

OPPOSITION TO SLASH IN FARM VALUES HINTED

Tax Board Letter Sent to Assessors Reveals Firm Attitude.

That the state tax board will fight any great reduction in farm land assessments to be made March 1, is indicated in a letter to township assessors sent out by Chairman James E. Showalter of the board.

The letter sets out that it is well to be patient with the poor taxpayers, listen to their advice but not heed it. It also says the entire problem is to cut governmental costs, which puts the board behind the anti-income tax movement now being fostered in the state by those whose wealth lies elsewhere than in land.

Letter Text Cited

Text of the Showalter letter follows:

"The task of the township assessors of Indiana has never been more serious to face than it is this year. Taxpayers are clamoring for a reduction in taxes, and are hoping and expecting to get it through the reduction of valuations of their property."

"The only way to reduce taxes is to reduce public expenditures. The valuing or assessing of property is only done for the purpose of measuring each taxpayer's portion of the cost of local and state government. In taxation the first and foremost requisite of our Constitution is equity. In the application of this principle in taxation it is necessary to value all taxable property, both real and personal, at its full true cash value."

Values Are Upset

The problem is hard this year because the world-wide depression has so disturbed what has always been stabilized values to unbelievable proportions by forced liquidations.

"In many instances two parcels

Death Accused



Nance McClanahan

Charged with slaying two men after petty arguments in a pool-room and barbecue Wednesday afternoon and night, Joseph McClanahan, 45, of Valley Mills, and Robert Nance, 32, of 2615 Butler avenue, today faced action by the grand jury.

McClanahan, barbecue operator, is alleged to have slain Daniel Stewart, 28, former Valley Mills high school basketball star.

Nance is charged with fatally stabbing Clarence Baker, 50, owner of a poolroom at 305 East Washington street.

of real estate apparently of equal value are sold for widely varying prices. Since property is not being sold in the process of assessing, but merely being compared for the purpose of distributing the tax burdens, it is obvious that to observe the rule of equity properties of apparent equal worth should be valued the same.

"The public is a hard task master and will test your patience. It will be the wise policy to exercise patience. Most taxpayers are in distress financially, and are not always willing to listen to reason."

"Some of these same taxpayers are responsible for our present tax burdens. Public expenditures have all been brought about through their own demands and agencies, and likewise will have to be reduced by that same process."

It is a wise policy to listen to advice and be considerate, but it is also well to be cautious how we use it. It is well to remember that the responsibility of finally determining valuations is fixed by and rests upon the assessor."

HINT FRAMEUP IN HOLDUP CASE

Lawyers Intimate Politics in Negroes' Arrest.

Ramifications of a political frame-up may be revealed Feb. 26 in municipal court when three Negroes are arraigned before Judge William H. Sheaffer on charges of conspiracy to rob the office of Secretary of State Frank May Jr.

John F. Johnson, 41, of 2130 Boulevard place, superintendent of mails in the office, who denies any part in the alleged plot, was the victim of politics, it was intimated by attorneys when the defendants were before Sheaffer Thursday, when hearing was postponed.

Others accused are William Singleton, 32, of 225 West St. Clair street, and Ernest Martin, 24, of 318 Indiana avenue.

Singleton was released on his own recognizance shortly after his arrest Wednesday. At the city prison, the word "chief" is written after his name. A turnkey explained the word means Singleton was liberated on order of Chief Mike Morrissey.

Johnson, suspended from the state office, is free under \$2,500 bond. Martin still is held, having failed to provide bond in the same amount.

MARKET STANDHOLDERS ORDERED TO 'PAY UP'

Ejection Threatened Unless Fees for Six Months Are In by April 1.

City market standholders must pay the first six months lease rental by April 1, or be ejected from their stands, Francis H. Coleman, deputy city controller, warned today.

Coleman said less than one-third of the stand rental fees have been paid thus far this year and a few standholders are in arrears as much as a year on rentals.

Fees charged for stands at the market will be discussed at the next meeting of Mayor Reginald H. Sullivan's special market study committee Tuesday.

BISHOP LENTEN PASTOR

Kansas Prelate Pleads for Religion in World Relations.

Application of religious principles to international relations was the subject of the Rt. Rev. James Wise, Episcopal bishop of Kansas, at today's noon lenten service in Christ church.

"If the whole world had a right to condemn Germany for regarding the treaty with Belgium as a scrap of paper, then the men of all nations have a right to regard the Kellogg-Briand past as a document that means what it says," he asserted.

Furnace Is Loot of Thief Police are looking for a thief believed to be in a class by himself. Officials of the Gant Realty Company, 617 State Life building, today reported a furnace valued at \$100 had been stolen from a vacant house at 226 South State avenue.

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