

# THE OMAHA MORNING BEE

## Smoot Tax Bill Aims at Farm Relief

Amendment Proposal Would Place Levy on Exempt Bonds, Affecting Wealthy Holders of Securities.

### Measure in Committee

By MARK SULLIVAN.  
Washington, Jan. 2.—After Congress reconvenes the program for tax reduction will be rounded out by a move on the part of Senator Smoot of Utah to get out of the judiciary committee the resolution for a constitutional amendment making owners of state, municipal and county bonds subject to income tax the same as the owners of most liberty bonds and all bonds of corporations, as well as mortgages on farms and building.

This resolution passed the house last session by a vote of 223 to 101, being five more than the necessary two-thirds. It was introduced in the last session of the senate, but for lack of time, did not come to a vote.

When the senate reconvened just before the holidays, Senator Smoot reintroduced it, and his next move, within a few days, will bring it to the front as a rounding out of the present attempt at tax revision.

In the writer's judgment this amendment holds out the only promise of real relief for farmers, small business men, and small home owners in the entire pending effort at tax revision. Except to speed this amendment, there is nothing substantial that congress can do, or Mr. Mellon can do, or the federal government can do in this field for the farmer and small business man.

**Farmer Unable to Pay.**  
This is a strong assertion but it is within reason. The federal government cannot lift taxes from the farmer because the federal government is not collecting any taxes from the average farmer. If Senator Magnus Johnson, with a wife and four children and 200 acres of land is an average farmer, then he does not pay any federal income tax on his farm income unless the net income of that farm, after deducting all expenses, is \$100.

And if Magnus Johnson's experience with his 200-acre farm is typical of the average farmer, his net income last year did not reach \$3,600 or anything like it, for the average farmer last year certainly did not make \$3,600 net.

So Magnus Johnson as a senator cannot reduce his own income tax as a farmer, and nothing congress can do can reduce it, because, on the assumption that his farm is typical, he has not enough income from his farm to pay any income tax on it.

Nevertheless Magnus Johnson, if he is an average farmer, is suffering from taxes. Any farmer with 150 acres of Nebraska has a farm of 150 acres on which his taxes in one recent year were \$49, or over \$4 an acre. The farmer everywhere is suffering from taxes. Farmers in some states are being forced into bankruptcy by taxes.

**Not Federal Taxes.**  
But these taxes are not federal taxes. They are local state, county and district taxes, collected largely to pay interest on state, county and district bonds. These bonds are being issued in enormous and rapidly increasing quantities. Something like \$2,000,000,000 of them were issued in 1922.

The total amount of them is now close to \$3,000,000,000. The principal reason for the enormous issue of these bonds is that there is an immense demand for them. The demand comes from rich men and from bankers who cater to rich men. The rich men want them in that the federal government does not tax the income from them.

A man with one or two or 10 of a hundred million dollars can put all his money in these state, county and city bonds, and thereafter need pay no income tax whatever. It is to reach these men, and to be able to tax the income from these bonds the same as in the case of ordinary bonds and farm mortgages, that the constitutional amendment is proposed.

That constitutes the only direct interest the average farmer has or can have in the pending tax situation as a means of reducing his own taxes. One other strong assertion can be made safely. The writer does not know Secretary Mellon's mind, but he does not hesitate to assume that if this amendment were passed and in effect, and if these state and local bonds now tax-exempt were taxed, then in that event Mr. Mellon would not feel obligated to reduce the surtaxes on the rich as much as he now proposes, and all this fight about large surtaxes would not be going on.

The chief reason Mr. Mellon wishes to reduce the surtaxes on the rich lies in the fact that most of the rich now put all their money into the tax-exempt state and city bonds, and Mr. Mellon wants, by reducing their surtax rates, to coax them to put least some of their money in the bonds, mortgages, and securities of ordinary business, where Mr. Mellon, as tax collector, can get at them and collect at least a little tax from them.

