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SINGLE TAX WOULD CREATE ECONOMIC HAVOC IN STATE

Chairman Seavey of the Tax Commission Opposed to Amendment No. 5

IMPAIRMENT THREATENED

Values Would Be Undermined, Loans Withdrawn and Capital Retired, He Says

Chairman Clyde Seavey of the State Tax Commission issued the following statement yesterday on the proposed single tax amendment which will appear as amendment number 5 on the November ballot:

"The single tax amendment which will appear on the November ballot seeks to amend article XIII of the State Constitution by the adoption of simon-pure single tax.

"About $821,000,000 worth of public utility stock and bonds would suffer a great decrease in value, while millions of dollars' worth of private corporations of securities would be impaired by the adoption of the measure.

LOANS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN

"Values upon which savings banks have loaned $344,000,000 would be undermined, with the result that both depositors and borrowers would suffer.

"Mortgage loans would be withdrawn to thousands of home builders and farmers. Capital for investment in this State would cease to flow in, and it would be up to the courts to determine what effect the amendment would have on the public revenues collected by the State Harbor Commission of San Francisco, and the municipal harbors at Oakland, Los Angeles, San Diego and other points."

Seavey points out in addition that operation of amendment No. 5 would bring about the following:

"It would, on January 1, 1917, relieve the railroads and other public service corporatoins, banks and insurance companies from paying nearly $14,000,000 of taxes yearly to the State.

CORPORATIONS WOULD ESCAPE

"It would relieve other corporations from paying yearly to the State over $2,800,000 for franchise and license taxes.

"It would wipe out the inheritance tax and other smaller sources of regular State revenue to the amount of approximately $3,500,000 yearly.

"It would eliminate municipal and county fees and business licenses to the amount of at least $12,000,000.

"It would eliminate from local taxation improvements, personal property, money and solvent credits now assessed at $1,065,369,675, representing a tax of approximately $34,800,000.

"It would thus throw a total additional burden of $67,700,000 upon the assessed land value, consisting of the present locally assessed land values, amounting to $1,850,000, and the operative land value of public service corporations, estimated at $150,000,000.

"In addition to this, the amendment proposes to take for public use the rental and site value of land, which would leave no real value in the hands of the owner.

"These things it proposes to do immediately, or on January 1, 1917.

"This would mean an economic upheaval. Land values would be impaired and unknown.

"It would seriously weaken the values of $252,000,000 worth of State, county and municipal bonds which have been purchased in good faith by domestic and foreign investors."

Club Diverts Banquet Fund to Belgian Aid

Members of the Fullerton Club will abandon their annual banquet this year, and the funds usually appropriated for that purpose, $65, will be donated to the fund now being raised for the relief of needy Belgian women and children.

At a meeting yesterday, Mrs. Willoughby Rodman, chairman of the Southern California branch of the relief work, pointed out that 7 cents a day would feed a Belgian baby, and that the money spent ordinarily on the club banquet would feed nearly 1000 Belgian babies.

Defiance Flavors Mrs. Boissevain's Appeal — Militant Suffrage Advocate Sways Throng

"We Oppose the Democratic Party Because It Has Opposed Our Cause," She Declares

"WE ARE opposed to the Democratic party because the Democratic party has consistently opposed the doctrine of political freedom for women," was the message that Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain, distinguished suffragist and leader in the social betterment of women and children, gave last night to a great audience at the Palace Hotel that overflowed the immense ballroom, jammed into the approach corridors and captured every possible seating and standing point of vantage within hearing distance.

Classical in her appearance, sweetly sympathetic, yet ringing with the militancy of her cause, this remarkable woman from out of the East, with her note of defiance and of appeal, mingled with the wit and the refinement of splendid culture, swayed the enormous audience like the winds bow the trees of the forest to suppliant response.

