

NEW REVENUE LAW

A Condensed View of the Taxation Measure

THE TAXABLE PROPERTY

Bill Defines Terms Used in Relation to Taxation—Real Property, Real Estate, Lands, Personal Property, Money, Etc., All Explained

H. R. No. 244, the revenue bill. The measure begins with elaborate definitions of all the terms used in relation to taxation. Real property, real estate, lands, personal property, money and all other debatable terms are all explained.

The following property is taxable: Sec. 12—All property in this state not expressly exempt therefrom, shall be subject to taxation, and shall be valued at its actual value which shall be entered opposite each item and shall be assessed at 20 per cent of such actual value. Such assessed value shall be entered in a separate column opposite each item, and shall be taken and considered as the taxable value at which it shall be listed and upon which the levy shall be made. Actual value as used in this act shall mean its value in the market in the ordinary course of trade.

The following property is exempt from taxation: First—All property of the state, counties and municipal corporations. Second—Such other property as may be used exclusively for agricultural and horticultural societies, for schools, religious, cemetery and charitable purposes. In the assessment of real estate, encumbered by a public easement, any depreciation occasioned by such easement shall be deducted in the valuation of such property. The increased value of lands by reason of live fences, fruit and forest trees grown and cultivated thereon, shall not be taken into account in the assessment thereof.

The following provisions are made for tax liens: Sec. 14—Taxes on real property shall be a lien thereon from and including the first day of April of the year in which they are levied until the same are paid. Sec. 15—Taxes assessed upon personal property shall be a lien upon the personal property of the person to whom assessed from and after the first day of October of the year in which they are assessed, until paid.

Sec. 16—When property is assessed to any person as agent for another, or in a representative capacity, such person shall have a lien upon such property, or any property of his principal in his possession, for the taxes thereon until he is indemnified against the payment thereof, if he has paid the taxes, until he is reimbursed therefor.

Sec. 17—All general taxes due the state, county, school district, town, road district, city or village, shall be a first lien on the real estate on which levied and take priority over all other encumbrances and liens thereon.

Sec. 18—All special assessments, regularly assessed and levied by any county or municipality, duly authorized, shall be a lien on the real estate on which assessed, as provided by the statute authorizing the same, but shall be subject to the general taxes mentioned in the last preceding section.

County assessors are to be elected at the general election in 1902 and every four years thereafter. The first Thursday after the first Tuesday in January is the date set for taking the office. No assessor shall be eligible for election for two consecutive terms and shall hold office for four years.

The county assessor and the county board shall determine the number of deputies necessary in the different sections of the county. The county assessor must provide a bond for not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$10,000. The county assessors shall receive the following compensation: In counties having a population of 5,000 or less, \$250; in counties having a population from 5,000 to 10,000, \$350; in counties having a population of 10,000 to 30,000, \$500; in counties having a population from 30,000 to 50,000, \$600; in counties having a population from 50,000 to 100,000, \$1,200; in counties having a population of over 100,000, \$1,800.

The compensation of the deputy assessors shall be \$3 per day for the time actually and necessarily employed. The county superintendent must furnish the assessors with maps of the townships or precincts, and must also supply the deputies.

A penalty of not less than \$20 nor more than \$100 is provided for neglect or duty on part of any assessor or deputy assessor.

PERSONAL PROPERTY. Personal property shall be listed by the following persons: Every person of full age and sound mind, being a resident of this state, shall list all his moneys, credits, bonds, or stocks, shares of stock of joint stock or other companies, when the capital stock of such company is not assessed in this state, moneys loaned or invested, annuities, franchises, royalties, and all other personal property.

He shall also list all moneys and other personal property invested, loaned or otherwise controlled by him as the agent or attorney, or on account of any other person or persons, company or corporation whatsoever, and all moneys deposited subject to his order, check, or draft and credits due from any person or persons, body corporate or politic, whether in or out of the county.

The property of a minor child shall be listed by his guardian; if he have no guardian, then the father, if living; if not, by the mother, if living, and if neither father or mother be living, by the person having such property in charge.

The property of any other person under guardianship; or if he has no guardian, by the person having charge of such property.

