

TAX REDUCTION IS SLOGAN OF PREUS IN KEYNOTE TALK

Shows State Administration Has Taken Lead—Calls On Counties and Townships to Cut Expenses.



GOVERNOR J. A. O. PREUS.
Montevideo, Minn.—"Tax reduction" will be the battle cry of the republican party in the Minnesota campaign. Governor J. A. O. Preus, in his keynote speech here, called attention to the fact that last year and this year, for the first time in Minnesota's history, the people have been relieved of a direct tax for maintaining the state government, but said that such action is only the beginning of a state-wide program for general tax reduction.

Due to the public's demand for better roads, schools, public buildings, and "better everything," the governor stated, "tax rates have almost reached the breaking point." He called for a united program of economy extending from the school district, township, village, town, and city to the state government itself.

Governor Preus said in part: "Last year, for the first time in the history of the State of Minnesota, the people were relieved of a direct tax upon them for maintaining the government of the state, including all activities under the state officials elected by you, as well as all appointive officers named by the governor.

"The entire cost of state government and state institutions was paid for out of taxes collected from corporations such as the gross earnings tax on railroads and other public service corporations and departmental fees.

"This year, for the second time in the history of the state, the people will pay no direct tax for the maintenance of the state government, and this is largely due to the fact that the occupation tax upon the business of mining iron ore was placed upon the statute books."

Mr. Preus stated that this achievement was in line with the republican state platform, which pledges the party to "the greatest retrenchment possible in state expenditures."

So important does he consider the need for lower taxes, Governor Preus added, that he decided to confine his opening speech to this topic alone, leaving other subjects to future addresses.

Causes of advanced taxes in recent years were outlined by the governor as follows:

High price of labor and commodities.

Expansion of governmental functions.

Public demand for better public service, better educational facilities, better public buildings, better health and sanitation regulations, better roads, "better everything."

"Salaries represent a very small percentage of the total public expenses," the governor said. If they were entirely wiped out the reduction in taxes would be so small as to be scarcely noticeable. Of the total general property taxes levied in 1921, amounting to \$108,019,763, only \$3,658,451 was levied for purely state purposes, and of the latter amount \$2,634,832 was levied for soldiers' bonuses.

Education Costs Advance.
The governor pointed out tax levies for educational purposes in Minnesota in 1921 amounted to \$42,569,238, representing nearly 39 1/2 cents of each dollar paid or to be paid in taxes this year. In 1911, he said, the cost per pupil was \$27.72, and in 1921, \$32.26.

"Much may be said in justification of increased educational costs," he added. "The days of the 'little red school house,' have gone, just as the days of the ox cart and the sickle. Under the improved living conditions of today, the unsanitary school building of a generation ago, would not be tolerated now. Improved school buildings which we now demand and enjoy are a considerable factor in the growth of school taxes.

"Another factor in growing school costs is the increase in the salaries of teachers. A cheap teacher is a poor investment, just as a cheap man on the farm or in the factory is almost sure to be an expensive one in the end.

"Economy in school expenditures should be rigidly applied if growing school costs are to be halted. Let us have good school buildings with up-to-date equipment, and let us pay salaries that are sufficiently high to attract and retain competent teachers, BUT IF WE ARE INDULGING IN

and thus lighten the burden of the taxpayer.

Growth in Road Taxes.
"In percentage of increase in amount of taxes, the levies for roads and bridges lead all others, the increase being 1,316 per cent in the last 20 years.

"In 1921, the total levies for roads amounted to \$21,040,855, or nearly 19 1/2 per cent of all direct taxes levied in that year. To this amount should be added \$5,616,113, representing taxes on motor vehicles.

"While the economic value of good highways is conceded, their construction should not be pushed too rapidly, lest the burden on the taxpayer become so great that it will retard development along other lines.

County Taxes Go Up.
"The increase in county taxes, exclusive of road and bridge levies, has been quite large, though smaller than for education or roads.

"City, village, and township taxes also have grown. Factors entering into the increase in cities and villages are the extension of water and sewage systems, better paved and better lighted streets, the improvement of parks and playgrounds and better living conditions generally.

"Inasmuch as the amount of township taxes to be raised in any year is determined at the annual town meeting, the burden of town taxes is under the direct control of the people who pay them. If the burden is heavy the people themselves are responsible for it.

Farmer is Hardest Hit.

"The growth in the tax burden during the last five years has probably been felt more in the last year or two in the rural than in the urban districts of the state, due to the less favorable economic conditions prevailing in rural districts. The farmer, having but little to say in fixing the price of things he produces, has not been able to protect himself to the same extent as the manufacturer or the merchant.

"The farmer's tax burden, measured by the exchange value of his products, has grown extremely heavy in the last year or two.

"It is worthy of note that both principal levies under direct control of the people who pay the taxes—the local school district levies and the town road and bridge levies—show a large increase in the five year period, the former amounting to nearly 150 per cent and the latter to a little over 200 per cent.

"These levies show very conclusively that taxes under direct control of the people of the rural districts have increased more rapidly than taxes levied by the elected officials of the different units of government.

"It is also worthy of note that of each dollar levied in taxes in the rural districts last year and payable this year, education will receive nearly 41 cents and roads and bridges nearly 35 1/2 cents, or a combined total of about 76 1/2 cents.

