

ABSORBED THE ST. LANDRY COMMONER ON JULY 2, 1912.

"Here Shall The Press The People's Rights Maintain, Unawed by Influence and Unbribed by Calm."

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OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1912.

\$1 PER YEAR

YOU CAN'T GET AROUND THE ABSOLUTE FACTS

Statement Made By Assessor Fontenot, and Verified by Two Accountants.

The Clarion last week promised to give facts and figures contradicting Mr. Edgar H. Farrar's statement that the several tax amendments, to be voted next Tuesday, would benefit the parishes.

And there are the figures, as compiled by the Assessor of the parish of St. Landry, his chief deputy, verified by two expert accountants, showing that the parish will lose \$17,280.80 if the segregation act is carried:

Total Assessment of St. Landry, \$7,645,060.00.

Parish Revenue based on present 9 mill tax on total assessment, \$68,805.54.

Amount of Assessment proposed to be segregated for State, \$1,840,520.00.

Balance of Assessment left to Parish, if no deductions made under other amendments, \$5,804,540.00.

Apparent revenue of Parish from the assessed valuation left to it, based on combination of present 9 mill parish and 5 mill State tax, total 14 mills, on \$5,804,540, \$81,263.56.

Conditional gain in revenue of parish, provided Tax Amendment stood alone without companion catch amendment, allowing withdrawal from parish taxation of Town assessments, \$12,458.02.

Amount to be withdrawn from parish assessment when Towns exert their privilege of withdrawal, \$2,650,000.00.

Loss in apparent revenue of parish by withdrawal of Town assessments by companion catch amendment, 14 mills on \$2,650,000.00, \$37,100.00.

Possible reduction of this loss by returns by towns of 5 mills on for Criminal expenses, \$13,250.

Net reduction in apparent revenue of parish under proposed amendment allowing towns to segregate under companion amendment, after crediting 5 mill criminal tax returned by towns to parish, \$23,850.00.

Revenue left to parish under proposed amendment, after deducting from apparent revenue of \$81,263.56 the net loss of \$23,850.00 due to segregating of towns under companion amendment, \$57,413.56.

Loss to parish, difference between present revenue of \$68,805.54 and \$57,413.56, \$11,391.98.

Additional loss to parish, by deductions from parish assessment of improvements the exemption of which is allowed under companion amendment, 14 mills on improvements aggregating \$420,630.00 value, \$5,888.82.

Total loss to parish if tax amendment and its more popular companion catch amendments allowing town segregation and exemption of improvements are carried, \$17,280.80

Taxing the Farmer.

Now and then some Republican standpatter undertakes to tell the farmer of this country how the tariff helps him. Sometimes he succeeds in convincing the farmer that he gets a small part of the tariff graft, but he never tells the farmer that for every cent of tariff rake-off he receives he pays to more favored pursuits more than twice as much as a tariff tax.

Let us take, for example the farmer's plow horse. The animal is taxed from his ears to his tail and the farmer pays the tax. Here are some items under the present tariff:

and so are his children from the baby up. Here is what the present tariff law forces the farmer himself to pay in tariff taxes:

Articles—	Payne Bill Per Cent.
Hat of fur	47 to 186
Hat of straw	38
Hat of wool	35 to 100
Leather gloves	60
Sheep gloves	39 to 81
Kid gloves	30 to 81
Shirt, cotton	50 to 64
Drawers, cotton	50 to 64
Stockings, cotton	30
Stockings, selvedged	50 to 65
Coat	40 to 75
Coat, wool	65 to 94
Ready-made coat	50 to 80
Ready-made clothing	45 to 82
Collar buttons	50
Studs	50
Neckties	50
Diamonds	Free
Pearls	Free
Shoes	25
Bone buttons	50 to 107
Horn buttons	68 to 83
Ivory buttons	50
Pearl buttons	57 to 112

BIG SALE OF FORD CARS.

One car-load received, and four more car-loads coming.

One car-load of Ford automobiles was received and delivered this week, by Dossmann & Borden, local agents, and four more car-loads are expected soon.

It is said that the Ford car is particularly adapted to this country. It is light running, is superb hill-climber, and can go through mud like a snipe.

CATHOLICS OPPOSE INHERITANCE PLAN.

Calling upon the Catholic clergy of Louisiana to use every influence at their command to defeat the proposed inheritance tax amendment, a feature of the general tax revision scheme, Archbishop James H. Blenk and Bishop Cornelius Van De Ven, of Alexandria, issued a circular letter which was read at all masses in Catholic churches Sunday and again on next Sunday. The letter follows:

Archbishop's House, New Orleans.

