

## GIVES REASONS FOR AMENDING TAX LAWS

### Superintendent of Schools Submits Results of Meeting of Illinois School-Masters

The proposed tax amendment was one subject of discussion at the October meeting of the Illinois Schoolmasters' club at Peoria. Since little explanation of the amendment itself seemed necessary, the speakers devoted their time to answering objections, that have been made against it, according to C. W. Washburne, superintendent of Winnetka schools.

The main objections were stated and answered as follows:

1. The present constitutional provision for taxation is good enough if it were enforced.

But it is not enforced; and the divergence between the provision and actual practice is becoming wider each year. The best expert advice tells us that it cannot be enforced because it is not adapted to modern economic conditions.

2. The proposed amendment is the result of a scheme by the legislature to get more revenue to spend.

The amendment did not originate with the legislature. It was planned, written and proposed by a committee of citizens representing many state organizations of such groups as bankers, teachers, farmers, laborers, home owners, chambers of commerce, women's clubs, etc. Before adopting it, the legislature made two amendments to it to make it safer. Besides, the legislature needs no additional powers to raise more money. There is no constitutional limit to the amount of public revenues and expenditures the legislature may provide for now. The main purpose of the amendment is to permit better methods of taxation rather than to obtain more revenue.

3. The legislature cannot be trusted with such broad powers of taxation.

There is no reason why the legislature should not deserve the confidence of the people when it is selected by the free choice of the people. At any rate, it must and will provide for pub-

lic revenues and ought to have a modern method of doing it. Future legislation under the amendment will be carefully graded by the provision that such legislation must receive a two-thirds vote in each house of the legislature. If we have reached the point where we cannot trust even one more than one-third of the legislature, then our government has broken down and Illinois must go out of business as a state.

4. The amendment provides an income tax.

This is not true. But it does provide that the legislature at some future time, by a two-thirds vote, may enact an income tax law. Eminent authorities say the present Constitution permits such legislation by a mere majority vote. Possibly it would be best to have an income tax in Illinois; and, if so, the legislature ought to have the power to provide for it at most a two-thirds vote.

5. The classification of property allowed by the amendment will not solve our tax problems and may make matters worse.

Then the legislature need not use it; or, if the legislature tries it and it fails, it may be repealed. But a legal, carefully planned classification on an equitable, scientific basis would certainly be better than the chaotic clas-

sification we now have in violation of the law and the Constitution. Several other states have successfully tried classification according to law, and not according to ability to evade the law as in Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Loco of 1040 Cherry street entertained several of the officers of the Union Trust Bank of Chicago, at dinner, Monday, October 11. Mr. Loco, who is vice-president of the bank, together with his guests, planned to spend the entire day, Columbus Day, October 12, playing golf at the Exmoor Country club.

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