

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

A Preliminary Discussion by the Director of the Taxpayers' Association of New Mexico

On the 2nd Monday of September 1921, the people will have an opportunity to vote on eleven (11) proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico as follows:

1. To permit women to hold public office.
2. To prevent aliens who are ineligible to citizenship from owning real estate.
3. To remove the limitation as to the number of terms for which the State Superintendent of Public Instruction may be elected.
4. To permit an exemption from taxation of \$2,000.00 worth of property belonging to a soldier, sailor, marine or army nurse, who has served in the armed forces of the United States in time of war.
5. To permit the legislature to change the powers and duties of the Corporation Commission, to make binding any order of the Commission as to rates, until otherwise provided by legislation, and to throw the burden of proving unreasonableness of rate.
6. To provide for a State Budget.
7. To provide for a "State Land Commission."
8. To establish maximum limitations upon tax levies.
9. To permit cities, towns and villages to vote upon bond issues at regular as well as at special elections.
10. To remove limitation upon the number of terms for which a county superintendent of schools may be elected.
11. To make possible the early issue of a bond issue of \$2,000,000 and to validate certificates of indebtedness and debentures authorized by the fifth legislature.

In this article it is our purpose to discuss only two of the proposed amendments, Nos. 6 and 7.

Proposed amendment No. 6 will change Section 3, Article XX, and Section 5, Article IV of the Constitution. It provides that all officers except the governor shall begin their terms as at present, and that the governor's term shall begin one month earlier than at present, that is on December 1st, following his election.

The opening of the legislative session will take place two or three weeks later than at present. The object of these provisions is to give time to the governor to study the financial needs and abilities of the state with a view to submitting a carefully prepared budget to the legislature. In fact the sole purpose of this amendment is to establish an effective budget system as a feature of the state's financial administration.

If the amendment is ratified the governor will have the power to collect information from state boards, departments, and institutions, hold hearings thereon and to arrange a budget for the guidance of the legislature. The executive will also submit a general appropriation bill with the budget, but to be presented not later than the 20th day of the legislature. That body will thus be able to begin early consideration of the departmental and institutional requests.

Through the governor all necessary data may be made available for the proper legislative committee. The items in the general appropriation bill as submitted by the governor may be revised downward by the legislature, but no item can be increased. It should be kept in mind, however, that the governor may amend or supplement the budget and general appropriation bill, and after final action upon the general appropriation bill, special appropriation bills may be enacted. The proposed amendment would, therefore, permit the executive and the legislative branches of the government to co-operate in studying the needs of the state and in providing funds therefor. The ratification of the budget amendment will place New Mexico in line with other states where advances have been made in efficiency of governmental administration. Our state will also be in line with the Federal Government if the present efforts in Congress are successful as seems highly probable, foresight, and system should be applied. Hit and miss methods of handling public funds must be discarded. Upon the chief executive officer rests the responsibility of managing the public business, and upon his shoulders that responsibility is definitely placed by this amendment. With two months in which to study the needs of the state, and after due consideration after hearing those interested, the governor will be in position to present a well balanced appropriation measure based upon a budget prepared according to the relative merits of the various and several demands for revenue. Under the present conditions lobbying methods may secure for some departments or institutions more than it deserves. The budget plan embodied in the proposed amendment will, it is believed, distribute public funds, not only more economically, but also more fairly and more justly.

Amendment No. 8

Proposed amendment No. 8, changes Section 2, Article VIII of the Constitution so as to place a maximum limitation of—

1. Six (6) mills for all state purposes and uses on each dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to taxation in the state. Other limitations are also established as follows:
2. Five (5) mills for all county purposes and uses excepting special

MEXICAN RECOGNITION HINGES UPON SIGNING OF AGREEMENT; MUST GUARANTEE PROTECTION

Mexico City, Mex., May 31.—Recognition of the Mexican government by the United States is now but a question of a few hours, it is believed, at a result of negotiations between President Obregon and Geo. T. Sumnerlin, American charge d'affaires, relative to the memorandum of the American State Department.

