

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.

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.

Our national taxes are paid indirectly on consumption—duty on clothes, sugar, etc., and internal revenue on tobacco, etc. Many of the extremely wealthy escape this taxation by living abroad.

In the new war tax law there is an inheritance tax feature. I will watch the operation of this with great interest. We should prepare to increase this soon, for our need of such a tax is greater than that of any other country.

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.

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 secure a more just distribution than we now have of wealth at the time of its production.

It is indeed a fitting term. Immortality of debt! It never dies. It is a curse that has hung over the world thousands of years.

Population will drive out capital.—Kansas City Journal (1896). The effects of a British-Russian war would be serious. The Kansas farmers are already unconcerned for storage room in localities where the banks refuse to accept more deposits.—Kansas City Journal (1898).

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 bill is politically the best measure 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.

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 proposes to destroy the greenbacks and to permit the banks to issue fiat paper money based on what the banks owe to the government.

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

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.

I ask you, O American fellow citizens, 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 fiat is, "No bonds forever."—Remo (Nev.) Enterprise.

I believe in direct legislation mainly for two reasons: First,—as I 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 it it shall become a law.

Some fellow-down in Missouri offered 25 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 under protest, having witnesses to testify to his protest, and then turned around and sued the company for that 1 cent.

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DO NOT HARMONIZE.

THE IMPERIAL CITY AND THE BOND WILL DESTROY THE REPUBLIC.

The Two Great Dangers Which Menace Our Beloved Country - A Return to Medieval 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.

The city as it exists is wholly unfavorable to the preservation of a common civil life in our country. The German empire of the middle ages consisted of subordinate kingdoms, electorates and free imperial cities. Of these last Hamburg was the type.

The great city does not want community and diffusion, but desires accumulation and localized dominion. The city tends to separation from the common body and to independence socially, commercially and politically. The city instinctively strives to become an entity. It augments its own life more and more by the absorption of the life of all things else.

A second fact dangerous to the republic is the bond. The city and the bond are in league and amity. The country, as such, does not know the bond, but feels it. The bond came with our calamity and is so well pleased with its reception as not to return.

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 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-pope carried the state no more money could be borrowed on farms, for it would all leave the country. Well, the demo-pope 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 1/2 per cent. As some of the men who made these statements are now in the pen, that may account for the drop."

The creation of a permanent fund holding interest in a republic is inconsistent with it. The bond is a part of the monarchical apparatus, but to a nation of freemen it is a thing of ill omen. Once admitted into the republic, the bond discovers that the republic is not strong enough for its purposes.

A true people, such as the Americans, will never shrink from the full discharge of a debt that was contracted for the preservation of the Union. It is only when the holders of that debt propose to make it eternal and contrive that it shall be paid in a standard unit worth two for one.

A bonded debt that grows larger as the people pay it, a debt that has swallowed the resources of the American people for 30 years and still has as much purchasing power as ever, a debt that intrenches itself with false legislation and iniquitous judicial decisions, 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 footsteps of decadent Rome where only the shell of a ruined republic remained, and a self absorbed, patrician oligarchy, gorged with the wealth obtained by special privileges, legal brigandage and class legislation, ruled over a prostrate and trampled people.

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