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QUASI-PUBLIC CORPORATIONS

They Largely Escape Just Share of Public Burdens.

THE GROSS INCOME TAX

Is a Just Method of Placing Taxes on the Franchise.

EXPECT THE USUAL STOCK ARGUMENTS

"Of Driving Capital Out of the State, Confiscation of Wealth, and Anarchistic Opposition to Wealth," to Come From Corporation Hirelings.

To the Editor:—I am glad to take advantage of your request to give expression to my view on the subject of the proper method of taxing the quasi-public corporations in our State. The agitation of this matter in the last Legislature was but a preliminary skirmish. A few States grappled the subject years ago and it is uncertain yet where the victory lies. Others, like ourselves, are just joining the battle; while in still more the taxation of public service and other corporations has not yet been given the prominence which it is bound to receive in the near future.

One would suppose that the varied experience already gained by governments in respect to this great department of their business would long ago have resulted in the correct and accurate establishment of certain principles, which would be generally adopted and acknowledged as the basis for practical application. But no such result has been accomplished. Not merely is the proper taxation of corporations a vexed and unsettled question, but the entire scheme of taxation, an essential for the maintenance of all government, is a patch-work more resembling the structure of a crazy quilt than an orderly and well conceived pattern.

A student of this subject can find in his investigations unlimited examples of the appropriation of private property, under the name of taxation, which have been prompted by greed, or necessity, or both, in the desire to retain power.

It seems useless, however, to discuss it might be, to attempt a discussion of the economic principles which should govern when selecting a proper system of raising revenue for State purposes. Certain lines have been followed for years in North Carolina and it will be a slow process to change them.

In my opinion the vital question before us is this: Are we to permit the great changes which have been made in late years in the industrial development of this country, come to pass without an effort to adapt ourselves to them in this important and overshadowing question of taxation?

Not many States have struggled with the difficulties which have beset North Carolina in the efforts to construct a satisfactory financial system. The population of the State being in a great measure rural, the great advance in the organization and growth of corporations has not been noticed to the same extent as it has been in some other States. We have accordingly been content to raise the chief portion of the State's revenue from the general property tax, the antiquated poll tax, and certain questionable license taxes. One State alone had a lower per capita valuation than North Carolina. The populations of North Carolina and Virginia are nearly the same while the total assessed property in Virginia was in 1890 415 million dollars, while in North Carolina it was 235 million dollars.

One remedy (without going into a discussion of the defects in our machinery act) is an introduction into our laws of a just and equitable but very positive scheme of corporation franchise taxes. As a matter of course the most prominent corporations which would be concerned would be the corporations of a semi-public nature, and chief among these are the railroad, telegraph, telephone and express companies.

The president of one of our greatest railroad companies not long ago in a public discussion of this question, when the great value of the franchise of his road was referred to, is said to have flippantly replied that these franchises were things which he could purchase at fifty cents the dozen. This may be true. Large corporations sometimes have a way of accomplishing their object in mysterious ways. All franchises, however, are not so cheap. We have in mind one short mile of road which, although the franchise cost its first owner possibly even less than fifty cents, is now, according to the statement of a prominent railroad man, worth to its owner in the neighborhood of fifty thousand dollars. This mile of railroad is able to control a good part of the wholesale trade of Wilmington. It is assessed for taxation at \$6,250. To our mind the difference between the value of this road to its present owners, and the cost to actually replace the tangible property, less a proper allowance for depreciation, is the value of that intangible thing called franchise and which most towns and States also, are too prone to give away for the asking.

