

## Let's Discuss

# YOUR TAXES

By Elmer T. Peterson

Editor, Better Homes & Gardens

WITHIN a few days after you receive this copy of *Better Homes & Gardens* you will go to the polls to vote on some exceedingly vital issues. Nearly every cross you put in a square will have a definite bearing upon taxation, and every item of taxation has a direct or indirect bearing upon home ownership and the cost of living.

Taxation is now of the utmost importance, for spending by all kinds of government—local, state, and federal—is now right at the danger point.

If our government were paying as it goes, the people of the United States would now be the highest-taxed people on earth, according to authoritative observers who have studied taxation in England and other countries. As a group we are living largely on borrowed money, and that is as dangerous for a group as it is for an individual.

The most direct and understandable form of taxation is the property tax on your home. That tax is determined quite directly by yourself, for you have the power to vote in or out of office the men or women who spend your money. You also have the power to vote, directly or indirectly, on public projects which cost money.

Every tax, direct or indirect, visible or invisible, has a vital relationship to your ability to build, buy, or maintain a home, for if you pay high federal or state income, sales, gasoline, and other taxes, it makes it just that much harder for you to pay your property tax. The tax against your real estate is the most tangible and most readily collectible, for your home is right out in the open. That makes the home-owner an especially conspicuous target for the tax-collector. In some states income, sales, and other forms of taxes have been levied against the patient taxpayer, on the ground that these will "replace" the property tax. But in many cases the property tax goes right on as if nothing had happened. The writer is personally acquainted with one locality where the property tax on homes is even higher than before, even tho both sales and state income taxes have been added to the general burden.

The tax-eating politician is an enemy of home-ownership, any way you look at him. It is the home-owner, in the final analysis, who is chiefly fighting his last-ditch fight against tax-eaters.

FIRST consider the direct taxes on your home. Your county and state officials may protest their undying devotion to the taxpayer, but their records should be closely examined to see whether they act as they talk. Are they efficient and care-

ful in their spending? Do they hire a horde of henchmen to do their political errands at YOUR expense? Do they stand for unnecessary and wasteful public works? In building streets, highways, public buildings, parks, schoolhouses—in maintaining public institutions—do they get a dollar's worth of work or material for every one of YOUR dollars expended? Are they lined up with corrupt, grafting gangs and racketeers or special interests? If they do not stand this test there is only one way to protect your home and family—throw them out on their ears. It is about time that the humble, unorganized Mr. John W. Public asserted himself.

Vote now, or forever hold your peace! And vote intelligently and analytically, not by prejudice or because of some trivial whim. Vote for your home and family, and not for the "good fellow" who may be a tax-eater in fact!

Taxation, like charity, begins at home. Your local taxes should be your first concern.

However, it is increasingly true that federal taxation affects the home-owner. Federal taxes used to be a minor factor. Now they are exceedingly important, especially since federal spending is such a huge issue.

There is one very important way in which federal taxes add to the burden of the prospective or actual home-owner. That is by way of invisible taxes. Manufacturers and merchants pass on these federal taxes to you and me, who buy their products.

RIGHT here it is pertinent to remember the often quoted statement made by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, October 19, 1932. He said:

"Taxes are paid in the sweat of every man who labors. . . . Our workers may never see a tax bill, but they pay in deductions from wages, in increased cost of what they buy, or (as now) in broad cessation of employment."

You may ask, "Is this more true now than formerly?"

For answer we quote from a letter written by President Roosevelt to Roy W. Howard September 2, 1935:

"What are known as consumers' taxes, namely the invisible taxes paid by people in every walk of life, fall relatively much more heavily upon the poor man than the rich man. In 1929, consumers' taxes represented only 30 percent of the national revenue. Today they are 60 percent." Mark well the dates. Since then, something has been done about taxes, but in the wrong direction.

Then you may [Continued on page 60]

## IN THIS ISSUE

### That Gardens May Flourish

The Diary of a Plain Dirt Gardener	8
I Grow Plants in ANY Window	14
Our Garden Gets a New Deal	16
Marigolds Lose B. O.	36
We Winter a Garden Circus	38
Along the Garden Path	96

### Furnishings for Your Home

Looking Like Upholstery	26
A Visit With the Van Loons	42

### Building and Remodeling Ideas

Another Sensational Bildecost Home	18
Sun for the Busy Basement	20
Tied to the Out-of-Doors	22
The Smoke Goes Up the Chimney	24
The Question Before the House	28

### Home Cooking, and Oh, So Good!

When Do We Eat?	65
Cooks' Round Table of Endorsed Recipes	66
Perfection on the Platter	68

### How to Manage the Home

Highlights in the Colonial Kitchen	62
None Too Neat	69
Artcraft Department	70

### A Number of Things for the Family

Let's Discuss Your Taxes	4
Quietude (Frontispiece)	7
It's News to Me!	10
March in Step With Life	13
A Dog's Life	31
The Man Next Door	32
Club Department	34
Little Things Count	54
How to Bind Your <i>Better Homes &amp; Gardens</i>	84
A Family "Memo" That's Important	91

Cover Photograph by R. R. Donnelley

MEREDITH PUBLISHING COMPANY  
E. T. MEREDITH, Founder, 1876-1928

FRED BOHEN,  
President and General Manager

ELMER T. PETERSON, Editor

FRANK W. McDONOUGH, . . . . . Associate Editor

ALFRED CARL HOTTES, . . . . . Associate Editor

JEAN GUTHRIE, . . . . . Associate Editor

CHRISTINE HOLBROOK, . . . . . Associate Editor

PAUL F. FRESE, . . . . . Associate Editor

WALLACE F. HAINLINE, . . . . . Art Director

Home Offices: 1714 Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa.  
Manuscripts submitted to the magazine must be accompanied by postage for their return, else we cannot be responsible for them.

