AN INHERITANCE TAX

EVIDENCE THAT SUCH A MEASURE WOULD BE GOOD PUBLIC POLICY.

The Dangers That Lie In Vast Individual Fortunes - How England Has Left Us Far Behind — Inequalities of Our Present System of Taxation.

Thieves are imprisoned not for revenge, but because it is not good public policy to allow thieves to run at large. Murderers are not executed for revenge, but because it is considered good public policy. So we might go through the entire list, and we would always find that society claims the right to do whatever is considered necessary or desirable for

the public good. The rapid amassing of immense fortunes is a comparatively recent thing. The discoveries of science and mechanical invention have brought new forces into play, increasing the production of wealth to a phenomenal degree. Steamboats, railroads and the telegraph favor the concentration of wealth, A few have controlled these forces in such a way that these few have become extremely wealthy, while many in the lower ranks have been robbed of the opportunity to make an honest living. As the few immense private fortunes have grown in size the list of the unemployed, tramps and paupers, has also grown. The public good demands that taxation should be equal, or if any exception is made it should be the homes of the poor, for the home of the toiler is the it." cornerstone of our national existence. But we all know that corporations pay far less than their due proportion of taxes and that the extremely wealthy find ways to make their taxation far less than their due proportion as compared with the poor householder.

Our national taxes are paid indirectly on consumption—duty on clothes, sugar, etc., and internal revenue on tobacca, etc. Many of the extremely wealthy es cape this taxation by living abroad. There is one way that these inequalities could be in a manner corrected, and that is by a national inheritance tax. Many states are adopting this kind of taxation, but it is not properly a state function, for those whom it touches get out of it by simply moving to another state. For this reason George Gould bought or built a house in New Jersey and lives there a part of the time in order to claim that as his residence in order to escape the inheritance tax of it is in bondage-in slavery. When a New York. It can easily be seen that this tax should be uniform in every part of the country regardless of state that a free people would voluntarily lines. It should apply only to large fortunes and be progressively heavier on larger fortunes. Would it not be good public policy to not allow a single heir to inherit more than \$1,000,000? Then with the present generation, and everybody would be benefited, even the millionaires themselves, and the public good would be greatly promoted.

In the new war tax law there is an inheritance tax feature. I will watch soon, for our need of such a tax is greater than that of any other country, for wealth concentration has progressed much more rapidly here than in any other part of the world, yet other countries have had such a tax for many years, and our tax just passed as a part of the war revenue law is comparatively light. Look out for it being declared unconstitutional by the supreme court, for our present court is very accommodating to wealth. Other countries have no written constitution by the inflexibility of which and an accommodating court laws distasteful to wealth can be set aside. Our constitution is patterned after the English government of 1776. and being written it is inflexible and unchangeable, except by amendments, which are very difficult to make.

Thus we have tied ourselves to the English model of 1776, while England, unhampered by a written constitution, has gone on, and in many ways the government is much nearer the people and the people are more free than here. It is predicted that the recent amendments to the English inheritance tax law will finally break up the large estates in that country, and such a result is contemplated with satisfaction by the patriotic and unselfish there. We would like to have some of that kind of patriotism here. It would do more good than the jingo kind of patriotism.

Good public policy demands that immense fortunes be divided in a way that no single heir shall inherit more than \$1,000,000 until we can find a way to it it shall become a law, anything in secure a more just distribution than we the constitution or constitutional connow have of wealth at the time of its struction to the contrary notwithstandproduction. Such vast acommulations of wealth do not come justly. Yes, legally perhaps in many instances, but our laws are not perfect yet. What is legal is not necessarily just and right. We must put justice into our laws as fast as we learn how. In the meantime we both because it is demanded by the pub-World.

Immurtality of Debt.

It is indeed a fitting term. Immertality of debt! It never dies. It is a curse that has hung over the world thousands of years. It is one of the in-stitutions of "civilization," but it is used generally to the advantage of civilized barbarians. Horace Greeley used to advocate the abolition of all laws for the collection of debt. The suggestion

The Deadly Flie.

Populism will drive out capital .-Kansas City Journal (1806).

The effects of a British Bussian war would be serious. The Kansas farmers are already embarramed for storage room in localities where the banks refuse to ccept more deposits. -- Kansas City

WATCH THESE MEN.

The Smooth Gentlemen of an "Executive Committee" Headed by a Hanna.

