

**IT IS AN ANTIQUATED SYSTEM.**

**Our Present Method of Taxation is Wrong in Theory and Vicious in Practice — The Constitutional Amendment Will Remove Limitations Placed in the Constitution by Aliens.**

R. R. Williams in Greensboro News.

The tax amendment has but one purpose and that is to remove some of the present constitutional limitations upon our tax system and thereby grant permission to future Legislatures to enact other systems of taxation as modern experience may suggest or changed conditions require; and the supreme reason underlying its submission is that, in the opinion of the commission which drafted it and the Legislature which submitted it, which opinion was arrived at after mature deliberation and truth-seeking inquiry from those best able to know, both practiced executive officials as well as economic students, the system of taxation in vogue in North Carolina today is not only unjust in theory, but vicious in practice and that the cause of the evils lies deeper than the mere operation; that it is imbedded in the principle itself.

It is submitted for the further reason, that it follows the only course which has been pronounced sound by economic students or which has proven successful in practical operation.

**An Outworn System.**

That the causes of the evils in our present system do rest in the principle and not in the operation can be safely concluded when we reflect not only that the evils have continued in North Carolina during more than 40 years, regardless of the party in power, but that the machinery law upon the statute books, but that the experience of every other nation and State which has attempted to enforce the system.

More than 100 years ago England abolished it and now no European has it with the exception of Holland and Switzerland. Nearly 40 American States have attempted it, at one time or another in their history and not one pronounces it as satisfactory. It is not contained in the early constitutions but can be traced to the temporary wave of distrust which swept over our country in the years which immediately preceded and immediately succeeded the war between the States: It its beginning and its end in that period. Within the last 20 years no State has adopted it, while within the last 12 years seven States have stricken it from their constitutions and amendments are now pending in other States. During the past year, amendments removing the restrictions from the constitution were adopted in two States and submitted in 11 more. A large proportion of the 285 amendments to State constitution which have been adopted in the last 11 years have related to revenue and financial provisions and evidence of a general determination of States throughout the Union to break the shackles, which bind them to a system such as is now in force in our State.

**Conclusion of Authority.**

Directing their investigation to a study of the various tax amendments which have recently been submitted and adopted, the International Tax Conference, in 1910, drew therefrom this significant conclusion:

"We find that States which have modified or abandoned the general property tax, show no intention of returning to it, and that in States where the general property tax is required by constitutional provisions there is a growing demand for the repeal of such provisions; that the failure of a general property tax in its application to personal property, is due to inherent defects in its theory; and that even reasonably fair and effective administration simply increases the inequalities and unjust operations of the system."

The Supreme Court of the United States has referred to a system similar to that which we have, in the following language:

"A system which imposes the same tax upon every species of property, irrespective of its nature, condition or class will be destructive of the principle of the uniformity and equality of taxation and of a just adaption of property to its burdens."

The opinion of investigating tax commissions, of students of taxation and writers on economic subjects and of administration officials in every State where investigations have been made, have condemned it as a failure, frequently referring to it as "the worst tax system in the world," and as a system "that puts a premium on dishonesty and debauches the public conscience."

**Its History.**

The present tax clause of our constitution did not grow out of any traditions of our people nor is it the result of any crystallization of sen-

**Carranza Has Not Been Recognized As President.**

Washington Dispatch, 3d. So far as the United States is concerned General Carranza is not provisional president of Mexico "but first chief of the Constitutionalist army" in temporary charge of the Executive power of the Republic.

President Wilson himself so explained the status of the Mexican Executive in discussing Mexican affairs with callers today. Mr. Wilson said that so far as he had been informed Carranza did not style himself "provisional president."

The significance of the President's explanation lies in the fact that General Villa informed the United States that during the conference at Torreon when the first Villa-Carranza dispute was adjusted an agreement was reached for a convention of all generals and representatives of the army in Mexico City to designate a provisional president. Villa made it clear if Carranza were selected he could not under the constitution be a candidate to succeed himself in the general election. It is considered likely in official circles that when a provisional president is chosen, recognition will be extended though American forces probably will not be withdrawn from Vera Cruz until after an election is held.

A lighted match carelessly cast aside on board a gasoline power boat at Newbern Monday caused the total destruction of the boat, a section of a boat house and warf, and the serious injury of two boys, who had gone down to the boat to take a quiet smoke.

ment on the part of our people. The earlier constitutions of our State, which were born in confidence in the

constitution, contained no substantial limitations upon the taxing power of the General Assembly. The constitution of 1776, framed during the American Revolution, when freedom was the passion of young America, and when a great war was being waged because of abuse of the taxing power, contained but this brief provision: "XVI. That the people of this State ought not to be taxed or made subject to the payment of any impost duties, without the consent of themselves of their Representatives in General Assembly, freely given."

After 50 years of experience under this broad and simple provision, the great convention of 1835, which, with respect to many other provisions, completely remodeled the constitution with respect to the taxing power made only this brief addition:

"Section 3. One. Capitation tax shall be equal throughout the State, upon all individuals subject to the same."

"Two. All free males over the age 21 years and under the age of 45 years and all slaves over the age of 12 years, and under the age of 50 years shall be subject to a capitation tax, and no other person shall be subject to such tax: Provided, that nothing herein contained shall prevent exemption of taxable polls, as heretofore prescribed by law in case of poverty or infirmity."

It was not until our State was in the throes of reconstruction and our public policies were dictated by men who knew nothing of the tradition of our people, and had no regard for the credit of our State, that the present provision was inserted. So far as I have been able to ascertain, it was not the result of any abuses under the former system, nor of any demand on the part of our people. It was a part of the Ohio constitution of 1851 and was brought to us by Tourgee and those of the same type who scourged us during the days of our humility without reverence for our traditions or love for our people.