In the recent edition of "The Theory and Practice of Taxation," by Mr. David A. Wells, it is very plainly stated that "the recognition of franchises, a species of property as invisible and intangible as the soul in a man's body, as a proper object for taxation is now regarded by many as beyond any dispute. It is peculiarly appropriate as a source of revenue for the exclusive use of the State, inasmuch as the grant of franchises emanates from the State in its sovereign capacity." Mr. Wells further illustrates by quoting from decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States which very forcibly uphold the right to tax corporate franchises. The great difficulty in applying this tax is on account of the lack of any well defined and well settled principle of appraisal. If this appraisal was made based upon the value which the public places upon the property, as evidenced by the market value of its capital stock, certificates of indebtedness, bonds or any other securities, the value of which was predicated upon the earning capacity of the property, the duty would be an easy one. If the life of the franchise was limited to a certain definite number of years as it should be, the present value of the property could be easily determined by a calculation based upon an estimate of the average yearly profits for a number of years. During the last General Assembly an effort was made to adopt the method in use in a number of States in regard to railroads, of levying a graduated tax on their gross earnings. This tax of course was not intended to affect the general property tax of the railroads, which they together with every other citizen of the State, whether individual or corporate, should pay. But it was of the nature of a license tax—a tax upon the capitalization of the right to use the streets of a city, of the authority to take property under the right of eminent domain, or any other specific right or privilege granted by the State. Of these methods one or the other ought surely to be adopted. That it will be accomplished without strenuous opposition is hardly to be expected. The "line of least resistance" along which our tax laws have been framed is not the line formed by the railroads and other public corporations, but is the line composed of the small property owner who cannot afford to take the action necessary to relieve himself of his burden.

If these corporations loyally accepted the yoke of the law, if they would cease their interference in political matters, their applications to Federal judges to nullify State laws by injunctions, when the matters in controversy ought to be and could be equitably adjusted by our own courts, a great amount of unreasonable opposition would be averted.

But when the question comes up again we will have the usual stock arguments about driving capital from the State, confiscation of property, anarchistic opposition to wealth, &c., giving no one credit for an honest desire to justly arrive at an equitable solution of a problem which has vexed mankind since the secession of the ten tribes of Israel disrupted the Jewish monarchy.

M. S. WILLARD.
Wilmington, N. C., Nov. 24.

FOR "NATIONAL REFORMS."

A Suggestion for an Amendment to the Constitution.

To the Editor: An editorial article under the caption above in your issue of the 15th instant, called attention to, and quotes a recommendation by the Philadelphia Times of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States increasing the length of the term of office of the President from four to six years, and rendering him ineligible for re-election.

It is not the first time that an amendment of the kind has been suggested of late, and it is encouraging to know that some, at least, of the people of the Northern States, recognize a necessity that was long ago apparent—and was acted upon by us of the Confederate States.

The permanent Constitution of the Confederate States, adopted at Montgomery, Ala., the 11th of March, 1861, contains the following:

"Article I, Section 1. The executive power shall be vested in a President of the Confederate States of America. He and the Vice-President shall hold their offices for the term of six years; but the President shall not be re-eligible."

A provision of the kind quoted above would put an end effectually to the electioneering campaign for re-nomination which has characterized the first terms of many of our Presidents, and enable the incumbent for the time being to devote the whole of his time and attention to the discharge of the duties of his office.

One of the first acts of the Confederate Government was to adopt as its fundamental law the Constitution of the United States, with such slight alterations as the difference of circumstances made necessary, thus, at the outset, disposing of the Bippant statement, so often made, that the object of the Confederates was the destruction of the United States Government. It was the perversion of that government to which they took exception, their only wish being to erect and live under the government their fathers had erected, leaving to those who differed from them a similar government construed and administered as they preferred.

Besides the alteration already cited, there were two or three others equally desirable, among them an emphatic and positive prohibition of the foreign slave trade (Article I, Section 9), which no trade occurs in the Constitution of the United States. On the contrary it is expressly allowed until 1808 in the latter instrument, and its prohibition after that date is permissive only. (Article I, Section 9).

GRAHAM DAVES.
Newbern, N. C., Nov. 19.

is but an imitation of a donkey's braying. Man isn't the only animal that lives off his relations. There is the ant-eater.

THE SWITZERLAND OF AMERICA

Ashe County Very Rich in Mineral Deposits.

MAGNETIC IRON ORES

They Are Said to be the Richest in the World.

ELK KNOB'S 30 FEET COPPER VEIN

Between Two Copper Sections There is a Net Work of Mica Mines Extending Through Ashe, Watauga, Mitchell and Yancey Counties.