**Oshkosh Pioneer Dies.**  
Oshkosh, Neb., Jan. 2.—Asa Remberg, 76, who came to this part of the state in 1878, died on the Ruth Creek land and Cattle Company ranch, south of Ilesco.

## Farm Valuation Went Up, Error Found in

Correction Made in Supreme Court Document After Issuance—Appeal Is Expected—Cut in Railway Levy Would Shift \$1,500,000 in Taxes.

Lincoln, Jan. 2.—Members of the state board of equalization were exceedingly cautious today in their comment on the supreme court decision which finds that the assessed value of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad is out of line with property valuation in the state. However, it is learned on good authority that the board is planning to ask for a rehearing on the case as soon as a petition to the court can be prepared.

A reported error of \$88,000,000 in the decision, which was written by Judge Letton, was corrected in ink this afternoon on the typewriter copy filed with the clerk of the court. The decision stated that the assessed property valuation of 1923 on farm lands and improvements had been lowered \$24,000,000, whereas there was an increase of that amount this year. The 1922 valuation being \$1,753,312,000 and that of 1923 amounting to \$1,787,276,000.

**Appeal on Error.**  
In the corrected decision, the word "lower" has been struck out, and "greater" substituted for it.

It is expected that the state board will attempt to show that this apparent error is of importance and justifies a rehearing.

Three railroads, the Northwestern, Minneapolis & Omaha, and Burlington have appeals pending in the United States supreme court, against a decision of Federal Judge Woodruff of Omaha, in which he state d that objections to assessments must be filed in the state courts.

Tax authorities today said that should the supreme court uphold Judge Woodruff, these railroads might come into court in 1924 and ask (Turn to Page Four, Column Four.)

**Decision.**  
1272

## Great Western to Tell Progress

President Samuel M. Felton to Be Principal Speaker at Anniversary Dinner Tonight.

The progress of 20 years residence in Omaha will be told by representatives of the Chicago Great Western railroad at its anniversary dinner tonight at the Chamber of Commerce. Samuel M. Felton, president, will be the principal speaker.

Unusual entertainment features will have place on the program. Pullman porters quartets have always been the brunt of jokes, but a regular Pullman porters quartet will sing for the dinner. Plenty of noise is assured by an engine bell and whistle. A working block signal is to be erected, and whenever the party starts to "get rough," the "stop" sign will give warning.

Miniature trains with full complement of cars and commodities will circle the tables. Mail cars will carry messages to widely separated "points." The dinner is open to the public.

On Sunday afternoon, January 5, 1924, the first Great Western train left Omaha for Chicago. The preceding night, a train had left Chicago for Omaha. From that day Great Western traffic through this territory has increased steadily.

**Fairbury Conductor Is Fined \$100 on Rum Charge.**  
Beatrice, Neb., Jan. 2.—Robert L. Fairbury, conductor at Beatrice, was arrested here last week when officers found a gallon of liquor in a locker left in the way of a Pullman train in the local yards, pleaded guilty this afternoon before County Judge Messersmith and was fined \$100.

After the trial, it is said he "squealed" on several trainmen at Fairbury, implicating them in alleged liquor robberies. When officers searched their homes, it is alleged, that some of the missing articles were found.

Back on the desk again, after merry time at the old home during the holidays. Welcome batch of New Year greetings by the side of the typewriter. A little bunch of pansies from Mrs. B. J. Baacke of Central City, who picked them from her flower bed the day before Christmas. A sure cure for the blues contained in a pretty box coming from Attorney General Spillman. Best of all, the kindly spirit evidenced by the many good friends who didn't overlook us.

On hand, one perfectly good ticket calling for lower berth in Pullman North Platte to Omaha, unused, because the berth paid for wasn't there. Pullman company may have it by sending representative to this office and making proper settlement. Convinced that some corporations are soulless. Am going to do something about it.

