

1930-1936

FSTC: ~~Correspondence~~ of E. B. Gaston, Inquiries; K, L

Fairhope

10517-6

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October 3, 1935.

Rev. C.A. Keenig, P.O. Box 388 Seguin, Texas.

Dear Sir:-

Our mutual friend, W.W. De Wolf, of Chicago writes me that he has interested you in our town and wants that I should write you, which I take pleasure in doing. He probably had no printed matter about the Single Tax as applied at Fairhope and as that is one of the unusual things about the place--the original reason for its settlement in fact, I take pleasure in sending you some

Under another cover I take pleasure in sending you an address made by Henry George, the great apostle of the movement, as reprinted in the Congressional Record at the instance of a fellow believer, then serving as a member of Congress. It deals with the presentation of the idea as a reform to be instituted by legislation, but the writer and others over 40 years ago, conceived the idea than an approach at least, to it might be made, by buying cheap land somewhere and offering parcels of same to those willing to contract to pay in rent the value attaching to land because of the coming together of people upon it and the use of the rental to so far as might be, lift from the improvers the taxes upon their industry and enterprise.

In a history of the Colony which I am also sending, and copy of lease contract further details of the plan are given. We hope it will commend itself to you.

As for climate, healthfulness and beauty of location, we believe Fairhope cannot be excelled and so I believe, Mr. De Wolf has assured you.

We shall be glad to hear further from you, if our policy meets your approval. One of the first advantages necoming to a prospector is that there is no purchase price for sites. In applying to the Colony for a site desired the requirement is only that the applicant a half years rent at the rated rental. He thus has his cash available for building. If he deals with one who has improved property to dispose, the consideration should be based on the value of the improvements.

Hoping to hear further from you, Most sincerely yours

---

Secretary.



Chicago, Ill., October 1, 1935.

Mr. E. B. Gaston,  
The Fairhope Courier,  
Fairhope, Ala.

Dear Mr. Gaston:

I have talked so much about the good points of your wonderful town (Fairhope) to my friends since my return from there about eighteen months ago that some of them are passing the good news along. While I was out of the city about two weeks ago one of my neighbors received a visit from a friend now living in Texas. The friend, a minister of the gospel about ready to retire, became very much interested in what he was told about Fairhope and would like to get more information. I know of no one better qualified to give the desired information than yourself. I would consider it a favor if you will write the Rev. C. A. Keenig, P. O. Box 388, Seguin, Texas, and tell him about your town; what he could buy or rent a small place for, also about the cost of living and anything else that you may think of that would interest a couple that desire to retire and spend the rest of their days in comfort.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy, and hoping to be able to again visit Fairhope, I remain,

Very truly yours,

W. W. DeWolf



New Castle Ind  
June. 10, 1931,  
Editor Fairhope Courier,  
Dear Sir -

As I do  
not know who to write to for  
my information am writing to  
you thinking you could  
either put me in touch with  
the right party or give me  
the information. My  
father and mother are  
subscribers to your paper  
(Mr & Mrs Wilson Cory) and  
they are thinking of  
moving to Fairhope in the  
next month or so. And  
as they are old and mother  
not well I feel I cannot



let them come alone. They used to own a farm near Foley and we did also about 12 years ago. Now what I want to know is about your schools as I have one daughter age 6 yrs, that will go to school this fall. What tuition or if any, if one would move there. I have read so much about your schools.

Also about a place to live buy or rent ect. We own an 80 acre farm here which we rent out by the fields and my husband and I raise turkeys and chickens as he isn't well



enough to farm. Wonder if  
he could get a job as  
care taker of some place.  
Or would we have any  
chance at a thing of that  
kind. Farming is most  
to hard as his health is  
bad. That is one reason  
we would like to come there  
as the climate always  
helped him before when  
we would be there. The  
long cold winters are  
hald on him. Hoping  
you can help me to the  
information I will need  
and thanking you very  
much. Respectfully

New Castle Ind R. 2 Mrs. Jasper Keesling



June 14, 1931

Mrs. Jasper Keesling,  
R 2, Newcastle, Pa.

Dear Madam:-

Your letter of 10th has reached me and as I am secretary of the Fairhope Single Tax Colony, as well as publisher of the Courier it reached the right party.

Note that your father and mother, with whom I have been in correspondence have in mind to come to Fairhope to live, and you wish to know about the school facilities. I am glad to say they are extraordinarily good--at any rate for this section--and many people come here from long distances to put their children in our "School of Organic Education."

Neither the Public School nor the Organic School charge tuition to people actually resident here, though the Organic School charges a considerable tuition to children just here for the school.

I am not advised of any opening here as caretaker of a place, but think you could probably rent a small place on favorable terms. Just now our farmers are rather "down in the mouth" having had to take very low prices for their produce this spring and now needing rain very badly for replanting after truck, etc--but we are promised rain. Ordinarily, as you probably know we have abundant rainfall here.

It might be a good idea for you to place a small ad in the Fairhope Courier, inquiring for such a place as you have in mind.

Hoping to see you here ere long, with your parents. I remember having had several letters from your father.

Very sincerely yours,

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Secretary.



719 Oakwood Blvd., Chicago, Ill.,  
June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1934

Single Tax Assn.,  
Fairhope Ala.

Dear sirs: Kindly send information concerning your association and conditions or requirements for taking up one's residence in your midst. Oblige  
yours very sincerely,

George Kerr  
719 Oakwood Blvd., Chicago, Ill.





THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



*Single Tax ass'n. (Colony),  
Fairhope  
Alabama.*



July 9, 1934.

George Kerr  
719 Oakwood Blvd.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

Obedient to your request--please pardon delay--we are sending you some printed matter regarding our "Colon", which we hope will give the ~~xfar~~ information desired.

The requirement for taking up residence in the Colony is very simple, as it is simply a land administering organization, conducting no industries and employing none except those who may be needed in the simple administration.

To take up land of the Corporation it is only necessary to select an unused lot or acreage and make application on form of which a copy is mailed you, with the rent as rated for six months. There is no purchase price and one need not become a member of the Single Tax Corporation. To become the latter requires the payment of a membership fee of \$100 and acceptance after examination to determine one's understanding of and sympathy, but a non-member has all the financial benefit that a member has.

We hope you will find our printed matter interesting.

Included is a copy of the local paper, (published by the writer individually.)

Hope to hear further from you.

Yours very sincerely,

---

Secretary.



Nov. 22, 1930

Henry Knipper,  
596 Mohawk St.,  
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Sir:-

Yours received. We do not have at the moment just what we should have by way of literature, but I am sending copy of constitution and of application for land and lease, of which it becomes a part, and something more which will be of help in understanding our proposition.

It cost \$100 to become a member and one must be examined and accepted; but one can lease land of the corporation, without becoming a member and have all the economic advantages of the Colony. See clauses four and five of the lease.

Shall hope to hear further from you.

Yours very truly

THE FAIRHOPE SINGLE TAX CORP'N

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary.



Columbus, O. Nov 15<sup>30</sup>  
To the Manager of the Single Tax  
Colony. Fair Hope Alabama  
Dear Sir:

Will you be kind enough +  
give me information regarding  
joining the above mentioned  
Colony + oblige

Yours Truly  
Henry Knipper  
596 Washaw St.  
Columbus, Ohio



Congress Hotel  
and Apartments  
126 NORTHEAST SIXTH STREET  
MIAMI, FLORIDA

March 14/30

Management Fairhope S.T. Colony:

My wife and self both Single  
Taxers from earliest days (I the first  
President of Brooklyn S.T. Club <sup>Campaigner with George and Post</sup> and  
President Manhattan S.T. Bryan Club  
in the 1896 Campaign, also author  
of booklet "The Cause and Cure of  
Taxes") will return North from Havana  
about April 1<sup>st</sup> and would stop  
in Fairhope if we can get  
accommodations. I would give you  
a talk on the outlook and  
our present business depression and  
what should be done to further  
our cause? Write me above address.  
Sincerely James P. Hohler



March 17, 1930

James P. Kohler,  
Congress Hotel and Apartments,  
Miami, Fla.

