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AURORA OREGON

PEOPLE WOULD PAY IF RAILROADS WERE GOVERNMENT OWNED

Third Party Plan Would Take Revenue From States Involved.

If the railroads of the United States should be taken over, owned and operated by the government, the vast taxes now paid by the railroads would have to be paid by the people, according to Will R. Wood, member of congress from Indiana and chairman of the Republican National Congressional committee. Mr. Wood has made a careful analysis of the situation, noting the tax payments by the railroads to the several state governments last year.

If the roads were owned by the government they would be tax free just as the post offices now are. The states would still need the money, just as they do now, and as a result additional taxes would have to be levied on the citizens.

Mr. Wood's complete analysis follows:

"Robert M. LaFollette, the Socialist-third party candidate for President, is trying to convince 6,000,000 farmers that the surest cure for their ills is to bring about government ownership of all the railroads in the country; that, if this is done, transportation rates of all kinds would be immediately reduced.

"There are a lot of things, however, that would transpire if this scheme were carried out, that Senator LaFollette is woefully silent upon. He is not telling the farmers that the government pays no taxes on its properties and that it would pay no taxes on the railroads of the country if it owned them. He is not telling them that the railroads are paying into the various county and state treasuries of the United States more than \$300,000,000 annually, which sum would have to be paid, in large part, by the farmers, once the government began the ownership of the railroads.

"Take the state of Wisconsin for instance: Last year the railroads paid the state of Wisconsin \$7,821,976 in taxes. In the state of Minnesota the railroads paid, last year, a total tax to the state of \$8,425,982. In Iowa they paid \$6,849,703; in Kansas, \$6,739,340; in Indiana, \$18,094,627. In these five states alone the railroads paid \$42,431,634 of the public tax burden. I have taken the figures in the above named states because they are largely agricultural and in the event that the government became the owner of the railroads of the country the farmers of these states would have to bear the greatest part of the burden in paying these additional taxes.

"In the state of Iowa if the LaFollette scheme were carried out, it would mean an increase of \$32 in taxes annually levied against each farm in the state, or \$2.80 for each man, woman and child in the state. In Kansas the burden would be \$40 against each farm or \$3.90 for each resident of that state. In Minnesota, where Mr. LaFollette is making a strong appeal for votes, he would take away from the farmer, under the government ownership plan, a tax income now paid by the railroads and place it as an additional assessment of \$47 against each farm in the state, or \$3.80 against each person residing in that commonwealth.

"I am told that, in one county in Montana, the total tax paid by the railroads amounts to 38.51 per cent of the entire levy. In midsummer of this year there was \$104,102 of the total tax assessed in that county delinquent, upon which a penalty had been laid. This is convincing evidence that this county was already taxed much more than it was able to pay. Yet Mr. LaFollette would take away 38½ per cent of the tax revenue of this county, now being paid by the railroads, and place it as an additional burden upon the individual taxpayer.

"In my own state of Indiana, the railroads pay \$13,094,627 in taxes annually. The total tax of the state is \$124,896,790. The railroads share of this tax is over 10 per cent. If Mr. LaFollette's scheme were put into effect, the individual taxpayer of Indiana would have to pay this additional sum of \$13,094,627 each year. In Marion county the railroads pay annually \$715,388 in taxes, a very substantial item in the total of the taxes paid in that county.

"The figures that I have given, applicable to the five agricultural states named, differ only in degree from those that might be given for every other state in the Union.

"Not only would the farmers be burdened by the payment of these additional taxes, should the government become the owners of the railroads, but they would also have an additional burden to bear, the size of which it is hard to ascertain, in the shape of deficits occurring in the operation of the railroads of the country for maintenance, extensions and upkeep.

"Some idea of what this burden would be, may be had, however, by recalling the experience during the period of government operation of the railroads under the management of William G. McAdoo, when the amount of the deficit over the earnings of those railroads taken over by the government was more than a million dollars a day, exclusive of the payment of exorbitant salaries to an army of officers.

"The farmers of this country, before they accept the panacea of government ownership of railroads, which is but a forerunner of the socialistic state, will do well to 'Stop, Look and Listen.'"

~ WOULD we stand for a law that kept 3000 families out of Oregon?