REPARTEES ARE CLEVER

Almost cynical in her exposure of the weaknesses of the Democratic national attitude toward Federal suffrage, yet so clever in her repartee that those who accepted her invitation to "heckle" were laid low by the very cleverness of her replies as the queries were sent one after another from the audience after she had concluded her speech. And when it was all over, hundreds upon hundreds of those men and women who had listened to this marvel of a woman, crowded forward to the platform, grasped her hands and gave testimony to their conversion to her cause, the "Cause of Freedom for the women of the United States."

It was a remarkable demonstration of the tremendous power of this woman. Men bowed before it. It was the power of a logic that seemed to be unanswerable. She had one outstanding point of argument. She was concerned in only one aspect of the great political campaign.

The Democratic party had betrayed the cause of women in its refusal to submit the Federal suffrage amendment, therefore the women of the nation, the women of the twelve suffrage states, should exercise their power by smothering in defeat that party. She cared not for individual Democrats, from the President down; it mattered not what they, as individuals, should think or do, but as members of the Democratic party she did have much to say.

She asked for national suffrage for the women, of the same suffrage which by Federal amendment was given to the negro, to the Indian, to the alien that came to America's shores.

She asked for it as a right, and her appeal was then the appeal of the militant, not of the woman in her tenderness as, in another breath, she pictured the need of that political weapon to correct the social ills of the Nation.

TALKS OF WILSON

And of President Wilson, as the President, she had much to say.

She told of the fourteen excuses, "all of them different, which he had made," she said, "to those who were battling for the freedom of women."

"I do not blame the President," said Mrs. Boissevain.

"I do," came a voice from the audience.

"He has acted in response to political pressure," she continued, "and that is the way all politicians act. I only want you hero-worshipping ladies of the West to know the President as a politician and mete out to him the political treatment that he responds to.

"Get together, ladies, and hit," she advised. "You cannot stand loyal to the woman's interest and vote for the Democratic party.

"If you divide your allegiance you betray the cause of woman. No party will stand for a group of voters that hasn't sense and gumption enough to stand for what they want.

"I do not believe that anybody deserves liberty that has not got strength and courage enough to fight for liberty.

"No nation is built on a safe foundation when one-half of its people is enslaved."

AT HOME WITH AUDIENCE

Graciously in her introduction, Mrs. Boissevain was at home at once with her audience, as she appeared on the platform, escorted by Mrs. Orlow Black, the chairman of the evening, who gracefully presented the visitor. Mrs. Boissevain wore a simple dress of soft light material. And her first words were:

"Men and women of San Francisco, how do you do."

She had come, she said, to ask the enfranchised women of the West to use their political power to set free the unenfranchised women of the East. "The men have been doing all the emancipating," she said. "Lincoln freed the black man; Alexander of Russia freed the serfs. Never before have the women had the opportunity that you women of the suffrage State have of freeing women.

"The Democrats would have granted votes to women if they had believed that women would stand by each other. The President himself said that women cannot deliver the vote. That is the way of the politician. It is all a case of political pressure. Show the politician that you have the votes, and you will get what you want.

RECORD OF DEMOCRATS

"The record of the Democratic party is not a pretty record, and I do not blame the Democrats for not wanting it exposed. The Democratic party blocked and defeated the Federal amendment in Congress. When the women appealed to President Wilson to raise the blockade against it, he refused. He used the excuse of States' rights, and then jammed through all manner of Federal enactments."

Mrs. Boissevain recited, item by item, the excuses which the President offered, and which she scathingly rebuked by parallel comment.

And then she invited the crowd:

"Come on with your questions."

And they came, but they did not seem so enthusiastic to come after she bowled down man after man.

Mrs. Boissevain will be the guest today of Mrs. Phoebe Hearst at Verona, departing this afternoon for Los Angeles and San Diego, thence to Arizona, Colorado, Kansas and Illinois. She is accompanied by her sister, Miss Vida Milholland, and Mrs. Abbie Scott Baker, chairman of the publicity committee of the National Woman's party. The meeting last night was under the direction of the California Woman's party, of which Miss Doris Stevens is State campaign manager.

Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain, noted suffrage leader, who is touring the United States in a campaign against Wilson, in a characteristic argument-clinching pose, as she appeared at the Palace Hotel last night before a large audience.