Dear Mr. Kohler:-

I have received with pleasure yours of 14th, relative to your desire to visit Fairhope on your return north from ~~Florida~~ and that you would, if desired, give us a talk on the outlook and our present business depression and what should be done further our cause.

We would be delighted to have you visit Fairhope and assure you that at our hotels, The Colonial Inn or The Fairhope Hotel, you would find excellent accommodations for a short or long stay. I am mailing you a copy of the Fairhope Courier, in which I have marked their advertisements. Chas. O'Connor Hennessy and Mr. Polak stopped at the Inn and enjoyed it very much.

It would give us great pleasure to have a talk from you on the subject you ~~have~~ mentioned. We have our Fairhope Forum, meeting on Sunday afternoons at 2:30, which has a very fair attendance and would be glad to arrange a hearing for you, if convenient to be here on a Sunday afternoon. If not with a little notice, we could arrange an evening meeting.

Hoping to hear from you at an early date, with definite announcement of the time when we might expect you.

Yours most sincerely,

---

Secretary.

P.S. Very shy of printed matter about Fairhope, but am enclosing address I made at Chicago in September, 1928, and copy of our form of lease and application.



South Mandelle Hall

Mount Holyoke College

South Hadley, Mass.

September 28, 1934

Town Clerk

Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Sir:

I understand that Fairhope is a single tax town. I am very much interested in the problem of the application of the single tax and should like to discover how this method of taxation works in the places in which the appropriation by the state of the economic rent of the land has really been put into effect.

I should be very grateful to you if you would supply me with information concerning the working out of this system of taxation in Fairhope. If you possibly can tell me, I should also like to know the names of other places in which this principle of taxation has been applied and to whom I should write for data concerning these towns.

I sincerely hope that this will not cause you any inconvenience.

Yours very truly,

*Maida Kolb*



Oct. 10, 1934.

Maida Kolb,  
So. Mandelle Hall,  
Mount Holyoake College,  
South Hadley, Mass.

Dear Madam:-

Your desire for information about the Single Tax, as applied at Fairhope is before me and I take pleasure in responding.

I am sorry however, to have to tell you at the outset that this is not a governmental project, but a private corporation, trying to make as perfect an application of the Georgian ideal as may be within the framework of the state; though the power given by land ownership.

I think I can perhaps give you the information desired best by sending you some of our printed matter. I am sending in another wrapper, a brief History of the "Single Tax Colony" as we call it; An address by myself at a Henry George Congress at Chicago, in 1898, which probably better presents the hopes and plans of the founders and what they feel they are entitled to claim as results of the same, than anything else available. I also include a copy of our form of lease, with application for land becoming a part of the land contract.

I hope this reaches you safely and will yield you the information desired. By way of description of this section I include a folder "The 'IT' County of Alabama."

Yours very sincerely,

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Secretary.



101 East St. Marys Street,  
Decatur, Michigan,  
February 18, 1933.

Secretary,  
Fairhope Single Tax Corporation,  
Fairhope, Alabama.

Dear Sir:

Will you kindly send me information  
pertaining to lots and land about which  
you advertise in The Fairhope Courier.

Thanking you,

Yours very truly,

*E. W. Krausgrill*

E. W. Krausgrill.



March 11, 1933

E.M. Krausgill,,  
101 East St. Marys Street,  
Decatur, Michigan.

Dear Sir:-

I fear that yours of Feb .18 has failed of attention, for which I apologize.

Replying to your request for information about the land which our corporation would say that we have lots in Town ranging from \$10 a year annual rent , up to lots in the business ssection running up to \$100 and more, according to location and size, choice residence lots on the bay front running around \$75, say 75x132 ft.

Land in the country ranges from around \$3.50 an acre at the town limits down to \$1 an acre.

The Corporation has usually only unimproved land to lease, but occasionally has improvements which it has had to take over.

Just what would you probably be interested in?

Yours very truly,

---

Secretary.

Enclosed a copy of our form of application for land.



Joseph Krug.  
Covington, La.  
% P.O. Box 32.  
Dec. 11-1933.

The Post. Master at  
Fair Hope, Ala.

Dear Sir:- Please give me  
some information about the Single Tax  
Colony at Fair Hope, Ala.

That is, the present standing of the  
Community and its inducements to  
prospective settlers at Fair Hope, Ala.

Respectfully.

Joseph Krug.



Dec. 13, 1933.

Mr. Joseph Krug,  
P.O. Box 32,  
Covington, La.

Dear Sir:-

Yours to postmaster has been handed me and I hasten to respond. I am mailing you literature which I think will best acquaint you with the Colony plans, in addition to which I may say that the Colony is still going on carrying out its original plans through handicapped as all communities are, whether proceeding on usual lines or endeavoring to carry out improved methods, by the great general depression from which the whole country suffers.

We feel that our ideas if generally applied would have prevented such a debacle, but it is too much to expect an application on so small a scale, of the most perfect plans to keep off the ill effects of old, established wrongs.

We have what is recognized as one of the most delightful communities for a home to be found anywhere. Our Colony has plenty of lots for rent under its terms--which require no purchase price and under which the rent is used to pay taxes upon the improvements and personal property of lessees, as well as on the land--the latter being paid directly by the corporation. We also have considerable land in the country available for rent at ~~xx~~ as low as \$1.00 an acre and ranging from that up to about \$2.50, according to nearness to Town. (\$3.50 at the town limit, but we have none not under lease that close in.

We have a few good bargains in lands somewhat improved which have come back to us by inability of lessees to pay rent, which could be had a bargains.

Shall be glad to hear from you further .

Yours very truly,

---

Secretary.



Joseph V. Hug.  
Covington, La.  
P.O. Box 32.  
Dec. 26 - 1933.

E. B. Gaston.  
Fairhope, Ala.

Dear sir:- Received your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst with the descriptive literature of the Single Tax Colony. very well pleased with the location. Now I would like to know if there is any buildings on the land that the Colony has for rent. I mean the somewhat improved land, and what would be the price on such improvements.

awaiting your early reply.

Yours very Truly.

Joseph V. Hug.



Dec. 29, 1933.

Joseph Krug.  
P.O. Box 32,  
Covington, La.

Dear Mr. Krug:-

Yours of 26th at hand and I take pleasure in advising you of what in my judgment is the very best opening that can be found in or near our town.

That is a place about three miles out, improved years ago, at an expense of over \$20,000, by a Texas lawyer, for a stock farm, but which, after various vicissitudes, can be had for a few hundred dollars.

There was originally 120 acres in the tract, now reduced to 80, but the structures are on a 20 and it can be with this 20, or 40 or 60, as desired--no advantage under our plan of holding more land than good use can be made of.

The improvements consist of clearing of about 30 acres, a big tile roofed, cement floored barn, two reinforced concrete silos, hog-house and milk-house of same concrete and tile construction, house five or six rooms, a part in pretty nice fair condition, with galv. iron roof, big porch, in front, rear part with flat composition roof--not flat but slight pitch, and leaks some, fencing, well, chicken house, etc.

The site of the buildings is a very pretty one, at the top of a gentle rise of several hundred feet, fine drainage gets breezes from all directions. This part of the land is rather sandy and not having been kept up by growing of legumes seems poor, but by proper treatment can be brought back. There is on the land, on the east of the one I have just referred to, a pond on it which is very rarely dry and affords water for cattle in pasture.

I enclose a diagram, showing how the land lays with regard to the improvements.

Improvements and all is now in our hands and can be sold and will be for but a fraction of the real value of the improvements. I note you are in the eastern part of your state, If you are at all interested in this matter place I strongly



urge you to come over and look at it. We will make you a proposition, which will surprise you and require a very small amount of cash.

If barn was not wanted for dairy cattle, for which it was originally intended, it would furnish storage for all sorts of purposes and might be availed of for chickens, for which this is quite a center.

I have been trying to find a picture of the Ring Farm, to send you, but have been unable to find one.

Better come over and see us.

Am sending you a booklet, "THE 'IT' COUNTY OF ALABAMA"

Yours very truly,

---

Secretary.



April 4, 1931

Steve Landers,  
Highland Home, Ala.