Of course we wouldn't! So it's up to us to vote the antagonistic Income Tax Law out of existence! For it has already lost for Oregon payrolls amounting to more than six million dollars (\$6,000,000) a year! And six million dollars means at least 3000 families who are lost to Oregon's population in just one year under this dangerous law.

Oregon needs Jobs and Markets

The Income Tax kills both!

Vote 312X YES and kill the Income Tax!

If there are two things Oregon needs above all others it is (1) jobs for her workers, and (2) markets for her products. Every new enterprise or industry brought into Oregon means more jobs. Jobs support population. Every increase in population means a better market for farm and factory products.

Yet the income tax law antagonizes industries and enterprises. Many authentic cases are on file where industries MOVED OUT OF OREGON OR DECIDED NOT TO COME TO OREGON because of the income tax law. Counting loss of capital invested, purchases and payroll, this loss is already conservatively estimated at more than \$40,000,000. The payroll loss alone is already over \$6,000,000 a year!

59 Industries lost to Oregon in a single year—others threatened

These figures show the appalling effect of this unwise tax law which antagonizes industries on which a large part of our growth and prosperity depend.

Recorded Damage Due to State Income Tax

8 Timber purchases cancelled or suspended.....	\$18,000,000	31 Cases as to which definite amounts are not available, but which would amount to many millions; damage listed as.....	0
11 Construction of lumber mills, towns, logging camps and logging railways abandoned or suspended.....	7,875,000	34 Cases still under investigation; would amount to many millions; damage listed as.....	0
32 Other industrial investments cancelled or suspended.....	4,578,000	21 Cases in which reported removal or investment elsewhere was stated to have been caused by the income tax but which cannot be verified in writing; damage listed as.....	0
One year's operating payroll on foregoing items.....	5,560,000		
8 Disincorporations, \$4,606,000 capital. Damage listed 1/10 only.....	460,000		
10 Actual removals from the state, including loss of only one year's payroll.....	2,440,250		
22 Threatened removals, including loss of only one year's payroll.....	2,218,500		
		Total Recorded Damage.....	\$41,252,350

These figures certified conservative and correct by: FRANK E. ANDREWS, CHARLES H. STEWART, BEN SELLING, CHRIS A. BELL, J. K. GILL.

The customer who quits and says nothing—

The insidious thing about this law is that industries do not complain—they simply pack up and move to another state! They are like the customer who quits and says nothing—you never know he is dissatisfied nor why—hence have no chance to make matters right with him. Many large concerns who left or stayed out of Oregon on account of the income tax refused to allow us to use their names because they did not want to be made to appear as tax dodgers—and yet they could not afford to carry a tax burden in Oregon which they did not need to pay in California or Washington! There is an old adage which says, "Business is sensitive. It goes only where it is invited and stays only where it is well treated." We cannot afford to ANTAGONIZE enterprises which other states are INVITING!

This insidious law must go— It is hurting Oregon!

*** we had planned to establish our Northwest headquarters in Portland. We changed our plans, and are locating in Seattle because of the adverse Oregon Tax Law.

THE BOYLE-DAYTON CO., Los Angeles.

Had we known the Oregon Income Tax Law would have passed, we certainly would have bought timber in Washington or British Columbia, rather than in Oregon.

CENTRAL COAL & COKE CO., Kansas City, Owners of Vernonia, Ore., development.

We had planned on erecting a sawmill at a cost of approximately \$100,000 and four miles of logging railroad. This would increase our logging facilities which would amount to an expenditure of about \$150,000 additional.

THE GLENDALE LUMBER CO., Glendale, Oregon.

On receipt of a draft of the state income tax law at our New York headquarters, instructions were sent to close the Pacific Coast branch at Portland, February 1, 1924.

LEWIS-MEARS CO., New York.

We would not consider any further expansion as long as there is a state income tax in Oregon.

BARNES-LINDSLEY MFG. CO., Portland, Ore.

We had completed plans and specifications for a building to be used as a warehouse and offices for a large corporation with headquarters in California, but these plans fell through when they learned of the state income tax measure. Will do nothing further in this matter until the income tax measure is settled.

HOLMAN TRANSFER CO., Portland, Oregon.

Will reduce our operations in Oregon and possibly go to Vancouver, Washington.

