & St. L. railroad, in which Engineer J. W. Brown was killed and two other members of the train crew sustained slight injuries. It is announced.

The accident occurred a few hundred yards from the station at Kennesaw, near here, the engine turning over and pulling the baggage car and two Pullmans from the rails. Several of the passengers were shaken up and some of the women passengers suffered from the shock.

Northwestern Wins Suit Over Death of Engineer

Cedar Rapids, Ia., Dec. 22.—The Chicago & Northwestern railroad company was victorious in a \$40,000 damage suit, the result of a locomotive explosion in which an engineer and fireman were killed. The jury today returned a sealed verdict at Belle Plaine finding no cause for action. Mrs. Schaal, widow of the engineer killed, filed the suit. The company is said to have paid the fireman's widow \$8,000 and offered Mrs. Schaal \$7,500.

Frowler Frightened Away From Home of Minister

Rev. Thomas Casady, rector of All Saints Episcopal church, was playing mah jong with his wife and two children in their home, 1118 Turner boulevard, last evening when someone rattled the front door. A moment later a flashlight was seen at a side window and then the back door was rattled.

Rev. Mr. Casady called the police. They found no trace of any prowler.

Big Shoe Factory Loss.

New York, Dec. 22.—Flames swept the Rosenwasser Brothers shoe factory in Long Island city tonight, causing an estimated damage of \$500,000. The plant occupied a block and 2,500 men and women were employed in it. All the workers were out when the fire started and no one was hurt.

Dandelions Are in Full Blossom, Crickets Are Singing in Ohio

By Associated Press. Columbus, O., Dec. 22.—The first day of winter found Ohio enjoying unseasonably high temperatures. The weather bureau here reported yesterday the warmest December 21 since the establishment of the bureau, in 1878. The maximum was 55. Midwestern reports "crickets singing" in "youngstown," "any number of moths as big as you see in summer

Postmaster Black Borrows Army Trucks for Rush



Army truck leaving central postoffice with five tons of Christmas presents. Postmaster Black in the foreground. The truck was loaded so high it couldn't be driven under the trolley wires. Mr. Black has borrowed eight of these big army trucks to aid the 53 regular mail trucks during the Christmas rush.

Deaths From Poison to Result in Suit

Columbus, O., Dec. 22.—Suit for damages against a manufacturing drug company, charging mislabeling of poison, which, administered by the Columbus physicians for another non-poisonous drug, caused the death of two women and serious illness to a physician, was reported tonight to be contemplated by the husband of one of the victims.

The two women, Mrs. Minnie Davis of Columbus and Mrs. Nellie Paul of Circleville, died within a week of each other last September, after having been treated with the drug, according to their attending physicians, Dr. Jonathan Forman and Dr. E. J. Gordon, who made public the cause of the women's deaths last night after a protracted investigation by the two physicians, aided by a majority of the local medical profession.

Both women died soon after a solution of the poison had been administered to them, the physicians said. The drug, according to the physicians, had been purchased from a local wholesale drug dealer.

Funeral Services Today for Former Gage Sheriff

Private funeral services of Frank Acton will be held this afternoon at 3 in Swanson's chapel, Seventeenth and Cumings streets. The body will be taken on Monday to Wynmore, Neb., for burial at the side of Mrs. Acton. Mr. Acton came to Omaha three weeks ago, intending to make his home with a daughter, Mrs. Paul W. Hutchins, 2107 North Eighteenth street. He suffered a general breakdown of health.

He was sheriff of Gage county and served in the state legislature during the session of 1921-22. Mr. Acton lived in Nebraska 40 years and was widely known in southeastern Nebraska.

Mild Winter Is Predicted by Authority on Weather

Princeton, N. J., Dec. 22.—This winter in all probability will be mild, according to William B. Scott, professor of geology at Princeton university, and authority on climate and weather. He pointed out today that severe winters usually start earlier in the season, giving this as one reason for his prediction.

The cyclonic center which determines how the trade winds blow and therefore determine the character of the weather, is now farther north than usual, Professor Scott declares.