Oct. 24, 1912.

Rev. Dear Father—Our present inheritance tax law does not concern itself at all with donations inter vivos. It deals exclusively with inheritances and legacies or donations mortis causa.

And it provides that the inheritance tax shall not be imposed on any legacy or donation mortis causa in favor of an educational, religious or charitable institution.

The proposed tax amendment contemplates a new inheritance tax law, leveled at all donations inter vivos, generally; and which will also strike at donations inter vivos, and legacies to educational, religious or charitable institutions or to trustees to educational, religious or charitable purposes, where such donations inter vivos or legacies amount to more than half of the disposable portion of the donor's or testator's estate. And in that case, the tax shall be imposed, not upon the excess only, but upon the entire donation or legacy; and the donees or legatees shall be considered to be within the third class (of beneficiaries) established by the proposed tax amendment; that is to say, those who must pay not more than 3 3/4 per cent, and who may be called upon to pay as much as 16 per cent—as the Legislature will decide.

Thus, under the present law, all donations, by the living or by the dead, to educational, religious or charitable institutions or for educational, religious or charitable purposes, are exempt from any tax. The law encourages such donations, as being to the highest credit of the donors or testators, and to the greatest advantage of the people.

The proposed new inheritance law, on the contrary, discourages public spirit, benevolence, piety and charity.

Why an inheritance tax should be levied on donations inter vivos (between the living) it is difficult to understand. This provision in the tax amendment is an absurdity in terms, for a donation during life can never be aptly called an inheritance.

It is bad enough that donations, generally, should be taxed. But it is most deplorable, from every standpoint, that donations and legacies for educational, religious or charitable purposes should be subjected to the payment of a tax, when the donor or testator has been, in the opinion of the legislator, too generous or too charitable. It is a short-sighted and mischievous policy.

This question is one of the greatest moment to every university or college, to every church or religious establishment, of any denomination, and to every asylum or charitable institution. Every friend of religion, every friend of the poor should vote against such a law. You will, therefore, use all the influence at your command to avert from our beloved State a disaster of such magnitude as the adoption of this inheritance tax law would certainly inflict on interests that are among the most useful, lofty and sacred in any State or nation.

With blessings on yourself and your respective flocks, we are, faithfully in Christ,
JAMES H. BLENK, S. M.,
 Archbishop of New Orleans.
CORNELIUS VAN DE VEN,
 Bishop of Alexandria.

Postmaster Lassalle Re-elected.

Postmaster Lassalle is back from the Convention of Presidential Postmasters, and reports a successful meeting, although the attendance was not as large as had been anticipated. New Orleans was selected as the next meeting place.

The following officers were elected: J. T. Charnley, Alexandria, President; Hon. T. Wakefield, Lake Charles, Vice President; G. L. Lassalle, Opelousas, Secretary; Treasurer (re-elected),

THIS IS AN AMENDMENT THAT IS A REAL GOOD ONE

Reasons Why Article 291 of the Constitution Should be Amended as Proposed by Act No. 236 of 1912, to be Voted Upon as Amendment No. 14.

The provisions of Article 232 of the Constitution of 1898, allowing special taxes when voted for by the people over and above the ten mill limitation without regard to rate of the term of years, do not include special taxes for the construction, repairs, and maintenance of Public Roads and Bridges.

The provisions of Article 281 of that Constitution authorizing parishes, municipal corporations, etc., to incur debt and issue negotiable bonds therefor, limit the special taxes for that purpose to ten mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation of the property in such subdivisions. The provision of this article authorizing the issuance of bonds for improving and maintaining public roads and high-ways, refers only, in that respect, to Parishes; and does not authorize the Municipalities to levy special taxes and issue bonds for that purpose.

Under article 291 of the Constitution special taxes for roads and bridges, when voted for by the people, can be levied only for five years and at a rate not to exceed five mills and the tax can not be bonded.

If the proposed amendment is adopted the parishes may levy special taxes for those purposes, for any number of years and at whatever rate, when voted for by the property tax payers of said parishes, and without the necessity of issuing any bonds, as allowed under Article 532; and the municipalities, whether exempt or not from parish taxation shall have the same power when authorized to do so by a vote of the property tax-payers, and the money applied for these purposes notwithstanding the fact that the public roads and bridges are outside of the municipal limits, or, levy special taxes within the ten mill limitation, and incur debt and issue negotiable bonds as allowed by Article No. 281.