Advertising Branch Offices: New York City, 420 Lexington Ave.; Chicago, 333 N. Michigan Ave.; Detroit, 5-145 General Motors Bldg.; Minneapolis, 635 Palace Bldg.; San Francisco, 100 Bush St.; Los Angeles, 1212 Lincoln Bldg.; Atlanta, Georgia, 417 Grant Bldg.

Subscription: United States and Canada rates, one year, \$1; two years, \$1.50; three years, \$2. Other countries, \$1.50 a year. At newsstands, twentieth of the month, 10 cents a copy. Entered as second-class matter at the post office in Des Moines, Iowa, under act of Congress, March 3, 1879. Copyrighted by Meredith Publishing Company, 1936. United States and Canada. Trademarks for *Better Homes & Gardens* have been registered in the United States and Canada.

## SPECIAL OFFER TO THE READERS OF BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS

**free**  
The Timeliest and Most Practical Book Ever Given to New Members of

### THE LITERARY GUILD

This big new 1936 BOOK OF SMALL HOUSES is a complete manual for everyone who wants to build his own home with a complete understanding of every step involved. It contains plans, costs, specifications and all construction details for 115 small houses selected by the Editors of *Architectural Forum*—houses ranging in price from \$982 to \$20,000. It will tell you how to find out how much the house you want will cost—and why; how to choose a building site and how to design, plan and finance that home.

#### How You Can Use This Book:

- 1 Before purchasing the lot: Consult the check list of items to question. It will save you unpleasant surprises and money.
- 2 What style of architecture? A review of the examples shown in this book will save you hours of tiresome roaming over the countryside.
- 3 When planning the floor layout: Suggestions to guide your architect properly, and save time and money in the later correction and changing of plans.
- 4 Specifications: "Shall we use wood, brick or stone?" "Shall we heat with coal, gas or oil?" "What about air conditioning?" "What about insulation?" This book gives you the answers to these questions.
- 5 Interior Detail: Numerous ideas for the handling of walls, and floors, and doors, and fixtures.
- 6 Interior Decoration: You can get numerous suggestions, learn what you like and dislike by reviewing the hundreds of pictures of interiors.
- 7 Landscaping: Gives you a basis for intelligently guiding your landscape architect or gardener.

This great time-and-money-saving book of practical ideas, containing over 500 photographs and plans, is ABSOLUTELY FREE to Better Homes & Gardens readers who join the Guild now.

## GUILD MEMBERSHIP IS FREE

THE GUILD provides the most complete, economical and convenient book service in the country. It selects for you each month an outstanding new book before publication.

"Wings"—a sparkling, illustrated little journal—is sent free each month to members of the Guild. In this magazine, descriptions are given of the Guild current book selection and recommendations. It is a guide to the best reading and is invaluable to anyone who wants to keep up to date on the new books. "Wings" contains a complete review of the forthcoming selection made by the Editors, and a description of the author, as well as several illustrations pertinent to the book. The magazine is sent to members one month in advance so they may decide beforehand whether or not the selected book will be to their liking.

If you want the Guild selection for the month, you pay only \$2.00 for it (plus a few cents carrying charges), regardless of the retail price. (The regular prices of Guild selections range from \$2.50 to \$5.00.) If you do not want the Guild selection, then you may take your choice from thirty other outstanding books recommended each month by the Guild, or the Guild will deliver, postage prepaid, any other book in print you wish at the publisher's price. However, if you do not want any book that month, you are not obligated to take any. You may buy as few as four

books within a year to enjoy all advantages of membership.

