

### TAX REPORTS SHOW FEWER CARS USED

#### ASSESSMENTS ROLLS SHOW

Expert Says Figures Indicate Number of Automobiles in State Less, If Record Is Correct

If the figures taken from the Illinois tax reports be correct, we can be free from worry about congested highways in the future, according to M. H. Hunter, professor of public finance and taxation at the University of Illinois. The statement was based upon a comparative study of the figures for the assessment of automobiles in the state of Illinois for the years of 1922 and 1923.

**Quotes Figures:** "In the entire state of Illinois in 1922 there were 354,860 automobiles placed upon the assessment rolls, while in 1923 the number had increased to 388,970," said Mr. Hunter. "In nine counties, however, the number assessed in 1923 was less than in 1922."

"In Cook county the number dropped from 20,500 to 18,800; in Grundy county from 2,074 to 2,032; in Jackson county from 2,549 to 2,309; and in Menard county from 1,326 to 1,176," he pointed out. "The other counties in which decreases occurred were Marshall, Mason, Putnam, Stephenson and White; while Warren county had exactly the same number in each year."

**Show Depreciation** "The tax books indicate a tremendous depreciation in the value of automobiles. The average valuation in the state decreased from \$198 to \$176, while the total valuation was nearly \$1,200,000 less in 1923 than in 1922. In only twelve counties was the average value higher in the former year than in the latter. In Saline county the increase was from \$163 to \$262; in Jasper county from \$153 to \$183; decreases in value in certain counties was marked. In Wabash county the valuation fell from \$260 to \$176; in Pulaski county from \$140 to \$66; and in Gallatin county from \$270 to \$176."

"Of course," concluded Professor Hunter, "if these figures are to number and valuation, given under oath, be not correct, then the result is inequality of the tax burden upon automobiles."

### NOVEL TOYS MADE BY LOCAL FACTORS

#### New Industry Here Interesting; Huber-Sweet Manufacturing Co. Products

An interesting new industry in Highland Park is the toy factory of the Huber-Sweet Manufacturing Co., manufacturers of toys and novelties on new principles. H. W. Huber of the Huber Electrical Co., is one of the members of the firm, and the other is Clifford I. Sweet of Sterling, Ill., formerly with the Superior Machine Co. Mr. Sweet is the inventor of the mechanical toys herewith illustrated. Those shown are a turtle which looks and performs like a live one, and a duck similarly life-like in look and actions. Other new and novel toys and unique novelties will be manufactured by the company which plans to continually increase its line of interesting and practical products. A display of the products of the local factory will be made at the annual Toy Show at the Sherman Hotel, which opens April 13.



The following description from the toy trade journal, "Toys and Novelties," regarding the product of the local factory, is of interest in this connection:

"One of the most attractive toys of the new season is the Walking Turtle, manufactured by the Huber-Sweet Mfg. Co., Highland Park, Ill. It consists of a solid wood block, nine inches in diameter, and capable of sustaining 180 pounds on its back. It is finished in Duco enamel and is beautifully decorated in life-like colors. In fact it looks and acts like a



real live turtle, as it is pulled along by a string. The entire mechanical action is given by wheels. The legs and tail move back and forth, and the head moves in and out, for the world like a big turtle dragging itself out of the water. It is a strongly built toy, well finished, and should appeal to every toy-buyer as an easy seller."

#### TO STAGE CONTEST FOR THEATER NAME

Pearl to Permit Public to Suggest Title; Offers Prize; Details Later

What is your idea of an appropriate name of the handsome new theatre which William Pearl is erecting in East Central avenue? Undoubtedly the public generally will be interested in the choice of a title for this fine theatre, and in order to give them an opportunity to offer suggestions Mr. Pearl has decided to stage a contest in which everybody interested, in the territory from which local theatre patronage is drawn, will be invited to compete. Details of the contest have not been worked out and the contest will not be started until about two months before the house is ready for opening.

The interesting features are that the public will be given a chance to select the name, which must be an English title appropriate to the style of architecture of the theatre, and that the successful contestant will be awarded a year's pass to the new theatre. Further details regarding the date when the contest will begin and the rules regulating the same will be printed in this paper in due time. Watch for them!

#### ART STUDY CARAVAN TO EUROPE IS PLAN

An art study caravan will be taken to Europe June 6 under the joint leadership of Dudley Crafts Watson, extension lecturer of the Art Institute, and Henry Purmont Eames, musician and lecturer. Mr. Watson will have charge of the art instruction phase of the tour and Mr. Eames will lead the party to the great cathedrals and have them listen to the choirs and important musical organizations to be encountered on their journey. It is planned to visit Paris, Montreux, Versailles, Chateau Thierry, Lucerne, Rome, Perugia, Venice, Innsbruck, Vienna, Budapest, Salzburg, Cologne, Brussels, Antwerp, Bruges, the Shakespeare country in England, the home of Washington's ancestors, Winchester, the Isle of Wight, etc., and to return to New York, August 25.