Escort Robbed, but Girl's Valuables Are Overlooked

R. W. Potter, 1819 Cass street, was walking with Mary Lee Estelle, a student nurse at St. Joseph hospital, at 9:30 last night at Thirteenth and Dorcas streets, when they were held up by a man who took \$21 from Potter but overlooked his watch and Miss Estelle's watch and rings. The young woman is a daughter of the late Lee Estelle, district judge.

It was the second holdup of the evening in that neighborhood.

Sleeping Sickness Cure Is Reported From Berlin

London, Dec. 22.—British medical men are keenly interested in the report from Germany which says that a new remedy, "Bayer 205," had been found for sleeping sickness. The Berlin correspondent of the Times sent an exhaustive report upon which the Times based an editorial declaration that the new compound was unquestionably the most important step yet made toward the conquest of the dread disease.

Two Hurt in Wreck.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 22.—Two trainmen were injured tonight when a train of empty cars ran wild and crashed into a freight train on the Mary Lee railroad, private line, near Lewisburg, Ala. T. H. Lawter, engineer, and a negro fireman were removed to the Birmingham hospital. Lawter was said to have been seriously hurt.

Want to learn? Read the Classified ads.

Probe of Leviathan Mishap Is Ordered

New York, Dec. 22.—Two investigations will be started at once, it was indicated tonight, to determine responsibility for the mishap to the Leviathan, which ran aground Friday on Robins reef in a fog. The liner was not damaged.

Government officers announced that the United States steamship inspection service and the United States lines will conduct inquiries, and the navy may order a separate probe on the ground that the Leviathan is the most important unit in the naval reserve.

Controversy continued in shipping quarters tonight over the reports that Capt. Herbert Hartley had received orders from ashore which caused him to attempt, against his better judgment, to bring his vessel alongside pier No. 56 in the North river.

Assailant Fells Victim With Club, Runs Away

Ed Grabbert, 46, 2713 South Fourteenth street, was on his way home at 7:30 last night, when, at Thirteenth and Castelar streets, a man struck him on the head with a club. Grabbert fell to his knees, dazed, but started to rise again. His assailant became frightened and fled.

Tech High Alumni Will Hold Reunion

Dwight E. Porter, principal of Omaha Technical High school, believes that more than 1,000 will attend the first homecoming and reunion of the alumni of the school, on next Thursday night.

This has been an ambition of Mr. Porter for eight years and he has waited until the new school with its commodious facilities was open. The school was established 11 years ago and it has sent out 30 graduating classes.

Invitations to the reunion have been sent to every graduate. More than 1,000 acceptances have been received. The auditorium of the school will be used on this occasion for the first time.

Attendance will be limited to the alumni. Admission will be by card.

Postman Is Given Year in Prison for Robbing Mails

John F. Manning, 23, letter carrier, discovered abstracting money from the mails, was sentenced to a year and a day in the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., by Federal Judge Woodrough Saturday. He was arrested after postoffice inspectors sent out several decoy letters containing money. He is unmarried.

Rum Exposure Is Threatening Nation's Capital

Bootleg Syndicate to Supply Most Distinguished Drinkers at Washington, Revealed by Dry Agents.

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 22.—A bootleg liquor syndicate that threatens to touch the most exclusive and highly connected circles in the national capital was promised today by officials of the District of Columbia.

Apparently convinced that the time has come to apply desperate remedies to the situation which has developed on the doorstep of the federal government, the district attorney's office announced it would ask a grand jury to take action against purchasers as well as dispensers of intoxicants.

The basis for the request will be an imposing list of customers which was seized yesterday when the police rounded up the principals in what they believe to be a bootleg syndicate organized to supply the most discriminating drinkers in Washington. No names have been made public, but police officials say the list includes many of those who might ordinarily depend on their wealth or their position to give them immunity.

All of these names, it was asserted by Assistant District Attorney Fremont, will go before the grand jury, if confessions said to have been made by those already under arrest are not overturned. He added that the prosecutions would be brought under the conspiracy clause of the Volstead act, which makes purchasers of liquor guilty along with those from whom they buy.

Meantime another ramifications of the case caused much consternation in quite another quarter. It was discovered that a part of the stock from which the liquor was being supplied, according to police reports, was under the protection of one of the foreign legations. When a seizure was attempted, a member of the legation staff protested that the goods were immune under the diplomatic privileges accorded the representatives of foreign governments. The result was a protest by the metropolitan police department to the State department, whose officials declined to say anything for publication.