Dear Sir:-

Our Mayor has just handed to us yours of March 31st to him and we hasten to supply your desire for information about the Single Tax as applied here. We understand he has written you and probably advised that the town is under the general law of the state with regard to taxation.

Our "Colony" is an effort to carry out the Single Tax idea as far as possible under existing law. It is a private corporation but a non-stock, non-profit one. It holds the title to something over 4,000 acres of land, including a considerable portion of the Town of Fairhope and other land adjacent, which it leases out to individuals desiring its use, under lease contracts which provide that they shall pay the full annual rental value of the land from year to year, but the Colony corporation, agreeing to take off of them the taxes upon their improvements and personal property--the Single Tax idea being that the only or at any rate first source of public revenue should be the value attaching to land because of the presence of population.

We are sending you printed matter which we hope will make the general proposition clear to you. Included is a reprint from the Congressional Record of years ago, giving a statement by Henry George, the great apostle of the Single Tax, on "The Single Tax, What It is and Why We Urge It", a copy of a little folder, entitled "Whose Land?" which tells an entertaining story and in the concluding pages answers the question and explains the Colony proposition. Also is included the condensed "Land Question" by Mr. George.

Our Colony is now in its 37th year. Starting in about 36 years ago, in the wildest place along the Eastern Shore, between Daphne, then the County Seat and Point Clear, it has outgrown all near-by towns; is now the largest town in the county and, according to the U.S. Census figures, grew more rapidly between 1920 and 1930 than any other town in the state, with population in 1930 of between 800 and 1500. As most of the population of the town and nearly all the businesses are on our land, we claim much of the credit for this growth to our policy.

Any other information desired will be gladly furnished.

Yours very sincerely  
FAIRHOPE SINGLE TAX CORPORATION,



Highland Home, Ala.  
March 31, 1931

The City Mayor  
Fairhope, Alabama.

Dear Sir:

We are studying common tax in  
Sociology and would like to have some  
information on how your town is conducted.

We will appreciate all the information  
you can give us.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Very truly yours  
Steve Landers  
Highland Home, Ala.



Dec. 10, 1933.

Gordon Ledbetter,  
Sycamore, Ala.

Dear Sir:-

We are glad to learn by yours of 4th, of your interest in this part of Alabama,, and desire to know something also regarding the workings of our Colony.

For its information about the country in general I am sending you a pamphlet entitled "The It County of Alabama."

For a simple explanation of our Colony plan I am sending you a little folder entitled "Whose Land" You will find that it presents our ideas with regard to land, by first telling a clever little story, and then explaining how we apply those ideas to existing conditions. I enclose also a copy of our application for land, which gives a very good idea of our principle and rule.

Am sending in addition a reprint from the Congressional Record "The Single Tax, What It Is and Why We Urge It," a statement by the greatest apostle of the Single Tax philosophy.

The Colony still has in its hands for lease considerable land, practically all of which is without any improvements, but there is always opportunity to secure improvements, by purchase from the owner of the same and securing therewith a transfer of his leasoright to the land.

The Colony's rent is based on unimproved condition ranging from about \$3.50 an acre a year at the Town limit, to as low as a dollar farther out.

There is, or was a few days ago, the most favorable opportunity I know of, to secure an improved place a 40 acre leasehold, only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the center of town, with good road, right on mail and school bus route, good piece, of land livable house of three or four rooms, with screened porch, two or three barns, and chicken-houses same, good well, with pump, ground practically all cleared and in cultivation, some fruit. It was offered to close up estate for \$250, which would have to be cash. Can you not run down and look over the Colony?

Yours very truly,

Sec.



Sycamore, Alabama  
Dec. 4th 1932  
President of Colonies,  
Fairhope, Ala.  
Dear Sir,

I'm very much  
interested in your part of  
the State.

Could you please mail  
me details about your  
land of the Colonies, and  
have you let it out, etc.  
I'm a married man 33  
years of age and was  
reared on a farm here.  
I'd like to have about  
15 acres with house and  
barn.

Please write me all  
details and rates and  
what can be raised there.

Thanking you for  
an early reply

I am  
Yours truly  
Gordon Sedwether



July 20, 1935.

Miss Rubye Ledeen,  
Box. 215, Alabama College,  
Montevallo, Ala.

Dear Miss Ledeen:-

I am sorry that yours of July 6th, was misplaced. ~~and~~ Am always glad to give information about Fairhope. You call, however, for much more than I am able to give.

I suggest for a start-off that you get a copy of the History of Baldwin County, published a few years ago the Baldwin County Historical Society, and which can be obtained of the Fairhope Pharmacy--Dr. Mason's Drugstore--at Fairhope, for 75 cents.

I think I will have to confine my contribution to information about Fairhope and am sending you printed matter in another wrapper, which I hope will be of service to you.

The Baldwin Times Bay Minette, has issued several historical editions, of which they probably have surplus copies left, and I suggest you write them for such.

Hoping from one source and another you will get the information desired, I am,

Yours most sincerely,

---

I am suggesting to the secretary of the School of Organic Education, that she send you matter.



Box 215  
Alabama College  
Montevallo, Ala.  
July 6, 1935

The Fairhope Courier,  
Fairhope, Ala.

Gentlemen:

Since I am preparing a paper "Survey of Baldwin County" as part of the work in my Sociology Course here at Montevallo this summer, I am in need of information and data about Baldwin County.

I wonder if your newspaper has any available information of this type that you could send me that would help me in the preparation of this paper. If so, I certainly would appreciate it.

The history of Fairhope and also the story of the Organic School would be two parts I would like to include in this survey.

If you have any information on any of the following that might be helpful I would greatly appreciate it:

1. Brief History of Baldwin County.
2. County Officials
3. County Institutions
4. Industries in County.
5. Work done by negro.

Schools  
Churches  
Lodges & societies.

I would appreciate any part of the above request and if you could forward it as soon as convenient, I would be most appreciative. I realize this is a big favor to ask. Sincerely,

Byoye Ledeen



Dec. 12, 1932

Glenn Lee,  
1643 Martindale Ave. S.W.  
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of 5th has been delivered to me, because of illness of our Chamber of Commerce secretary and my well-known interest in our city and surrounding country. In addition to being the editor and publisher of the Fairhope Courier, I am also secretary of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation.

I am delighted to learn of the interest aroused by reading the Courier and am taking pleasure in forwarding for the information of yourself and others interested the following:

Illustrated pamphlet issued by the Chamber of Commerce  
History of Single Tax Colony.  
Address by myself, at Chicago, October, 1928  
Several copies of "The Single Tax, What It is and  
Why We Urge It" (Reprint from Cong. Record.)  
"The 'IT' County of Alabama." Reprint from Railroad Em-  
ployes Magazine.  
From Fairhope Courier of Mar. 25, 1926;  
"Some Baldwin County History, True Tales of  
Bursting Booms." With "Comparison of Owning vs  
Leasing."  
Herbert Quick, on "Real Trouble With the Farmers."  
Cong. Record.  
Form of application for land, of Single Tax Corp.

I think when you get through with these you will have a pretty fair idea of what we are doing and hoping for here. If any further information is needed call on me.

My special interest is in the Single Tax application here, but there is plenty of land here to be had on the usual plan, and we will be glad to have those who prefer that plan come and help build up the community. Hoping to hear further from you,

Yours very sincerely,



Grand Rapids Michigan  
Dec. 3-32.

Secretary Chamber of Commerce,  
Fairhope Ala.

Dear Sir:-

A friend has described your community and loaned me several copies of the Fairhope Courier and I am very much interested.

Would be pleased to have any information mailed me that is at your disposal, and will say there is four families interested and any descriptive matter mailed me will be passed on to them.

yours Resp.

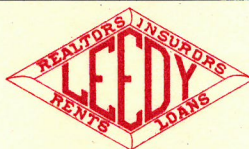
Glenn Lee

1642 Martindale ave. S.W.

Grand Rapids  
Michigan.



ESTABLISHED 1887

**W. B. LEEDY & COMPANY, INC.**

112 NORTH 21ST STREET

**BIRMINGHAM, ALA.**

May 20, 1935.

Mr. E. B. Gaston,  
Fairhope Courier,  
Fairhope, Alabama.

