

ORGANIZATION AIDS IN BIG TAX SAVING

KEEPING DOWN LEVIES

Chicago Group Takes Situation Into Own Hands and Forced Public Economy; How It Is Done Shown

An independent association of taxpayers, concentrating on keeping down taxes, can render great service in promoting public economy, Douglas Sutherland, secretary of the Civic Federation of Chicago, said in an interview, for the Christian Science Monitor, recently.

The federation is an association of business men and others which for the last ten of its 34 years has confined its activity solely to keeping down taxes. Through the 1927 Illinois legislative session resulted in a statutory increase in local tax rates of about 8 per cent, a saving to Chicago taxpayers of at least \$15,000,000 for 1927 and much more for future years was achieved by efforts of this federation and other citizens' associations to prevent expenditures they regarded as unwise, according to a legislative report of the federation.

"What should other cities do to prevent municipal taxes from skyrocketing as they threatened here?" Mr. Sutherland was asked.

Must Not Ask Favors

In reply, he outlined the organization of an association of taxpayers with objectives which he believed should be effective. In the first place, the association should have no other objective than keeping down taxes, he said, lest being under obligations for favors received from some tax-paying body, it often might be hesitant about leading a campaign against proposals leading to tax increases, even though unnecessary.

Membership should include people vitally interested in public economy, he said, and contributions should be voluntary but on the general basis of the amount of taxes paid by the member.

Experience indicates that while it is easiest to reach and interest the larger taxpayers, it is necessary to have also the active co-operation of a large percentage of householders who often feel rising taxes more than those who can pass some of the load along. In larger centers, branch committees for each political subdivision would aid results, he said. To prevent political control, approval of local committee leaders by the central organization is generally advised, Mr. Sutherland suggested.

Such an organization will be interested in methods of taxation and equitable adjustment of the burdens of government, he continued.

Three Main Objectives

"Three prime objectives should actuate the associations. The first should be absolute accuracy in gathering tax information and scrupulous care in conveying the truth about what is revealed.

"The second prime objective should be to present its views supported by accurate data to the public officials concerned and to seek their co-operation.

"The third objective should be to spread the true facts of taxes as widely as possible. Members should be urged at critical times to write, telephone or personally visit officials involved in appropriating or legislating and express their views. They should encourage others to do likewise. That is what we do here in Chicago.

"Expression of the taxpayers is needed now more than ever in American cities because there is a more intensive organization of forces favoring expenditures. The burden would be unbearable now if it were not for many officials who stand for low taxes. Whether the Government is to be run by free or conservative spenders depends upon the public — for all people stand the burden of Government."

CHRISTMAS PAROLES FOR MANY PRISONERS

Hundred and Four Inmates of Illinois Penitentiary to Be Released

Issuance of paroles to 104 inmates of the Illinois State Penitentiary, which will permit releases for Christmas, is the first move of the Division of Pardons and Paroles to relieve congestion in the state penal institutions.

The paroles ordered are the first since the organization of the Division of Pardons and Paroles under the change of the law increasing membership to nine in addition to the supervisor of paroles.

Since March 1, an increase of 258 has resulted at Joliet; 187 at Chester; 135 at Pontiac, and seven in the Woman's prison, making a total population of 6,666, the largest in the history of penal institutions. In addition, a gain of 92 is reported at the State Penitentiary at Joliet, resulting in a total of 7,027 being under incarceration. This is one greater than the total of federal prisoners in the United States.

Sessions of the division were held during the past week at Joliet, Chester and Pontiac.

FACTORS IN FLOOD CONTROL OUTLINED

BY FOREST SERVICE CHIEF

Extension of Public Forest Ownership, Better Protection and Reforestation Will Help

Extension of public forest ownership, intensified protection from forest fire, and aggressive reforestation of denuded lands are declared outstanding necessities in the program for flood control by Col. William B. Greeley, chief of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, in his annual report issued today.

The great flood disasters which occurred this year have called into question the adequacy of our public program of forestry, Colonel Greeley declares. While the main reliance for the control of destruction floods must be placed upon engineering works, the improvement or extension of forest cover is an essential supplement, and must be taken into account in any far-sighted program for flood prevention.

