TWO BLUE SKY ACTS ARE HELD INVALID

Measures Classed With One in Oregon Violate Fourteenth Amendment Is Ruling.

OTHER OBJECTIONS CITED

Every Point on Which Federal Court Finds Michigan Statute Vold and Iowa Tribunal Issues Injunction Raised Here.

While admitting that blue sky laws are desirable and might be upheld if are desirable and might be upheld if their provisions complied with the common understanding that blue sky laws are intended "to stop the sale of stock in fly-by-night concerns and other like fraudulent exploitations." yet two courts, one in Michigan and one in lowa, within the past two months, have declared unconstitutional acts passed in the respective states.

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The Michigan blue sky law was declared unconstitutional by the District Court of the United States, Judges A. C. Denison, C. W. Sessions and Arthur J. Tuttle all signing the decision. Their decision sustained the views of those attacking the law in almost every particular.

The court found that the power given to the commissioners to forbid the sale to the commissioners to forbid the sale of securities at less than what they think the proper price is a taking of property without due process of law and is not within the police power, and that the act directly and substantially burdens interstate commerce. The decision apparently leaves little ground for the carrying into effect many of the drastic features which clearly were the intent of the Legislature.

Enforcing Iowa Act Enjoined. In Jowa the enforcement of the blue sky law has been enjoined by the State District Court of Polk County, but the decision follows closely the law as laid down by the United States District

down by the United States District Court of Michigan.

"The law is unconstitutional," the court found, "in that it deprives persons of liberty and property without due process of law and in that it delegates legislative powers to state officials, and likewise because it discriminates between residents and non-residents and interferes with interstate commerce."

commerce."

Though there may be some difference in the details of the blue sky law of Oregon and the laws of Michigan and Iowa which have been declared unconstitutional, the laws of the three states are classed by leading financial and bonding writers of the more drastic type, such as has been passed in Arkansas, North and South Dakota, West Virginia, Missouri and Vermont. Counsel in the Michigan case, who had made a study of the several types of blue sky laws, intimated that in a majority of the 18 states that have passed similar statutes it would be hard for the courts to uphold the law. to uphold the law.

Points Raised in Oregon Suit. Every point on which the Michigan and lows laws were held void has been raised in the suit filed last week at-tacking the blue sky law of this state

and asking for an injunction against the enforcement of the measure.

"We take judicial notice of the common understanding that the blue sky law was intended, as is said by the Attorney-General, to stop the sale of stock in fly-by-night concerns, visionary old wells, distant gold mines and other like frandulent exploitations." other like fraudulent exploitations,' said the Michigan court. "If just this intent had been carried into effect by the act as passed, these cases would not be here, but scrutiny of the law discloses additional and very different ef-

"It is not confined to corporations but covers partnerships issuing and in-dividuals dealing in securities. It does not relate alone to stocks, but as well to bonds, mortgages and promissory notes. It is not limited to investment companies, as the term would ordicompanies, as the term would ordi-narily be defined, but extends the def-inition so that it may include most of the private corporations and part-nerships in the United States. It does not cover fraudulent securities merely, but reaches and prohibits the sale of securities that are honest, valid and safe. It does not simply protect the unwary citizen against fraud, but it prevents the experienced investor from dilberately assisting an enterprise which he thinks gives sufficient prom-ise of gain to offset the risk of loss, or which, from motives of pride, sympathy or charity, he is willing to aid, notwithstanding a probability that his investment will prove unprofitable.

"Inventions Are Affected."

"If a company is organized to make and sell a new invention, and if the commission thinks the enterprise will not succeed, the stock may not be sold, even to skilled bankers who have investigated thoroughly and still desire

This constitutes deprivation of property and rights without due process of law, the court held. Familiar definitions of "property" and "liberty" adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States and by the Supreme Court of Michigan are cited in support of the

Many of the transactions prohibited by the statute were not even of a quasi-public nature, the court found, but strictly private nature, "with no real or substantial relation to the public welfare. This feature, the court held, carries the prohibitions beyond the valid exercise of the police power of the state.

company's organization or proposed plan of business is not 'fair.' Broader and vaguer language could not be found. Such provisions deprive plain-tiffs of property, and they do not carry the semblance of 'due process of law."

Stocks Subjects of Commerce. Stocks and bonds are the subjects



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It is sold in Great Britain and her colonies

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he statute could be upheld but was within this state can possibly be othforced to the conclusion that the the valid exercise of the police power of the state. "Of like effect and subject to like infirmity," the court held, "is the provision forbidding the sale of securities, if the commission thinks that the company's organization or proposed plan of business is not "fair." Broader

that the law was so inherently defec-tive and objectionable that no part of it could be sustained. "Fourteenth Amendment Violated."

As in the Michigan case, the greatest emphasis was placed on the provisions of the measure that deprived persons

Delegation of legislative or judicia, power to an administrative board is another objectionable feature of the law.

The court further calls attention to the vital difference between an unprofitable and a fraudulent enterprise, which difference is not recognized, it holds, in the Michigan act.

From the opinion handed down by the District Court in the Iowa case it is plain that the court tried hard to find grounds upon which the validity of company before it transacts busin—

This prohibition easily resolves itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander companies itself into a violation of the interstate commander commander companies itself intority as this.

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erwise than a direct infraction of the constitutional provision." Objection is found by the lowa court Objection is found by the lowa court to the provision that grants to the Secretary of State the power to censor all concerns and determine for himself whether their articles of incorporation, association, constitution, by-laws, plans of business and proposed contracts are fair, just and equitable.

Referring to this provision, the court save:

"Crime Cannot Depend on Opinion." Stocks and bonds are the subjects of interstate commerce, and shipments and sales of them between the states of their liberty and property without are interstate commerce is laid down are interstate commerce is laid down are new principle of law by the Michigan case, but the court says that in the present development of commerce such a finding would be regarded as police power of the state. These provious Other measures which might be considered as in conflict with the interstate commerce at have been up-held under the police authority.

"This statute finds no support in the pelice power, and accordingly, its restraint of interstate commerce is not merely Indirect or incidental." the same and selling stocks, bonds atraint of interstate commerce is not merely Indirect or incidental." This prohibition easily resolves itself of this feature of the law.

Delegation of legislative or judicia.

This prohibition easily resolves itself into a violation of the Interstate commerce is not accordingly the policine property without due property without and straint of the fourteenth amendment, for they take "from the owner of property of the state. These problems of the state in the opinion of the Secure and unjust? In this law not only the sale is forther than the sale of a mortgage or a bond is inequitable and unjust? In this law not only the sale is forther than the sale of a mortgage or a bond is inequitable and unjust? In this law not only the sale is forther than the sale of a mortgage or a bond is inequitable and unjust? In this law not only the sale is forther than the sale of a mortgage or a bond is inequitable and unjust? In this law not only the sale is forther than the sale of a mortgage or a bond is inequitable and unjust? In this law not only the sale is forther than the sale of a mortgage or a bond is inequitable or the sale of a mortgage or a bond is inequitable and unjust? In this law not only the sale is forther than the "Can it be that we have reached the

measure in the state to the voters at an election this year. The act, like the one in Oregon, is patterned after the more drastic style of law originally passed in Kansas. The Kansas law has been attacked in the courts and is be-fore the Supreme Court of that state. The Michigan law, which has been dechared unconstitutional, is similar in most of its features to the Kansus law, from which the Oregon law was taken. The blue sky law of Idaho probably will be taken into the courts at any early date, a meeting of those affected by the measure having been held last You can, therefore, afford to buy

by the measure having been held last month to resist it.

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