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CHAIRMAN ANSWERS REPEAL ADVOCATES

H. B. F. Macfarland of Joint Citizens' Committee Heard by Congressional Body.

SHOWS HALF-HALF PLAN NOT LEGISLATIVE FICTION

Contends It Has Been Proved That Basic Figures of George Report Were Incorrect.

Henry B. F. Macfarland, chairman of the joint citizens' committee, today took the stand to refute the arguments for the repeal of the half-and-half plan which have been submitted to the joint select committee of Congress investigating the fiscal relations between the United States and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Macfarland contended that the supporters of the half-and-half plan had shown beyond a doubt that the figures upon which the George report on taxation in the District were based were incorrect. He asserted that the whole agitation over District finances which has arisen in Congress the last three years was due, not to any failure on the part of the half-and-half plan, but to the findings of the George report, members of Congress having been told that the people of the District were grossly undertaxed. He said the citizens' committee had proved that the taxes paid by residents of the District were as heavy as those paid by residents of other American cities.

Mr. Macfarland's statement to the congressional committee was as follows:

Committee Is Representative.

"The joint citizens' committee is made up of delegates from the Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Citizens' Associations, Retail Merchants' Association, Bar Association, Committee of One Hundred, Builders and Manufacturers' Exchange, Northeast, Columbia Heights and Georgetown Citizens' associations, in each case delegated by appointment or election, according to the rules of the particular organization, and with full powers. They are the representative civic organizations, and their membership exceeds 5,000. They are public spirited and active in all civic and philanthropic enterprises.

"In turn the joint citizens' committee empowered and directed its executive committee to represent it before the joint select committee of Congrss, and to advocate the maintenance of the half-and-half plan in answer to the question of Congress as to what proportion of the District expenses should be borne respectively by the United States and the District of Columbia. No consideration was given to forms of government, or the suffrage, or the forms of taxation.

"It is significant that besides single taxers very few—less than a dozen—citizens have appeared in opposition to the half-and-half plan. It seems evident that the joint citizens' committee rightly represents its constituents, and, indeed, the community. A revolution in the fiscal affairs of a city, even if it is the capital, ought not to be made when so few people, all told, come to ask for it. Even the hospitable invitations of the committee did not bring half a dozen opponents of the half-and-half plan among those who responded.

Single Tax Law Repealed.

"As to the single taxers, whether officials or private citizens, I have only to say that, beginning with the Henry George, jr., report to the House in 1912, there seems to be a concerted effort on their part to abolish the half-and-half plan in the interest of their panacea. They frankly said in this hearing, however, through two of their number, that if the half-and-half plan was abolished without the adoption of their panacea, the effect would be 'oppressive' and "disastrous." Their most practical statement was that one city in the United States, even though a small one, namely, Pueblo, Col., was actually under the single tax system, and certainly the experiment ought not to be tried first on Washington. But Pueblo already is tired of the single tax, as in response to an inquiry I received the following telegram:

"'Pueblo, Col., November 6, 1915.

"'Henry B. F. Macfarland, Washington, D. C.:

"'Single tax law was repealed Tuesday by majority of 233 votes.

"'THOMAS A. DUKE,
"'President of Council.'

"Let me add that our policy has been since the committee was organized in March to furnish light without heat. We do not admit that there are hostile or diverse interests between the United States government and the District people. We claim that they are friends living together. We have made no personal attacks, here or elsewhere, on the men in Congress. Our criticisms are of measures, not men. We deny that the half-and-half plan, or any other thing, has brought about a state of war between Congress and the District people. Our protest has been against the George report and bills founded on its now disproved assumption, that if properly taxed the District people could pay all the District's expenses and so abandon the half-and-half plan.

Gives Cause of Alarm.

"Unwillingness to appropriate national money for District purposes under any plan and a desire to make the District people pay all the District expenses caused the alarm which defeated those measures and resulted in the appointment of this joint select committee to consider the proportion of expenses to be paid respectively by the United States and the District people.

