

DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

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October Coming Up

The month of October is just a week away, and the autumn season officially started Wednesday afternoon about 2:16 p.m. Decatur is heralding the fall opening with a celebration of their own—the merchants are giving the customers a break, and Friday and Saturday have been set aside for a Fall opening sale.

As you're walking along looking for bargains this weekend, take a look at the numerous improvements. Ferris Bower tells us that his whole north end of town has been painted up for the occasion—this may be an exaggeration, but just count the stores who have made improvements since last spring.

The new bank building is almost completed, and it will revolutionize the corner of Second and Monroe with its modern, clean look.

Local Revenue Problems

When Indiana approved its second constitution in 1851, property was the principal sign of wealth. Barter was still a common means of exchange, and no one had faith in paper money, or in banks, or the like. But everyone thought a lot of property. Therefore, since incomes were ridiculously low—even as late as 1890 workers averaged \$400 a year, school teachers even less—it was necessary to tax property.

But the last 20 years have seen a great change. The wealth of the country is represented in large investments, investments that pay off in cash. Wages are high; property ownership is no longer the main sign of income. A man who lives in an apartment may earn \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year, and his wife and older children another \$3,000 to \$5,000 each in addition.

Or manufacturers and businessmen may make large earnings in a community, and live outside of town. There is no implication that this is wrong—it isn't—it is just different from the way things were done when the tax system was set up here.

Today, an income tax makes much better sense than a property tax, for most groups. It is far more equitable than a sales tax; it holds up better during depressed times. It does not work a hardship on those who do not earn money as the property tax often has.

As to whether a gross income surtax would be better than a net income surtax, it will take some study to work this out. A net income can sometimes be manipulated better than a gross income to avoid taxes; at the same time, some groups can get exemptions from the gross income tax that would tend to favor their tax structures.

The mayors of the state have attacked the problem with vigor, and it can be certain that the next state legislature will have a good deal to say on it.

TV PROGRAMS

Central Daylight Time

WANE-TV
Channel 15
THURSDAY

Evening: 6:00—Moms and Andy
7:00—Tom Edwards News
7:15—Highway Patrol
7:30—Eye Witness to History
7:45—The Thin Man
8:00—Zany Derringer
8:30—Playhouse 90
9:00—Peter Pan
9:15—In Society
9:30—The Love Story
10:00—Love Lucy
11:00—Top Dollar
Afternoon: 12:45—Love of Life
12:55—Guiding Light
1:00—Ann Colone
1:30—As the World Turns
2:00—For Better or Worse
2:30—Houseparty
2:45—Willy, Wonderful
3:00—CBS News
3:15—Captain Kangaroo
3:30—The Little Theater
3:45—Captain Kangaroo
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