It is also known that the document which may be signed by President Obregon is mostly a guarantee that certain requests of the United States will be complied with. Chief among these is ample protection for American lives and property in Mexico.

Some Guarantee Asked.

The State Department is understood to have championed no special American interests. Such guarantees are said to be not only for physical protection but for property rights. President Obregon has emphasized that it is impossible for him to sign anything reflecting on the national honor and it is learned that if the president does sign a guarantee it will be in such form as not to offend the susceptibilities of the Mexican people.

Newspaper reports that the president had requested Mr. Sumnerlin to call at the national palace for a further exchange of ideas, but the American charge d'affaires informed the correspondent he had received no invitation.

Mr. Sumnerlin still declines to discuss his conference with the president of last week or to divulge the contents of the memorandum he is understood to have had.

Washington Reflected.

Washington, D. C., May 31.—Official comment was withheld on the possibility of early recognition of the government of Mexico should President Obregon sign the memorandum presented to him by George T. Sumnerlin, American charge d'affaires at Mexico City.

The memorandum was taken to Mexico City by Mr. Sumnerlin last week after he had discussed the question with Secretary Hughes. Unless such assurances are given, it was said recognition will not be extended.

school levies, special levies for health, and special levies in specific classes of property.

2. Two (2) mills levied on all property in the state outside the foregoing limitations for state highways.

4. Fifteen (15) mills for general county school purposes, of which the levy in excess of ten (10) mills required the approval of the county commissioners and the State Tax Commission.

5. Five (5) mills for city, town or village purposes or uses.

6. One-half (1-2) mill for health purposes.

7. Five (5) mills for special district purposes.

8. Levies for payment of interest and principal of public debt are not included in any limitation.

9. Special exemptions from statutory limitations as provided by the fifth legislature will not be affected by the ratification of the Eighth Amendment.

The necessity for the adoption of maximum limitations upon tax levies is found in the rapid increase of tax rates during the last five years. If the combined state and county tax rates be considered it will be found that the increase is startling. In only three counties has the increase been less than 50 (50) per cent. In eight of the counties it has been more than one hundred (100) per cent. In the various county seats, the tax rate or all purposes increased from 22 to 150 per cent, the total tax rate amounting to nearly five (5) per cent in several municipalities.

It must be kept in mind that physical properties bear practically the whole burden of taxation in New Mexico. When this class of property pays the high rates, at present prevailing, it is hardly to be expected that money will be attracted for investment in real estate, buildings, machinery, live stock, etc. Any thinking citizen of the state will appreciate the fact that a payment of three or four per cent of the capital invested will naturally drive him away from tangible assets of wealth, nor so easily reached by the tax collector. If, therefore, we want to encourage development of our resources, let us limit the tax rate that may be imposed on business, agriculture, livestock and commercial and industrial establishments.

A maximum limit on tax rates is desirable because its effect is to bring about full and equitable assessment. With no limit, there is no incentive to careful and accurate valuation of property. Nor is there any great necessity for the full collection of taxes imposed. The result of excess in the assessment and collection of taxes is unfairness and dissatisfaction as to valuation and extravagance in public expenditures.

The limits proposed in the amendment are liberal and allow for all reasonable expansion of governmental activities. They are as high as levies at present prevailing except in a very few cases. It is difficult to see, therefore, why the amendment should be opposed in any quarter. Within the limits, set, ample funds are possible not only to provide for natural expansion but to meet any emergency. This, it is believed, can be fully demonstrated that while the limits are liberal, the taxpayer owning tangible property will know what those limits are and that they will not change every two years, if fixed by a provision in the Constitution.

Those two proposed amendments,

WILSON BREAKS LONG SILENCE IN A MEMORIAL LETTER TO THE "STARS AND STRIPES"

We Shall Not Be Able to Enjoy the Day's Recollections Until We Have Made Sure the Duties Growing Out of the War Have Been Fulfilled, Says Former President.

Washington, D. C., May 27.—Woodrow Wilson today broke the silence he has maintained since he retired from the White House on March 4.