Dear Mr. Gaston:-

I thank you very much for the marked copy of your paper containing the article about women on juries.

You have never told me just how you stand on the Initiative, Referendum and Recall. This bill has been introduced in the Senate by Dr. L. A. Weaver of Lauderdale, and will be introduced in the House, probably this week, by Representative Chichester, of Jefferson. The Initiative is really the most important measure that could be passed, restoring State, county and city governments to the hands of the people and breaking up political rings.

If you can consistently support the Initiative, Referendum and Recall I would appreciate your writing an editorial asking your citizens to immediately write Governor Graves, requesting him to get behind these measures to allow the people themselves to decide the question at the polls.

I expect to be down on the coast fishing this year, although the depression has cut out my usual trips for the last three years, and if I do, I will certainly come by and make your acquaintance.

Thanking you for your co-operation, I am,

Yours very truly,

W. B. LEEDY,  
P. O. BOX 2272,  
Birmingham, Alabama.

WBL/MB.



June 4, 1935.

Mr. W.B. Leedy,  
P.O. Box 2272,  
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Mr. Leedy:-

I received yours of May 30th, under first-class postage, and read same with much interest.

I was surprised however that you thought I had "never told me just how you stand on the Initiative, Referendum and Recall."

I am mailing you a copy of the last issue of the Fairhope Courier and invite your attention to the matter at left hand of the first page.

This or a similar statement has appeared on the Couriers head for more than 40 years.

These measures have been in the Constitution of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation for the same length of time. See article vi foot of page 6, for initiative and referendum; and on next page Sec. 3 of same Article, provides for recall of officers .

I am pleased with your suggestion of ~~our~~ coming down to the coast this summer and intention if you do to visit Fairhope. I certainly hope you will do so. We have much in common and I am sure our people would be glad to be better acquainted.

Sincerely yours,

---

F.B. Gaston,



Jan30, 1935

Mr. W.B. Leedy,  
112 No. 21st St.,  
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Sir:-

I acknowledge receipt of yours of 23<sup>rd</sup> and am quoting in the Courier of this week, what you had to say by way of alleged correction of erroneous statement in article on Courier of 17<sup>th</sup>.

I am sorry I was not able to give more space to matters presented in your letter and publication, copy of which you mailed me. Notwithstanding my inability to agree with you on several matters of public policy I am impressed with the general progressiveness of your views and the public spirit with which you are endeavoring to press them upon the attention of your fellow-citizens of the state.

I am taking pleasure in enclosing a copy of a statement by Henry George, on "The Single Tax, What It Is and Why We Urge It" as republished in the Congressional Record years ago also a review by a prominent Singletaxer of a lately published work: "100 Years of Land Gambling," both of which I hope you can find time to read.

I am sending you a copy of my paper of the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Yours Very Truly,

---



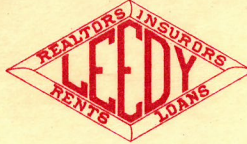
Look: Gray Mountain Iron  
- Editor Courier

Look up. Adv. of sale. of Ellen  
May Taylor and other delinquents  
in Look Courier

Get after Reiser about W. H.  
Merr. Co.



ESTABLISHED 1887

**W. B. LEEDY & COMPANY, INC.**

112 NORTH 21ST STREET

**BIRMINGHAM, ALA.**

January 25, 1935.

Mr. Earnest B. Gaston, Editor,  
Fairhope Courier,  
Fairhope, Alabama.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to my letter to you yesterday, in which I requested that you correct an erroneous article in your paper, will you kindly send me a copy of the paper in which this correction appears for my files.

Thanking you, I am,

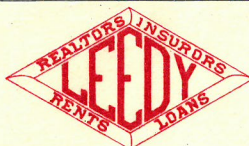
Yours very truly,

W. B. LEEDY,  
P. O. BOX 2272,  
Birmingham, Alabama.

WBL/MB.



ESTABLISHED 1887

**W. B. LEEDY & COMPANY, INC.**

112 NORTH 21ST STREET

**BIRMINGHAM, ALA.**

January 24, 1935.

Mr. Earnest B. Gaston, Editor,  
Fairhope Courier,  
Fairhope, Alabama.

Dear Sir:-

I appreciate very much your sending me copy of your issue of January 17th, particularly because of the fact that it gives me an opportunity to correct an erroneous impression that may have been created in the minds of your readers, and I will ask that you correct this.

First, I wish to say that I am not a lawyer and in no way connected with the legal profession.

Second, I am not being backed by the Real Estate Board nor have I asked them to endorse any part of my program, in fact, when I started this work I stopped attending meetings of the Real Estate Board fearing the impression might be created that they were sponsoring my work.

I want to call your particular attention to the paragraph marked on page 44 of the enclosed booklet, also the article marked on page 40.

Our firm does a general real estate, rental and insurance business, and on January 1st we began our 49th year, and I do think I know something about the inequality of the tax burden placed on the ad valorem tax payers and the motorists. There are over two million people in Alabama who do not contribute one dime towards the support of the State, County or City government but derive all of the benefits therefrom.

ALL POLITICAL POWER OF THIS STATE AND ITS SUBDIVISIONS IS INHERENT IN THE PEOPLE AND ALL GOVERNMENT THEREIN IS FOUNDED ON THEIR AUTHORITY. The politicians fill the air with oratory, setting forth this fact but they fight every measure that tends to carry out this promise. This is my reason for fighting for the passage of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, as they are the only measures that will place government in the hands of the people; they are the only measures that will break up political rings, stop graft and corruption and the criminal waste in spending of public funds. I wish to say here and now, that I would gladly give up every suggestion contained in this booklet in order to have these laws placed in our Constitution, for with these, the people will be able to do what the majority pleases, when they please and how they please.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMPANY



As to a sales tax, I am unalterably opposed to it in any shape, form or fashion, unless there is a proportionate reduction in all taxes, licenses and privileges, not just in the reduction of the ad valorem tax.

As you know, a sales tax can be arbitrarily placed on the people by a legislative act, and this tax is going to be assessed in addition to the present tax burden unless the people rise up now, and in no uncertain terms, tell their respective Senators and Representatives that there must be a reduction in all tax burdens, if the sales tax is passed.

I wish to call your attention to the Modern Tax System, suggestion 23 on page 44, of the booklet. While it is true that the basis of this system is a sales tax, this cannot be arbitrarily place on the people without their consent, in other words, it takes a majority vote of the qualified electors to introduce this system, but I firmly believe when the general public is made aware of the benefits to be derived to all the people under this system, they will vote for it. Before explaining the system to you I wish to call your attention to this fact:

"Regardless of promises to the contrary, Governor Graves cannot possibly carry out his platform unless more money is obtained, not only through the legalizing of wines, beer and liquor, but by assessing a sales tax unless additional funds are obtained through economy, and that can only be done by reducing and consolidating some 85 state departments into 10 or 15 departments, by abolishing the fee system throughout the State and a reorganization of both county and city governments. The county and city manager plan is the most up to date and satisfactory system that could be installed."

In Jefferson County, a consolidation of county and city government and the installation of the county manager form of government, would mean a saving of over \$2,000,000.00 per annum, and with the installation of county and city manager form of government in all counties and incorporated towns and cities, together with the saving to be made in the operation of the State, will mean a \$25,000,000.00 reduction in expenses. Along the line of state consolidation, the State Tax Commission, which cost over \$15,000.00 for the month of December, 1932, and the State Board of Administration, which cost over \$29,000.00 for the same month, could be abolished and their duties placed under the control of the State Comptroller, where they rightfully belong.

There are many benefits to be derived under this Modern System of Taxation:

1st - The present income tax is to be retained, only exempting such items from its operations as are covered under this plan.

2nd- It abolishes all license and privilege taxes and in lieu thereof, assesses a profit tax which creates a wider margin of difference in the amount paid by the little fellow and the big merchant in the same line of business.