To the Editor:—This county (Ashe), is in the extreme northwestern part of North Carolina, in the corner adjoining Virginia and Tennessee, and is appropriately called the Switzerland of America. Situated right on the summit of the Appalachian range of mountains it is 3,000 feet above the sea level, with some points reaching an altitude of 5,500 feet but yet possessed of a climate from April to Christmas unexcelled anywhere in the world.

That this country will one day be one of the most important sections of the United States is beyond question for there is a strip of country about 75 miles in width, beginning with the Iron Mountains, in Virginia, running parallel with the Blue Ridge through North Carolina, and extending over part of Tennessee, through Georgia, and a part of Alabama, which is one continuous bed of ore.

A short description of this I think would be of interest to men who are interested in minerals and will only mention veins which have been developed sufficiently to determine the quality of the ores.

Beginning with the Iron Mountains of Smyth and Grayson counties, Virginia, with their immense beds of red and brown hematite iron ores and coming down on the south side of the mountain the famous marble and limestone quarries of Grayson county are approached; passing over the Virginia line into North Carolina on both sides of the Blue Ridge, stretches of miles, immense deposits of the finest magnetic iron ores in the world, are found. Some work is being done on these veins now and it is said that from 300 to 500 cars could be loaded with this ore by moving no more than a car of dirt. Five miles further on, in a branch of the Phoenix Mountain, we find large deposits of tannic acid iron ores and looking to our right, fifteen miles to the west stands Elk Knob, with its 30-foot vein of solid copper sulphurets; then turning southward we find copper, both native and sulphurets. One of these veins was worked extensively about ten years ago by the Ore Knob Copper Company, but owing to the then great disparity from a railroad and the cheapness of copper, the works went down; then further south, over the Blue Ridge, we have large deposits of manganese, talc, and kalin; then gold sets in.

Between these two copper sections we have a network of mica veins, extending through Ashe, Watauga, Mitchell and Yancey counties, interspersed with soapstone and asbestos. In these counties we have every kind of mica known to the trade, amber, green, white, black, and speckled. It is a well established fact that North Carolina mica is of the finest quality known.

The business of your correspondent is mica mining. This was selected out of a hundred other things for the reason that when mica is prepared for market it is not so bulky and can be drawn by wagons 30 miles to the works with small cost and at a small profit.

We located here because we know this county, with its vast resources, will attract a railroad soon and will not be always in its present undeveloped stage and this article is written, hoping that it will catch the eye of some of our Northern brothers, who have capital and are seeking a profitable place of investment with it, and "hang their harps upon the for it and persuade them to come down willows" of the Old North State, and they will meet with the outstretched hand of welcome and with the hearty co-operation of every good citizen of this, God's most favored section—the Beautiful Southland.

Any information desired by any parties interested will be gladly furnished by the Carolina Mining Company, Jefferson, N. C.

C. L. ZOLL.

A Joke That Went Too Far

(New York Telegraph.)
A very interesting question in law has arisen in Binghamton which may not be settled for years and years to come. Two sisters and a cousin living in the same house became mothers at the same time. The husband of one of the mothers arriving late, it was thought a good joke by the nurses to place all the infants on a bed and inform the belated parent that he was the sire of triplets. He was somewhat surprised, and every one laughed hugely, until the time came to separate the three and return them to their respective mothers. Then it was suddenly discovered that, as they were of the same sex, their clothing similar and their appearance, as is usual at that immature stage, sufficiently alike, identification was next to impossible. Now the fathers

and mothers are at war, the nurses have been discharged and the aid of the authorities has been asked. It may be necessary to draw lots, but even that will not be satisfactory. No one will ever believe that chance restored what the joke made doubtful. In the years to come none of the three will ever be able to who they are or what they are. They cannot prove absolutely one parentage, and the law will not allow them an undivisible interest in three.

It is all right to joke within harmless limits, but when it comes to using new born infants as the subject, it is going too far. It isn't fair to the infants.

DR. ALDERMAN AT TULANE

He Has Wrought Wonders in His New Field in Louisiana.

To the Editor:—Dr. Alderman's short stay in New Orleans has already been marked by signal success. His name is on every tongue and he is conceded the man of the hour.

