

ENTRANCE AS SECOND CLASS MATTER MAY 14, 1903.
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HOW TAX PAYMENTS ARE DISCOUNTED

The Metropolitan section of THE TRIBUNE is printing some stories today that should make all real estate taxpayers in Cook county mad, provided they are still capable of getting mad.

The stories deal with the abuse of foreclosure proceedings to clear up delinquent taxes. The practice has degenerated into a racket. Land owners have been allowed to compromise their unpaid taxes and the legal penalties on those bills for less than 20 cents on the dollar in some instances.

In the depression, the old method of clearing up tax delinquencies thru tax sales failed for lack of bidders. The foreclosure method was instituted more than 15 years ago. Under this plan, the county filed a bill of foreclosure and sold the property for whatever was offered at auction. These first efforts were failures. Bids were only a tiny portion of taxes and penalties due. It was impossible to get third parties to bid at the sales because the original owner has, under the constitution, a right to redeem his property at any time within two years, by paying only normal interest above the foreclosure price.

After the failure of these involuntary foreclosures, the scheme of voluntary foreclosures was tried. The state's attorney refused to foreclose without a guaranteed bid of a specific proportion of the taxes due. This bid was made by the owner of the property or his agent.

The evils of this system were discussed nearly 10 years ago in these columns. We then saw the practice as one that was likely to be further to the detriment of the taxpayer, for no one will pay taxes in full if he has a reasonable prospect of paying them at a discount later. Our fears have been fully justified by recent occurrences.

In 1942, State Atty. Courtney announced that he would make no more deals with land owners seeking voluntary foreclosure foreclosures. A decision for which he commended him at the time. Since then, the bargaining has been conducted by the delinquent tax committee of the county board, of which the present chairman is Daniel Ryan.

Chairman Ryan fled in 1942 that the practice would be ended at the end of the year. Instead it has been continued, and under increasingly lenient terms. Originally the Chicago Bar association had recommended that all bids should be no less than 25 percent of the assessed value of the property. Now the county board says that it accepted bids of from 20 to 40 percent that it accepted or half the bid. The actual percentage is less.

Originally the delinquencies for 1940 and earlier years were compounded on a condition that the purchaser paid only one year's taxes. As, with the passage of time, the rule required larger and larger payments in full. The foreclosure foreclosed on the property. The theory on which the practice was defended was that once properties were freed of heavy loads of delinquencies, current taxes would be paid. That hasn't happened.

This Tribune's reporter found 1849 parcels on Kenosha, between 18th and 19th streets, on which taxes and penalties totaled \$42,415 were settled for \$7,970—less than 20 cents on the dollar—in 1942. The property was sold at a foreclosure sale last year for \$25 months after the back taxes were cleared without paying current taxes. He then sold the land. The purchaser paid only one year's taxes of the two then due. Since then tax delinquencies of \$28,568 have piled up on the property.

The county board reported last year that the delinquent tax committee had restored to the tax rolls 122,714 pieces of property since 1942. In 1942 there were tax foreclosures on 312,000 parcels of property in the county. In 1943 there were tax foreclosures on 236,500 parcels—a net reduction of only 75,500. The remaining 47,214 parcels which the board claims it cleared up have either slipped back into tax delinquency, or an equivalent number of land owners quit paying in the hope of getting a discount in the future.

A lot of precautions which were supposed to be taken to prevent this haven't been taken. There is little print in discussing them. The whole scheme is rotten, even rotter than we suspected it would become when we objected to it eight or nine years ago. It should be stopped.

State Atty. Boyle can stop it at once, by refusing to file any more foreclosures.

NICKY, THE WELFARE COLLIE

The other evening we went to the livestock show accompanied by Chester Gould, Dick Tracy, and B. O. Plenty. The management invited us to park B. O. in one of the stock pens outside, which we did.

When Nicky, the little black border collie, took the arena for his evening chase of hazing the flock of sheep, Mr. Gould is roused and whipped out a piece of Bristol board and quickly attached to Tracy's two-way wrist radio a marvelous super-invention. This enabled the detective to translate for us Nicky's remarks to the sheep.

As we suspected, Nicky was using more than a cold eye and an occasional nip on the back of sheep. Mr. Gould is roused and they get them all facing the same way, and look at you, themselves."

"You ought to be ashamed," 43 per cent of you who shape that you couldn't get into the army. What you need is solitized medicine."

The sheep nodded and nicky shuffled over to Nicky's master. Nicky addressed himself to a big wether.

"Do you want your children to grow up as

"What you need is federal aid to education."