"In destroying, as we have done, the foundation stone of the opposition to the half-and-half plan, namely, the assertion that in 1912 the real property in the District was worth $744,000,000, we have destroyed the only real reason for a change.

"We have shown by the assessment comparison with sales for five years that the present assessment is about 75 per cent, and compared with present prices nearer three-fourths than two-thirds. At 75 per cent it would show a true value of $533,000,000, three years after the false estimate of 1912. We have shown that the assessment is excessive as compared with other cities, and that our total per capita tax levied is higher than in most American cities. We have therefore shown that we are now bearing a reasonable burden of taxation, and all we can properly carry. Besides, we pay more than the average in national taxes.

"Reviewing the hearings, we observe that all the measures suggested in substitute for the half-and-half plan, except perhaps the single tax, were proposed and fully considered between 1874 and 1878, when the organic act was in process of evolution. No new reasons have been given, nor have changed conditions been shown, to justify the adoption of any substitute. On the contrary, the reasons given in 1878 for the adoption of the half-and-half plan are as strong now as ever.

Argument "Unanswerable."

"Mr. Blackburn's opinions always are entitled to respect, but their strength depends on their reasons and not on his name. He gave reasons in 1878 for the adoption of the half-and-half plan which are as appropriate today as then, and he stood by them before this joint select committee, adding that if a fixed proportion was to be maintained the United States share should be increased to 65 per cent. He cited no changed condition, except that the government had acquired more land, although in 1878 it owned a larger proportion of the then city than it does of the presen city. The emphatic and convincing argument he made as the responsible chairman of the House District committee in charge of the bill in 1878 against leaving the capital and the District taxpayers to the whim and caprice of each recurring session of Congress, and in favor of a fixed proportion in the contribution to the expenses, is unanswerable.

"It is claimed by the civil Commissioners that the half-and-half plan is 'a legislative fiction,' and has long since been practically abandoned by Congress, although they grant that it had a psychological effect in producing the habit of annual appropriations based upon the wants of the people of the District of Columbia, so that 'we now have an orderly budget; we now have an annual scheme of appropriations.' This seems to me a valuable result of a legislative fiction. Indeed, it suggests that the legislative fiction ought to be continued, and that there is nothing in the claim that it is obnoxious to Congress as a whole. Of course, if that charge were well founded, Congress would have repealed the half-and-half law instead of defeating every attempt to do so, including those in the last session of the last Congress.

Cites Action of Congress.

"But the best answer to the claim that the half-and-half principle is nothing but a legal fiction is the very practical one of the actual action of Congress up to the present fiscal year under that principle.

"I ask your special attention to the table prepared at my request by the auditor of the District of Columbia, giving the total of all the appropriations for District expenses from 1878 to June 30, 1915.

"It shows that the total appropriations payable half and half from the District and national revenues, respectively, from 1878 to 1915, are $270,074,457.24, of which the United States paid half and the District half, and that in addition the District of Columbia paid from its revenues $5,947,160.89 under appropriations and appropriation charges, and $920,746.31 in refunding erroneously collected taxes, etc., which, of course, being merely a refund of revenue collections, is properly chargeable to the District of Columbia. Out of a total appropriation, therefore, of $276,021,618.13 for the thirty-seven years, only $5,947,160.89 was made wholly out of District of Columbia revenues, a very small percentage in so large a total amount.

"Even these slight deviations from the half-and-half plan ought not to have been made, but they were comparatively slight. They are no arguments for repeal. The regular annual practice was to appropriate literally half and half (except as to the self-sustaining water distribution service), and this has been maintained right down to the present fiscal year.

Fiction Theory Not Supported.