3rd- It places real estate on an income bearing basis by providing a minimum property tax plus an additional tax on improvements and an additional tax on annual rental. In other words, if there are three



Earnest B. Gaston, No. 3,  
January 24, 1935.

adjoining lots in your City, assessed at the same figure, one being unimproved, one being improved by having a vacant building thereon and the other being improved and rented; for illustration we will say that the minimum tax on land on all three lots is \$100.00, and the improvements on the remaining two lots are assessed at the identical value and an additional tax of \$100.00 added for these improvements, and the third is rented for \$2400.00 per year, and taxed an additional 5% on the rental income or \$120.00, then the vacant lot would pay a tax of \$100.00, the lot and vacant building, a tax of \$200.00 and the lot with the occupied building, a tax of \$320.00. I am against abolishing the ad valorem tax entirely, as real estate should bear its share of the tax burden.

4th - With the installation of this system, a homestead exemption of \$2,500.00 could be given the first year and approximately a 25% reduction in other ad valorem taxes and this could be further reduced not less than 5% each year until the ad valorem taxes reach a reasonable amount and the homestead exemption reaches the desired figure. It could be done more rapidly but we must establish a sinking fund and arrange for the reduction of our debts. When this is done, we can increase the homestead exemption to any amount desired or we can exempt from taxation any dwelling or farm of 160 acres occupied by the owner, exclusively as a residence for his immediate family, whether it is valued at \$100.00 or \$100,000.00. In other words, the people will be assured that never again will the State of Alabama confiscate another home for taxes.

5th - One saving that will no doubt, appeal to a majority of our citizens, we are now paying a threecent tax on a fifteen cent pack of cigarettes, four cents on a twenty cent pack and five cents on a twenty-five cent pack. Under this plan, the tax on the first will be eliminated, the second reduced to one cent and the third to two cents.

On January 10th, at the request of Mobile citizens, I made a talk in that City, explaining the advantages of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, this system of taxation and also offered some suggestions as to reduction in state, county and city expenses. I might add that I paid my own expense in making this trip.

A careful study will not reveal a single measure advocated that will benefit a particular class but general measures for the benefit of the whole people. If these 24 suggestions were adopted and honestly administered, we could pay the debts of our county, state and city governments within a ten year period.

In 1932, the gross debt of Alabama and its political subdivisions, less sinking fund assets set aside for that purpose, was over \$210,000,000.00, over \$82,000,000.00 state, over \$45,000,000.00 county and over \$82,000,000.00 for towns and cities with a population of 2500 and over. In other words, the average debt of Alabama citizens was \$78.75 per person. Our annual interest bill has about reached one-half of our annual income, and on one item alone, a State bond issue of \$8,500,000.00 we have paid over \$19,000,000.00 in interest. The only desire of the politicians is to add to our bonded indebtedness and pay the interest, making no provision for reducing the debt. They do not care, all they desire is to spend the money and let future generations "get out of the hole" as best they can.



Earnest B. Gaston, No. 4,  
January 24, 1935.

I do not belong to any organization, I am not asking for a contribution and do not intend to do so. I want nothing. When my limited financial means are exhausted I will have to discontinue my work, but I sent this booklet out with the hope of arousing the people to the seriousness of the situation and show them a way to save themselves, which they must do, as they cannot depend on politicians to do anything.

I repeat again, unless the people rise up now and emphatically state that they will not stand for a sales tax in addition to their present tax burdens, it is going to be imposed, and this must be done by mass meetings throughout the entire state, between now and the time the legislature re-convenes.

If you can get up a worth-while meeting and will let me know several days in advance, I will be glad to come down and discuss the Initiative, Referendum & Recall, the Modern Tax System, or any other suggestions covered in this booklet that you people desire, and I will pay my own expenses. I am not asking or expecting your people to contribute a dime. If you should desire to have this meeting, and could give some publicity to it in Robertsdales and Foley, I feel sure some of their citizens would attend.

I will appreciate your correcting, in your next issue, of the Courier, my stand on a sales tax and that I am absolutely opposed to a sales tax in any shape, form or fashion, unless it is used in connection with this system of taxation, or until the state, its counties and cities have reduced operating expenses to the lowest possible figure, without impairing efficiency. When this is done and we find that enough savings cannot be accomplished to assure a nine months school term in the public elementary and high school, for the reduction of the debt, for a homestead exemption of not less than \$5,000.00 and old age pension, then I will vote for a sales tax.

With the proper reduction in expenses and operating our government on an up to date business basis, the present revenue of our state, its counties and cities is now sufficient to do these things.

Hoping that I have made myself clear and trusting you will give the correction the same prominent space in which you placed your article and assuring you that my one desire is to help all the people correct the evils that now exist, I am,

Yours very truly,



W. B. LEEDY,  
P. O. BOX 2272,  
Birmingham, Alabama.

WBL/MB.



ESTABLISHED 1887

**W. B. LEEDY & COMPANY, INC.**

112 NORTH 21ST STREET

**BIRMINGHAM, ALA.**

Dec. 15, 1934.

Dear Sir:

I hope you will pardon my acknowledgement of your communication in the form of a circular letter. The expense has already been so heavy I am trying to save both time and money. I desire also to get the "records straight" and to correct any wrong impression that may be in your mind.

I have been referred to in the daily press as President of the newly formed Alabama Taxpayers' Association. As yet there is no such organization, and I have no desire to be President, Treasurer or to hold any office. I am simply presenting this plan to the people because the Tennessee Taxpayers' Association has been so successful.

I hope associations will be formed in each town and city, by the people of their respective communities, that these units will later be consolidated into County Organizations and that eventually the Alabama Taxpayers' Association will result from a merger of these County Units.

I am NOT asking for CONTRIBUTIONS, just want the people to form their OWN organizations, elect their OWN officers, collect and spend their OWN FUNDS.

Upon a few days advance notice, I will be glad to visit any community (paying my own expense) if my services will be of value in addressing a meeting of citizens, or in helping them to form an organization for their PROTECTION and BETTERMENT. I WANT NOTHING!

I am only trying to show the people there is NO NECESSITY for a TAX INCREASE --- we can pay our debts and keep our schools open on the STATE'S PRESENT INCOME, provided the Legislature will allow us to vote on the adoption of the INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM and RECALL.

I want to explain more fully the purpose of the blank form in the back of the booklet, addressed to the Senator-Elect; tell your friends.

Being fully satisfied in my own mind that the suggestions advocated by me WILL SOLVE ALABAMA'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, but having no desire to force my PERSONAL OPINIONS on others, I decided to submit the question to the people. This blank contains twenty-four numbered spaces, one for each suggestion in the form of a ballot, so that the individual could approve ONE or several suggestions without supporting the entire program.



It is addressed to the Senator-Elect because he is the nominal head of each County's delegation --- I felt the Senator would be glad to know the wishes of his constituents.

If each person receiving one of these booklets will check the suggestions of which he approves, mail the slip to his respective Senator, I feel sure it will be of some value to the 1935 Legislature in preparing its Legislative program.

IT SHOULD BE OF SOME VALUE to know the wishes of 10,000 Alabama citizens whom they were elected to represent --- not to IGNORE. If YOU will co-operate this much, we will get results; such requests will not go unheeded. Tell your friends.

PLATFORMS are something a Politician STANDS ON that he thinks the people will FALL FOR, therefore it is my desire to have some way to RECALL an office holder for the failure to carry out his CAMPAIGN PROMISES, some way to INITIATE and PASS a law if our Legislature WILL NOT, and to REPEAL a law if they PASS ONE that is obnoxious.

I want the BALANCE OF POWER IN THE HANDS OF THE QUALIFIED VOTERS ---- NOT IN THE HANDS OF ONE HUNDRED & FORTY-ONE MEN. ONLY THE INITIATIVE, THE REFERENDUM AND THE RECALL WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS, AS WELL AS PLACE CONTROL OF STATE, COUNTY AND CITY GOVERNMENTS IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE. FIND OUT WHY THE POLITICIANS ARE AGAINST THESE MEASURES AND YOU WILL FIND OUT WHY THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE FOR THEM.

In conclusion let me remind you that NOTHING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED except through YOUR FULL CO-OPERATION and a HIGHLY ORGANIZED EFFORT. I am trying to show the way --- its YOUR JOB NOW.

I THANK YOU --- GOOD-BYE AND GOOD LUCK.