COAST CULVERT & PLUMB CO., Portland, Ore.

Read these extracts from letters. The originals and hundreds more like them are on file. Then go to the polls November 4th and rid Oregon of this objectionable law which is keeping millions of dollars and thousands of people away from our state.

When the State of Oregon passed the state income tax law, then we believed it best to re-incorporate the company in California, which was done.

BENSON LUMBER CO., San Diego, Cal.

*** we cannot permit ourselves to be burdened with any taxes that our competitors, the majority of whom are in Washington, do not have to pay. For that reason we figure that if the income tax is to be permanent, we in self preservation, must withdraw our headquarters to another state.

M & M WOODWORKING CO., Portland, Oregon.

Coming from Wisconsin, where we have had a state income tax for several years, we are familiar with that deterrent to business development, and we, ourselves, as well as many others whom we know, left Wisconsin for the same reason for which we hesitate to go into business in Oregon.

WM. M. BRAY, Secy.-Treas., Oshkosh Land & Timber Co., Oshkosh, Wis.; Pres. Klamath Logging Co., Klamath Falls, Ore.; Pres. Sprague River Co., Chiloquin, Ore.; Third largest owners in Klamath County.

We had acquired property for the erection of a warehouse when we learned of this law.

I have heretofore advised on similar requests that we cannot maintain our business in Oregon if the statute is upheld.

TRUSCON STEEL COMPANY, Youngstown, Ohio, W. F. Guthrie, V. P.

Will limit expansion to most absolute necessities to complete present functions, a reduction of 65% in program. On account of the severity and injustice of the Oregon income tax law we have decided to cut down our proposed building and equipment project from \$35,000 to \$12,000, and had we realized that this tax would become effective, we would not have budgeted any additional improvement at Oregon.

WESTERN LUMBER MFG. CO., San Francisco.

Unless the law is repealed we are seriously considering incorporating our Seattle house separately and diverting also to them all Oregon business that it is possible for them to handle.

CLYDE EQUIPMENT CO., Portland, Oregon.

Our company will not expand in Portland so long as there is a State Income Tax Law. The principal reason our head office was not located in Portland was on this account.

BURGE WESTERN GRAIN CORPORATION, Portland, Oregon.

*** had we not already opened our office there, and established ourselves, we certainly would not do it now, and furthermore, we have been considering the advisability of discontinuing our branch there.

THE B. F. STURTEVANT CO., San Francisco.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong, Western Manager for the Menasha Woodware company, stated that they were figuring on moving the Western Woodware Company from Tacoma to Coos Bay, and had already purchased site on our waterfront. Later stated they would not do anything at all toward a change until they had seen the effect of the Oregon State Income Tax Law.

H. G. KERN, President, First National Bank, North Bend, Oregon.

Our original plans of operations in Oregon called for an annual production of 200 million feet of lumber, whereas our present plans call for only 20% of that amount. Furthermore, we had planned on constructing and operating a large Door and Sash Factory in connection with our lumbering plant, but with this threatening legislation there is no encouragement for us to invest the necessary capital for carrying out our original plans.

We hope that the majority of the people in Oregon will ultimately change their present attitude towards capital and industry, to the end that it will be a welcome visitor in every section of the state.

MOUNT EMILY TIMBER CO., La Grande, Ore.

*** we contemplated putting in an electric steel furnace, but will not do this until the law has been changed.

BEND IRON WORKS.

This tax law has already lost for Oregon more than 40 million dollars just for the purpose of soaking our enterprises 2 or 3 millions a year. Is that good business or good sense? The situation is critical. It must be met by intelligent voting. If we want Oregon to grow we must vote to

KILL THE STATE INCOME TAX

Vote 312X Yes

Initiated by C. C. Chapman, Editor, Oregon Voter, 223 Worcester Building, Portland, Oregon—INCOME TAX REPEAL—Purpose: To repeal chapter 279 of the General Laws of Oregon of 1923, known as the Income Tax Act.

Vote YES or NO

312 ☒ Yes
313 ☐ No

Make sure your ballot is marked this way

Paid advertisement, Portland Chamber of Commerce Committee for repeal of Income Tax, W. S. Babson, Chairman, residence 542 East 15th Street, North, Portland, Oregon.