THREE STRIKERS ARRESTED

Three striking culinary workers were arrested last night in front of the Rialto grill, 1118 Market street, by Policeman Glenn Hoffman and charged with disturbing the peace by stopping people who tried to enter the grill and behaving in a boisterous way. The men are Harry McDonald, Charles Schacht and George Bloomquist. They were booked at the Southern station.

Why Don't—

BOPP AFFIDAVITS CENSORED AFTER PRESTON OBJECTS

U. S. Attorney Says He Didn't Say at All What They Said He Said

DECLARES THEY ARE LIES

What His Political Speeches Sounded Like to the Stenographer

Because United States Attorney John W. Preston objected to the quotation of his political speeches in affidavits filed by the attorneys of German Consul-General Franz Bopp; and, further, because he characterized the stenographic report of what he had said on the stump as "lies," the attorneys for Bopp yesterday consented to delete the frozen political oratory.

The contention of Consul-General Bopp and his official family is that "it is not a square deal to be tried by a United States Attorney who tells the people within the district from which the venire must be drawn that the Germans are terrible people, and that the particular Germans he is now engaged in trying ought to get a much longer sentence than the present status of American law will permit him to demand."

THE REMARKS IN QUESTION

Preston's political remarks, as objected to by Bopp, and now characterized as "lies" by Preston himself, sounded to the stenographer, as they were uttered at Mill Valley and San Rafael on October 17 and 18, in part like this:

"The war had not started and been in progress three days before the Empire of Germany had over $1,000,000 in San Francisco for the purpose of defeating our laws, and making our port the basis of operations. I traced that money into every bank, through all the ramifications and fictitious names and other things, clear back. And that testimony as gathered at this port was used for the purpose of causing the recall of Von Papen and Boy Ed.

DYNAMITE PLOT

"The next thing you know they organized a bunch of fellows and sent them all over the United States and into Canada at three or four British points, to burn, explode and destroy every boat that had carried supplies of any sort; every railroad train, poison horses on the trains, and blow up the tunnels, through this country and in Canada, regardless of whether human beings were involved or not. Blow up all the factories, plants and manufacturing establishments they could find, and they did blow up forty or fifty in the United States, and a bunch of them ran off into Mexico that are down there now, and I have got a small bunch of them waiting over here for the 15th day of November. Now, then, do you say we have a right to prosecute them?

PROSECUTING TODAY

"And today I am prosecuting people for conspiracy and dynamiting our trains and our railroad tunnels, and our ships and our factories, and for restraint of trade under the Sherman act, where the crime is only a misdemeanor and the limit of punishment one year. That is all of the law we have that will touch it. Isn't that a shame and a disgrace?

"The Germans came down here and they commenced transhipping their cargoes out to high sea, accompanied by a war vessel, thereby deceiving our port officers. The next thing we have a plot here, paid for right here in San Francisco, reaching over the United States and Canada, for the purpose of dynamiting and destroying our railroad trains and our tunnels and our plants and our ships and everything.

KILLING OUR PEOPLE

"We immediately protested to that, but she didn't stop there. She came over here and submarined a boat, killing helpless women and children. And they stalled along on the proposition that she had contraband, and the theory was shown to be untenable. Then it was said she had a gun. Finally they saw that America meant business. We kicked against her because she was killing our people and because nothing could replace them."

As a matter of etiquette, Theodore J. Roche, George A. McGowan and J. P. O'Brien, for the defendants, showed the affidavits to Preston before offering them in Federal Judge Dooling's court yesterday at the hearing of the motion of the Government to consolidate the two charges of conspiracy to form a military enterprise against Canada and conspiracy to interfere with interstate commerce by dynamiting munition factories.

NEW ONES TO BE FILED

In their mutilated form the affidavits were read in court by Roche, but were not placed on file. Tomorrow new affidavits, leaving out all reference to Preston's speeches, will be placed on file.

Judge Dooling reserved decision as to whether the cases should be consolidated.