Yours truly,

W. B. Leedy,  
P.O. box 2272,  
Birmingham, Ala.

P.S. I have a limited supply of the booklets on hand if you desire a few more copies.

W.B.L.



*FAIRHOPE COURIER*

*The Taxpayers' Burden  
Must Be Reduced*

# ALABAMA TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Should Be Organized and Control Taken  
From the Hands of a Small  
Organized Political  
Group

+ + +

A Legislative Program  
Suggested

+ + +

A careful study of this booklet is advised as it  
contains many things you should know about the  
affairs of your State, its Counties and Cities.

+ + +

Without full co-operation and a concerted effort  
of the Unorganized Majority nothing can be ac-  
complished nor can we expect any relief.

+ + +

*Facts Not Theories*



To be added to

*(Suggestion No. 5)*

### **Uniform Accounting, Annual Audits And Statements**

Last year certain County Officials handling PUBLIC FUNDS were short in their accounts \$490,000 and the total shortage for the past FOUR YEARS was nearly THREE MILLION DOLLARS.

Due to FAULTY and UNRELIABLE RECORDS it is impossible to check back in many counties over a period of FIVE YEARS; likewise impossible to arrive at the total debt of many counties.

I would like to know how much of this shortage was recovered under the "Public Official Bonds" of the offending Officials.

At the present time officials are permitted to give PRIVATE BONDS or bonds in REGULAR AUTHORIZED BONDING COMPANIES.

At one session of the Legislature under Gov. Miller a bill was introduced providing that bonds must be furnished in REGULAR AUTHORIZED BONDING COMPANIES PERMITTED TO DO BUSINESS UNDER THE INSURANCE LAWS OF ALABAMA AND UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE STATE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT, but it FAILED TO PASS.

A bill should be passed eliminating PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL BONDS for in many instances it is impossible to RECOVER under a Private Bond.

A provision should be made that in the event an Office Holder cannot furnish bond in such a Bonding Company, or the Company furnishing such bonds makes application to be relieved of liability under the bond, he is automatically removed from office.

Where an applicant is unable to furnish bond in a Bonding Company it is because his general reputation in his community is such that he is not worthy of the trust and he is termed what the companies call a "BAD RISK".

Bonding Companies furnishing Public Official Bonds, under terms of their bond, REQUIRE AN ANNUAL AUDIT — PRIVATE BONDS DO NOT.

Too much care cannot be taken in PROTECTING PUBLIC FUNDS, therefore it is extremely important that UNIFORM ACCOUNTING, ANNUAL AUDITS AND STATEMENTS be required from Officials handling PUBLIC FUNDS.



Under the present system of handling these funds, as officials are NOT REQUIRED TO REPORT TO THE STATE, it is impossible to ascertain, WITHOUT A SPECIAL AUDIT AND A GREAT DEAL OF ANALYTICAL STUDY, if the CORRECT AMOUNT has been remitted.

\* \* \* \* \*

NB—To the Newspapers of Alabama:

If you should use any of the information in this booklet, or make any comments, either adverse or favorable, won't you do me the favor of mailing me a copy of your paper? I am very anxious to get your reaction and that of the public.

W. B. LEEDY,

Birmingham, Ala.,  
Oct. 25, 1934.

P. O. Box No. 2272.



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This booklet is respectfully dedicated to the OVER-BURDENED TAXPAYER of Alabama. It contains facts they should know and is not intended as a personal criticism of any one.

It is a protest against GRAFT AND CORRUPTION, EXTRAVAGANCE AND ANTIQUATED METHODS and OX-CART COUNTY AND CITY GOVERNMENT. A protest against CARPET BAG rule by a small ORGANIZED POLITICAL MINORITY over the UNORGANIZED MAJORITY.

'Tis but an effort to create interest in governmental affairs by ALL THE PEOPLE, and encourage every eligible citizen to REGISTER AND VOTE. It is their DUTY.

I am indebted to Street Printing Company of Birmingham, Alabama, for their valuable assistance and financial aid in making the publication of this booklet possible.

The contents of this booklet will be given in weekly broadcasts over Station WSGN, beginning Sunday, November 4th, at 5 P.M.

W. B. LEEDY,  
P. O. Box 2272.

Birmingham, Alabama,  
Sept. 1, 1934.

**WATCH FOR A SALES TAX**



## Loss in Revenue

Last year we lacked approximately \$2,500,000 in having sufficient money to operate our schools, and for the 1934-35 term, due to a decrease in assessment values, a much larger sum may be required.

The promised decrease in Auto Tags to a minimum of \$5.00 and a maximum of \$15.00 will conservatively mean an average loss of not less than \$5.00 per car, or a total of \$950,000 for the 190,000 automobiles.

The ONE CENT temporary gasoline levy of 1931 expires in 1935 and unless continued by the Legislature (as requested by the Association of Probate Judges and County Commissioners) will mean an additional revenue loss of about \$1,250,000.

I feel I am being ultra-conservative in placing a figure of only \$2,000,000 in the probable loss in revenue in the Sixty-Seven Counties due to the decrease in assessment values.

A Homestead exemption of \$2,000 certainly will mean a loss of not less than \$1,000,000 and interest on the "McDaniel-Teasley Bonds" will increase the expense approximately \$850,000, and you must also bear in mind that the entire issue is due in 1938.

If the State Law Enforcement Unit is revived this will mean an additional HEAVY INCREASE, but disregarding this Unit we still have a total of more than NINE MILLION DOLLARS that must be procured in some manner. This does not cover all items and the total could easily be increased to TEN MILLION.

You have been promised, among other things, a 7-months school term, Homestead Exemption, Auto Tag Reduction, no Tax Increase, and the Governor-Elect has stated that he is opposed to a SALES TAX. In spite of promises to the contrary use your head and figure the answer for yourself—it is not an intricate problem.

Without a SALES TAX or INCREASING EXISTING TAXES, how can these promises be kept unless additional funds are procured through a considerable savings in the operation of State, County and City Governments by RIGID ECONOMY, REORGANIZATION AND MODERNIZATION? WITHOUT ECONOMY, WE MUST HAVE IN THE IMMORTAL WORDS OF ED PETTUS, "THE ODIUM OF MORE TAXES AND NEW TAXPAYERS."

The State Department of Education has already reported that your schools cannot operate for a full term during 1934-35 without Federal Aid or MORE MONEY, the Hon. Bibb Graves has stated they will be able to operate next term without Federal Aid and the U. S. Government has notified us what must be done regarding additional Relief Funds by the State.

I do not believe the people will stand for an INCREASE IN EXISTING TAXES therefore more money (without Economy) can only be obtained through a NEW TAX PLAN. The only field left open is a SALES TAX, though it may be levied under some other name and over the protest of Mr. Graves.

I want to warn you that once a SALES TAX is levied, WITHOUT A PROPORTIONATE REDUCTION IN EXISTING TAXES there NEVER WILL BE ANY ECONOMY. The necessity being removed for ECONOMY, when additional revenue is needed ANOTHER CENT WILL BE ADDED to the Sales Tax by the Legislature just as has been done with the gasoline tax.

Demand ECONOMY FIRST, then if we find enough savings cannot be made to meet the emergencies levy a Sales Tax at the LOWEST POSSIBLE RATE necessary to meet the deficiency.

Winter will soon be upon us and naturally the amount needed for RELIEF will be greatly increased. It is time to quit PLAYING POLITICS and forget SELFISH INTEREST so Alabama can do her duty to people actually in want. This is a matter for all classes and creeds and for the Counties and Cities as well as the State—even Politicians must be included.

## Do You Know

The indebtedness of your State, County or City? Do you know if they have exceeded their LEGAL DEBT LIMIT? Do you know just what salary or FEES your County Officials receive? Do you know your State had many million dollars, in ILLEGAL DEBTS, a part of it contracted by Office Holders in DIRECT VIOLATION of the State Constitution and a considerable part of this debt contracted in spite of your EXPRESSED WISHES at the polls?