New Orleans was prepared to like him. Even before his arrival he was elected a member of the Boston Club, which corresponds to the Cosmopolitan of New York. The Round Table also opened their doors to him. The Tulane Alumni, at the Hotel de Louisiana, gave him one of the most sumptuous feasts ever spread south of New York city. The Press Club and others have tendered him more invitations than he can possibly accept. Society is bidding for him, and it is already rumored that he has been selected as the King of the next Carnival.

At Tulane University, Dr. Alderman's influence can be felt on every side. In striking contrast to the stagnating conservatism which has hitherto characterized what might have been a great University, the most aggressive progression is evident, and already the pulse beat of this growing institution is fast spreading over a rapidly increasing area.

New buildings have been projected, and by the dormitory system, which will shortly be inaugurated, the academic enrollment will be more than doubled.

Tulane has suddenly been inoculated with the spirit of the times. Students and faculty alike have suddenly developed a unity of feeling and purpose, or technically speaking a "college spirit," which is as amazing in its growth as it is far-reaching in its results.

Twelve months ago the Tulane student was in total ignorance of the meaning of "college spirit." The latent patriotism doubtless existed, but it needed to be kindled with enthusiasm. This has been the work of the leader, and this work brilliantly accomplished, has won for him the unbounded confidence and esteem of all who know him.

In athletics Dr. Alderman has won the hearts of the boys by his most enthusiastic stand for the sport which more than any other American game inculcates quickness of thought and fearlessness of action. He has initiated a system of coaching and cheering which has converted Tulane's "goose-egg" record of last year into an unbroken series of victories.

In the recent game with the Louisiana State University, Tulane's rival and inviolable conqueror for ten years previous, the tables were turned. Never before has there been such an outburst of enthusiasm and manifestation of "college spirit" in the city of New Orleans. Six hundred Tulane students, headed by a brass band, paraded in front of the bleachers and rent the air with yells and cheers which struck terror to the hearts of their opponents. The cadets were fairly swept off their feet. With a system of rushes wonderfully conceived and brilliantly executed, Tulane ran the magnificent score of 29 to 0. Coach Summerville was deservedly accredited with the achievement, but all realize that Dr. Alderman was the "power behind the throne," the power which brought such a coach to Tulane and the power which inspired the students with an enthusiasm and win-or-die spirit without which all efforts would have been futile.

North Carolinians will be glad, though hardly surprised, to know of Dr. Alderman's brilliant success in his new field.

PERCY P. WHITAKER.
New Orleans, La.

The Racing at Newton.

(Special to the News and Observer.)
Newton, N. C., Nov. 23. The hunters were in much better spirits last night on account of finding plenty of birds yesterday.

The second series of the All-Aged stakes will be run by Senator P. Why Not, Sioux, Minnie's Girl, Geneva, Peg's Girl and Prime Minister, with Earl Jingo a bye.

At the close of the All-Age stake the Subscription stake will be run. Only ten entries are allowed in this stake and the prizes are as follows. First, \$250; second, \$100; third, \$50. The first round will consist of a two-hour heat; afterwards at the discretion and direction of the judges. The dogs entered for this race and paired are as follows, viz: "Pink's Roy," owned by P. Lorillard, Jr., and handled by C. Tucker, with "Sam T." owned by Miss Elizabeth Bradley and handled by S. C. Bradley. "Lena Belle," owned by P. Lorillard, Jr., and handled by C. Tucker, with "Datt's Daisy," owned by J. S. Crane, of Ohio and handled by A. Albrough.

"Dot's Roy," owned by Avent and Duryea, and handled by J. M. Avent, with "Minnie Girl," owned by Delmonte Kennels, Geo. Crocker, proprietor, and handled by S. C. Bradley.

"Lady Rachel," owned by Avent and Duryea, and handled by J. M. Avent, with "Geneva," owned by P. Lorillard, Jr., and handled by C. Tucker.

"Sioux," owned by Avent and Duryea, and handled by J. M. Avent, with "Peg's Girl," owned by E. L. Jamison, of Toledo, Ohio, and handled by J. H. Jackson.

"RHEUMATISM IS A LIE, A FALSE CLAIM"

It is Not a Bodily Disease But it is Sin.