Donned the Herford suit yesterday for the first time in a year and a half. A bit snug about the equator. Inward quailma lest the scent of moth balls had not been wholly dissipated by two days of preliminary airing. High collar a bit confining after many months of soft collars built on low specifications. Signs of the patent expiring on the shaggy dogs saved to accompany Herford suit. Envyed the grace with which the head waiter at the banquet wore similar togs. Must have a "V" put in back of vest.

Banner county is one of the three or four Nebraska counties without a railroad. But Banner came mighty near having one some 25 years ago. A coterie of men from a city about the size Omaha was then, bought large tracts of railroad land in the county, put a gang of engineers to surveying for a railroad, aroused a lot of excitement, then unloaded most of their land at greatly increased prices. The surveying gangs were withdrawn and haven't been back since. Banner county people will not be enthused over railroad prospects until they see the shining steels rails spliced in place.

Greeks may have monopolized the candy business in the east, but out west the Japanese have monopolized the restaurant business. It is difficult to interest middle-westerners in

## Shooting of Oil Operator Is Mystery

Neither Principles in Movie Colony Affray Nor Police Seem to Want to Tell Real Motive.

### Film Stars in Retirement

Los Angeles, Jan. 2.—Why Horace A. Greer, chauffeur for Mabel Normand, film star, shot Courtland S. Dines, oil operator of Denver, last night, still was somewhat of a mystery tonight, 24 hours after the shooting, and in spite of various statements by Dines, Greer, Miss Normand, Miss Edna Purviance, another screen actress, and the police.

Greer says he pulled the trigger on Miss Normand's pistol, which, for some reason, he was carrying, because Dines appeared about to hit him with a bottle following the chauffeur's efforts to induce the actress to go home.

Dines says he made no motion towards the bottle and gave no indication he was going to attack Greer, but he falls to throw any light from his side on the actor's motive.

**Jealousy Is Blamed.**  
Miss Purviance and the police, the latter also reporting the former's alleged opinion, charge Greer with infatuation for Miss Normand, and intimate the finger of jealousy pulled the trigger of the shooting iron.

Miss Normand, in retirement in her home, nursing who is described as an attack of appendicitis, is seeing no body and refusing to talk.

Miss Purviance likewise has gone into retirement and Mrs. Edith Burns, companion and housekeeper for Miss Normand, seems to have disappeared. The police sought Mrs. Burns to question her as to a telephone conversation she is said to have had with Miss Normand while the latter was in Dines' apartment, but she said they had been unable to locate her.

The police, who are holding Greer in the city jail, state the formal complaint charging him with attempted murder will be lodged tomorrow.

**Greer Says Jealousy Not Cause.**  
Officials handling the case declare themselves satisfied with the theory Greer shot Dines in a fit of jealousy, despite the fact Greer, who admits shooting, says that was not the case.

As an offset to the theory that Greer was jealous of Dines' attentions to Miss Normand, is the report in Hollywood circles among Dines' friends in Denver that he was engaged to marry Miss Purviance.

Dines' pool-pools the betrothal rumor, says he and Miss Purviance were only close friends. But the lady did not deny it last night, and when she went to Dines at the receiving hospital she threw her arms about his neck to the accompaniment of the announcement, "Oh, Courtland, I love you."

**Full of Hop, Says Dines.**  
By International News Service.  
Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 2.—"The man that shot me was full of hop!"  
Such was the statement today of Courtland S. Dines, scion of a well known Denver family, who was shot and seriously wounded last night by H. A. Greer, alias Joe Kelly, chauffeur for Mabel Normand, at Dines' apartment, while Miss Normand and Edna Purviance, another well known actress, were present.

In an interview today Greer denied any infatuation with Miss Normand and repeated his claim that he shot Dines in self-defense last night by misunderstanding he has told the police I threatened him with a bottle," Dines said. "I never thought of such a thing. There was no fight and not even a party was in progress in my apartment last night. Miss Purviance and I had been out celebrating the advent of New Year's the night before, but Miss Normand was not in our party. Yesterday afternoon Miss Normand called up and said she was coming over. We told her to come ahead and she did. When she arrived we were all feeling pretty low and we all had a drink. We sat around and talked for some time. As I remember she was to go to some friends off on a train. I told her she was in no condition to be seen at the station, but she would not listen to me and telephoned her companion, Mrs. Edith Burns, to send Greer after her at once. Before the chauffeur arrived, Miss Normand was sitting on a divan and I again advised her not to try to go to the station.

