

Legislative Advances

SENATOR PEPOON of Missouri has introduced the following resolution:

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring therein:

That at the general election to be held in the State of Missouri on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1936, or at a special election to be called by the Governor at his discretion prior to such general election, there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of this State, for adoption or rejection, the following proposed amendment to the Constitution, to-wit:

Section 1. That Section 7 of Article X of the Constitution of the State of Missouri, be and the same is hereby repealed and a new Section adopted in lieu thereof to be known as Section 7, and to read as follows:

Section 7. The Legislature shall classify all property for purposes of taxation and may exempt from taxation for state purposes any class or classes of property in whole or in part. Any class or classes of property as classified by the Legislature may be exempted from taxation for county, city and school purposes in whole or in part, by vote of the people in any county, city or school district affected.

TEXAS

The legislature at Austin has passed a bill authorizing the State Highway Commission to remove the barbed wire barriers erected by landowners in Kennedy County which now block the highway. It was pointed out that the land was assessed at only one dollar an acre.

FEDERAL

Congressman Theodore L. Moritz of Pennsylvania has introduced a bill in the House for the taxation of land values. His speech introducing the bill and entitled "The Right to Live," is an excellent presentation of our principles. We regret that Mr. Moritz has thought it necessary to include a three thousand dollar exemption.

OKLAHOMA

A graduated land tax measure has been introduced in the legislature. The *Oklahoma Union Farmer* is supporting the measure and a recent number shows a picture of four hundred farmers gathered at the state capitol clamoring for action on the bill. "Home lovers versus land hogs" is the burden of the farmers' petition to the legislature.

WASHINGTON

State representative A. Lou Cobden has introduced a bill in the legislature exempting homes up to \$2,500. It will certainly get action at the next session. Eighty-five per cent of the Kings County delegation, which county includes Seattle, have pronounced in favor of it.

PHILIPPINES

The new constitution of the commonwealth of the Philippines provides for the restriction of large land holdings.

Land Value Tax Pays for \$50,000,000 Bridge

HON. J. R. FIRTH, Mayor of Strathfield, N. S. W., Australia, writes:

"The 1934 assessment of the City of Sydney total unimproved capital value of ratable land is £45,979,009.

"The rates levied for 1934 were:

The City Rate	-	-	-	4½d. in the £.
Bridge Rate	-	-	1/3 of a penny in the £.	
Main Roads Board Rate	-	7/32 of a penny in the £.		

"The City Rate is to pay the expenses of the local government of the City of Sydney.

"The Bridge Rate is to help pay interest and cost of the £10,000,000 bridge, connecting Sydney and North Sydney over the Sydney Harbour.

"The Main Roads Board Rate goes to help pay for the Sydney metropolitan area.

"If the rate, 5 and 5/96d., was struck on the unimproved value of the land, *before* it had been depreciated because it was ratable, the rate would, of course, amount to about nearly half the annual value. But when you remember that the rate itself depreciates the value of land at least twenty-five per cent, the rate of 5d. and 5/96 of a penny in the pound probably amounts to about one-third of the annual value.

"There is no agitation for taxing buildings. Any public man who suggested such a thing would cease to be a public man at the next election."

To what Mayor Firth has written it may be added that Sydney, Australia, has a population of a million and a half, being the second largest city in the British Empire. Sydney raises all its local taxation from land values. This includes roads and the new bridge. Sydney has no tax on buildings. It has no slums, no congestion.

BIG appropriations for munitions. That suits the munitions interests fine. Plowing under of crops. Without a sufficient food supply munitions won't help the army and navy much. "An army marches on its belly," you know. But the munitions trust does not sell food and so long as it gets its share the militarist statesmen in the Cabinet and in Congress are not really concerned about feeding the soldiers. Otherwise they would not stand for a moment for the plowing under business.

THE New Deal has been in operation more than a year and still there are ten million unemployed. It could not be otherwise with thirteen billions of taxes being laid on industry without cessation and with most valuable land in the hands of speculators. And the pretended economists of the brain trust did not know this would be the case. How much longer is President Roosevelt going to let these quacks hold up removal of the cause of the depression?

SOME innocents expect the thirty hour week to increase employment and look upon it as a step toward the twenty hour week which, they figure, will increase employment more. After that they will demand a ten hour week and finally they hope to abolish unemployment entirely by reducing the working time to zero. Perhaps some mental giant, say President Green of the A. F. of L., can present some further arguments, equally strong.