"The actual facts do not support the theory that the half-and-half plan has been a legislative fiction. The table presented by Commissioner Brownlow showing appropriations for the period 1900 to 1914 illustrates just as strikingly the insistence of Congress upon the observance of the half-and-half plan imposed by it upon itself and the District taxpayers. This table has apparently not been fully understood by the members of the joint select committee, who have thought it showed departures from the half-and-half plan instead of fidelity to the half-and-half plan. If they will examine the table they will see that with the exception of the small percentage of appropriations wholly from District of Columbia revenues made every year since 1891, the differences between the payments by the United States and payments by the District brought out especially in the relative percentages are due to the temporary advances from the United States to the District of Columbia in the early part of the period, and their repayment by the District of Columbia to the United States in the latter part of the period. That was the period when over $18,000,000 was spent in extraordinary municipal improvements, including the filtration plant, the sewage disposal system, the District government building, the Connecticut Avenue bridge and other important public work.

"The District current revenues would not provide the District's one-half of these expenses, so that Congress arranged that the United States Treasury should advance from year to year the amounts required by the District to make up its one-half, which, however, were to be repaid, and were repaid within the period, with 2 per cent interest.

$4,436,785.90 Was Advanced.

"The actual amount advanced was $4,436,785.90, and, with the interest, was repaid by the end of 1914, the total amount, with interest, being $4,971,830.98. In the years when the advances were being made the United States relative percentage of payments was larger than that of the District of Columbia. In the years when the advances were being repaid the District of Columbia percentage of payment was larger than that of the United States.

"In one year, 1914, the District was required to reimburse the United States, on a restatement of an old account, for patients at the Government Hospital for the Insane, the payments being wholly from District revenues. Yet, taking the whole period, 1900 to 1914, so carefully did Congress arrange for the observance of the half-and-half plan that, as shown by the table, the relative percentage of the District of Columbia and United States primary payments was: District of Columbia, 51.20 per cent, and United States, 48.80 per cent, which is only 1.20 percentage difference. In other words, the table conclusively shows that, far from being a legislative fiction, the half-and-half plan has been the rule of action of Congress as to all regular appropriations, with slight exceptions for special reasons, as, for example, the largest item of all, which is for the purchase of land for street extensions, selection of these special objects to be paid for only out of District revenues is arbitrary, and has nothing to do with the half-and-half plan.

Account With the District.

"Much has been made in support of the legislative fiction theory of the fact that there is no general account in the Treasury Department between the United States and the District of Columbia as to the revenues of the District of Columbia, and that the controller of the Treasury in 1908 decided that no such account should be opened. It is admitted, however, that there is what is called a personal account between the United States and the District of Columbia.

"It is certain that the revenues of the District of Columbia, when deposited as required by the organic act of 1878 in the Treasury Department, physically mixed with the general funds of the United States, are kept separately under the general head of miscellaneous receipts, and with the disbursements from them accounted for and reported to Congress annually by the Secretary of the Treasury. They are not and cannot be used for national purposes, being raised and, as the controller of the Treasury says in his opinion, held, for purposes of the District of Columbia under appropriations by Congress. Moreover, the act of Congress (25 Statutes, p. 808) provides 'Balances of appropriations remaining at the end of two years from the close of the fiscal year shall be covered into the Treasury to the credit of the United States and District of Columbia equally.'

"Whatever the bookkeeping of the Treasury Department may be, there is no doubt of the view taken by Congress, which is supreme. In every appropriation act for the District of Columbia made since 1878 the moneys raised by taxation for local purposes are called revenues of the District of Columbia.

Revenues Treated as Such.

"The actual legislation of Congress requires that the revenues of the District of Columbia shall be treated as such in the Treasury Department, and, as a matter of fact, that has been done. The appropriations of Congress have been paid out of the revenues of the District of Columbia and out of the national revenues. Moreover, the Treasury Department has properly ear-marked and accounted for trust funds of the District of Columbia deposited in the Treasury, as required by law—for example, deposits by citizens for assessments and permit work. It would have been impossible for the auditor of the District of Columbia and the auditor for the State and other departments to make annual statements required of them in the period between 1901 and 1914 as to the advances made by the United States Treasury to the District of Columbia for extraordinary improvements in order to calculate the interest at 2 per cent paid by the District of Columbia to the United States, if account had not been kept.