The voters declined to ratify a 20 MILLION DOLLAR BOND ISSUE to refund these debts, the total being approximately \$17,000,000. Do you know the Politicians changed the name and submitted this Bond Issue to you again under the title of the "McDaniel-Teasley Warrant Amendment" which you ratified? Many thought they were only LEGALIZING EXISTING WARRANTS, not knowing it was just a BOND ISSUE under ANOTHER NAME.

In a ten year period that your County has received more than \$435,000 in Gasoline Taxes for ROADS? Do you know how much of this money has been used for that purpose and how much, if any, has been ILLEGALLY DIVERTED to other uses?

Isn't it about time you were making investiga-



tions for yourself and ascertaining how **YOUR MONEY** is being **SPENT**?

Do you know that the Legislature convenes in 1935 and that unless we grasp this opportunity there will be **FOUR LONG AND WEARY YEARS** before anything can be done unless the Governor will call a **Special Session**?

You have recently elected men to represent you in that body, expecting them to carry out their Campaign Promises and Your Wishes. I sincerely believe a majority of these men desire to do so, but they cannot unless you make your wishes known either by personal contact, letters or mass meetings with the proper resolutions.

In the pages to follow I will attempt to explain several matters that should be called to the attention of the Governor and the members of both Houses—matters that are of particular importance to the rank and file and **INDIVIDUAL** Citizens of Alabama, as well as a tentative Legislative Program that I know will **SOLVE THE PROBLEMS** of our people but not the **POLITICIANS**.

A copy of this booklet is being sent to the Governor-Elect as well as each member of the Senate and House. Every suggestion is consecutively numbered (for convenience) to save time. If you approve any suggestions detach slip in the back of this booklet, mark with an "X" the desired number and mail it to your respective Senator. Pass the information on to your friends and have them do likewise—pressure must be brought to bear. This will take very little time and just a few cents of your money. **WRITE TODAY**.

When you consider this booklet is being mailed to some 10,000 Alabama Citizens in each of the Sixty-Seven Counties, comprising 419 Towns and Cities with a combined population of over 1,000,000 (out of a total of 2,267,000) you will realize the labor and expense entailed and the **EFFECT** 10,000 communications may have on our Law Makers.

Do you want to help in an effort to restore government to the **HANDS OF THE PEOPLE**, break up Political Rings, stop Graft, reduce Governmental Costs and reduce Taxes by cutting the **UNNECESSARY** cost of **COUNTY** and **CITY GOVERNMENTS**?

A **REMEDY FOR MANY EXISTING EVILS** is given in the Suggestions to follow. They will **PROTECT** the people of Alabama from the evils mentioned and will make possible a **TAX REDUCTION**.

I wish to call your particular attention to Suggestions Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 which, to my mind, are the **MOST IMPORTANT**.

**WATCH FOR A SALES TAX**

## **Tennessee Taxpayers Association**

Four years ago this association was formed and through its efforts and the co-operation of the Governor and the Legislature the following results have been obtained:

- 1st—State costs have been reduced more than \$8,800,000 in 1933.
- 2nd—The State ad valorem tax of .55c in 1919 was reduced to .08c in 1932.
- 3rd—The 1931 total Legislative cost was \$726,927. In 1933 the Legislature actually expended on itself \$103,581, a savings of \$623,927—the **LOWEST** Legislative cost in **TWENTY-FIVE YEARS**.
- 4th—Four Executive Salaries were reduced over \$34,000 and Seven Executive Departments over \$5,500,000.
- 5th—The cost to the Tennessee Taxpayers Association of collecting, organizing and presenting the facts which have influenced these savings has been about **ONE DOLLAR** for every **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS** in savings.
- 6th—On Aug. 1, 1934, this association has made governmental surveys in **TWENTY-ONE** Counties with comprehensive reports, including recommendations for increasing **ECONOMY** and **EFFICIENCY** in conducting the **PUBLIC BUSINESS**. These savings recommended—and outlined in practical detail—have ranged from a few Thousand Dollars per **COUNTY** to \$150,000 in Knox County (Knoxville) and \$268,700 in Hamilton County (Chattanooga).
- 7th—In one County the organized Taxpayers Movement brought about a **31c REDUCTION** in the annual **TAX LEVY**.
- 8th—**THE REDUCTION IN TAX RATES IN COUNTY TAXES OVER THE ENTIRE STATE HAS BEEN AN AVERAGE OF TWENTY-ONE CENTS PER HUNDRED DOLLARS OF ASSESSED VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY**.
- 9th—**The BEST RESULTS** have been obtained in those Counties in which a Taxpayers Organization is actively functioning.

## **Alabama Taxpayers Association**

While every firm and individual in this country has been cutting expenses, the cost of government has **STEADILY INCREASED**.

People are living on a **PRE-WAR DEFLATED** basis; most governments are being run on a **POST-WAR INFLATED** basis. We must be satisfied with **FEWER PUBLIC SERVANTS** and **FEWER PUBLIC SERVICES**.

Governmental budgets, state and local, must be balanced **DOWN** instead of **UP** so that government costs will be in line with the **PRESENT SCALE OF LIVING OF THE INDIVIDUAL TAX-PAYER**.

The significant fact of control of public expenditures cannot be accomplished by mere discussion or by spasmodic efforts. To achieve the desired aim, it is probable that the taxpayers of every State will find it necessary to organize permanent organizations, guided by leaders of broad views, and assisted by experts who give their entire time to the



work of **REDUCING COSTS** and **INCREASING EFFICIENCY**.

What do you think of forming an association in Alabama whose objects shall be those of **ORGANIZATION, INVESTIGATION and RECOMMENDATION** in order to aid and bring about by mutual effort, in the interest of all taxpayers of the State, through **NON-PARTISAN** and **NON-POLITICAL** means, the greatest possible **ECONOMIES** consistent with **EFFICIENCY** in the **COLLECTION** and **EXPENDITURE** of the **PUBLIC FUNDS**, to the end that taxes in the State of Alabama, Counties and Cities and other Political Sub-Divisions thereof **SHALL BE REDUCED**; together with such other functions that may be necessary for it to **FINANCE** and otherwise **ADMINISTER** its activities?

For over **ONE HUNDRED YEARS** Alabama has been doing business in the same **ANTIQUATED MANNER**. For over a **HUNDRED YEARS** voters of the State have been attending political meetings, listening to the glowing promises of candidates and asking what the successful candidate expects to do for them.

For the same length of time voters have been casting their ballots only to return home and sit quietly while these promises have been broken almost as rapidly as they were made.

Isn't it about time we realized that the **PROFESSIONAL POLITICIAN** and **HABITUAL OFFICE HOLDER** **never has and never will** do anything to ease the tax burden or reduce governmental costs? Admit the truth; the only way you can get help is to **HELP YOURSELF** and this can only be done through unselfish co-operation and a highly organized movement.

### How Politicians Protect Your Rights

In the last campaign you heard much about Dictatorship, Foreign Methods, Short Ballot and retaining for the people the **PRIVILEGES THEY NOW ENJOY**. Possibly you do not know, so I am going to list below the **RIGHTS** and **PRIVILEGES** these politicians have protected and retained for you. Tell you what you **CAN DO** under the present system—a system just a few steps removed from the **Old CARPET BAG DAYS**:

- 1st—The privilege (if it may be called a privilege) of voting for a candidate even though you may know **NOTHING** as to his **Honesty, Morals or Ability** to properly **ADMINISTER** the office he seeks.
- 2nd—The privilege of voting **FOR** or **AGAINST** a Constitutional Amendment if the men you have recently elected to the Senate and Legislature will agree to submit the amendment to a vote of the people and if, this Legislature, in their infinite wisdom, think you are capable of deciding the question for yourself.

- 3rd—Should an elective official die, resign or be removed from office you **MAY** have the privilege of voting for his successor if the Governor will grant you permission to do so and not use his **APPOINTIVE POWER** to pay a **POLITICAL DEBT**.

Should this happen while he is the nominee the State Democratic Committee **MAY** call an **ELECTION** or decide to declare their **OWN NOMINEE**.