Under the present constitution the parishes cannot levy special taxes for roads and bridges at a higher rate than five mills and for a longer term than five years; and the municipalities, whether exempt or not, cannot levy any special tax, or incur debt and issue negotiable bonds, for the construction, repair and maintenance of public roads and bridges outside their limits even should the property tax-payers desire to do so.

Exempting Homes from Taxation.

Some of the voters of State are laboring under delusion relative to the amendment proposing that homes up to the value of \$2000 shall be exempted from taxation. This exemption does not apply to the real estate, outbuildings, farm implement, stock or any other kind of property subject to taxation owned by the taxpayer. It applies solely and absolutely to the "Naked" building owned and occupied as a home by the taxpayer. There are very few "naked" buildings owned and occupied as homes, outside of the larger towns and cities assessed at \$2000. It is more than probable that the difference between the value of the real estate and the building occupied as a home will be added to the real estate, so the owner probably will have to pay practically the same amount of taxes as heretofore.

THE JUDGESHIP AMENDMENT.

We write you at the request of the members of the Bar of the Fifteenth Judicial District of the State of Louisiana, and in the interest of the citizens of Calcasieu, Cameron, Beauregard, Allen and Jefferson Davis Parishes composing said district.

As you are no doubt aware, a Constitutional Amendment will be submitted to the people of the State of Louisiana at the General Election in November, A. D. 1912, proposing the creation of an additional Judgeship for this District.

We wish to briefly call your attention to the facts rendering such an amendment absolutely necessary, and earnestly solicit your vote and support in favor of same.

You will note that the district as now constituted is composed of five parishes. Before the creation of the three new parishes of Beauregard, Allen and Jefferson Davis, the District, composed of only two parishes, Calcasieu and Cameron, furnished a volume of business for the Court, equaled only by the Parish of Orleans, and notwithstanding the untiring efforts of our District Judge and his devotion to duty, both the Civil and Criminal dockets were crowded almost to congestion, and it therefore requires no great flight of imagination to conceive what will be the condition if three new parishes are added to the district, with the inevitable increase in the volume of litigation and with but one Judge, now over-worked, to preside over the Courts.

We give you, as an illustration of the volume of business disposed of by the Court, in the Parish of Calcasieu alone during the last Judicial year.

During that time the Court disposed of an average of five cases for each legal day.

What would be the condition with but one Judge for five parishes; traveling over a vast territory, larger than the State of Rhode Island, empanelling nine grand juries, holding preliminary trials in five different parish seats as well as attending to other numerous duties incumbent under our jurisprudence?

This District comprises more square miles; a greater population; includes a greater assessed valuation and transacts more business than any district in the State, outside of the Parish of Orleans, or possibly the Parish of Caddo, which, however, has two judges.

The vastness of the territory and time taken up in travelling over the district would render it impossible for one judge to accomplish all of the objects of the law.

The salary of an additional judge would be more than offset by the reduction of costs attendant upon delayed terms of Court, the care of prisoners awaiting trial, etc.

The amendment will appear on the ticket as Amendment to Art. 109 of the Constitution, and we confidently await its final adoption. Kindly ask your friends to support the measure.

We realize and fully appreciate the growing opposition to the creation of new offices, but we wish to go on record as saying that the creation of this office is absolutely necessary to the proper conduct of the Judicial business of this District, not only because of present conditions but because of the inevitable increase in the volume of litigation which will result from the creation of the three additional District Courts.

Thanking you in advance for your support of this measure, we are,

Yours truly,
A. R. MITCHELL,
 Chairman

GRAND JURY THREATENS A SPECIAL SESSION

Intimates That Law is Being Violated in Many Instances, and Calls Upon Officers to Act.

The Grand Jury, upon adjournment on Oct. 18, submitted a final report, which, while not specific, insinuates that public officers should be more diligent in the enforcement of the law.

Its final report, as well as the indictments follow:

FINAL REPORT:
 "Your Grand Jury beg leave to make this its final report. We have made due inquiry in all such matters as have been presented to us for investigation and hope that our labor may be productive of much good.

We desire to request the various officers throughout the parish, police officers in the various wards, and deputy sheriffs generally and the law abiding citizens throughout the parish to lend us their assistance in enforcing the various statutes, more especially the Sunday law; the prohibiting sale of fire arms, liquor, etc., to minors; the law prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons; and the law prohibiting the sale of liquor to white and blacks under the same roof. We intend to make the investigation of these the subject matter of a special session of this body, and believe that with the co-operation of the law abiding citizens and the various peace officers throughout the parish, we can bring about a rigid enforcement of the statutes, the violation of which so frequently lead to the violation of more serious offenses. An inquiry into the violation of the Sunday law will not be limited to violations by saloons alone, but will include an investigation of the violation of this statute by retail merchants, drug stores that carry on a notion business, and fruit stands and baker shops that carry on the business of retail grocers.