Prevent Erosion

Forests aid in the regulation of stream by holding the soil in place and holding back rain and snow water more effectively than any other form of vegetative cover. In the vast drainage system of the Mississippi, which extends from southwest New York to Idaho and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, the condition of the watersheds of the innumerable feeder streams bears a significant relation to the volume of water poured into the main channel.

"To attain the most complete control of floods," says Colonel Greeley, "prevention of the rapid movement of water and silt at the source of rivers is necessary no less than structures for controlling the results of such movements in their lower channels.

Forests can not prevent floods, but can reduce them. They retard the melting of snow. They retard surface run-off both directly and through the greater porosity of the underlying soil which they maintain. They retard erosion and reduce the silt burden of streams. Their relative influence in these respects may be greater or less in comparison with the many other factors which affect the regimen of streams. It can not be separated and measured in exact, quantitative terms. Nevertheless it is an influence which should be brought into play in the progressive betterment of conditions which contribute to destructive floods."

Pointing out the most obvious needs in applying forestry to the flood situation, the Chief Forester says: "A need will undoubtedly appear for the extension of public forest ownership under the Weeks law or the Clarke-McNary law in the mountainous drainage where the natural balance between topography, soil, and cover is easily upset and surface conditions augmenting flood discharges are easily brought about by destructive lumbering, forest fires, or temporary and shifting agriculture. Need will undoubtedly also appear for intensifying the protection of forests from fire on critical drainages of the Mississippi through enlarged co-operation between the states and the federal government under the Clarke-

McNary act. Forest planting should undoubtedly be promoted aggressively on abandoned or eroding farm lands and denuded forest lands where erosion and run-off are now serious."

Co-operation Needed

National leadership and the need for national action should be fully recognized, Colonel Greeley declared, but the fullest measure of co-operation with the state and landowners immediately concerned should be secured.

"To sum up the situation," the Forester concludes, "the behavior of our great rivers and the plans projected for their control can not be separated from the use of land. Behind the great floods is the lower Mississippi, lie 800,000,000 acres of land—farms, pastures, ranges, and forests. The conservation and productive use of this large part of the soil of the United States fully justify on its own account all of the foresight and national and state action that can be brought to bear. The loss of farm soils and farm fertility through erosion is a national loss greater in the long run than the property damage created by destruction floods. The creation of productive forests and improved pasture lands will pay dividends on their own account greater than the aid they will render to the regulation of rivers. The main point to be borne in mind is that just as the condition and use of the land have a part in flood prevention, so is the protection of streams one of the inseparable national benefits obtainable through a sound policy of land use."

TO ERECT MEMORIAL TO MOORE IN BERMUDA

Famous Irish Poet Spent Some Time There 123 Years Ago is Reason

Three historical societies in Bermuda have decided to co-operate in erecting a memorial to Tom Moore, the poet, whose name is almost a household word in the leisurely, conservative island where the poet sojourned some 123 years ago. The story of his genius and his trials and misfortunes, his exile on account of the unworthiness of another, is passed on with embellishments from one generation to another.

While numerous authors of the last century has found delightful material in and around Bermuda, not one lives in the hearts of the people with the same intensity and love as does the Irish poet, about whom everyone has a story to tell.

FIFTEEN MILLIONS OF STARS PHOTOGRAPHED

Tremendous Work Carried Out by Astronomers of Many Countries

Fifteen million stars have been photographed by the completion of a gigantic task undertaken by the observatories of Oxford and Greenwich forty years ago.

Nineteen observatories, spread over hemispheres, have since shared in the work: Melbourne, Perth, Cape of Good Hope, Hyderabad, Helsingfors, Catania, Cordoba, San Fernando, Rome, Algiers, Potsdam, Bordeaux, Sydney, Tauba, Toulouse, Santiago Greenwich, Paris and Oxford.

Out of the enormous number of stars "snapped," only 6,000 are visible to the naked eye. In the making of this enormous map of the heavens, 30,000 star charts, weighing two tons and, making a pile 30 feet high, have been used. They are now being assembled and printed.

One of the results of the work was to make certain what has long been suspected—that many of the faint lesser stars are comparatively near the earth, and not as vast distances, as was hitherto believed.

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