"What children snored the wether, as he lowered his head and uttered a Nicky."

"O, a dirty reactionary," said Nicky, grabbing him by the ear and hustling him back to the truck. "Pie down or I'll audit your income tax."

With sharp cries of "Rent control, rent control, rent control," Nicky then pushed the sheep over the big circle and started to bark away, but Nicky's assistant collie confronted them with a snarl of "Real estate lobby," and they trotted back to their fellows. Nicky started to bark at the cage in which he had entered the arena.

"Do you think Swift & Co. cares what happens to you when you get old and lame?" he asked. "Sweetie, I'll get you some non-contributory pensions."

The sheep trotted up the ramp into their cage, the tractor pulled them away. No one told us where they were going, but the announcer said there would be a fresh look the next night. Nicky trotted over to his master.

"These dumb sheep are too easy," he said. "How about getting me some Democrats out of the grandstand?"

A SLIGHT ITCH OF DICTATORSHIP

A highly placed politician who has described to THE TRIBUNE of this Tribune's Washington bureau the army's "disaster plans" under which it would take over control of civilian life in an emergency, still would have been astonished by the explosion of an atom bomb in Washington, destroyed the military personnel of the federal government, civilian control probably would be imposed on the whole country.

This is a suicidal policy. Not only would it menace free government in the United States, since there would be no one to take over military orders in control, would be willing to yield to civilian successors, but it also would be the surest way of losing a war started by any such secret attack. The manner in which the admirals and generals hampered the marshaling of our industrial strength in the last war argues against giving them any control of civilians.

Secretary Johnson and his military planners, in their talks about centralizing federal function to guard against atomic attack on Washington, are ignoring the fact that our federal system already provides a decentralization of governmental power.

A single atomic bomb dropped on Washington, however devastating its effects, still would leave functioning the governments of the 48 states and their municipal creations, whose normal responsibility it is to maintain civil order. Governors have at their command the militia. If the defense department seriously contemplates a military dictatorship in any circumstances, that alone is sufficient reason for the abandonment of such a policy.

The federal judiciary is as fully decentralized as are the state authorities. Assuming that a disaster should occur, the military command in Washington, including the deaths of the President, Vice President, and members of congress, machinery already exists for replacing them in a very short time.

The senate would be reconstituted overnight by appointments by the president. Congress has the constitutional power to lay down rules for the election of its own members, overriding any state provisions for election by popular vote.

The general affect to believe, a simple statute could provide a quick method of replacing the house of representatives in the event it was wiped out by disaster.

The army should, of course, have civilian representatives to watch the movement of the stars, he may dream of new worlds to which communism may be extended and perhaps meditate that Mars will provide plenty of room for expansion.

Use these and psychology to get your child to eat," a headline advises. Yes—and then what?—Christian Science Monitor.

NEW WORLDS TO CONQUER

Hardly coincidental are the facts that workers of the soviet zone of East Germany plan to send a representative to the congress of a planetarium as a gift on his 70th birthday and that soviet scientists have discovered a sudden interest in plant life on Mars.

Prof. Gervill Tikhov of the new "astronomical" observatory in Kazak reports that the plant life on Mars bears a distinct resemblance to that in the soviet Arctic. So, as Stalin sits in his planetarium watching the movement of the stars, he may dream of new worlds to which communism may be extended and perhaps meditate that Mars will provide plenty of room for expansion.

"Use these and psychology to get your child to eat," a headline advises. Yes—and then what?—Christian Science Monitor.

The grocery trade sees no immediate prospect of a coffee. But if and when it comes, the panhandler may be asked to pot colateral.—Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Use these and psychology to get your child to eat," a headline advises. Yes—and then what?—Christian Science Monitor.

Test Your Horse Sense

1. A triple play should make one think pricier of which sport?
2. Which one of the following is least appropriate as shade tree on the lawn?
3. Which one of the following numbers is associated with the year 1940?
4. Which one of these words is inappropriate in this genus?
5. Which one of these words makes one think pricier of which worker?

Farmer Truck driver Miner Oil Driller
Each of the five words below is paired a characteristic color which serves as a psychological trade mark. Try to identify the pair with the right colors.

(a) Ford tractor — Yellow
(b) Deere tractor — Blue
(c) Farmall tractor — Green
(d) Allis Chalmers tractor — Red
(e) Highway road truck — Black

1. Baseball, 2. ANSWERS
(a) Farmall tractor — Green
(b) Deere tractor — Blue
(c) Farmall tractor — Green
(d) Allis Chalmers tractor — Red
(e) Road truck — Yellow

A LINE OF TYPE OR TWO

How to the line, let the quips fall where they may.