The property of a wife, by her husband, if of sound mind, if not, by herself.

The property of a person for whose benefit it is held in trust, by the trustee; of the estate of a deceased person, by the executor or administrator.

The property of a corporation whose assets are in the hands of a receiver, by such receiver.

The property of corporations, by the president or proper agent or officer thereof.

The property of a firm or company, by the partner or agent thereof.

The property of manufacturers, and others in the hands of an agent, by and in the name of such agent, as merchandise.

LISTING THE PROPERTY. Personal property shall be listed where the owner resides. Corporation property shall be listed where the head office is located. If there be no head office in the state the property shall be listed wherever business is transacted.

When the owner of a farm has land in several precincts it shall be listed where he resides. Live stock in the hands of a care taker shall be listed where it is kept. All property may be seized and sold for taxes. Every article of personal property must be entered in the blank list which the assessor shall present. This must be sworn to. For tax dodging fines are prescribed.

INSURANCE COMPANIES. The following taxes and assessments are imposed on insurance companies, pipe lines, grain brokers, pawn brokers and railroads: Sec. 58. Each and every re insurance company organized under the laws of any other state or county, and transacting business in this state, shall be taxed in the county, town, city, village and school district where the agent conducts the business, upon the gross amount of premiums received by it for insurance written upon property within the state during the preceding year. Such gross receipts to be taken as an item of property of that value and to be assessed and taxed on the same percentage of such value as other property. The agent shall render the list and be personally liable for the tax. If he refuse to render the list, or to make affidavit that the same is correct, the amount may be valued and assessed according to the best information of the assessor.

Sec. 59. Every life insurance, and accident insurance, or life and accident insurance company organized under the laws of any other state or county, and transacting business in Nebraska, except fraternal beneficiary associations and such mutual companies as operate on the assessment plan, have no capital stock and make no dividends, and whose scheme of insurance does not contemplate the return of any percentage of earnings or profits to policy holders, shall, at the time of making the annual statement as required by law, pay into the state treasury 2 per cent of the gross amount of premiums received by it during the preceding calendar year for business done in this state, including all insurance upon the lives of persons residing in the state, whether such insurance was written during such preceding year or prior thereto. At the time of paying said taxes such companies shall take duplicate receipts therefor, one of which shall be filed with the state auditor. No certificate shall be issued by the auditor to or on behalf of any such company authorizing it to do or continue business in this state while any such percentage or tax remains due and unpaid.

Sec. 60. Every surety company organized under the laws of any state or county other than the state of Nebraska, and transacting business in this state, shall, during the month of January of each year, make out and file with the state auditor an itemized statement verified by the president, or vice president, and secretary, showing in detail the gross receipts from all business transacted in this state during the preceding calendar year, including the gross premium on all surety bonds of obligations of every kind, and shall at the same time pay into the state treasury as a tax on such business, 2 per cent of such gross receipts. No certificate shall be issued by the auditor to any surety company, or agent thereof, authorizing it to do or continue business in this state while any such percentage or tax remains due and unpaid.

Sec. 61. Every life, fire or accident insurance company, or surety company, organized under the laws of this state, except fraternal beneficiary associations, and mutual companies that operate on the assessment plan, have no capital stock, and make no dividends, shall be taxed in the county, town, city, village and school district where the agent conducts the business upon the gross amount of premiums received by it for all business done within the state during the preceding calendar year. Such gross receipts shall be taken as an item of property of that value and be assessed and taxed on the same percentage of such value as other property. The agent shall render the list, or make affidavit that the same is correct, the amount may be valued and assessed according to the best information of the assessor.

CORPORATIONS. Sec. 68. Street railways, waterworks, electric light and gasworks, natural gas, mining and all other companies and associations incorporated under the laws of, or doing business in, this state, other than those specifically mentioned in this act, shall, in addition to the other property required to be listed, make out and deliver to the assessor a sworn statement of the amount of its capital stock, setting forth particularly:

1. The name and location of the company.

2. The amount of capital stock authorized, and the number of shares into which capital stock is divided.

3. The amount of capital stock paid up.

4. The market value, or, if no market value, then the actual value of the shares of stock.

5. The true value of its franchise, if any, granted under and by virtue of any law of this state or ordinance of any city or village.