The proposed amendment does nothing but remove some of the restrictions that were thus engrafted upon our constitution. If we were living under the constitution which governed our fathers for the first 90 years of the history of our State there would be no need at the present time for an amendment to our organic law. All that it is proposed to do and more, could have been done under the old constitutions without the charging of a letter or a syllable therein. The proposed amendment is but a hearkening back to the principles of our fathers.

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**U. S. CAN'T SEND SHIP THROUGH DARDANELLES**

Turkey Refuses to Allow Cruiser North Carolina to Go to Constantinople.

Washington Dispatch, 3d. Turkey has declined to grant the request of the United States for permission to send the cruiser North Carolina through Dardanelles to Constantinople to deliver \$150,000 in gold deposited here for the relief of Americans in the Ottoman Empire.

The Grand Vizier has informed the American Government that the waters of the Dardanelles are mined and that it would be unsafe for a vessel as large as the North Carolina to go through the Straits. He declared also that it might establish a precedent for the passage of other foreign warships and suggested that the American naval yacht Scorpion on duty in Turkish waters, be sent to sea to meet the North Carolina.

This was the substance of a long cablegram received at the White House and State Department today from Ambassador Morgenthau, the first message from him in several days. The Ambassador made no mention of any declaration of war, but referred to the diplomatic situation as highly critical.

The Ambassador reported that all Americans who wished to leave had done so and he thought funds aboard the North Carolina would be sufficient for immediate needs.

**Favors Yacht.**

In view of the delicate situation the American Ambassador suggested that the plan of sending the Scorpion to meet the North Carolina outside the Straits be adopted. The incident was discussed at the navy and State

lines, now at Falmouth, England will start tomorrow for the Mediterranean. She probably will touch at Italian ports and take aboard Assistant Secretary Breckenbridge, reaching the Dardanelles in a week or 10 days. By the time of her arrival officials here expect Turkey will have declared war on either Great Britain or Russia. In that event they deem it more prudent to keep the cruiser away from the scene of possible naval conflicts.

The incident recalled past relations between the United States and Turkey on the passage of foreign warships through the Dardanelles. The United States never has recognized the right of Turkey to close the Straits to foreign warships in time of peace, although European powers have agreed to it. The American Government merely has recognized the custom of excluding foreign warships as "a usage."

Secretary of State Fish, in 1873 wrote in this connection to the Turkish Government:

**Not Admitted.**

"The abstract right of the Turkish Government to obstruct navigation of the Dardanelles even to vessels of war in time of peace is a serious question. The right, however, has for a long time been claimed and been sanctioned by treaties between Turkey and certain European States. A proper occasion may arise for us to dispute the applicability of the claim of the United States men-of-war. Meanwhile it is deemed expedient to acquiesce in the exclusion."

Officials here agreed that the imminence of war in Turkey made it similarly expedient at this time for the American government not to press its request that the North Carolina be granted passage.

**Reduce Cotton and Tobacco Acreage.**

Fort Worth, Tex., Dispatch, 3d. Charles S. Barrett of Georgia was re-elected president, a committee was named to go to Washington in the interest of legislation which would provide direct federal aid for the farmer in the present market stagnation and a rural credits plan was today endorsed at the final session of the tenth annual convention of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America.

The executive committee includes C. C. Wright, South Carolina.

The convention recommended that all influence possible shall be brought to bear in all effort to reduce the acreage of cotton and tobacco next year.

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**Colds**

should be "nipped in the bud", for if allowed to run unchecked, serious results may follow. Numerous cases of consumption, pneumonia, and other fatal diseases, can be traced back to a cold. At the first sign of a cold, protect yourself by thoroughly cleansing your system with a few doses of

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Mr. Chas. A. Ragland, of Madison Heights, Va., says: "I have been using Thebtford's Black-Draught for stomach troubles, indigestion, and colds, and find it to be the very best medicine I ever used. It makes an old man feel like a young one." Insist on Thebtford's, the original and genuine. E-67

**EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.**  
Having qualified as executor of the estate of Mary Clark, deceased, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate to present them to the undersigned, or to his attorneys, Messrs. Johnson & Johnson, on or before the 22nd day of August, 1915,

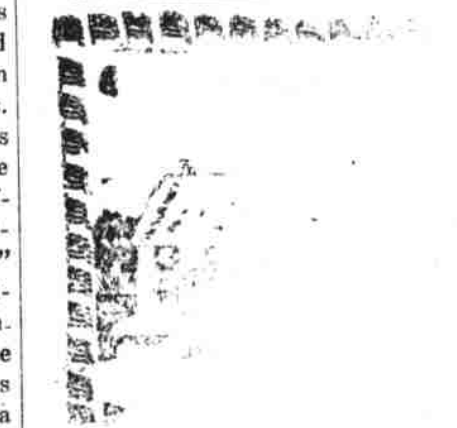
their recovery.  
All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.  
This the 20th day of August, 1914.  
JOSEPH CLARK, Executor,  
of Mary Clark, deceased.  
JOHNSON & JOHNSON,  
8246 Mon. Attys. for Executor.

**WAR**

(B. L. T., in Chicago Tribune)  
We give our children drums to beat Before they stand upon their feet; We give them swords and soldiers gay,  
And at the game of war they play, We bend the twig of humankind, Yet marvel if the tree's inclined.

Early we learn that might is right, That life itself is one long fight. This world is a battlefield, we teach; Business is war—a common speech. We bash our brother on the nose, Yet weep if nations come to blows.

Our poems and pictures, books and plays The doughty deeds of warriors praise. Our mode of speech, our mode of life Are echoes of the ancient strife. The women dress au militaire, Yet—"war's a horrible affair."



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