In a Memorial Day letter to the editor of the "Stars and Stripes," which was published today in that soldier periodical, he declared that the American people "shall not be able to enjoy the full pride of the day's recollections until we have made sure that the duties that grew out of the war have been fulfilled to the utmost."

"Are we sure," he asked. "If we are not sure we are not soon take steps to do whatever has been omitted?" The full text of the former president's letter follows:

"Memorial Day has always been one of the most solemn and thoughtful anniversaries when we recalled great memories and dedicated ourselves again to the maintenance and purification of the nation, but this year it has an added and tremendous significance because the memories and sacrifices of the great world war are now among the most stimulating of the recollections of the day.

We celebrate the immortal achievements of the men who died in France on the field and in the trenches, far away from home, in order that both our own people and the peoples across the seas might be delivered from the ugliest peril of all history. It is our privilege not only to indulge a high and solemn pride and grief for the heroes of that great struggle but also to re-dedicate ourselves to the achievement of the great objects for which that war was fought. We shall not be happy; we shall not be able to enjoy the full pride of the day's recollections until we have made sure that the duties that grew out of the war have been fulfilled to the utmost."

"Are we sure? If we are not sure we are not soon take steps to do whatever has been omitted?"

"Cordially yours,"

"WOODROW WILSON."

PRICES OF FARM CROPS BELOW PRE-WAR AVERAGE

Washington, D. C., May 26.—The prices of six of the important crops on May 1 of this year were below the pre-war average prices for that date, according to data collected by the Bureau of Crop Estimates, United States Department of Agriculture.

These crops are Corn, Oats, Barley, Flax, Potatoes and Cotton. The report showed that the prices of the three grains—wheat, rye, and buckwheat—were above the pre-war average prices. During April the average price of wheat declined from \$1.50 to \$1.23 per bushel. The report shows that in general the industrial crops, such as flax, cotton, and broom corn, are most depressed in price, and that food crops, such as wheat, rye, potatoes, and apples, show relatively less decline.

The prices in various parts of the country vary, with South Dakota being the center of the low-price district, the May 1 report shows. The average price of wheat in that state was 99 cents per bushel, and in some counties it was as low as 70 cents. Corn was selling at an average price of 22 cents per bushel in South Dakota, while the average price for the United States was nearly 60 cents. The price of oats was 23 cents per bushel in South Dakota, the average for the United States being 28 cents. The report showed a big decline in the price of old potatoes, especially in Michigan, where the average was 30 cents a bushel, which was 20 cents below the average for the United States.

Prices for linseed, flaxseed and soybean oil are also low, the report shows. The average price of linseed oil was 10 cents a bushel, which was 10 cents below the average for the United States.

Prices for cottonseed oil and lard are also low, the report shows. The average price of cottonseed oil was 10 cents a bushel, which was 10 cents below the average for the United States.

Prices for sugar and molasses are also low, the report shows. The average price of sugar was 10 cents a bushel, which was 10 cents below the average for the United States.

Prices for apples and other fruit are also low, the report shows. The average price of apples was 10 cents a bushel, which was 10 cents below the average for the United States.

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HON. HOLM O. BURSUM

United States Senator from New Mexico, Succeeding Albert B. Fall, Secretary of the Interior.

From a homeless boy at nine to a seat in the United States Senate at 53 are the extremes in the busy life of Hon. Holm O. Bursum, the new Senator from New Mexico, who succeeds Albert B. Fall, drafted from the Senate by President Harding to serve as Secretary of the Interior. Between his social practical and gainful occupations as telephone operator, clerk in a western store, freighting contracts, railroad building, ending in sheep-raising on a scale such as only a successful herder could attain on the vast grazing lands of New Mexico. Mining and merchandising also form links in the chain of his business endeavor, constituting him one of the capable, solid and esteemed citizens of one of the newest commonwealths of the Republic.

Senator Bursum took to politics years back, gaining influence and power in the Republican party councils and reaching the highest position of State Committeeman in the National Republican organization, which he has successfully held for several years. When Senator Fall was called to a higher place the people of New Mexico had but one choice and Mr. Bursum was named at the first opportunity.