"It is obvious that the annual appropriations out of District revenues could not be accounted for at the Treasury Department unless the District revenues themselves were accounted for. As late as January 12, 1914, the House of Representatives, on the recommendation of its well informed appropriations committee, took action which indicated that it did not regard the revenues of the District of Columbia as having been miscellaneous receipts. It passed on that day the District appropriation act containing a section numbered eight, providing that the District revenues for the next fiscal year not appropriated should be covered into the United States Treasury 'to the credit of miscellaneous receipts.' The Senate struck out this section 8 on the recommendation of its appropriations committee, which did not think the action should be taken. The House abandoned it. Undoubtedly, the view of Congress was that the District revenues were not to be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

Advances Always Reimbursed.

"The advances made in each fiscal year by the United States Treasury until the taxes are collected are always strictly reimbursed from those taxes when they come in. The account for the whole fiscal year is settled on the basis that the District of Columbia revenues shall reimburse the United States Treasury for such advances within the year, the primary unit of Treasury accounting.

"The real importance of this matter is seen when we consider the proposed adoption of the Morrill plan of appropriations, now revived by the civil commissioners and others. It is said that the amount of the yield of taxes for local purposes would be ignored. But how could this be? It must be recorded; it must be accounted for; it must be known. It must be reported by the Secretary of the Treasury to Congress. In particular it must be known to the appropriations committees, and it is certain to be made known by them to the two houses of Congress in justification of their action in making appropriations for the local expenses. Simply saying at the opening of the bill that the money for the District is appropriated out of the United States Treasury will not suffice. Appropriations committees will have to anticipate the inevitable question, how much do the District taxpayers contribute?

Results of Morrill Plan.

"Let us examine the actual working of the Morrill plan, if it should be adopted. First, estimates would have to be submitted by the District Commissioners as at present. Can any one believe that the District Commissioners would ignore the District revenues in making those estimates? It is certain that, practically, they would consider them just as they consider them now. They might add much more than the amount of the revenues to their estimates, especially if the limitation in the act of March 3, 1909, were repealed, as it should be. But the basis of the estimates would not be the money in the national Treasury, but the money expected from the District revenues. Even if the Commissioners could and should ignore the amount of the District revenues, is it not certain that the appropriations committees would take them into account? They would surely do so.

"I can speak with more than usual knowledge of what Commissioner Newman has called the appropriating habits of Congress, because for ten years, from 1900 to 1910, I presented the District estimates, as president of the board of Commissioners, to the appropriations committees of the two houses. Let me say that my personal and official relations were of the most agreeable character and that I have the highest appreciation of what was done for the capital by those committees. It was the period of large appropriations for municipal improvements, and I had every reason to be grateful for the action taken upon the estimates I submitted. At the same time, I saw the natural desire of all appropriations committees, proper in their function as watchdogs of the Treasury, to keep down the total appropriations, so that there might not be in those days 'a billion-dollar Congress.'

Decided on Their Merits.

"I want to say most emphatically that the half-and-half plan never interfered with the appropriations in my time. They were decided on their merits, regardless of the half-and-half plan, and it did not interfere with appropriations. That is the testimony of all the living Commissioners before this committee, except those of the present administration. The desire for what is called economy, or the adverse opinion as to a particular estimate, prevented us from getting all that ought to have been spent wisely and economically. This was particularly true of the items for current expenditures during the period of the extraordinary improvements and the repayment too rapidly of the government advances on account of the District's one-half of the cost of the extraordinary improvements. The municipal services generally suffered in not getting the gradual growth equal to the growth in the population and needs, so that there are large arrears to be brought up in all the different departments of the District-work.

"I can imagine myself presenting estimates under the Morrill plan to an appropriations committee, and I know that the first question would be, how much money will the District taxes yield for the next fiscal year? I know equally well that throughout the entire list of estimates, and in the final total, the equally important question would be, not how much can we take from the national Treasury, but how little can we take from the national Treasury? This would be most natural in view of all the demands from national departments of the government, none of them hampered by any limitation upon the amount of their estimates. It would be especially true in the case of a bill for the expenses of the District of Columbia which began with the statement that the appropriation was to be entirely out of the national Treasury.