6. The total amount of indebtedness, except the indebtedness for current expenses, excluding from expenses the amount paid for the purchase or improvement of property.

7. The amount of capital on which a dividend was declared during the last preceding year.

8. The date of each dividend declared during said year, ending with the last day of the last preceding December.

9. The rate per cent of each dividend declared.

10. The total amount of each dividend declared during the year ending with the last day of the last preceding December.

11. Gross earnings during said year.

12. Net earnings during said year.

13. Amount of surplus.

14. Amount of profit added to sinking fund during said year.

15. Maximum price at which shares of stock sold during said year.

16. Minimum price at which shares of stock sold during said year.

17. Average price at which shares of stock sold during said year.

Sec. 69. The statement or schedule required by the preceding section shall be annexed thereto an affidavit subscribed and sworn to by two of the officers of the corporation having full knowledge of the finances and accounts of the company, stating the title of the officers making the report and name of the corporation, and that the foregoing statement signed by them is true.

MAY ASSUME THE FRANCHISE. Sec. 70. If the assessor is not satisfied with the valuation so made and returned to him, he is authorized to make a valuation of the franchise of said corporation based upon the facts contained in the report herein required, or upon any information within his possession, and he shall, in either case, assess to the corporation the full value of its franchise and of its tangible property not otherwise assessed. Whenever any such corporation shall own real estate or personal property that is otherwise assessed, the assessed value of such real estate or other property shall be deducted from the assessed value of the capital stock of such corporation.

Sec. 71. Every company incorporated by the authority of any other state or government, and doing business in this state, shall, by its duly authorized agent or manager, make out and deliver to the assessor of any county, or his deputy, in which the corporation owns property, a statement under oath, giving the name of the corporation, the nature of the business in which it is engaged, the name of the state or government under which it was incorporated, a description of all the real and personal property owned by said corporation in said county and the value thereof, together with the true value of its franchise in such county. Such statement shall also contain the amount of gross earnings of such corporation from its business within the state, and the expenses incurred in transacting the same.

Sec. 72. If the assessor is not satisfied with the valuation so made and returned to him he shall make a valuation of the property and franchise of such corporation, based upon the report required by the preceding section, or upon any information within his possession, and he shall in either case assess to the corporation the value of its franchise in addition to the assessed valuation of its tangible property.

EXPRESS, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE. Sec. 76. Each and every person, association, co-partnership, joint stock company or corporation, engaged in the express, telegraph or telephone business in the state of Nebraska, shall be deemed and taken to be a company for the purpose of this act.

Sec. 77. It shall be the duty of each express, telephone and telegraph company to furnish to the local assessor on his demand made of any officer or managing agent, a true and verified statement of its personal property, and of the gross receipts of its business in said local assessing district for the year ending February 1 of the current year, which verification shall be by one of the general officers of said company or by the local managing agent. Said assessor may also inspect said company's books, and if account for his district. For each day's neglect or refusal to so furnish said statement, the company shall forfeit the sum of twenty-five dollars, to be recovered in an action in the name of the state. In case the local assessor shall not be able to come to the amount and value of said personal property and gross receipts as herein provided by reason of such company's neglect and refusal, he shall come as near such value and amount as his information shall admit of, add to such value and amount he shall add 50 per cent, and such total shall be the assessed value of the property of such company.

Sec. 78. Each and every express, telegraph and telephone company shall be locally assessed on its tangible property wherever it shall have any such property, in this state in like manner as other personal property is assessed, and in addition thereto on the amount of the gross receipts for the year next preceding the first day of February of the current year, such gross receipts to be taken and considered in their total as an item of property and be so listed and levied against the same as other property. Such tax on gross receipts shall represent the franchise valuation, which shall not be otherwise assessed.

The revenue bill goes into effect September 1. The duties of the county and state boards of equalization are the same as under the old law. The blanks, supplies and appeals from the decision of the assessor or boards of equalization are unchanged.