That no mistake was made is already in evidence. Congress is scarcely a month old, and Senator Bursum has introduced several bills having for their object distinct benefits to his state. One of these is a measure to aid stockmen and others in carrying loans with the Federal Loan Banks with provisions safeguarding the interests of both borrower and lender. This makes a fair beginning in the way of proposed legislation, and those acquainted with Senator Bursum's force of character and business methods predict not only success in his legislative program, but a high place for him in the esteem of his fellow Senators and of the people of the nation.

Senator Bursum was born in Iowa, at Fort Dodge. His father died when the boy was two years old, and his mother died when he was nine. His early years were passed with relatives and friends who looked after him as most orphaned and homeless boys are cared for. His pace in business began and blossomed forth into a gainful vocation when he took over freighting contracts to and from Fort Wingate, New Mexico in the days when the Santa Fe trail was little more than a bridge path through long reaches of mesa and uncharted desert. He made good in his responsible and hazardous task and laid the foundation of a fortune that grew rapidly with the years, with new investments and in the growth of the new territory into a state. His business interests finally centered in sheep and cattle ranches near Socorro, New Mexico where for several years past he has carried on extensive operations in growing wool and beef. Other ventures more or less issues, and up to the hour, almost, that Senator Bursum left for Washington, he conducted the large interests of his ranches in person.

Senator Bursum has always "stood well" in his town, county and state. He has always been one of the leaders in thought, deed and effective plan for the upbuilding of the local interests. He has given freely of his time, his money and his effort to the public welfare, and the answer is this: that in the United States Senate, backed by the respect and confidence of every good citizen of New Mexico. He has been told that his people expect much of him, and a few minutes talk with Mr. Bursum and a little understanding of his life career leaves one with the impression that they will not be disappointed.

Senator Bursum came to Washington with no little notice to arrange his business, his family were left behind at Socorro, chiefly because two of the four youngsters composing the family needed to complete terms already begun in the public schools. Mrs. Bursum and the children will join Senator Bursum here next fall. Mrs. Bursum was Miss Lulu Moore, of Silver City, New Mexico. Two daughters are attending the University of California, and Holm O. Bursum, Jr., with the youngest daughter, are with their mother at Socorro.

STATE TREASURER MUST TAKE NEARLY A MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE STATE BANKS

Santa Fe, N. M., May 27.—Nearly \$1,000,000 will be withdrawn from the New Mexico banks by State Treasurer Charles U. Strong between June 15 and July 1, so the institutions affected, have been officially notified by the state bank examiner, James R. Read. This sum will be required to retire state highway debentures soon to mature. The banks are now acting as depositories for about \$2,000,000 of the state's funds. It is planned, insofar as possible, to take about half of the amount that each bank has.

Mrs. D. R. Stewart and daughter Lucille, left Wednesday for Marlin, Texas, for a visit of several months in the Lone Star State, where trees, flowers, water and vegetation abound. They will return about September 1.

GOOD RAINS AROUND US

Incoming ranchmen from surrounding localities report good rains during the last week. Harry Aguirre came in from Nogal on Tuesday and told about a soaking rain in that region lately. Will Ed Harris and Mr. Townsend from White Mountain, others from Corona, Lincoln, Capitan, Ancho and other places except this locality, have been visited with the precious fluid in quantities to insure the range from burning out during the heated season.

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CATTLE CONDITIONS WORST IN 30 YEARS SAYS J. E. SAINT

Santa Fe, N. M., May 28.—The plains are scared, cattle are being shipped out by the car loads and others are dying on the browned ranges of Grant, Luna and Hidalgo counties as the result of the prolonged drought in the southwestern corner of New Mexico, said J. E. Saint, tax commission chairman, who spent the last week in the stricken section.

"The situation never was worse," he said. "I've been running in and out of that country for thirty years and while it may have been worse some times I don't remember it. Those three counties and part of Sierra are in awful shape. The plains are simply burnt up."

"I was told that 15,000 head had been moved out of Grant. I suppose a proportionate number has been moved out of Luna. Two of the biggest herds in Luna have been moved over into Mexico to get better feed."