MEDICINE CAN'T DESTROY

Why Not Let Medicine or Nature Destroy Sin? Asks Christian Science.

A SCIENTIST REPLIES TO DR. MARSHALL

Advocates That if All Men Believed and Practised Christian Science, Diseases and Death Would Perish From the Earth.

The following letter, which we publish by request of Miss Harrison, of Newbern, is somewhat delayed, but did not reach us until last week:

Boston, Mass., Nov. 6, 1900.

To the Editor:—In your issue of the second you report a sermon on the subject of Christian Science and Faith Cures, by Rev. Dr. Marshall. He begins by giving some quotations from Mrs. Eddy's book which are very good indeed, and that much of the sermon I heartily endorse. He adds: "Mrs. Eddy's book, 'Science and Health,' is not a very readable book, nor one easily understood. No science can be understood without earnest study and application. Even our Master said: 'Strive to enter in at the strait gate; for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.'" This statement implies that it is not easy to understand and live the truth; and yet ease and harmony always follow such practice. An apprentice often chooses a hard way of doing a thing, which is easily done by a master. Jesus said: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls: for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

The Master had served his apprenticeship well, and was able to accomplish with perfect ease that which his disciples failed to do, and concerning which they said: "Why could not we cast him out?"

Multitudes of those who are "comparing spiritual things with spiritual," have found "Science and Health," the Christian Science text-book, easy of comprehension. Are the people of this denomination better educated than Dr. Marshall, and so more equal to the understanding of this volume? This I do not assert, but would rather attribute the difference between those who so easily take hold of the science of Christ—and one who evidences his misapprehension openly, to the fact that some Christians are more ready to accept the premise of Christian Science—that God is spirit, love, life, truth, and for this reason are better capable of comprehending conclusions drawn from these definitions of God. It might be wise for our clergymen to refrain from the effort to express an opinion as to the teachings of Christian Science until they too have used the ideas taught in this school with healing results. Only the practical mathematician can properly teach mathematics. Only the practical Christian Scientist can intelligently teach this science. The effort to apostrophize about any science, or any subject concerning which knowledge is not gained from actual experience, is likely to prove a failure.

In answer to the question how it is possible for a system like this to grow as it has done into one of the most remarkable movements of modern times, Dr. Marshall says: "By practicing a system of mental healing whereby it is claimed that many who have tried other curative agencies in vain, have under this system been restored to health." So far, this answer is correct, but is not complete. While it is true that people have been healed of physical troubles through Christian Science after having exhausted their faith in other remedies, it is also true that they have been healed spiritually as well. Sinners have been reformed; drunkards have been reformed; sorrow, disappointment, and dissatisfaction have been replaced with joy, happiness and satisfaction, through the conscious ever-presence of God, as Christian Scientists are taught to realize. I speak from personal experience on this point.

Previous to my study of Christian Science I had become very unhappy—full of doubts and fears, and sceptical even of the truths of the Bible. In fact I was dissatisfied with things in general; but through Christian Science I have learned to anchor my hope beyond the veil of matter, in God, whom I recognize as the only power and the only influence, and this has dissolved my doubts and fears to a very great extent.

My respect is profound for the orthodox church in which I was reared, and I yet love that church; but base indeed would be my ingratitude if I failed to recognize what God has given me through Christian Science, by the faithful, untiring efforts of its noble founder, Rev. Mary Baker G. Eddy.

Dr. Marshall asserts: "For the better understanding of the question, I will at the same time discuss kindred phenomena." If he had said, we will discuss kindred phenomena by contrast in order to better understand Christian Science, we might give our approval; for the manifestation of health as produced by Christian Science has no kindred phenomena. There is no system of healing the sick which is in any degree akin to Christian Science.

It is amusing to the Christian Scientist to note the effort that is being made by some people to establish the claim that the cause of cures in Christian Science

is the same which seems to cure under other. Who knows what heals in Christ, except the student himself, who requires a great deal of egotism, a Christian Scientist, "You do not by divine power as you claim, but by hypnotic suggestion."