Having completed our present labors, we beg leave to be now discharged.

J. A. GUIDROZ,
 Foreman Grand Jury.
C. F. BAILEY,
 Day Clerk.
TRUE AND NOT TRUE BILLS:
TRUE BILLS.
 Gilbert Handy, murder.
 Jule Antoine, murder.
 Bitre Souchon, slander.
 Chas. Guidry and P. G. Lemelle, selling liquor to minors.
 Remy Wallior and Sam Corti, selling liquor to minors.
 Neclisse Augustin and Elodie Augustin and Lama Honore, petty larceny.

Epworth Sociable.

A delightful social entertainment was given by the Epworth League, on last Saturday evening, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. "Ted" Dunbar. Various games were played and delicious fruit punch and cake were served.

The League members present were: Misses Pearl Evans, Etta Obier, Mattie and Wardie Kelley, Linda and Ollie Durio, Thelma Guidry, Mollie Lewis, Helen and Mary Alice Porter, Gertrude Sanders and Messrs. Prentiss and Hampton Obier, Campbell Jones Ira Guidry and Frank Pulford.

The following guests of the league were also present and enjoyed the pleasures of the evening: Rev. and Mrs. G. A. Morgan, Mrs. Wm. Evans, Misses Edna May Conrad, Katie Dunbar, Lena Marine, Florence Kelley, Hazel and Maud Hinton, Hattie Kleiser; Messrs. Sam Hardie, Charlie Wolf, Edward Hinton, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Bodemuller and little daughter, Lily Bell.

Jacques Bellot, petty larceny.
 Martial Wilfrey and Elliot Wilfrey, wounding less than maiming.

Martial Fontenot, Archille Dupre and Natal Dupre, murder.
 Arthur Roy, burglary.
 Albert Moore, larceny.

Gus Bazille, attempt at arson.
 Dovid Doyle, Frank Doyle, Cleff Doyle and Gus Bazille, charging them with carrying concealed weapons and disturbing a peaceful assembly.

Frank Doyle and Charlie Davis, carrying concealed weapons.
 Frank Doyle and Charlie Davis, murder.

Michel Stelly and Ernest Stelly, wounding less than maiming.
 Francois Babineau, horse stealing.

Gil Landry, carrying concealed weapons.
 Gil Landry, assault by wilfully shooting at.

Sylvester Blackwood, carrying concealed weapons.
 Felix Brisco, carrying concealed weapons.

Felix Brisco, cutting with intent to murder.
 Louis Chatman, violating act of 1886.

Amos Carriere, obstructing a public road.
 Noah Aucoin, intent to kill.

Darius Fontenot (col.), carrying concealed weapons.
 Horace Dupre, murder.

Michel Maloan, wife desertion.
 Duplechain Manuel, carrying concealed weapons.

Octave Willis, burglary.
 John Arnaud, cutting with intent to kill.

Sullivan Albert, rape.
NO TRUE BILLS.

Alfred Miguel, manslaughter.
 Polfre Gaspard, lying in wait armed.

Louis Joubert, carrying concealed weapons.
 Jimmie Chevis, slander.

A. J. Noal, obtaining money under false pretenses.
 Marius Guitroz, striking with intent to murder.

Jno. Blackwood, carrying concealed weapons.
 Cleff Doyle, Ben Doyle, Geo. Doyle, John Randell, Oree Blackwell, cutting with intent to murder.

Adam Whithead, cow stealing.
 Edw. Landry, manslaughter.

John B. Guillery, cutting with intent to murder.
 Pete Plomba, petty larceny.

Dr. Shaw Attending Convention.

Dr. J. A. Shaw is attending the convention of dentists now in session at Alexandria. He will return on next Monday.

Two Ways to Grow.

The two best ways and the surest for building up a town are to increase the productivity of the surrounding country that supports that town and to start small factories to manufacture articles of home consumption.

In the first case by increasing the yield of the farm products the farmers are enriched and so able to spend more, which improves business, and this in turn benefits everybody directly or indirectly in the town.

In the second case the factories furnish a ready market for the farmers, provide employment for the boys and girls and keep the money at home circulating and doing work for the community instead of buying and selling and employing for other people.

We say small factories, for one of the essentials of success is a market for the product of a factory. If the factory manufactures things for home consumption, then the market is at home.

Lafayette Advertiser.