A jury venire of eighty will be summoned by the United States Marshal to be in Judge Dooling's court, Monday, November 6. From this venire the Bopp jury will be selected. The trial will begin November 15.

San Francisco Election Cost Highest in Nation

Bureau of Municipal Research Experts Find That $100,000 a Year Could Be Saved by Eliminating Primary and Reforming System of Registration

One hundred thousand dollars a year would be saved to the city and county of San Francisco if there were no primary law and the system of registration were simplified.

That is the verdict of the New York bureau of municipal research on its survey of San Francisco, recently completed.

"As in other parts of the country, the primary election in California has been a disappointment," the report comments. "With the change in methods of registration should go the elimination of the primaries. The Registrar has estimated that $100,000 a year might be saved if these two innovations were adopted."

The cost of elections in San Francisco is found to be higher than in any other city of its size, the report says.

In a table compiled by the municipal surveyors the election cost in San Francisco is placed at $281,349. The next most expensive city in the country for its population, as far as elections are concerned, is Los Angeles, with $184,357.

IS NEEDLESS EXPENSE

The report submits that the maintaining of a large permanent staff throughout each year for the purpose of registering voters is a needless expense. The city, it finds, spends almost 2 per cent of its entire annual budget appropriation to determine by whom it shall be governed. The average cost for the last four years has been $265,386 and the average cost per affidavit of registration 17 cents.

The Registrar's force could be materially lessened and the process of registration greatly simplified and made less expensive if the methods were changed and the carbon process adopted, the report summarizes.

Another avenue of saving it urges would be the adoption of the photographic process in recording documents and charging higher rentals for desk space on the part of the Recorder.

SHOULD SERVE PUBLIC

Another recommendation contained in the report is that the clerk of the Board of Supervisors should be less a messenger and office boy for the Board of Supervisors and more an agency for the benefit of the public.

"It is recommended that this office be established on the main floor of the City Hall and that it serve the public as an information bureau," the report says.

By the photographic process documents could be recorded, taking the present average number, for $5500 a year instead of $37,500, as it now costs for copyists.

Expenditures by the Board of Election Commissioners of the city in the last four fiscal years aggregate $1,061,545, or an average of $265,386 a year, the reports set forth.

A change in the registration law to make it necessary only for registration each four or five years, and the adoption of the carbon process, would reduce this cost almost $100,000 a year, the report holds. The elimination of the primary would cut it down still more, according to the report.

WOULD COMBINE OFFICES

The elimination of the office of clerk of the Board of Supervisors and its consolidation with the County Clerk, to make the position a joint one as "City and County Clerk," it is urged in the report, would be a matter of financial gain and an increase in efficiency.

This would have to be voted upon by the people, of course, the report states.

If this recommendation is not taken kindly, the alternative in the channel of efficiency in the office of Supervisors' clerk is to cut down the padded office force and leave many administrative matters of the city business to administrative departments.

In connection with the recommendations for the reduction of the cost of maintaining the Registrar's office the report says:

RESIDENCE REGISTRATION

"The suggestion has been made that the Registrar's office should send its men out into the field and register the voters at their place of residence. Such a plan is open to the objection that it would be impossible for any field visitation to secure a personal registration of each voter—at least not unless several visits were made in a large proportion of cases. Even though a visit were made to both residence and place of business, difficulty would nevertheless be experienced in obtaining personal registration of many, and if thoroughly done, it is believed that the difference in cost as compared with the present method would not justify the change.

"As an alternative, the modification of the present law so that re-registration would be required less frequently, should help to lower the cost materially. Many believe that re-registration every five years instead of every two years would be sufficient."

Farewell Dinner Given To Highway Engineer

A. E. Loder, for five years engineer for the San Francisco division of the State Highway Commission, was tendered a farewell dinner by the engineers and fellow workers of the San Francisco division at the Union League Club last night. Loder will leave this morning for Washington to take a position as assistant engineer in the United States Department of Highways. As a token of their good will Loder was presented with a handsome gold watch by the employes of the San Francisco division.

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