"High tax rates are not always an unmixed evil. They are often entirely justifiable, and frequently commendable. In many cases the benefits derived from the levies fully compensate for high rates.

"If high rates are the result of desirable and needed public improvements, and if the taxpayer is able to meet the demand without finding the tax burdensome, then they are preferable to low rates and dry rot.

"But if a desirable public improvement will result in a tax rate so high as to become an oppressive burden, then the making of the improvement, however desirable it may be, should be deferred until the taxpayer is better able to meet the extra demands on his pocketbook. High tax rates are not necessarily bad; oppressive tax rates are absolutely bad."

Taxes Near Oppressive Point.

The governor stated that there has been much "passing the buck" as to the responsibility for higher taxes, and added:

"No single unit of government can be charged with the entire responsibility. Expenses have grown in one unit as rapidly as in another.

"However, regardless of responsibility, tax rates have almost reached the breaking point. Whether the excessive rates now so generally prevailing throughout the state are due to the expansion of governmental functions, or whether they are the result of the insistent public demand for better roads, better schools, and better other things, the fact remains that tax rates have almost reached the limit of the taxpayer's ability to pay. Any further increase in the already heavy burden will be almost sure to retard the future agricultural, industrial and commercial development of the state.

"The remedy lies in rigid economy on the part of each unit of government—in the school district, in the township, in the city and in the state alike—and in the halting for the present of any further increase in those activities of government calling for heavy tax levies. Let bond issues for improvements be made only after the most thorough consideration. Let not the tax burden become so heavy as to oppress the people."

The governor spoke briefly of some of the achievements of his administration, showing how the republican platform promises of two years ago had been fulfilled. Among the most important legislation mentioned was the law authorizing organization and operation of co-operative concerns, under which hundreds of creameries and livestock associations are prospering, and the occupation or iron ore tax, which he said is expected to bring the state \$4,000,000 a year. Minnesota's great hard surface road program, now in successful progress, also was cited.

North of Warren

The Warrenton Farm Bureau Unit held their meeting last Friday evening and at the business session Mrs. John Rue was appointed to take charge of the refreshments for the ensuing six months and Miss Florence Johnson, Arthur Palmer and Arthur Knudsen were appointed for the entertainment committee for the same length of time. It was also decided to give a social in the near future. Miss Florence Johnson, Arthur Palmer and Andrew Vansickle are to have charge of same, further announcements to be given in the papers. After the business session a piano solo was rendered by Miss Thelma Erickson, followed by a very interesting talk by Dan Robertson of Argyle. Sandwiches, cake, pickles and coffee were served after which games were played. The next meeting will be held Nov. 10.

Mesdames Fred Diedrich and A. D. Vansickle left for Mallard, Iowa, Thursday evening in response to a telegram telling of the serious illness of their mother, Mrs. John Kirtz and upon their arrival found her out of danger. Mrs. Kirtz and husband visited here several months the past summer, and her friends here are sorry to hear of her illness and hope she will soon be about again.

Mrs. A. J. McCartney and daughter, Mrs. Elmer Slough, and husband and two daughters of Peoria, Ill., who have been traveling by auto through the western states the past three months, are expected back this Wednesday.

George Henning, accompanied by the W. O. Myer family, motored to Grand Forks Sunday where they spent the day with the A. A. Johnson family.

Henning Swenson arrived from Sweden last Tuesday morning to make this country his future home. He is staying at the home of his uncle August Anderson and family. Mr. Swenson reports everything very high in Sweden, and is very much impressed with this country.

A. D. Vansickle spent Saturday morning in Grand Forks.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Anderson and two children, of Boxville, visited at the Aug. Anderson home Sunday afternoon.

The weather has been pretty wintry the past several days and today (Monday) it has been snowing occasionally throughout the day.

How Better Than Pills?

The question has been asked—In what way are Chamberlain's Tablets superior to the ordinary cathartic and liver pills? Our answer is they are easier and more pleasant to take and their effect is so gentle that one hardly realizes that it is produced by a medicine. Then, they not only move the bowels but improve the appetite and strengthen the digestion.

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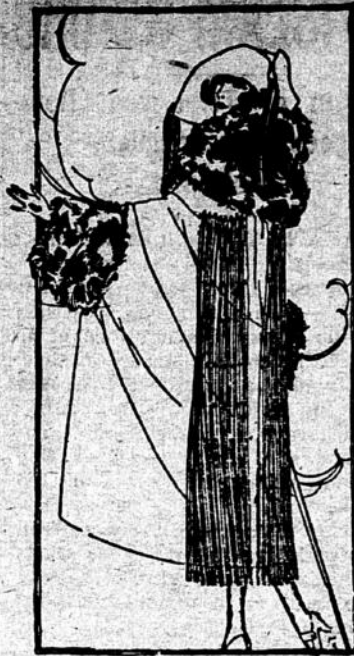
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It is indeed a real pleasure for us to announce that prices are in most instances less than last year even though the quality of the fabrics and tailoring is better.

Baby Needs

Babies always seem to need so many things that mother is always busy—but here's a chance to save both time and money on things you have been making yourself.

- Infants' Double Breasted Wrappers \$1.25
- Infants' Cashmere Hose 50c
- Booties 65c, 75c
- Cap Booties and Sweater Sets \$4.50
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- Stork Pants 35c, 65c, 75c
- Blankets 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25

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