**Dines Tells of Shooting.**  
"She is going with me," the chauffeur said. "Edith said bring her." You know how erratic Mabel is. I was at a party at the Coronado hotel some time ago when she broke her shoulder because she would not listen to reason. Again I warned her not to go. "With that Greer whipped out a gun and plugged me through the lung, I thought. He has said I tried to hit him with a bottle. Such a thing never entered my mind. Miss Normand is only a friend of mine. Why should I fight over her? She has been going around with Edna and me for the last six months. And there is nothing serious between Miss Purviance and myself. We are just good friends, that is all."

**Postmaster Ill.**  
Beatrice, Neb., Jan. 2.—J. W. Henning, postmaster at Blue Springs, who has been seriously ill, is reported slightly improved. He is the father of Mrs. Glen Howard of Beatrice.

What Comes Out of a Prescription Case Not Always the Same



**Cherry County Road Money Awaits Call**  
Federal Highway Office  
Twice Has Asked Governor to Forward Vouchers for \$84,500 Project.

Lincoln, Jan. 2.—The federal government has twice notified Governor Bryan to file the necessary papers on the Cherry county road project, so that the payment may be made to the state, but so far no action has been taken.

The amount involved totals \$84,500 and will apply on deficiency claims now on file with the auditor's office.

The governor has several times made public statements on the Cherry county road, in which he intimated that the federal government was holding up the state's claim on the road because of stone, which was required in the contract, could not be discovered by federal engineers.

To that contention, the former state engineer, George E. Johnson, replied that stone, in the federal government's interpretation of the word, is on the road.

The original contract, which was subsequently changed to include stone, is understood to have required \$102,413 from the federal government.

**Married in Council Bluffs**  
The following persons obtained marriage licenses in Council Bluffs yesterday:

Clarence Landstrom, Omaha	31
Agnes Anderson, Omaha	34
Fred Rowe, Omaha	35
Geo. Nelson, Omaha	36
W. P. Hitchcock, Columbus, Neb.	37
Francis Holmbeck, Columbus, Neb.	38
Harold Erdwine, Tekamah, Neb.	39
Thelma Cooper, Tekamah, Neb.	40
W. M. Eicher, Omaha	41
Jennie Antell, Omaha	42
Clarence Vogt, Lincoln, Neb.	43
Mable Pugh, Seward, Neb.	44
G. H. Pictel, Perry, Ia.	45
Anna Larson, Council Bluffs	46
Archie Wolander, Omaha	47
Anna Newman, Omaha	48
W. M. Turner, Omaha	49
F. E. Blood, Lincoln, Neb.	50
W. E. Ruff, Omaha	51
Virgil Poole, Omaha	52
Henry R. Kohl	53
Mary Kratochvil, Wilbur, Neb.	54
John Land, Mottville, Neb.	55
John Anderson, Anson, Ia.	56
Fred Weaver, Lincoln, Neb.	57
Alfred Steinmeyer, Gillette, Neb.	58
Anna Anderson, Seward, Neb.	59
Julius Bowen, Hastings, Neb.	60
Anna Prince, Chicago, Ill.	61
Jerry Skale, Lincoln	62
Anna Peterson, Council Bluffs	63
Harry Bennett, Arcadia, Neb.	64
Oval Bremer, Arcadia, Neb.	65

**The Day in Washington**

Supreme court convened, but withheld decisions until Monday.

President Coolidge discussed the shipping problem with Matthew C. Brush, president of the American International corporation.

Foreign trade figures for November made public by the Commerce department showed no great variation as compared with a year ago.