Like the names on the list of customers, the identity of the legation suspected of contributing to the supply was kept in confidence. The news traveled quickly through the diplomatic corps, however, which twice before has been stirred by police charges of a "leak" of diplomatic liquor into bootleg channels.

A Philadelphia, Pa., hotel is holding a series of French recitals, at which French celebrities will perform and which will be followed by a half hour of sociality when only French will be spoken.

Denver Girl Looking for Trouble at \$2 an Hour for Every Look



Miss Fox is literally hunting trouble—not because she's quarrelsome, but because she wants to hire herself out as the official "Miss Fixit" of Denver.

Denver, Dec. 22.—Miss Jacqueline Fox, pretty young Denver woman, wants to be a "friend in need" to all of Denver—at \$2 per hour. Miss Fox has decided to become "Miss Fixit," and in preparation, according to her "ad" in a local newspaper, to assume "unpleasant jobs and disagreeable tasks" for her clients—at a stipulated sum.

Following is the ad: "Doer of unpleasant jobs will undertake to relieve her clients of any disagreeable or tedious tasks, such as letter writing, breaking bad news, delivering unpleasant messages, explaining lapses or excusing mistakes, for the sum of \$2 per hour. Terms strictly cash."

And Miss Fox declares the "ad" means just what it says. "Miss Fox said there are hundreds of persons who would like to end estrangements from their sweethearts or friends, offer apologies for wrongs, intended or unintended; or write, convincingly and diplomatically, letters dealing with delicate situations."

"This is a business with me," she

Curran Named Head of West Side Club

The West Side Boosters held their regular meeting Thursday evening at Morton park pavilion. It was decided to limit the activities of the club to the promotion of improvements and aiding the playground project in that district. The following officers for the coming year elected are as follows: President, W. J. Curran; vice president, W. B. Fitzgerald; treasurer, Emil Buscher; secretary, William O'Connell; chairman house committee, B. H. Trapp; chairman legislative committee, John Blankenship; chairman publicity committee, Thomas Smith.

On Wednesday evening at Morton park pavilion the West Side Boosters Athletic association was formed for the purpose of promoting athletics among the young men of that neighborhood. The following were elected officers: President, Ray Donovan; vice president, John Hickey; treasurer, Thomas Smith, and secretary, George Magrane.

Radio Specials!

For Monday and Tuesday
Large Beautiful Guaranteed
CRYSTAL SETS
that will get results. They will make an ideal as well as lasting gift. Special at—
\$4.95
Towers, 3,000-ohm guaranteed phones . . . \$3.95
Guaranteed 2,200-ohm head sets . . . \$3.25
Cut prices prevail on all tubes, radios and batteries.
Open Evenings and Sunday Until Xmas
R. M. Shlaes Co.
218 N. 16th JA 2147

Xmas Greeting Cards

Largest and Best Assortment Ever
Crane's Fine Stationery
Leather Goods, Desk Sets, Conklin Fountain Pens and Pencils, Waterman Fountain Pens and Pencils, Eversharp Pencils. Many other gift articles.
Omaha Stationery Co.
307-309 SOUTH 17TH ST.

Monday the Last Day With Everything Ready

Great Quantities of Gift Merchandise

Limited Lots — Broken Assortments — Odd Lots

For the Last Day **20% to 50% Less** Regular Prices

Special Prices Are Store Wide in Scope

TOYS REDUCED

Table After Table of Wonderful Toys Arranged to Make Shopping More Convenient—All Selling at Reduced Prices

Dishes—Imported Child Sets of dishes, a regular table set in holly boxes at 20% discount. Remember the assorted tables of toys priced lower than anywhere else. We have a toy for just the amount you wish to spend.

Black Boards and Educational Boards at a big saving to you.

Shu Fly Rockers for the kiddies, a \$2.25 rocker for . . . \$1.75
Only a few left.

A fine big sleeping and mamma Doll that sold at \$6.75, now . . . \$5.75

A big table of Dolls that are worth \$1.00 special at each . . . \$1.00

Tables of smaller Dolls, priced up to \$1.00, special while they last . . . 50c

Small Drums—Monday we will sell all of our small drums at each . . . 15c

Come Early.