Dr. Marshall states: "The results so similar must proceed from a common cause; and the sequence between cause and effect is so unalterably fixed by nature that when we see a series of effects agreeing in essential particulars we know that they must proceed from a common cause. Interested parties may deny it, if they will, and disclaim any connection with other cures; but the logic of truth and common sense compels one to believe that in so far as healings are concerned there is something in common between the patent nostrums, the electrocure, faith cures, Christian Science, hoodooism, and all other forms of extraordinary healings." I ask, why add to his list the term "extraordinary healings?" What would he name ordinary healings? Does not the patient who has been healed by the use of a drug have the same kind of a "well" look as the one who has recovered in some other way? May we not say with as clear logic and with the same degree of certainty that when a patient is cured by medicine he is not cured by medicine, but by the same cause to which Dr. Marshall attributes his so-called "extraordinary healings?" What of the Egyptian magicians who produced the same phenomena to material sense which Moses effected by the use of the rod? To all physical appearances the effects were the same. Would Dr. Marshall say that the causes were the same? The necromancer imitated Moses up to a certain point, when they failed; then they admitted the superiority of the power which wrought wonders through Moses, saying: "This is the finger of God." Evil has sought to ape God from the beginning of the world to the present time, and has claimed in all ages, "I can do anything God can do. I can heal just like God, indeed, God has nothing to do with healing. I am doing it through animal magnetism." Many counterfeits of any method does not prove there is no genuine original. There is Nazareth healed in an "extraordinary" way. He used no material remedies and restored the absent to life with whom there was no personal contact, thereby exhibiting a purely mental or spiritual power of healing. Does Mr. Marshall claim that Jesus too, was a hypnotist, and that he was reporting a falsehood when he said: "I speak not of myself, but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works?" I will grant that so far as concerns external appearances the results of various systems of curing the sick may seem similar, but I insist that Christian Science heals purely through the influence of truth, and is the identical system which Jesus used nineteen hundred years ago. Nor are the effects of truth-healing the same as the recuperation through other means—as any one inspired with new life through Christian Science can testify.

I will agree with the doctor's statement: "If it were not true that the natural tendency in all diseases is to recover the world would have been depopulated long ago;" and would add, but the natural tendency of God's creation is to express Himself, and to be co-existent and co-eternal with Himself; otherwise it would have been annihilated long ago. God is the power behind the throne which makes "the natural tendency of man to health." And through Christian Science the hindrances and obstructions, the doubts, fears and dependencies upon powers less than God, are put out of the way, and the patient is brought directly under the divine influence; so the natural tendency gains supremacy, and health speedily follows.

It is further stated: "The great majority of sick people would entirely recover if left alone." This would be well said with the addition of two words—with God.

Some diseases may be imaginary, as our friend declares. Some may be more than imagination, as Christian Science teaches; but the troubles which are mountains to our material sense are utterly powerless in the sight of God; and all diseases, imaginary or otherwise must dissolve in His presence, even as the frost before the noon-day's sun.

Our brother asks the question: "Have we reason to believe from the teaching of revelation that by any system of faith that ignores the reality of sinness and death; that denies the existence of matter, and repudiates even the being of a personal God, we may so far master ourselves that disease will become only a dream and death, a fiction? Or, to repeat the question in another form; does the Bible give us any reason to expect healings and cures other than those that result from the recuperative energy of nature, or grow out of the use of a wise system of therapeutics, including the remedies of materia medica, and those potential but mysterious influences of our own minds?"

We will allow the Scriptures to answer this question. Jesus was the greatest physician the world has ever known. His system of healing must have been the best, for his success was perfect and he was never known to lose a case. He also said: "I am the way." He did not declare, "I heal sin and sickness by evoking the aid of the Father, but you must depend upon material remedies;" but he said: "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto the Father." "And these signs shall follow them that believe," etc., as much as to say, "He who understands what I understand, and practices as I practice will be followed by like results." If he made any point in his teaching emphatic it was this, that we should be able through his method to overcome sin, and sickness, by depending alone upon the power of God. He said of a sick woman, that satan had bound her. Elsewhere, on another occasion he declared of satan: "When he speaketh a lie he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar, and the father of it." The vacation

(Continued on Second Page.)