

Argue Against Income Tax

Messrs. E. D. Latta, M. B. Speir and W. S. Lee appear in Person Before The Board of Aldermen and Speak.

The meeting of the board of aldermen last night was devoted entirely to a hearing of the representatives of the public utility corporations in regard to the tax on the gross incomes of such corporations as provided in the present draft of the charter. Those who spoke were President E. D. Latta, of the C. & N. E. R. R., Mr. M. B. Speir, superintendent of this district of the Southern Bell Telephone Company, and Mr. W. S. Lee, general manager of the Southern Power Company. The first gentleman to speak was Mr. Latta, on behalf of the street railways.

"I have come here through an invitation from you," he said, "and it is my purpose to simply make a plain business talk. When I drew a chair near the front and, seating myself proceeded in a conversational tone to discuss the proposed tax from his point of view, Mr. Latta and the gentlemen who followed him gave practically the same arguments as were given in their talks before the public session of the board held a few nights ago in the court house.

Lived for the Future. "My desire," Mr. Latta continued, "is to do all in my power for the upbuilding of our city. I have been my ambition to see Charlotte grow and to assist, as far as it is possible in bringing to our city, population from other places. I have lived only for the future. The earnings of our company so far have been devoted largely to re-investments, hoping to build up and extend our railway system so as to meet the growing needs of our city."

Mr. Latta then mentioned the street work in progress on South Tryon street, which would cost his company \$22,000, and stated that there was other work under consideration, such as the possible extension on North Tryon street, etc., which together would run the amount up to \$125,000. This was being spent for the benefit of the city and was in addition to the taxes paid. A number of cities, among them being New York, Cleveland, Baltimore and others whose railway systems have been in the hands of receivers, were cited.

"If you put the proposed tax on us," said Mr. Latta, "it will necessarily put a stop to the extension now under way. Don't understand me as threatening, gentlemen, it is not that; but the proposed tax will prohibit us from getting the money necessary to carry on these extensions and improvements by restricting the sale of our bonds. Dependent on Population. The street railway business is dependent solely on population; to get good results there must be a large population. A system of railways couldn't be given to me in a city with less than 20,000 population if I knew there would be no increase. This business depends solely upon the future. My company has met many difficulties in bringing its railway system to its present state of development and now that we can begin to see some brightness in the future it doesn't seem that our prospects should be cut off. From 1821 to 1859 we met with much trouble in obtaining money to build up our system. During this time I tried to sell \$100,000 of bonds and couldn't, but since 1859 there has been a ready market for them, I having disposed of \$300,000 of bonds.

Tax Would Obstruct Extension. "I think there is a limit to the endurance of man and of human beings, and I have gone just as far as I can see my way. There are other streets besides Trade and Tryon which need attention and must have it, but this tax would impose a great obstacle to the extension of the work. I am now at the point where, if I am encouraged, I can do more than I have ever done before, but I believe that if you put an income tax on us I can't do much."

Mr. Latta then went into a discussion of the expenses incident to the operation of a railway system. He mentioned the wear and tear of the machinery, accidents, etc. He stated that the company now has pending against it several law suits for damages and that only recently three were settled out of court by compromise.

Mr. Latta concluded his remarks by comparing the conditions existing in larger cities which have an income tax and those in Charlotte, Richmond and Norfolk, and showed how much larger they are than is Charlotte. "We are too small," said Mr. Latta. "I don't think we have reached that point where an income tax should be imposed on public utilities. If you want to keep me encouraged and cheerful so that I can exert my best efforts in the upbuilding of our city, don't impose this tax."

Mr. M. B. Speir who followed Mr. Latta and spoke in behalf of the telephone corporation viewed the proposed tax in the same light as did Mr. Latta. Mr. Speir on Telephone System. "The vicissitudes of the telephone business," said Mr. Speir, "are about the same under private as under corporate control. A telephone plant is a very fragile thing and there are many losses incident to the operation of the business."

He then showed in what better position a corporation was in to meet these obstacles than was a private concern by having a larger force to draw on. He related the past history of his com-

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Western Claims Everybody Will Have to Taken His Medicine Eventually.

From New York World, June 10, '08. "Nine out of ten people who have called today have been sent here by others. Sooner or later every tired, half-sick man and woman in New York is going to try my medicine. They can't help it. After I leave New York I shall take two months' rest and then go to London to introduce Cooper's New Discovery in England."

Among New Yorkers who have recently become enthusiasts on the subject of Cooper's medicine is George J. Scott, of No. 274 West Nineteenth street, who said Monday afternoon: "It is hard to realize that any medicine will do all that is claimed for it. I have taken all kinds of medicines for ten years and this is the first I have ever found that was worth two cents. I have had rheumatism constantly for ten years and have spent a quarter of what I make for doctors and medicines. I might have taken so much rain water for all the good they did me. Before I had taken this Cooper's New Discovery a week, I realized it was worth something. I have taken it a month and I am as well as I ever was in my life. I have no rheumatism and eat like a horse. I feel like doing something now, where a month ago I hated to walk a block. When I first bought it I thought it was another fake, but now I know better. All the other stuff I have taken was worth nothing; this is worth ten, yes, twenty times what they ask for it."

Cooper's New Discovery is now on sale at leading druggists the country over. We will send a booklet in which Mr. Cooper tells the reason for most ill health, to anyone upon request. The Cooper Medicine Co., Dayton, Ohio.

