

TAFT ADVOCATES CORPORATION TAX

Declares it is Best Form of an Income Tax That Can be Levied and Tells Why.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Favors One That Will Permit Government to Levy Direct Income Tax Without Apportioning It.

Denver, Sept. 21.—Making his way still further to the west, President Taft arrived in Denver this afternoon and tonight, in the Denver auditorium, where, a year ago, Mr. Bryan was nominated as his opponent in the presidential race, faced a crowd of thousands that in its noise and enthusiasm recalled some of the scenes of convention week.

President Taft, switching from his purpose to discuss the question of the conservation of natural resources in his Denver speech, elected tonight to take up the corporation tax passed as a part of the Payne tariff bill and to defend it as against the proposition to impose a direct income tax, which he acknowledged seemed likely to pass the senate when the corporation tax was devised as a compromise.

The president strongly urged that all the states should adopt the proposed amendment to the Constitution, however, to make an income tax possible in time of need.

Mr. Taft was joined here today by the secretary of the interior, Mr. Ballinger, who will accompany him on a part of the trip through the far northwest. It is likely that the president desired a further conference with Mr. Ballinger, whose conduct of the interior department he recently upheld in a long letter called out by the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, before making a final exposition of the aims and objects of this administration as to the conservation of the resources. Mr. Taft probably will not take up the subject now until he reaches Salt Lake City, where he spends Friday and Saturday; or he may wait until he arrives at Spokane, Wash., where, at the irrigation congress, the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy really had its first public airing.

BEST INCOME TAX.

The president tonight declared that the corporation tax was in itself the best form of income tax that could be levied, and pointed out that it contained many of the best features of the income tax law of England. In urging that the states should vote for the amendment to the Constitution permitting the levy of a direct income tax without apportioning the proceeds among the states, according to their population, the president declared that it would be possible so to amend the corporation tax as to include within its scope every desired

feature of an income tax except the levy upon incomes derived from actual salary and professional services. The president said he opposed a direct income tax except in cases of emergency, and he believed it to be a prime fault in the federal Constitution that no provision is made for a direct levy to meet war-time or other extraordinary expenses.

Mr. Taft declared that it was the supreme court declaring unconstitutional the income tax law passed by a Democratic Congress some years ago that prevented the leaders in Congress during the session recently closed from including in the corporation tax measure a provision for a levy upon bonds and bondholders. To tax bonds would result in the reduction of the rate of interest and hence this resulted in a direct tax upon the individual holders of the bonds and came in contact with the decision of the court that no direct tax could be levied by the national government without the resulting apportionment of the proceeds among the states.

The president based his argument in favor of the corporation tax, as compared to the direct income tax almost entirely upon the results of the income tax in England. The English tax is levied first on the declared dividends of corporations, secondly on rents before leaving the hands of the tenants, and third upon the individual directly. It was found in England that a direct income tax at 10 per cent did not produce as much revenue as the present method of taxation at 5 per cent. This he declared illustrated the premium that the direct tax places upon perjury and concealment.

It is a question, the president declared, whether incomes earned in salaries and from professional work should be taxed as heavily as incomes derived from investments or not taxed at all. The latter, he said, was the effect of the corporation tax.

The president received a most enthusiastic welcome to Denver. Signs were hung at intervals all over the city, reading: "Welcome to Denver, the Summer Capital."

While here the president is the house guest of United States Senator Hughes, a Democrat. He held a public reception of two hours this afternoon at the state capitol.

At the Auditorium tonight, after a few preliminary remarks about the extent and purpose of his trip through the west, Mr. Taft touched briefly on the tariff, saying that while a revision had seemed essential, there was also a defect in the treasury to be met. This partly will be met by a cut of \$40,000,000 in the appropriations to be made by Congress, and partly by the income from the new corporation tax law. Mr. Taft said he had favored at first an inheritance tax, but the objection that the states had pre-empted



FRANK W. BENSON,

Governor of Oregon. Mr. Benson, who was secretary of state of Oregon, succeeded ex-Governor Chamberlain when the latter took his seat in the United States Senate.

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income tax amendment as proposed by Congress to the states. Assuming the constitutional authority to have been given, I am opposed to a general individual income tax law, except in times of great national stress. I am opposed to it because of the difficulty already alluded to, that it puts such a premium on perjury as to have led other governments to abandon that method of taxing income, and of imposing the tax whenever possible on the sources of income in the hands of those who are not ultimately to pay it.

"But I am most strongly in favor of adoption by the states of the amendment authorizing Congress to impose an income tax without apportioning it among the states according to population and I am strongly in favor of this because in times of great stress, if war or some other calamity were to visit this country, and we should need to strain our resources, the income tax would be one of the essential instruments by which we could collect a large amount of money to enable us to meet the exigencies. It has been so in the past, for during the Civil war it was understood that the levy of an income tax without apportionment was constitutional, and by consent of the states an amendment to the Constitution, which shall enable us to round out and perfect this corporation tax so as to make it more equitable and so as to make it an instrument of supervision of corporate wealth by federal authority. I doubt not that the information thus obtained may be made a basis for further legislation of a regulative character applicable only to those corporations whose business is so largely of an interstate character as to justify greater restrictions and more direct supervision."

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HOGS ATTACK AND KILL A MAN

Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 21.—An unusual tragedy occurred at Chilliwack yesterday, in which James H. Hosken, aged 25, lost his life. Hosken, in company with Charles Carter, a farmer, was driving hogs to market along a public highway when the animals became uncontrollable. One of them attacked Hosken and he lost his footing. Other animals immediately jumped on him and gored him with their tusks. Carter ran for help, and three men armed with clubs finally drove off the hogs. Hosken died from the shock and loss of blood. He was the son of a Church of England clergyman at Mansfield, England, and had been in this country only a short time.

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