Would Have to Explain.

"This statement in the bill would practically compel the appropriations committee to explain to the House, many of whose members would not understand the matter at all, especially those who were new, that the appropriations were primarily of District tax money, the amount of which they would disclose in self-defense against those critics who would want as little as possible taken from the national Treasury for District purposes, or who would want the District people to bear the whole burden.

"There being no fixed rule of proportion between the United States and the District of Columbia, the amount from the national Treasury would vary with each session of Congress. The estimates would be cut in the House, and somewhat restored in the Senate, according to the practice, and finally in the conference report adopted by the two houses would be the compromise. At every step of the way, in the House committee, in the House, in the Senate committee, in the Senate, in the conference committee, and in both houses again, the amount of the District revenues would inevitably figure. Equally true, every step of the way the amount from the national Treasury would be kept down as much as possible. As practical men, if we have any knowledge of the appropriating habits of Congress, we must agree that this would be the case.

"Assuming that all the members of this joint select committee of Congress are in favor of having the United States contribute at least one-half of the expenses of the District of Columbia, and assuming that they will be all elected to Congress for the next twenty-five years, and assuming that they would have entire control of the appropriations for the District of Columbia for the next twenty-five years, they might be able to give an assurance, if the Morrill plan should be adopted, that would be equal to the guarantee of the half-and-half law, and that would insure permanence in the fiscal relations and orderly progress in the development of the capital. But as it is, neither they nor any one else can give such assurance.

Criticises Brownlow Suggestion.

"Commissioner Brownlow suggests that the revolutionary change proposed could be accomplished by simply changing the language in the first paragraph of the District appropriation bill for the next fiscal year so as to make it read that the amounts appropriated shall be taken from any money in the national Treasury not otherwise appropriated. This would make the whole fiscal relations depend upon annual legislation. Even, however, if by a new organic act Congress should make what is called a declaration that hereafter the District people should pay reasonable taxes, which should be covered into the United States Treasury, and the United States, without regard to such taxes, should appropriate whatever was necessary from the national Treasury, this would not pledge the United States to necessarily appropriate a single dollar beyond the revenues of the District of Columbia, any more than it would prevent an increase in taxation yielding those revenues.

"'All the rest,' or 'whatever is necessary,' are so elastic and indefinite as to be in sharp contrast with the definite rule of the half-and-half law, which has furnished in practice an automatic rule of appropriations. Practically, of course, 'all the rest' would be whatever the appropriations committees chose to spare from the national revenues, be it much or little or none at all in a particular year. Even their recommendation might not prevent one or other house from cutting out all exceeding the amount of the District revenues. At the best the operation of the indefinite plan would be absolutely uncertain from year to year. At the worst, it would be disastrous to the progress of the capital.

Defeat of Morrill Plan.

"This is why Congress did not adopt the Morrill plan, after considering it for four years in the evolution of the act of 1878. This is why it has defeated every attempt to repeal the half-and-half law. This is why those who wish to put the whole burden on the District people have advocated such a repeal. This is why those who desire to see the progress of the capital continue should oppose the indefinite plan. That many of its advocates support it because they think it will bring more rather than less from the national Treasury to the development of the National Capital does not offset the fact that it is supported by others for the purpose of decreasing to the vanishing point the appropriations from the national revenues.

"The indefinite plan seems a beautiful rainbow. But we should not be chasing rainbows.

"Abolishing the half-and-half plan, and then seeking to protect the District people from excessive taxation by a fixed rate and a fixed ratio of assessment on real estate, ignores the obvious fact that there are many other forms of taxation by which as much more could be exacted as by any tax on real property. Even if Congress did not raise the rate or increase the ratio of assessment on real property, as it might do, it could at any session of Congress easily increase the tax yield by adding other taxes.