OLD MAN OF THE YEAR

This is the first day of December, and to prepare a suitable greeting for the last month in the year we have compiled our "Old Man of the Year" calendar. It says: "December was called by the ancients the month of the frost, or the snow-month, because of foggy days and frosty nights. The Saxons called it Wintermonath, winter month, and the Romans called it December. And so the cycle of the year is completed to the sound of bells which ring out their message of hope and good will. They make December the happiest and merriest month of all. 'Hear on more wood; the wind is chill. But let it whistle as it will, we'll keep our Christmas merry still!'"

The ancients mentioned above as taking a shivery view of December weather were the Latin poets, Horace, Martial and Ovid. Their choice of adjectives suggests that the Roman winter climate was colder 1,900 years ago than it is today. In this region, December weather is likely to be a flirtation between autumn and winter until after the solstice (Dec. 21 this year). Hence the wisest customing for a white Christmas on yuletide road programs.

Last year, the first week in December was mild, with daytime temperatures at 40 degrees or higher and more sunshine than usual. On the 9th there was a light snowfall at night. In the next few days, temperatures were milder days, with daytime temperatures around 50. There was rain on the 14th, cloudiness and fog on the 15th. On the 18th, when the Northwestern football team entrained for the Rose bowl, there was light snow. The next day, however, brought fine and clear weather. Reasonable winter weather, around 25 degrees at noon, followed until a clear, star-spangled Christmas eve. The weather followed its Christmas card style. [The same thing happened on Christmas, 1947.]

"Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December," wrote the melancholy poet, Edgar Allan Poe. We distinctly remember the weather of Dec. 7, 1941, when Japanese bombs blasted the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, and of Dec. 30, 1943, when the Iroquois theater exploded and killed more than 100 people in its death list. Both days were alike—dark, grim, depressing, but without snow, rain, or distressing winds.

SKYSCRAPER AT TWILIGHT

A silver of new moon—one diamond star—Against the western blue—a wash of color that brought back the memories of the old days.

Across the dome of dusk, each moment duller, Thin ghosts of cloud weave early curtain-drops For yonder fortress-tower of trade, still brightly patterned with gold-lit windows. No Cyclops Of legend ever glowered so forbiddingly.

Of gathering, like a host, where moon and dark Of gathering, like a host, where moon and dark Of gathering, like a host, where moon and dark

Structure of man displays its ugly pride, And seems to flout, in ruthless, bold abuse, A palace solely built for toil and use.

New Species: Bachelor Wives

What with childbearing, home drudgery, unruly brats and unappreciative husbands, women certainly have enough to do as it is.

Two or three months ago this manly became adept at these maneuvers but once acquired, according to Dr. Van Dellen, is a feeling of warmth and floating ensues. During full relaxation the mind becomes placid, inducing a drowsy state.

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HOW TO KEEP WELL

To the limit of space, questions pertaining to the prevention of disease will be made when return stamped envelope is enclosed. Telephone inquiries not asked diagnoses or prescribe for individuals diseases.

COMFORTABLE CHILD BIRTH

CHILD BIRTH is a natural process in healthy women without pelvic defects. It would be thought that only were it not for the fear and pain associated with the birthing process.

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TWO CELEBRITIES IN TOWN

"I'M ALWAYS GLAD TO SHARE THE SPOTLIGHT WITH YOU OLD FELLA!"



50th ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL LIVE STOCK EXPOSITION

Rimes and Remnants

BY D.A. Once again, at Eniwetok. Shall the primal power pent In the prison of the storm? Be in mortal madness spent?

Evil forces, from the shackles Of millenniums set free, Like the chimes of Pandora, Fied infernal liberty?

In the tortured name of Science, Folio fashions foul machines For the futile, fumbling fingers Of destroying libertines.

Mark! The ghosts of Hiroshima, Whispering across the sea To the Nagasaki phantoms— Where two cities used to be!

Now again, at Eniwetok. Hear the Geiger counters click: Ticking out the mournful stork Of the heart of Man—made sick.

Is man's conquest of the atom, Then the triumph of the age? Is "the glory of destruction" To be man's last heritage?

We have dreamed of Eniwetok, Dreamed a better, brighter dream. Not of death and devastation, But of a braver, fairer theme.

We have dreamed of freeing atoms On a higher, nobler plane—Atoms not of lethal metal, But of human heart and brain.

With eternal beauty wrought, Bursting over all the planet From the lofty peaks of thought.

We have dreamed an Eniwetok Where the hates of men shall cease, And the lovely name "Pacific" Shall indeed, at last, mean Peace.