Eli Williams, a farmer living four miles south of Princeton, Ill., while digging a well, unearthed a stone plow which is believed to be a relic of the mound builders. The plow is of reddish stone, triangular in shape and fifteen inches wide each way. It was found immediately above a strata of coal.

By means of rural telephone service in the vicinity of Edwardsville, Ill., a posse of farmers was quickly summoned today to capture two supposed robbers, and in the fight that followed, Frank Charles of Mobile, Ala., one of the two men, was fatally shot and his companion escaped after a three mile chase.

OUR FOREIGN TRADE

LARGE INCREASE BOTH IN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Under Conditions So Satisfactory It Would Seem That Experiments With Our Economic System Are Neither Necessary Nor Desirable.

The export trade of the United States is rapidly resuming its normal conditions. It exhibits no pressing need of artificial stimulants in the form of special trade treaties. February figures of the Bureau of Statistics show the largest exports of any February in the history of our commerce, and also show that the exports of the three months ending with February were larger than those of the corresponding period of any earlier year. On the import side, the figures also show a continuation of the growth which has characterized the last two years. The figures of the eight months ending with February suggest that the imports of the United States in the fiscal year 1903 may exceed \$1,000,000,000, while the export figures seem likely to exceed \$1,400,000,000.

In the short month of February alone the exports amounted to \$125,502,105, which is \$12,000,000 in excess of any preceding February, and more than double the figures of February, 1893, in which month the total exports were \$59,931,984. Taking the three months ending with February, 1903, the total exports are \$407,526,200, against \$215,151,471 in the three months ending with February, 1893. Thus considering either the month of February or the three months ending with February, 1903, the total exports are not only larger than in that period of any preceding year, but practically double those of a decade ago.

The following table shows the total exports from the United States in the three months of December, January and February, from 1893 to 1903:

Three months ending with—	February, 1903.	February, 1902.	February, 1901.	February, 1900.			
1893	\$215,151,471	1899	\$447,270,191	1894	\$244,667,286	1900	\$360,292,166
1896	\$222,089,544	1901	\$395,172,488	1899	\$257,201,049	1902	\$367,656,414
1897	\$240,358,855	1900	\$407,526,200	1898	\$228,398,088	1895	\$215,151,471

The outside world keeps right on buying of us much more than it sells to us, and we keep right on increasing our purchases from abroad because we are prosperous and able to buy. It would seem on all accounts to be a very satisfactory state of things, almost an ideal state of things. Why, then, should we venture upon doubtful experiments that are approved neither in theory nor in practice? Why bother our heads about reciprocity?

INSISTS ON THE IOWA IDEA.

Gov. Cummins Evidently Bent on Keeping in the Public Eye.

The redoubtable young governor of Iowa, Mr. Cummins, has an idea and cannot get rid of it. He eats it, sleeps it and works it on all occasions. He announces that he will insist from now until the national convention that the Iowa idea of tariff revision be made a feature of the platform. He is not a free trader, but he is against a tariff on iron and steel, for instance, and on other undefined things which go to make up "monopolies." All of us are against monopolies, but until Mr. Cummins can place his finger directly on the tariff and show the country a section which works undoubtedly ill without any compensations there will be little tendency to take him seriously.

Just why at this time there should arise in the gopher hills of Iowa a desire to emancipate the rest of the country from the duty on iron and steel manufactures is not apparent. The schedules in question do not affect any Hawkeye industry. If Gov. Cummins has given that attention to the subject which he ought he will know that prices of iron and steel manufactures are not governed by the tariff, but by the enormous demand, so that not only are we selling every pound that can be manufactured here, but we are importing largely from various parts of the world. It would not be a dollar in the pockets of any man in Iowa if the whole iron and steel schedules were wiped out, but it would be ruin to many of the people there who are interested in other industries. The farmers of Iowa do not eat steel rails for breakfast nor feed pig iron to their hogs. They get rich feeding the people of this country, who are just now able to buy enormously, since they have big wages or incomes from one source or another.