### LAST CONGRESS IS MOST EFFICIENT

#### SO LONGWORTH BELIEVES

Says It Devoted More Time to Local and General Legislation Than Previous Short Sessions

According to Nicholas Longworth, newly elected Speaker, the House of Representatives in its recent short session devoted more time to local and general legislation than in any previous short session in history.

Mr. Longworth states that the appropriation and two deficiency bills passed were over \$11,000,000 less than the budget estimates and nearly \$25,000,000 below the appropriations for the first session of the Sixty-eighth Congress. Mr. Longworth gave much credit for this fine record to the splendid and painstaking work of Martin Madden, of Illinois, chairman of the Appropriations committee, who was also Mr. Longworth's rival in the race for Speaker.

**Laws Enacted** The session consisted of seventy-three actual working days. Mr. Longworth states, and in that time there were enacted 342 public laws, thirty-eight public resolutions and 223 private laws and resolutions, a total of 603 laws and resolutions.

"We have placed the government on a sound working basis, during the two sessions of this Congress," Mr. Longworth continues, "and because we have been able to reduce expenditures through strict economy and good administration, we shall be able when the new Congress meets in December, to take up the question of further reducing the tax burden for the support of the federal government."

The record of the closing Congress, with regard to financial legislation has indeed been a splendid one, and as legislation of this nature must originate in the House of Representatives, Speaker Longworth is fully justified in his praise of that body.

**Ways and Means Committee** Moreover, the Ways and Means committee of the next Congress has already been formed. According to its chairman, this committee will hold sessions in the fall, before Congress convenes, and will thresh out the matter of further tax reduction and changes in the current revenue act.

The next House of Representatives will have a real majority of real Republicans and the people of the country, who voted so decisively last year for Republican policies, can look forward to its program with a great deal of confidence and satisfaction.

#### REGIONAL BOARD IS REDUCING CAR LACK

Improvement in Physical Condition of Railroad Equipment is Marked

"Since the organization of the Mid-West Regional Advisory Board, during the early part of 1924, there has been no serious car shortage in the territory covered by the board," said W. J. Womer, committee chairman, and while this situation is not due entirely to the board's activities, much credit is due to that body.

Mr. Womer said car shortages and freight congestions are largely due to terminal conditions. A special committee was appointed of which Mr. Womer is chairman, to make a survey of the car situation, in the Mid-West territory. The committee found one source of trouble was the condition in which cars are returned to the carriers by consignees; there being in many instances much waste material left in the car which necessitates a terminal move to some designated yard where the car is put in proper condition for further use. This involves considerable expense, beside the delay of the car from 24 to 48 hours. Mr. Womer's committee asked that all cars be completely uncladded including blocking, bracing, packing, waste material, etc., further that no foreign material be placed in cars.

The obvious results of such procedure will be not only an improvement in the physical condition of equipment furnished by railroads, but a marked reduction in and possible elimination of congestion in terminals.

#### FARM PRODUCTS IN U. S. SHOW INCREASE

American farms produced \$12,404,000,000 in 1924, according to estimates prepared by the Department of Agriculture, indicating an increase of \$56,000,000 over 1923. The department attributed the increase to higher market values for certain crops, as contrasted with reduced values of livestock.

Cereals accounted for \$5,220,000,000, or 45.8 per cent, of the total, compared with 39.8 per cent in 1923. Corn was valued at \$2,890,000,000, cotton at \$1,701,000,000 and hay and forage at \$1,733,000,000.

A decrease of \$66,000,000 in the farm value of dairy products in 1924 was noted by the survey, the gross value for the year being \$2,586,148,000.

You can't get the kids up earlier by telling them of work to be done, but they may get up Saturday morning if they hear the birds are getting all the angle worms out of the garden.

## Rubber Crisis Threatens America; Firestone Seeking New Sources of Supply



Left, Thomas A. Edison and Harvey S. Firestone watching a plantation expert tap a rubber tree on the Edison estate in Fort Myers, Fla. Right, Mr. Edison and Mr. Firestone, with a rubber plantation expert, examining a young rubber tree on the Henry Ford Farm near Labelle, Fla.

**H**ARVEY S. FIRESTONE more than two years ago, predicted a rubber shortage, and said the British crude rubber restriction act would cost the American people millions of dollars. The British colonial possessions in the Far East produce about 80 per cent of the world's supply of rubber, while American manufacturers consume about 75 per cent of the world's supply.

Mr. Firestone has just returned to Akron, Ohio, after making a survey of possibilities of growing rubber in Florida, where he was accompanied by rubber plantation experts. On one of the tours of Florida he was accompanied by Thomas A. Edison, who made some important suggestions relative to new methods of extracting the latex or sap from rubber trees, plants and shrubs.

Rubber trees growing on the Edison estate in Fort Myers were examined, as well as those on the Ford estate in Fort Myers and the Ford farm near Labelle, Fla. A great deal of time was spent on the Government's Experimental Farm near Coconut Grove, Fla., where many varieties of rubber

trees are being grown. Some of these appear to be very promising. "Rubber is of vital importance to highway transportation," said Mr. Firestone, "and is largely responsible for our business prosperity. The British restriction act now limits production and exportation to one-half of normal production. Rubber today is about 200 per cent higher than it was when the restriction act went into effect. Rubber restriction this year will cost American car owners at least \$100,000,000, and very likely \$300,000,000. Every ten-cent advance in the price of crude rubber means an additional burden of about \$75,000 to the car owners of the United States."