Tagline for a Four-Dollar Dinner The I would guess That "Minute" steaks Were named to stress The time it takes To eat 'em!

Compplaint R. & R. grows worse and worse; I grieve for its decline. It prints my secretary's verse and always rejects mine. Please sign my name instead of hers.

What's Your Question? ANSWERED BY PROF. FAX THE TRIBUNE will answer the most interesting questions submitted. Each question should include name and address but only initials will be printed. Address: Prof. Fax, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 116.

Q.—Do you guys really eat tin cans? —A. D., Chicago 49.

Q.—No, but when hungry they try to eat the paper off cans.

Q.—How did we get the name Wednesday? —W. C. L., Chicago 19.

Q.—A—From the Anglo-Saxon "Wodnes daeg," meaning the god Woden's day.

Q.—What causes a pearl to form in an oyster? —M. L. M., Chicago 13.

Q.—An irritating speck, as of mother-of-pearl, is then covered with mother-of-pearl.

Q.—Is there any food in mushroom? —Mrs. G. L. T., Chicago 37.

Q.—Wish I knew what type I am. Then I could concentrate on a summer boy who likes me type.



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THE WRONG CHERRY

Jersey City, N. J., Nov. 22—It has been called to the writer's attention that you published an editorial in your paper referring to socialism's triumph in England.

In this particular editorial you had an occasion to use the term "glace cherries." The writer takes exception to your reference to glace cherries for two reasons.

Glace cherries are not used in such quantities as you imply in cocktails. Cherries usually used in cocktails are maraschino cherries, which is an entirely different product. Glace cherries, for your information, are primarily used in fruit cakes, and have been so used for many, many years both in this country and in Europe.

Glace cherries have never, to the writer's knowledge, been referred to as garbage any more than other food products would be referred to as garbage.

EDWARD TWYDOR

WHIPPING POST

Elmhurst, Nov. 28—Read the daily papers and see how crime keeps rolling along. Children are not safe going to school, our young girls are being molested, and the rapist is even invading the home.

The murderer, the hold-up man, the rapist are in their glory with their fancy food products would be referred to as garbage.

EDWARD TWYDOR

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Doctors should confine themselves to 800 or 900 words. Give full names and addresses. No manuscripts can be returned. Space for letters is obviously limited. Incoming mail far exceeds it. If a letter is not printed attribute it to lack of room. Address letters to Voice of the People, The Tribune.

HE'S SUSPICIOUS Chicago, Nov. 28—I am 70 years old. I have seen some grafters in politics my time, and am wondering if the \$160,000 that is kicked back to the plastering institute has a tendency to give older men stork's fingers.

When the head of the plastering unions can sit in the balcony and tell me I'd have to vote, he would like to know why.

CHICAGO POLICE

A CHANGE FOR THE WORSE Chicago, Nov. 16—Periodically, we see a sneering reference to the "gay '90s" in the papers. As a survivor of that period, I sometimes wonder whether the present generation is in a position to sneer at us. True, we were old looking "die hawks" and rode the old-fashioned fun, but we did not charge our putt to future generations, as the present generation has done for the last 15 years.

During the "gay '90s" if a man dipped in his child's penny bank, he was considered about as low as could be. During the last 15 years the present generation has dipped into the penny bank of our grandchildren and great-grandchildren to the tune of approximately 225 billion dollars, and still claim to be honorable. Are they?

Washington tells us that they have added 3 or 6 billion more to that theft during the last year.

Every man who voted the Democratic ticket must bear the onus of accessory to that theft. I know about the hokey of "saving the country from the Germans," but does any one with the sense of a flea believe that now? And it was believed only by those who wanted the money. Most of them voted that ticket to get something for nothing—the very thing which the marked man with the gun is after. SURVIVOR OF THE GAY '90s

FAIR TO OLD NORTHERN DAME Chicago, Nov. 28—I want you to know how much I, and all the people in this neighborhood, appreciate the wonderful coverage THE TRIBUNE has given college football. We are especially happy over the consideration of the sports department has given to Grace Dane, which everyone admits is the greatest college football team in the United States. Arch Ward, Wilfred Smith, Ed Burns, Irving Vaughan, and other members of our sports staff have been extremely fair in their treatment of the team which has given us so much to cheer about in any other team.

[MISS] BIRD CURRAN

MORE CHRISTMAS SONGS Chicago, Nov. 28—Do you think you can't have more of the beautiful music and singing of Christmas songs? It cheers both sick and well.

Mrs. G. PROBERT

The Neighbors

George Clark

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