It is regrettable that Mr. Cummins should insist on a campaign which can be of no service to the country and can only give aid and comfort to the Democracy. We wonder if Mr. Cummins remembers the situation in Iowa in 1893 to '97. Does he want to live those weary years over again? Of course not. The trouble is that he has some of the Democratic absurd notions about political economy which are learned only in books. He sets aside experience for the allurement of sentimental philosophy. Mr. Cummins is mistaken. He is keeping his name before the public, but not in a way that will do him or his party any good. We have no doubt that the Dingley bill could be improved, but we do not think it can be along the lines proposed by Mr. Cummins. If once the effort is made to tinker with that instrument we will have depression in business and losses all along the line, with mighty little compensation anywhere. We suggest that the Iowa idea be embalmed and buried.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Free Trade and Coal.

The Great Falls Tribune asserts that "instead of hurting the coal mining

industry in this part of the state the repeal of the tariff on coal is likely to cause an increase in the consumption of Belt and Sand Coulee coal."

The Record certainly hopes such will be the case, but nothing that the Tribune offers would lead to that conclusion.

The Tribune argues that the action of the Canadian mine owners will lead to this increased consumption of home coal. This action consists in reducing the price of Canadian coal 25 cents a ton from what it has been selling at in the American markets. The Tribune argues that this reduction will make American consumers so wroth at the selfishness of the Canadian companies that they will buy more coal than ever of the home companies. Let us hope so, although we don't believe a word of it.

However, that is no argument in favor of free trade—or, as the Tribune would put it, "tariff reform"—which would put coal on the free list for all time, instead of for a year as a temporary expedient to relieve the distress in the least caused by the shortage. The reduction of the duty is 67 cents a ton, and the Canadian companies could make a reduction to that extent if they so desired in order to control the markets this side of the line. They can mine coal cheaper than we can, because they employ Chinese and Japanese labor, with Asiatic wages, while American mines pay American wages.—Helena (Mont.) Record.

Let it R. I. P.



"Fighting Cummins?" No!

It is neither fair nor logical on the part of the Sioux City Journal to accuse the Des Moines Capital and the American Economist of "fighting Cummins." To resist the program of partial or complete free trade as a means of dealing with the trust question is not "fighting Cummins." To oppose the "potential competition" of foreign products for the sake of reducing domestic prices is not "fighting Cummins." To deprecate reciprocity in competitive products as an unjust domestic policy and an unwise foreign policy is not "fighting Cummins." To urge that Republicans keep their hands off the Dingley tariff for at least two years to come and let the Democrats do all the agitating for tariff "reform" is not "fighting Cummins." As we understand the Capital's position, that very sound and able newspaper is not "fighting Cummins" at all. Neither is the American Economist "fighting Cummins." In both cases there is no desire to lay a straw in the way of the Governor's ambition for re-election. If Iowa Republicans want him as governor for another term, that is their business, not ours. What we are fighting is not Cummins, but the "idea" which he stands for. We believe that that "idea" involves the ultimate breaking down of the American protective tariff system. Hence we are fighting the "idea."

Tariff on Coal.

The coal duty is the very oldest of the protective measures on the statute books of this country. The original tariff act of 1789 imposed a duty upon coal of every kind and quality, and there has never been a time until now when bituminous coal entered the country free of duty. The need for protection in the East and Middle West has long gone by, so there was not a coal operator in any of the sections now suffering from the coal shortage who interposed the slightest objection to the repeal of a duty which was meaningless to him. The tariff did protect an industry in the state of Washington. Its removal is a heavy blow to this state; and the worst of it—the really irritating point—is that the action of Congress will be absolutely without any benefit to the coal consumers in whose interests it was ostensibly taken.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Why Not.

"Senator Nelson introduced an amendment providing for the change of flour from the general class, which receives a 20 per cent concession from the Cuban tariff, to that class which is to receive a 40 per cent concession."

Well, why not? If the Northwestern farmer is going to be prevented from raising sugar beets because of the preferential bounty voted to Cuban planters, he might at least be compensated to a trifling extent by a wider opening through which flour may enter the Cuban market. It wouldn't make up for the loss of profits on beet growing, to be sure, but it would be something. As the treaty stands the American farmer gets precious little out of it except a black eye. All the prize packages go to the Cuban farmer.

WIT IN THE SENATE

JESTS OF FAMOUS STATESMEN RECALLED.