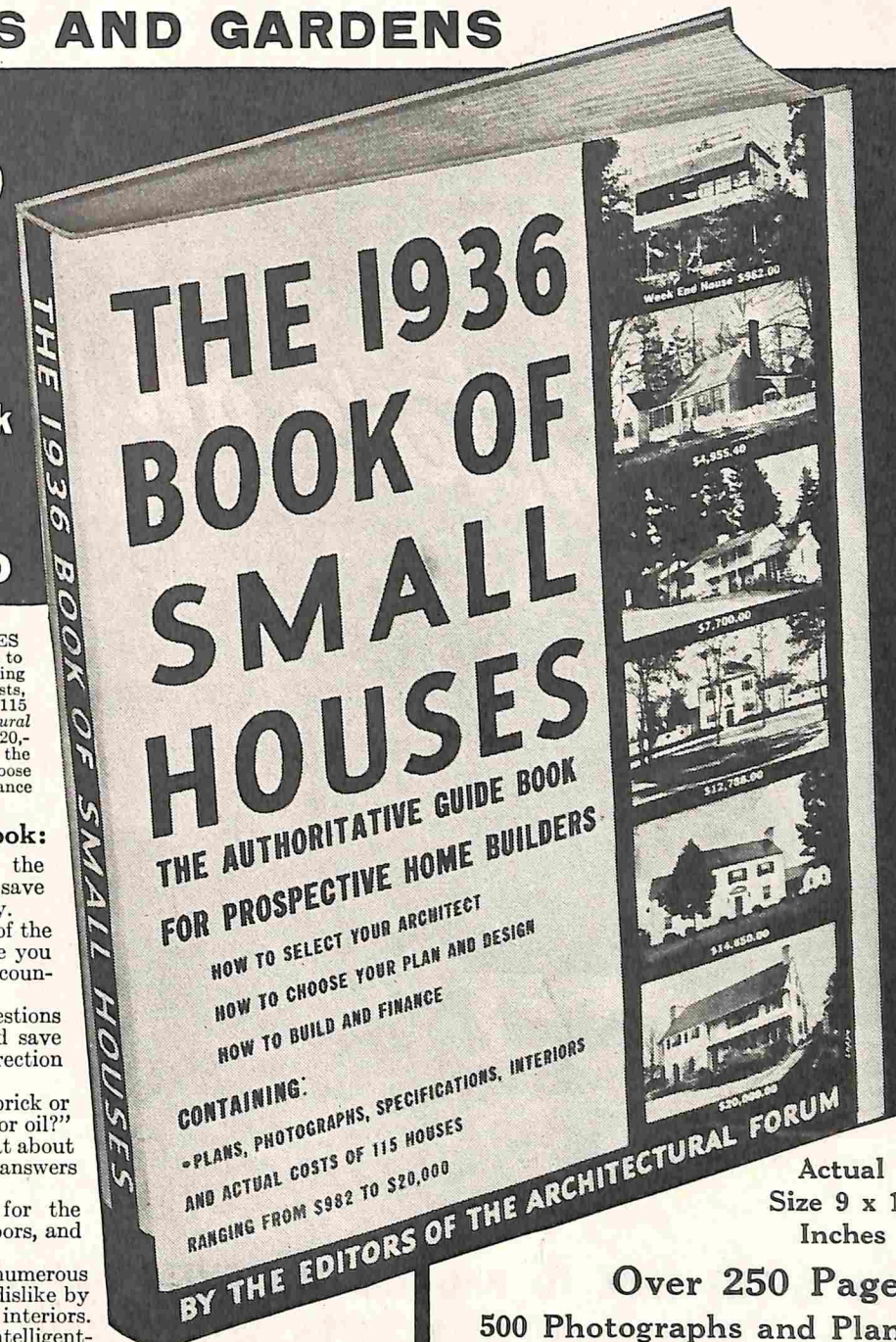
#### YOU SAVE UP TO 50%

Outstanding, particularly at this time, is the saving in cost of books. Guild savings are not merely fractional savings. When you can get a \$3.00, \$4.00, or \$5.00 book for only \$2.00, you can see at once that your book bills can be cut in half, and that you can afford to buy more books you wish to read this way than under any other plan.

## SUBSCRIBE NOW SEND NO MONEY

Remember: you buy only the books you want and you may accept as few as four books a year. The Guild service starts as soon as you send the card. Our present special offer gives you The 1936 Book of Small Houses absolutely free. This book will come to you at once, together with full information about the Guild Service and special savings, and the Guild's sensational new Free Bonus Book plan.

LITERARY GUILD OF AMERICA, Dept. 11 BHG, 244 Madison Avenue, New York



Actual Size 9 x 12 Inches  
Over 250 Pages  
500 Photographs and Plans

## Free "Bonus Books" to Members—Twice a Year

The popular new BONUS plan gives thousands of Members an additional NEW book every six months ABSOLUTELY FREE. Full details of this special plan will be sent to you upon enrollment.

## MAIL THIS COUPON

FREE—1936 Book of Small Houses  
THE LITERARY GUILD OF AMERICA,  
Dept. 11 BHG, 244 Madison Avenue, New York.

Enroll me, without charge, as a member of the Literary Guild of America. I am to receive free each month the Guild magazine "Wings" and all other membership privileges. It is understood that I will purchase a minimum of four books through the Literary Guild within a year—either Guild selections or any other books of my choice—and you guarantee to protect me against any increase in price of Guild selections during this time.

In consideration of this agreement, you will send me at once, FREE, a copy of The 1936 Book of Small Houses.

Name . . . . .  
Address . . . . .  
City . . . . . State . . . . .  
Occupation . . . . .  
Canadian Subscribers write direct to the Literary Guild in Canada, 388 Yonge St., Toronto, Canada.

# BETTER HOMES & GARDENS

NOVEMBER 1936 • 10 CENTS

MereMart.com®

*Vintage Magazines for Special People*