"Hidalgo has better feed because it hasn't been overstocked as much as the other two counties. The feed there is dry, but there's more old grass there. It looked so to me from the train, though I didn't go out into the country."

Mr. Saint said that he was told by H. A. Jastro, Bakersfield, Calif., owner of the "Diamond A" outfit, one of the biggest in New Mexico, that he had shipped all his cattle that could stand shipping to California ranges.

Contrary to the report that the recent rains brought relief to the counties Mr. Saint said little fell on the plains, although the mountainous parts shared in the precipitation. The higher ranges were greatly benefited but those on the plains remained parched and dotted here and there by the carcasses of the cattle.

Mr. Saint said he had not heard that some of the smaller cattlemen were turning their cattle over to the banks and leaving the country as recent visitors in Santa Fe from the southwest section have stated.

BURSUM CLUBS BEING ORGANIZED OVER THE STATE

(Magdalena News.) Bursum Clubs, whose objects are to work, push and use every energy to send Bursum back to the U. S. Senate, at an election to be held in September, are being formed all over the state. Mr. Bursum's friends will use every honorable endeavor to return him, and while opposition will develop in spots, and other men will, no doubt, enter the race, it seems to be a foregone conclusion that Bursum will receive the endorsement of his party in the primaries, and also carry the state at the general election by a large majority. Socorro formed a strong Bursum club last Saturday night and Magdalena has circulated petitions for membership in a club there, and it was signed by every republican to whom presented, and also by a large number of democrats. Steps will be taken at once to organize the club, and it will start off with a very large membership. Rosary, Quemado and other points in the western part of the county are busy organizing clubs, as well as all towns up and down the Rio Grande river. Inside of the next ten days Bursum clubs will have been organized in every precinct in the state.—Magdalena News.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES

Mrs. M. L. Blaney.

Teachers are traveling in all directions to summer schools to make special preparation for their work the coming year. Las Vegas, Silver City and Berkeley are attracting the majority. A complete list will be published.

Situation Not Serious.

Commenting upon the alarm raised by the outbreak in other parts of the state, Waller called attention to the fact that 200 persons died from diphtheria last winter and the epidemic caused little stir. He remarked the typhus was not any more dangerous than the diphtheria in the infected zone and less likely of being spread to the other parts of the state than the diphtheria. He said the scare was due largely to the fact that the typhus fever was rare in New Mexico.

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TYPHUS EPIDEMIC WILL NOT SPREAD, SAYS PHYSICIAN

Dr. C. E. Waller Returns From the Navajo Reservation Where He Declares the Situation is in Hand.

Santa Fe, N. M., May 28.—"I'm not in the least apprehensive that the disease will spread to other parts of the state," declared Dr. C. E. Waller, public health director, today, upon his arrival from the typhus fever zone, on the Navajo reservation in the northwestern corner of the state.

The situation on the reservation, he said, is serious. Since his wife to the public health bureau, reporting 14 deaths, three more have been added to the casualty list. When he left there were seven or eight active cases in the infected area. He explained the 14 deaths previously reported had occurred during the last three months.

Relieves Disease Continued.

He believed the outbreak could be confined to the reservation. Vigorous steps have been instituted for its control and there are three Indian service physicians and two nurses on the ground. He believed the force adequate for the emergency.

The Indians are "deloused" when they become sick as the disease is carried only by lice, and placed in the hospital at Shiprock. "Contacts" also are "deloused." Waller believes this will result in stamping out the disease, but, he said, the process is a slow one.

Little Concerned.

"I had one boy feed his sheep and I showed him the lice crawling along the seams," he said, "and doggone if he didn't put it on as soon as I handed it back."

Waller said there was no danger in handling Navajo blankets as the lice carriers could not live more than four or five days away from the human body. He said the traders who handled the blankets first were disinfecting them and it would be "otie if the Navajo blanket industry was ruined on account of the scare as the Indians now had little else for their support."

Police Enforce Order.

Only part of the reservation is infected—an area fifteen miles square west of Shiprock and close to the Arizona line—and under his direction communication between this zone and the rest of the reservation has been restricted. Indian police are enforcing the order.

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