Should Follow 'Half-and-Half' Plan.

"We should carry out the half-and-half plan not only in principle, as has been done, but literally, as provided for in the organic act. Estimates should be made and considered without regard to revenues and to the extent approved by Congress; they should be provided for by levying not more than one-half in taxes, while the remainder should be appropriated out of the national Treasury. The assessment should be annual and would increase with the population, but, if the half and half is continued, the tax rate should be flexible and fixed every year to produce the necessary levy, 'not exceeding,' as the act of 1878 said, $1.50 on the $100 of real and personal property. The maximum should be $1 if full valuation is provided. The proviso in the act of March 3, 1909, prohibiting the Commissioners from submitting estimates for appropriations for more than twice the estimated revenues of the District of Columbia should be repealed. The Commissioners would then be free, as before, to recommend all the needs of the District. Under the present system and under any system Congress can appropriate as much more than its one-half as it chooses for the embellishment of the National Capital and its own convenience.

"Forms of taxation and amounts of taxation are for future consideration.

"In no event should a dollar more than is necessary to provide the local share of the expenses be required.

Washington More Highly Assessed.

"We have demonstrated by the census bureau tables and the facts collected by our own committee that as to real property Washington is more highly assessed than most other cities, and as to taxation generally compares favorably with any city that is properly comparable, and pays more per capita than most American cities.

"According to present prices, as shown by sales and otherwise, the percentage of assessment is nearer three-fourths than two-thirds, and in many cases over 100 per cent. There is no need for additional taxation here, but rather for relief in the case of many home owners.

"Only now, fortunately, when this committee is holding a general assize on the question of the fiscal relations, has the so-called surplus of District revenues caused by a lack of adequate appropriations, as well as by a rising assessment and fixed rate, become acute. It can be readily settled by adopting the method used everywhere else, and which therefore cannot be impracticable, which was also the method of the organic act—a levy of taxes for one-half of the appropriation after they are made.

Primary Obligation on United States

"We assert as heartily as any one that the primary obligation is on the United States; that this is emphatically the nation's city; that it is under absolute national control, and that responsibility goes with control; yet that it is at once the seat of the government and the home of 350,000 Americans; that it is practically impossible to unweave their respective interests in the municipal facilities and services; that it is practically impossible to determine exactly the relative amount of their real property holdings. Yet that it is necessary to consider their respective benefits, and also the important factor of a large amount of exempt property.

"But we cannot agree with the civil Commissioners that the half-and-half provision of the act of June 11, 1878, is not the efficient cause of the progress of the capital any more than it is a legislative fiction. We cannot agree that the Morrill plan is any more practical now than when it was first suggested, in 1874, and failed to command the support of Congress, which preferred the definite proportion of the half-and-half plan.

"It is said that it was the assumption of full national control in the act of 1878 which produced the Washington of today. But there was full national control between 1874 and 1878, if not during the seventy-four years preceding. Can any one seriously suppose that if Congress had adopted the Morrill plan, had made no definite provision for paying a fixed proportion of the District expenses, had taxed the people of the District fully, and added from the tional Treasury, under the steady obpriations, the progress made could have been achieved? Did not the expenditure of $135,000,000 from the national Treasury, under the steady observance of the half-and-half plan, as a rule of appropriation, with a somewhat larger contribution from the District taxpayers, and not any assumption of national control make the capital what it is?

Plan Is Not Practical.

"There was a reason, of course, why the Morrill plan was not adopted, and it is the reason why it should not be adopted now, and that is that it could not be worked practically so as to produce the same result as the half-and-half plan. The statesmen of forty years ago saw this. They saw the plan to be theoretical and not practical for its avowed purpose, since it left not only the taxpayers but the capital itself to the whim and caprice of each recurring session of Congress, to use again the apt words of Representative Blackburn of Kentucky in supporting the half-and-half plan of 1878.