A friend has forwarded a copy of a confidential circular sent to banks and corporations by H. H. Hanna, chairman of the executive committee of the Indianapolis monetary convention, which is seeking the absolute destruction of the greenback and the taking of the government "out of the banking business." The circular is too long for reproduction, and one or two paragraphs will suffice. After urging the banks and corporations to bring all possible pressure on their respective congressmen Chairman Hanna says:

"The bill is politically the best meas ure that has been prepared. It meets the expectations of those who believe there can be no permanent business prosperity until the greenbacks are retired and it does not oppose the prejudices of those who favor the greenbacks. In other words, the greenbacks, which are a menace to our national credit, are retired without any loss to the treasury and without an issue of bonds by imposing the burden of their current redemption upon the banks in return for the privilege of issuing a certain amount in the interest of the general public-of the farmer, the laboring man and the merchant as well as of the larger importer and the great corporate interests. Yet the banks, under its provisions, have privileges which ought to overcome any objection they may have to

The bill is the most infamous ever drafted by legislative criminals and aims to hand over the people, property. bodies and souls, to the banks. It pro poses to destroy the greenbacks and to permit the banks to issue flat paper money based on what the banks owe to the government. As Mr. Hanna says, the banks should be satisfied with this "privilege." It is more than a "license to steal." It proposes compulsory robbery on a national scale. If the banks are successful in bribing such a bill through congress, the results will precipitate a revolution. The New Time refuses to believe that the time has arrived when such a crime can be perpe trated. - New Time.

"No Bonds Forevert"

The word "bond" is brutally frank and savagely honest. A bond is a gyve, a chain, a shackle, and he who wears people "bond" themselves, they enslave themselves, and it seems inconceivable enter into a condition of bondage.

United States bonds are prized by the bondholders or slavemasters of the world beyond all other bonds because the American people are the most sub the multimillionaires would disappear missive bondsmen or slaves in the whole world.

> I remember being present at an auc tion sale of slaves in the Arcade, Magazine street, New Orleans, some 40 years in the city. Cook Stoves, Heaters, Beds and Springs, Dish-

Among those sold was a strong young We should prepare to increase this was knocked down at \$650. In taking her place in the line of the sold chattels she dug her elbow into her next neighbor, who was a slimmer and lighter weach, and said:

"How much you fotch?" "Fo' hurnerd 'n ten."

"Golly, is dat all? I fotch jes' \$650." Then she grinned with a triumph of satisfaction over her low priced fellow

Whenever I note the hilarious gymnastics of our "financiers" over the superiority of American bonds in the London market over all other bonds, I invariably think of the poor wench in the Arcade in New Orleans.

That American bond only shows that American bondsmen are rated higher in the world's market than Egyptian fel-

I ask you, O American fellow citi zens, to join me in the cry, and make it so loud that the world will hear, that so far as America is concerned its eternal flat is, "No bonds forever."-Reno (Nev.) Enterprise.

An Aid to Honest Officials.

Governor John W. Leedy of Kansas

I believe in direct legislation mainly for two reasons:

First .- Ax 1 understand it, most of the amendments proposed provide that whenever a law is declared unconstitutional by a supreme court it shall be referred to a poll of the people, and if a majority of the people vote in favor of ing. This would really make the people supreme. At present they are theoretically supreme, as they can alter their constitution, but that is so difficult a matter that it is almost impossible.

Second. -- As a public official I want to be a public servant. I think I know must tax large inheritances heavily, in many things what the people want, but on some I am uncertain, and direct tic welfare and it is just and right to legislation will keep me constantly in-do it.—Pr. C. F. Taylor in Medical formed of just what the people want on such measure. It will be a guide to progress, an index finger to the right path, an efficient sid to every houset public official.

A Corporation Court. Some feiles down in Missourt offered \$5 cents to the Western Union Telegraph company to send a message, and after doing so the company demanded one penny for a stamp to put upon the message. The man paid the penny unoff right back of its cars. - Norton's to his protest, having witnesses to testify Monthly. The case was tried before Judge Tyres, and he rendered a verdict in favor of the plaintiff. The defendant gave notice of appeal, and we presume now the camwill come up in the higher courts. When that case reaches old Judge Shiras' anti-income tax combination, the Western Union Telegraph company will get a decision that will make them happy. - Denver Road.

DO NOT HARMONIZE.

THE IMPERIAL CITY AND THE BOND WILL DESTROY THE REPUBLIC.

The Two Great Dangers Which Menac-Our Beloved Country - A Return to Me dizval Conditions—The Perpetual Bond a Thing of Ill Omen.