Keystone Picture Machines, in all sizes, shows real movie films, at a reduction of 20%. Small sizes.

Dolls—A big splendidly dressed Mamma Doll, formerly priced \$5.75; now . . . \$4.75

A dandy Doll that sold at \$5.50, swell dressed, beautiful hair and eyes, it sleeps, walks and talks. Special . . . \$4.50

All of our \$1.25 Mamma Dolls on one table go at . . . 89c

All of our \$4.25 big Dolls that talk; special at . . . \$3.75

Tin Dishes—Sets of decorated tin dishes, priced at 29c, your choice . . . 20c

Sets of gray and blue tin dishes, priced at 35c, your choice . . . 25c

Tops—All kinds of spinning tops, big ones that sold at 35c, now . . . 20c

Small Tops at . . . 5c, 10c and 15c

A good assortment of Tree Decorations and Candles, Glass Spinnets, Tinsel, etc. 5c, 10c Snow . . . 5c and 10c

Our entire stock of single initial handkerchiefs, ladies only linen, cotton and Swiss to close out at 1/2 price. Ladies' all plain linen handkerchiefs, regular 30c and 50c value, one day only—
25c
One big lot of ladies' and children's handkerchiefs, white and colors, each—
4c
One table of fancy boxed handkerchiefs for ladies, while they last, 3 in box at—
25c
Ladies' all hand-made linen handkerchiefs, white and colors, each—
50c
Men's white and colored striped handkerchiefs, large size, each—
25c
Every handkerchief in our entire department will be sold at a great reduction.
Wash Floor
Art Needlework
A lot of Hemstitched Stamped Scarfs and Buffet Sets, \$1.00 value. After Xmas Sale . . . 59c
1 table of Odds and Ends of Buffet Sets, Centers and Towels, 80c value . . . 25c
Stamped Lunch Cloths, hemstitched for crochets, \$1.25 value . . . 79c
Second Floor
Junior and Floor Lamps
In gold finished polychrome and mahogany base; all and geometric shades; in all wanted colors and shapes. Monday.
33 1/2 Per Cent Discount
Third Floor

Handkerf's
Our entire stock of single initial handkerchiefs, ladies only linen, cotton and Swiss to close out at 1/2 price. Ladies' all plain linen handkerchiefs, regular 30c and 50c value, one day only—
25c
One big lot of ladies' and children's handkerchiefs, white and colors, each—
4c
One table of fancy boxed handkerchiefs for ladies, while they last, 3 in box at—
25c
Ladies' all hand-made linen handkerchiefs, white and colors, each—
50c
Men's white and colored striped handkerchiefs, large size, each—
25c
Every handkerchief in our entire department will be sold at a great reduction.
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In gold finished polychrome and mahogany base; all and geometric shades; in all wanted colors and shapes. Monday.
33 1/2 Per Cent Discount
Third Floor

Closing Out
All holiday goods at one-third and one-half less than regular values. On account of the broken conditions of all holiday stocks we can only quote prices to last until stocks are gone.
Ivory Finished Combs, Brushes, Mirrors, Manicure Pieces, Hair Receivers, Puff Boxes, Buffers, Trays, Toilet Sets, etc.
Ladies' Kid Gloves . . . \$1.39 * \$6.00
Ladies' Wool Gloves . . . \$1.00 * \$2.50
Ladies' Silk Gloves . . . \$1.00 * \$2.75
Children's Kids, Mitts and Gloves . . . 50c * 85c
Boys' and Girls' Gloves and Mitts . . . 59c * \$1.25
Holiday Candles
\$1.00 Holiday Candles—PAIR . . . 39c
Silverware and Jewelry
Candle Sticks . . . 50c
Salt and Pepper Sets . . . 50c
Bowls, Pitchers, Baskets, Trays, etc.
Specials on Leather Goods, Neckwear, Toilet Goods, etc.

Extra Fancy Fresh Dressed Geese, per lb. 23 1/2c and 20c
Extra Fancy Fresh Dressed Young Ducks, per lb. 23c and 21c

Extra Fancy Fresh Dressed Spring Chicken, per lb. 22 1/2c
Extra Fancy Fresh Dressed Turkeys, per lb. 29 1/2c and 28 1/2c