Waiting For a Conference

Charter Negotiations will be Pressed as Soon as Mr. Cansler Returns—Mayor's Salary Should be Reduced.

An informal conference of the citizens' charter committee was held last night to consider plans for future procedure, and the question came up as to whether the committee should confer with the full board of aldermen or only with the committee of 10 previously appointed from the board. There is pending an invitation to the committee from the aldermen for a meeting with the full board.

Only nine members were present at this conference, Mr. E. T. Cansler, the other member, being absent at court, but expected to return today. Owing to his absence no definite action was taken but it was decided that at the earliest possible moment that the full committee should be gotten together, the call would be issued.

At the meeting of the board of aldermen last night the question was raised by some member if there was not a communication from the committee of 10 to be read. The mayor replied that Chairman McDowell had sent a letter which, however, had later been withdrawn. It was understood that this letter had declared that the citizens' charter committee would confer only with the aldermanic committee of 10 and not with the full board.

If the feature of the charter providing for the mayor's election by the people, said one of the best posted citizens of Charlotte today, "is to be eliminated, and it looks as if the popular demand for such elimination will have to be acceded to, then the mayor's salary ought not to be allowed to remain at \$4,000. Otherwise there will be a fierce fight in future elections by men who want the majority merely for the money. The danger then would be in the possibility of unfit men who could get out and hustle for the most might not be well qualified to run it. With popular election provided for, the mayor's salary ought not to exceed \$2,000 or \$2,500. I myself doubt whether the aldermanic election would have always secured the best man. The matter would still have remained in politics, and the fight have been to get aldermen pledged to vote for a certain man."

As to the proposed tax on incomes of public utilities, I favor clauses providing for the inspection of the books of corporations and the regulation of their utilities. The former provision would result in a valuation of the properties which would increase the ad valorem taxes greatly and at the same time not hamper the development and enlargement of the companies. It would not embarrass the companies in selling bonds or in borrowing money for improvements. As a matter of fact, a franchise tax or gross income tax is going to be paid by the public, and in the long run we will not be the gainer by such a provision."

An Englishman, fond of boasting of his ancestry, took a coin from his pocket, and pointing to the head engraved on it, said: "My great-great grandfather was made a lord by the king whose picture you see on this shilling."

"What a coincidence!" said his Yankee companion, who at once produced another coin. "My great-great-grandfather was made an angel by the Indian whose picture you see on this cent."—Christian Endeavor World.

"Where are those oysters, waiter?" "In a minute, sir; the house doctor is examining them."—Journal Amusement.

Gaston Poultry Association

The next annual exhibition of the Gaston Poultry Association will be held at Gastonia, N. C., Dec. 7-10, 1909. Arrangements have already begun to make this the best show ever held by this association. R. L. Simmons, of Charlotte, will be the judge. This in itself insures a big show, and that the prizes will go to the best birds. J. W. Nolen is president and S. S. Morris, secretary.

At the Royal: "The Wreck." WHERE TO GO TONIGHT. ROYAL—"The Wreck."

ALAMO—Ed. Winchester, musician; Miles and Heart in sketch; "The Poor Mr. Rich."

DIXIE—Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Silver in "Old Hurley"; Billy Williams, the Dancing Kid.

EDISONIA—"The Bachelor's Supper." Mr. Wallace sings.

THEATO—"The Musician's Love Story."

STAR—The Seven Russell's Minstrels.

Cholly—"Doctor, I want something for my head." Dr. Gruffy—"My dear fellow, I wouldn't take it for a gift."—Universalist Leader.

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By mixing it at home no man need be the wiser as to another's shortcomings, and expensive fees are avoided.

Lack of poise and equilibrium in men is a constant source of embarrassment even when the public least suspects it. For the benefit of those who want a restoration to full, bounding health, and all the happiness accompanying it, the above home treatment is given. It contains no opiates or habit-forming drugs whatever. Mix it at home and no one will be the wiser as to your affliction.

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Garage Not There. A certain well-known banker was preparing to take an automobile tour on the north shore of Massachusetts. His objective point being the quaint fishing village of Gloucester, it occurred to him that it would be wise to find out in advance if that place afforded a garage where his touring car could be sheltered when not in use and repaired when necessary.

To that end the banker wrote to the postmaster, courteously asking for the desired information. What was his surprise a few days later when the card he had inclosed in his letter of inquiry came back with this written thereon:

"I find by our city directory that no one by the name of Garage gets mail at this office. The nearest to it is a family of the name of Gammage, living on the Neck road. Postmaster."

The banker courteously sent a second note thanking the postmaster for his information.

Him—"Don't you think Miss Overton carries her age remarkably well?" Her—"No, I don't. She has dropped several years of it to my personal knowledge."—Chicago News.

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Schedule in Effect Oct. 18, 1908.

11:10 am Lv. Charlotte So. Ry Ar 8: pm 9:50 am Lv. Winston N.W. Ar. 2 pm 4:38 pm Lv. Martville N.W. Ar. 11:40 pm 7:25 pm Ar. Roanoke N.W. Lv. 9:20 am Valley Route for Hagerstown and all points in Pennsylvania and New York. Pullman sleeper Roanoke to Philadelphia.

Additional trains leave Winston-Salem 7:30 a. m. daily, except Sunday.

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