The American republic has fostered on its breast a form of municipal life that has grown and fattened on the common life of the country to an alarming degree. If the process goes on for the next half century as in the last, the overwhelming preponderance of population will be found within the corporate limits of cities, and outside of that will be found only a weak and unambitious if not a servile peasantry as unlike the robust democratic farmers and mechanics who made us and made this nation as though they were of another race. The city as it exists is wholly unfa-

vorable to the preservation of a common civil life in our country. The German empire of the middle ages consisted of subordinate kingdoms, electorates and of asset currency. The bill is directly free imperial cities. Of these last Ham-America seems to indicate a return to will be an independent imperial municipality, having its own laws, and, I suppose, making its own treaties.

The great city does not want community and diffusion, but desires accumulation and localized dominion. The city | tribute. tends to separation from the common body and to independence socially, commercially and politically. The city inand threatens its perpetuity.

A second fact dangerous to the repub-

bond and the flag. The bond cherishes a chronic dislike of all democracy. If the bond accepts republicanism, it is only that kind that wears a plume, backs up against an arsenal and instigates new wars in order to increase the bond.

The bonded debt of the United States was intended to subserve a temporary purpose in our economy, and then to go away by payment. Nobody wishes to repudiate a debt made necessary by the peril of the nation. What the people want is payment, and what the bond that it has no permanent place among free institutions. The bond accordingly heartless rich that is pushing America interests itself in the latest tactics. It promotes standing armies and great lock. navies. It circulates treatises on the English system of finance and pro nounces superfluous enlogies on the supreme court. As to the people, the bond utters the same profane wish which one of our distinguished financiers in New York uttered about the public! The bond says that it is a part of the "national honor" and that an honorable thing ought to live forever.

The creation of a permanent fund holding interest in a republic is inconsistent with it. The bond is a part of the monarchial apparatus, but to a naburg was the type. The tendency in tion of freemen it is a thing of ill omen. Once admitted into the republic, the mediaval condition. It has been the bond discovers that the republic is openly suggested in the metropolitan not strong enough for its purposes press that in another century New York | The coupons of a perpetual debt become at last annoying even to Christians and patriots. However silently the coupons are clipped and however patriotically they are paid, the time comes when the payer wearies a little of the semiannual

A true people, such as the Americans, will never shrink from the full discharge of a debt that was contracted for stinctively strives to become an entity. the preservation of the Union. It is It augments its own life more and more only when the holders of that debt proby the absorption of the life of all pose to make it eternal and contrive things else. The city tends to become that it shall be paid in a standard unit at the last an overgrown social and po- worth two for one. Only when the bond litical tumor. It becomes proud and is judiciously increased from time to more provincial than any province. It time, only when the American republic organizes its own intellectual life and by such means begins to be manifestly develops its idiosyncrasics into such Europeanized, only when a condition vehement manifestations that the sym- is cautiously prepared which must be pathies between it and the country maintained by a standing army and states are cut off and obliterated. The cities full of arsenals, that the citizen city obstructs and annoys the Union of the Union begins to consider whether his inheritance is worth the having.

A bonded debt that grows larger as lie is the bond. The city and the bond | the people pay it, a debt that has swalare in league and amity. The country, lowed the resources of the American as such, does not know the bond, but people for 30 years and still has as feels it. The bond came with our calam- much purchasing power as ever, a debt ity and is so well pleased with its re- that intrenches itself with false legislaception as not to return. The bond and tion and iniquitous judicial decisions, the crown go well together, but not the is a fact that may well be mentioned in

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the Litany with the usual words, 'From this also, good Lord, deliver us.' An imperial city and a free people do not harmonize. A perpetual bond and a perpetual republic do not consist .-John Clark Ridpath in Arena,

The Anarchy of the Idle.

Our civilization is fast following in the fortsteps of decadent, Rome where only the shell of a ruined republic remained, and a self absorbed, patricisu oligarchy, gorged with the wealth obtained by special privileges, legal brigandism and class legislation, ruled over wants is eternal life. The bond knows a prostrate and trampled people. It is the anarchy of the idle, heathen and over the edge of doom !- E. M. Whee-

> The editor of the Seward Independent-Democrat has bought him a philosopher's stone to take the place of the office cat. This was one of the results last week: "A few years ago republicans said that if the demo-pops carried the state no more money could be borrowed on farms, for it would all leave the country Well, the demo-pops did carry the state and instead of money having left the country, the rates of interest have dropped. Two years ago you could not secure a loan at 7 per cent. Today Seward money loaners are advertising it at 4% per cent. As some of the men who made these statements are now in the pen, that may account for the drop.'

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