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**ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION.**

It is business with the money sharks to devise ways and means to escape taxation; and be it said to their credit, or discredit, as the case may be, their efforts are always attended with a very large degree of success. Concealment and evasion are systematically worked, while legislation practically exempting them from taxation is industriously sought. For a few months prior to the meeting of the Legislature, all sorts of remedies for "over taxation," "oppressive taxation," "double taxation," and so on, are discussed, this to confuse the average mind and divert attention from the main purpose of the Shylocks.

The mortgage tax law was enacted with the view of foiling the capitalistic buccaneers in their methods of concealment. This law provoked a very howl of protest, particularly on the part of the "Scotch Loan Association," and was finally practically annulled by a decision of Judge Deady, yet the law is still on the statute book, and the Scotch crowd want it off; they want more. They want money wholly exempted from taxation, and to this end they subsidize their organs and supply them with arguments. The chief point they make in this direction is, that, if money is left untrammelled, a larger inflow of "foreign capital" will have the tendency finally to reduce the rate of interest! Now, if the people were all borrowers, and the borrowing of "foreign," or even domestic money were a chief industry in Oregon, such an argument might be entitled to weight. But the people are not all borrowers by profession, nor can a majority of them ever be such. Then it would be manifestly unjust to the great body of the people for money to be stricken from the list of taxable assets to the end that speculators may have cheap money to operate with.

Among the journals advocating the interests of the Scotch Gourmands, we are sorry to have to include the *Willamette Farmer*. Under the heading, "Taxing money again," that paper says:

"It is a reasonable question whether to exempt money entirely from assessment and taxation will not be good economy, as it will induce capital to come here freely and must soon reduce the rate of interest. \* \* \* Not to assess money and credits will greatly simplify matters and make collection of revenue much easier, while it will remove a cause for dishonest returns by taxpayers. To tax all property in sight will make the whole tax question easy of solution."

Arguing in the same line, it would appear as the proper thing to repeal all laws for the punishment of horse stealing, since such repeal would remove all cause of concealment in the business, and would save the people the expense of prosecutions for such crimes.

Further on the *Farmer*, speaking of the lower rate of interest on loans which obtains in California, says:

"There is no good reason, with no legislation to cause fear or distrust, why money should not be as plenty and as cheap here as there. What is considered by capital as hostile legislation makes money scarce and the interest rate high. Under the same law California has, we may expect the same favorable conditions."

Well, that paper is exceedingly unfortunate in its selection of California as an example for emulation in Oregon. In that State, under the New Constitution, not only are mortgages taxed, but the banks are compelled to make exhibit to the Assessor of their books and pay taxes on every dollar in their vaults on deposit; and yet money is cheap in our sister State.

To exempt money and credits from taxation, will, in practice, tax the body of the people to raise a bounty to bestow upon the capitalists, debtor and borrowing classes. Let our legislators keep these facts in view.

**THE ELECTORAL VOTE.**

The popular vote at no previous election presents so many curious grounds for speculation as that of 1884. The face of the returns gives Cleveland a plurality of about 66,000. In five States fusion tickets were in the field, in three of which (Iowa, Nebraska and Michigan) the Butler men fused with the Democrats, and in two (Missouri and West Virginia) they fused with the Republicans. As even the Butler men in those States in which they fused with other parties, voted for the Blaine or Cleveland electors as the case might be, it is hardly fair, if it were possible, to separate the vote on the electoral ticket, or to guess how many Butler men in Iowa voted for Democratic electors, or how many of them in Missouri voted for the Republican electors. The total vote of the country is about 10,046,000, and in comparing it with the vote of four years ago the gain of Blaine over Garfield is 393,000 and of Cleveland over Hancock, 468,000. By separating the votes by States or sections it is curious to see that Cleveland makes practically his whole gain at the North, suffering a serious falling off at the South, while on the other hand Blaine made nearly one-half of his entire gain at the South and his greatest losses in Northern States. So while Cleveland lost about 53,000 at the South, Blaine gained 184,000 in the sixteen Southern States. It is surprising that Cleveland should have made his losses in Democratic states and his gains in the Republican, and equally so that Blaine should have made his losses in the Republican and his gains in the Democratic States. To go further the vote shows that only one of the Northern States which Hancock carried in 1880 (New Jersey) did Cleveland carry in 1884, but California and Nevada returned to the Republicans, while Cleveland carried New York, Connecticut and Indiana, which Garfield carried four years ago. It would seem that the strange anomaly was presented that each party nominated a candidate for the Presidency who was more popular with the opposition than its own candidate which is substantially true. Cleveland was rejected by the worst element of his own party, which in the South went to Blaine, while in the North Blaine was repudiated by many of the best men in his party, who either went to Cleveland or refrained from voting.—*Chicago News*.

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