Mr. Firestone was instrumental in having Congress appropriate a half million dollars for the investigation of new sources of rubber supply, and he sent out several expeditions at his own expense to visit rubber producing countries, including the Philippines, Central America, Mexico and Africa, and he has today in Liberia, on the west coast of Africa, a complete organization operating a plantation and making plans to produce rubber on an extensive scale.

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IT'S AN old stock JOKE, of course about THE collar button that ALWAYS rolls under the DRESSER and loses itself BUT our pet peeve is TO GET our shirt on AND then discover that THERE'S a button off AND we've never known IT TO happen when we WERE not in a terrible HURRY, so if any of you PEOPLE within the SOUND of this little COLUMN will kindly INVENT a shirt button THAT will stick until THE SHIRT wears out WE'LL promise right now THAT we'll buy a lot OF YOUR buttons; and WHILE you are working ON THE IDEA you might DROP IN and see the EASTER GOODS that we ARE NOW SHOWING.

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#### QUIET BEAUTY OF SPAIN IS PRAISED

RECOMMENDED FOR TOURS

Notable Architectural Features And Natural Scenery worth Seeing; Rest After the Usual Routine

After the American tourist tires himself out in sight-seeing in Italy and France, where there is so much to see that one's time is crowded with opportunities to visit great historical spots, and worried because he might miss something to cause regret ever afterwards, he should go to Spain for rest and relaxation.

There is not so much to see there, though what there is to see is of a distinctly fascinating character. This was the message delivered by Harding Scholle, in his talk in Fullerton hall, Art Institute, last Monday afternoon. Mr. Scholle took the visitors through the province of Castile and with a number of interesting slides showed the romantic features of this country.

The great buildings of Spain show that the builders absorbed much more of early Romanesque spirit than they did of the later Gothic, for their Gothic structures are haphazard and incongruous in appearance and their Romanesque beautiful and stately. The yellow and orange stone so prevalent in Castile makes a picturesque building material and under the intensely blue sky strikes the visitor in a startling manner.

Madrid is a modern commercial city much less interesting to the tourist who is looking for places of antiquity. Toledo is the romantic city of Segovia. Toledo should not be missed by the tourist as it is filled with interesting and amazing sights.

Catalonia is somewhat out of the main traveled path of the tourist but it is nevertheless well worth visiting. The city of Palma on the island of Majorca is one of the most charming and fascinating places in the Spanish Kingdom.

#### REVERSE DECISION OF CHAMPIONSHIP

Principals of Suburban League Finally Award Title to Waukegan High

The action of the coaches in the Suburban Conference Schools in awarding the suburban league basketball championship to Deerfield high school, champions of the B division, was reversed and remanded at the meeting of the league principals at their recent meeting and Waukegan is again the leading title holder in the circuit.

The vote on the matter was about 11 to 2 in favor of Mr. Thalman's action and the vote of the coaches giving the league championship to Deerfield was reversed and remanded.

According to the vote of the principals, there will never be any playoff games to decide the championship of the league. They declared that the league is separated into A and B divisions according to the size of the school and that as the league was divided so as to make competition more even, the league will remain divided and championships will only be decided in the two divisions of the league as though they were separate leagues.

The constitution of the league state that in matters pertaining to athletics, the coaches will vote as they see fit and the principals will have the final word in the matter, either approving of or disallowing the vote of the coaches. As the matter stands now, Waukegan holds the A division championship and Deerfield

the B title and there is no title for the entire two sections of the league. The principals also elected officers for the coming year. Supt. McVeagh of Morton being elected president and Supt. Reavis of University high of Chicago, secretary.

#### MAIL BOX RAID SERIOUS OFFENSE

Vandals Who Destroyed 25 of Them in Waukegan Likely To Be Jailed

The seriousness of trifling with mail boxes is not appreciated by the general public, according to Postmaster Mancel Talcott of Waukegan, referring to the happening of last week when vandals destroyed 25 rural mail boxes, who recites the penalty attached to such government offenses. If the vandals were caught and convicted for each box destroyed a maximum penalty of three years in a federal penitentiary could be exacted. For the 25 boxes it would mean 75 years or more than a natural life time. At the same time a fine could be applied. The fine for each box could be \$1,000 and for the 25 boxes could be \$25,000.

That, he feels, should impress the public with the fact that the government guards its mail service and asks greater penalties probably than for any other crime, with the exception of murder.

The inconvenience caused by such a prank can be seen easily. It put some 25 homes on the Milwaukee road route in a position where they have to purchase new mail boxes and take their mail by hand from the postman until they can supply new containers.

In its recent session the senate ratified nineteen treaties of peace—in addition to the peace that came when the senate adjourned.