**War and State Department Officials Denied that Army Already Had Been Shipped to Mexico or that the Government Had Considered Selling Cruisers.**

The joint committee of congress appointed to study plans of reorganization for government departments called hearings to begin Monday.

Italy made replies through the state department opposing the immigration quota revision under consideration by the house immigration committee.

**Bridgeport Man Chosen for Parley on Rivers**

Lincoln, Jan. 2.—R. H. Willis of Bridgeport has been appointed by Governor Bryan to confer with irrigation commissioners of Colorado and Wyoming in an attempt to come to an agreement on the use of water in interstate rivers, it was announced today.

Willis will have no authority to commit the state of Nebraska to any agreement, and will have to submit any recommendations that may be approved by the joint meeting of the commissioners to the legislature for final decision. The appointment of an irrigation commissioner was made at the request of the federal government, which is anxious to avoid disputes between the several states on interstate rivers.

The chief bone of contention between the states is the use of water in the North and South Platte rivers.

**Harry Thaw Seeks Restoration of Fortune, Freedom**

Counsel for Stanford White's Slayer Making Effort to Have Him Adjudged Legally Competent.

New York, Jan. 2.—Counsel for Harry K. Thaw, slayer of Stanford White and since 1917 confined in Kirkbride's asylum in Philadelphia, are seeking to have him adjudged legally competent, says a copyright story from Philadelphia appearing today in the New York Sun.

If freed Thaw's counsel hope to obtain for him restoration of his personal fortune, now estimated at nearly \$1,000,000, according to the story. Then he would proceed to New York and surrender there to face charges of having beaten a boy—charges of which his counsel hope to clear him.

Thaw stands accused here of having lured Frederick Gump, Jr., son of a Kansas City manufacturer, to a New York hotel and with having beaten his naked body savagely with a whip after having locked the boy in a room. The specific charges are kidnapping and second degree assault. Conviction would carry a long term in Sing Sing. Indicted with Thaw is George C. O'Byrne, a companion.

The article states Thaw's defense will be that he was adjudged insane at the time he was alleged to have committed the acts of which he is accused, but that he now is sane.

A sane man, it would be contended, cannot be held for trial for acts of irresponsible moments and every assurance will be offered to prove there is not likelihood of a mental relapse.

The Sun states extraordinary efforts still are being made to keep secret the whole program and a barrier has been built up to shield Thaw from reporters. The newspaper adds no opposition to the petition is expected and for that reason the sanity proceedings may not consume more than two days.

Some of Pittsburgh millionaire, Thaw in June, 1908, shot and killed Stanford White, noted architect, in the midst of a crowd of diners on the roof of the old Madison Square Garden. Thaw's grievance was based on a confession he said had been made to him by his wife, who was Eveline Nesbit, a chorus girl, regarding White's relations with her prior to her marriage.

Thaw won a nine-year fight for freedom, carried through the courts of New York, New Hampshire and Canada. First he was acquitted of the charge of murder, but declared insane. Then in June, 1915, after he had escaped from an asylum and had been brought back from Canada, he was declared sane and freed.

His subsequent divorce was obtained in the Pennsylvania courts with the provision that Russell Thaw, whose parentage Harry denied, should inherit part of the Thaw wealth.

## Democrats Balk at Aim of Brothers

While Commoner Oppose Underwood, Governor Attacks McAdoo—Strong Resentment in Florida.