Examples of Jokes of Calhoun, Holmes, Clay and Webster—Tirade Uttered by John Randolph of Roanoke in the Upper House.

John C. Calhoun, when vice president, did not believe that, as the presiding officer of the senate, he had any right to call Senators to order for words spoken in debate. John Randolph of Roanoke abused this license by making a speech with the words: "Mr. Speaker—I mean, Mr. President of the Senate, and would-be President of the United States—which God, in His infinite mercy, avert!" and then launched into one of his characteristic tirades.

Calhoun's name recalls nullification. When this was at its most rampant stage the northern Senators depended largely upon John Holmes of Maine as champion of their side of the chamber, on account of his ready wit, says a writer in the Century. John Tyler tried to badger him one day by asking what had become of that political firm once mentioned by Randolph as "James Madison, Felix Grundy, John Holmes and the devil."

"The partnership," answered Mr. Holmes, promptly, "has been legally dissolved. The senior member is dead, the second has gone into retirement, the third now addresses you and the last has gone over to the nullifiers and is electioneering among the honorable senator's constituents."

Clay and Webster were not habitual humorists, but both had the gift of entertaining as well as of entraining their audiences. Clay ran most to illustrative anecdote. While he was in the House a prominent politician deserted the Whig party in the hope of starting a general revolt. To his dismay he found himself quite alone and then bent all his energies to getting back into good standing. The incident reminded Clay of a story. Said he:

"A stage coach took aboard a passenger who insisted upon riding with the driver, and who diligently drew upon the contents of a bottle carried in his great coat pocket. When his potatoes at last overcame him he fell off. The coach stopped long enough for some charitable travelers to alight and pull the poor fellow out of the mud."

"Ha!" he exclaimed, as he looked down at his tattered garments, "we had quite a (hic) turnover, didn't we?"

"Oh, no," answered one of his rescuers, "there was no turnover. You only fell off."

"I say," he persisted, "there was a (hic) turnover, and I leave it to the company."

Every one joined in assuring him that the coach had not upset.

"Well," he remarked ruefully, as he tried to climb back to his former perch, "if I'd known that (hic) I wouldn't have got off."

On a certain afternoon the Senate clock got a fit of striking in the midst of one of Webster's most effective speeches. After it had struck fourteen or fifteen, Webster held up one finger. "Mr. President," said he, "the clock is out of order. I have the floor."

Dewey, a Dog, and a Boy.

Passing the home of Admiral Dewey recently I found the hero of Manila out in front attending to the crushed foot of a dog that had been struck by a street car. The poor little creature looked up gratefully into the great Admiral's face as he bound the wound. The bandage was fastened with a safety pin from—no matter where, the Admiral is equal to emergencies.

A little later a young man from up in New England, who had dreamed long of entering the navy, came up. He told his mission in a manly way. He wanted to meet his ideal and the greatest living naval hero. There was a hearty handgrasp, with a hearty word of inspiring encouragement. The boy, six feet tall and over, scarcely 18, towered above the Admiral.

"Splendid! splendid!" he said, as he gazed upon the form of a lad who was determined to face the bridge some day. A great, tender-hearted man is America's own Admiral Dewey.—Joe Mitchell Chappie in National Magazine.

Lift Up Thine Eyes.

Comrade, that seek'st the clew Of whence and whither to, Rather, in trust, let be The shrouded mystery! Brood not, but toward the skies Lift up thine eyes!

If the sworn friendship fail, And fleeing foes assail, If Love, half defied, Turn scornfully aside, If ogre Doubt arise, Lift up thine eyes!

Grip faith, to thee (not fate) In the good ultimate! With this, from sun to sun Until thy race be run, And the last daylight dies, Lift up thine eyes! —Clinton Scollard, in Independent.

Horrible to Contemplate.

They were two sisters who had lived simply and quietly together. When one of them died the other gave the undertaker the best black silk dress of the deceased to lay her out in. The undertaker took two breadths from the back of the voluminous skirt, as is the custom. But he put them back again at the command of the living sister. "For," said she, "how would my sister look walking around the streets of Jerusalem with no back breadths in her skirt?"