"There were intimations in the statements of the civil Commissioners that if the Morrill plan were adopted they would not expect Congress to increase its appropriation of federal money, but rather that so-called surpluses of District revenues made by not appropriating all that is required for the District needs under the half-and-half plan could and would be utilized to increase the contribution of the District people to the capital of the country. It was intimated that for extraordinary improvements, or other needs calling for large appropriations, District of Columbia bonds might be issued, even though this is not a commercial and financial city, able to bear such a burden, and though, in view of the national government's control and responsibility, Congress has discouraged all suggestions for the issuance of municipal bonds, even to meet the District's one-half of extraordinary expenses, preferring, if necessary, to make advances from the national Treasury at 2 per cent interest. When the advocates of the Morrill plan dwell upon the unwillingness of some members of Congress to appropriate from the national Treasury for the District's expenses even one-half, and when they predict nothing further than has been predicted, is there not cause for the apprehension which has been so commonly felt since the attack on the half-and-half plan began in 1912-1913? Is it not just to say that either the progress of the capital will be retarded or the tax burden of the people will be increased? A member who objects to paying half of the expenses of the car tickets for the policemen and firemen will equally object to paying any part of them out of the national Treasury.

Local People Are Protected.

"Under the act of June 11, 1878, the United States is not limited to the payment of one-half of the expenses. It may pay as much more as it pleases. But the local people are protected from undue increase in taxation on one hand and from lack of progress in the development of the city on the other by the provision that they shall not pay more than one-half.

"To provide for what ought to be done will require the District taxpayers to pay full taxes, and yet they will be within the one-half of the appropriation that ought to be made. Standing as we do at the golden mean between the extremes of those who would have the nation pay all or the District people pay all, we urge that as a permanent, systematic method the present arrangement, a practical one as between two friendly interests, like tenants in common, be continued. It was the practical work of practical American statesmen, dealing not in ideals but in practicable legislation. Our single-tax friends have admitted that to abolish the half-and-half plan without adopting their particular form of taxation would be 'oppressive' and 'disastrous.' We think that this would be the result in any event."

Gen. W. H. H. Beadle Dies.

SAN FRANCISCO, November 15.—Brig. Gen. William Henry Harrison Beadle of Madison, S. D., has died at the age of seventy-seven after a short illness. Gen. Beadle was a leader in the movement in several mid-western states to conserve school lands. He was here on a visit.

DR. CHARLES A. FOX DEAD.

Fought in Civil War as Member of Mosby's Brigade.

Dr. Charles A. Fox, seventy-two years old, veteran of the civil war under Col. Mosby, and well known physician of Beltsville, Md., died Saturday night at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. E. Barron, 1025 Lamont street northwest.

Dr. Fox had been suffering from a severe cold and determined to spend a few days with his daughter in an attempt to recuperate. He was playing cards at the home with his daughter and other members of the family when he suddenly fell back in his chair and died before aid could be summoned.

The body was taken to Beltsville this morning. Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at St. John's Episcopal Church at Beltsville.

Dr. Fox was born in Virginia and removed to Beltsville about fifty years ago, where he began the practice of his profession. He continued to visit his patients until a fortnight ago. He was for a number of years a member of the democratic state central committee for Prince Georges county. He was offered the nomination for Congress several times, it is said.

SERIES OF RALLIES.

Sons of Jonadab Council Inaugurates System of Entertainment.

The Independent Order, Sons of Jonadab, inaugurated a series of rallies at John C. Daley Council, No. 3, Saturday evening. Wayne W. Cordell spoke on "Contentment." Other addresses were made by Grand Secretary E. W. Sanderson, Grand Vice Chief Joseph D. Buckley, Mark Reiley, William J. Haner, John Mangan, W. W. Smith, Henry Sengstack, William Nau, Philip Weber, T. T. Hurdle, F. W. Scott, John McMahon, Patrick Niland, James F. Peake and others.

The next rally is to take place tomorrow evening in Unity Council. Father Hannan will deliver the address at the final church rally service in his church November 28.

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