### Effort to Control Party

By P. C. POWELL.  
Washington Correspondent The Omaha Bee.  
Washington, Jan. 2.—Dispatches from Florida to eastern newspapers indicate that William Jennings Bryan is arousing as much resentment over his attempt to control the Florida delegation to the democratic national committee as he is in Nebraska where through his brother, Charles, he is pursuing a similar course. In the south, William J. is opposing Underwood, while in the west, Brother Charles is fighting McAdoo. Following is a dispatch from Jacksonville published in a Washington newspaper:

"Florida democrats are somewhat disturbed by the discussion and disunion over William Jennings Bryan's recently acquired citizenship in this state and his demand that he be sent to the democratic national convention next spring empowered to do as he pleases. Mr. Bryan would the delegation to the democratic national committee as he is in Nebraska where through his brother, Charles, he is pursuing a similar course. In the south, William J. is opposing Underwood, while in the west, Brother Charles is fighting McAdoo. Following is a dispatch from Jacksonville published in a Washington newspaper:

**Denounced by Democrats.**  
"Now he has officially declared his intention to go before the preferential primary asking to be a delegate-at-large from Florida to the national convention and has coupled this with the information that he has a candidate to propose for president, but doesn't mention the name.

"The Tampa Tribune declares that Mr. Bryan's 'dark horse' is Mr. Bryan" and indicates no satisfaction in such conclusion. The Jasper News a few days ago devoted a column editorial denouncing the tactics of Mr. Bryan and in emphatic language suggested that Florida was in no mood to be led around by the nose."

**May Push Brother Charles.**  
The statement credited to Mr. Bryan that he has a "candidate to propose" goes further than any printed to date. All others were to the effect that Mr. Bryan would be the democrats know in a short time as to the platform he wanted written at the democratic convention and would demand a candidate, either himself, "Brother" Charley or someone else, who was in tune with the platform he proposed.

This ultimatum is expected to be given in New York some time in January when he will speak before the Democratic Progressive club on "Watchman—What of the Night?"

**Carolina Editor Backs C. W. Bryan**

Governor Gives Out Letter in Which Southerner Profers His Support.

Lincoln, Jan. 2.—Gov. C. W. Bryan of Nebraska today made public a letter he received from William H. Jordan, publisher of five central North Carolina newspapers, in which the publisher asked for a picture of Mr. Bryan and material for publication looking to Bryan's candidacy for president.

The letter states that "we hope to see you nominated as next candidate for president on the democratic ticket and our ex-secretary of the navy, Josephus Daniels of the News and Observer, Raleigh, as candidate for vice president."

Mr. Jordan's letter states that "in going over this section I find a majority of people hoping the west and south combine in electing a good man as vice president and to help our president in giving us better government. None of the democratic candidates will go to the next national convention with sufficient votes to get nominated, and it will be a new man or a 'dark horse' who will receive the nomination. You have thousands of friends over the southland who will be glad to support you and a large number will be glad to support you on account of the high esteem which they hold for your illustrious brother."

Governor Bryan declared that he would answer the letter by sending his photograph and the material requested. He added that he would notify Mr. Jordan that "while I am not actively in the race, he is welcome to present my views on the political situation and on the qualifications which, in my opinion, the probable candidates must meet."

### The Weather

Mar 24 hours ending 2 p. m., January 2.

Temperature, highest	42	Lowest	4
Mean	22	Total deficiency	11.1
Precipitation, inches and hundredths	0.00		
Total, inches and hundredths	0.00		
Amount	0.00		

### Hourly Temperatures.

8 a. m.	42
9 a. m.	41
10 a. m.	40
11 a. m.	38
12 m.	35
1 p. m.	33
2 p. m.	32
3 p. m.	31
4 p. m.	30
5 p. m.	29
6 p. m.	28
7 p. m.	27
8 p. m.	26
9 p. m.	25
10 p. m.	24
11 p. m.	23
12 m.	22

Next week cloudy. Temp. High, Free. Prevailing wind, S. by E. Force, 15 to 20 mph. Relative humidity, 75 to 85. Chance of rain, 50 to 60. Forecast for tomorrow: Partly cloudy. High, 32. Low, 22. Prevailing wind, S. by E. Force, 15 to 20 mph. Relative humidity, 75 to 85. Chance of rain, 50 to 60. Forecast for Friday: Partly cloudy. High, 32. Low, 22. Prevailing wind, S. by E. Force, 15 to 20 mph. Relative humidity, 75 to 85. Chance of rain, 50 to 60.