**THIS IS ALL YOU CAN DO AND THESE ARE ALL THE PRIVILEGES AND RIGHTS THAT HAVE BEEN PRESERVED FOR YOU UNDER OUR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.**

### What You Cannot Do

- 1st—Remove from office under any circumstances, once he is in, an elective or appointive official.
- 2nd—Have any voice in the operation of your State, County or City Government except originally electing a candidate to office.
- 3rd—Consolidate or abolish two or more Constitutional Offices in your County, for the sake of **EFFICIENCY** and **ECONOMY**, unless the Legislature will submit a Constitutional Amendment, upon which electors of the entire state must vote, and not just those in the affected territory.
- 4th—Consolidate or abolish appointive offices or have any say as to the hours of work or rate of pay.
- 5th—Create new offices no matter how badly needed.
- 6th—Have a Constitutional Amendment submitted or any law passed without the consent of the 141 men you have **ELECTED TO OFFICE** no matter if every qualified voter requests its passage.
- 7th—Change your form of County or City Government even though every qualified voter in the territory affected should sign a petition requesting the change.
- 8th—Have any voice in the rate of taxation, State, County or City, provided it does not exceed the Constitutional Limit. Even in that event you will be forced to the expense of resorting to the courts, and at the same time **pay the expense** of a State's Attorney to fight you.
- 9th—No matter how obnoxious, repeal any law that is now or will be placed on the statute books.
- 10th—If an official embezzles or is known to be an habitual drunkard you cannot remove him from office. All you can do is to prefer charges and let the **INS** (office holders) decide whether or not he shall be removed.

**THIS IS WHAT YOU CANNOT DO UNDER A SO-CALLED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.**

### What Your Legislature Can Do

- 1st—Impose **ANY TAX** for **ANY AMOUNT** on **ANY PROPERTY OR COMMODITY** (even Church Collections and walking City Streets or public Roads) they desire that is not in violation of the State Constitution.
- 2nd—Through Senatorial Courtesy, the Delegation from your District (respective Senator and Representative) can change your form of County or City Government over night.
- 3rd—Through the same procedure, abolish or create (except Constitutional) any new jobs they wish.
- 4th—In a like manner **EXTEND THE TERM** of County or City Officials.



- 5th—Raise the rate of pay of above officials (except where Constitutionally prohibited) or any Elective or Appointive official.
- 6th—Decline to submit a constitutional amendment to a vote of the people, or refuse to pass any law desired by the people as well as **BREAK ALL CAMPAIGN PROMISES**. There is no law whereby they can be removed from office.
- 7th—Can decline to take the necessary steps towards adopting a new **CONSTITUTION** no matter how badly needed.
- 8th—Can impose a **SALES TAX** of ANY RATE or increase existing taxes ANY AMOUNT, even the present Gasoline Tax. In fact **DO ANYTHING** they desire that is not in violation of the State Constitution—even if that event you will be forced to the **EXPENSE OF COURT PROCEEDINGS**.

And there is **NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT** under the present system of **PROTECTING THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS**.

The only way to get any help is to **HELP YOURSELF** and the only **LEGAL** way this can be done is bringing pressure to bear by letting your Governor, respective Senator and Representatives know what you **WANT**. They are not mind readers and must be told.

### Facts to Consider

It is estimated that your schools will close by Feb. 1, 1935 unless approximately \$3,500,000 is obtained in additional revenue either through Federal relief or **INCREASED TAXES**, unless it is obtained through **ECONOMY**.

In one year, 190,000 Alabama Motorists (out of a total population of 2,677,000) paid in Gasoline and other Taxes \$16,000,000 — **ONE - HALF THE STATE'S ENTIRE INCOME**. This fact is ample argument that the Motorist needs relief.

At one time near Decatur, Ala., was the **HIGHEST GASOLINE TAX IN THE WORLD**, divided as follows: Oil Company .07c, Filling Station .03c, and **TWELVE CENTS WENT FOR TAXES**.

In 1931 Georgia's "Tin Tag Tax" (paid by trucks, trailers and tractors) amounted to \$4,162,000 while the total tax paid by Railroads was only \$615,000.

**FARMERS ATTENTION!!** The U. S. Bureau of Census places the number of vehicles used on the 6,288,000 FARMS in the United States at \$5,035,000; of which 900,000 are **TRUCKS**—26 per cent of all the trucks in the United States. Trucks and Busses paid over \$250,000,000 in taxes in 1927 (this tax has since been raised in Alabama), and please bear in mind that 85 per cent of all trucks are **PRIVATELY OWNED**.

In 1930 the 26,523,799 motor vehicles in the United States paid in taxes over **ONE BILLION DOLLARS**, divided as follows: Registration Fees \$355,704,860, Gasoline Taxes \$494,633,410 and Personal Property Taxes \$150,000,000.

Eighty per cent of all passenger cars are used for business purposes by Salesmen, Physicians, Nurses, **FARMERS** and **TEACHERS**. Business and Professional people generally use cars in daily routine.

The average **TAX** per vehicle is \$37.72, the average **COST** is \$205.58 and the average life is seven years, therefore in that time the owner pays in **TAXES** \$264.04 which is \$58.16 **MORE THAN COST OF THE CAR**. This tax burden was increased in 1932 to more than \$1,062,000,000.

When you consider that **TWO-THIRDS** of the **PASSENGER CAR OWNERS** earn \$3,000 or **LESS** per year you can readily see that the **LITTLE FELLOW** bears most of this burden.

I contend now, and always have, that in the past **HUNDRED YEARS** Alabama and its political subdivisions have done **NOTHING** to **REDUCE EXPENSES** and **DEBTS** or help the taxpayer; on the other hand **EXPENSES, DEBTS** and **TAXES** have **STEADILY INCREASED** from year to year.

**AN ACRE OF TOBACCO YIELDS \$1200. IN REVENUE; \$100 GOES TO THE FARMER, \$300 TO THE MANUFACTURER AND \$800 FOR TAXES—66⅔ per cent.**

In 1931 (these figures since increase) **ONE PERSON** out of every **TEN** in the United States was on the **PUBLIC PAY ROLL**. **ONE DOLLAR** out of every **THREE DOLLARS** in profit earned by a firm or corporation went for **TAXES**. **ONE DOLLAR OUT OF EVERY FIVE EARNED IN WAGES WENT FOR TAXES**.

The State of Alabama, 67 Counties and 297 Cities (2500 population and over) operated in **EXCESS OF INCOME** (or at a loss) of \$7,177,171 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1931. The total cost of these various units amounted to \$90,145,789. Estimated population Jan. 1, 1932 was 2,677,000, therefore in 1931 government in Alabama cost every **MAN, WOMAN** and **CHILD** an average of \$33.67 each.

The total revenue for the State and all its subdivisions was \$82,968,618, which means that every citizen of Alabama paid an average of \$30.99 each in **TAXES**.

The assessed valuation of all property in Alabama, subject to levies of the General Property Tax **INCREASED** from \$566,807,000 in 1912 to \$1,210,875,924 in 1931. The average per capita assessment **INCREASED** from \$253.20 to \$452.31 in that time.

For 1932 the **GROSS DEBT** of Alabama and its political sub-divisions (less sinking fund assets set aside for that purpose) was \$210,822,063; Debts of the State being \$82,324,068, Debts of the Counties \$45,730,310 and Debts of Towns and Cities \$82,2



749,685. This means that every MAN, WOMAN and CHILD in Alabama owes an AVERAGE DEBT of \$78.75 each.

In a Twelve Year period Institutions of Learning increased as follows: University of Alabama 875 per cent, Auburn 834 per cent, Vocational Training 3,246 per cent, Alabama College 623 per cent and Normal Schools 704 per cent—In that same period PUBLIC ELEMENTARY and HIGH SCHOOLS ONLY INCREASED 106 per cent.

In a similar period expenses of several State Departments increased as follows: Public Service Commission 565 per cent, Game and Fish Dept. 4,954 per cent, State Highway Dept. 14,535 per cent and TAX LEVIES increased 447 per cent. Many State salaries were also increased from a low of 32 to a high of 200 per cent.

One item of particular interest, which bears out my contention that debts are not being reduced, is that of INTEREST PAYMENTS which have INCREASED from \$1,762,999 in 1912 to OVER ELEVEN MILLION DOLLARS in 1932. If this keeps up in another twelve years our ANNUAL INTEREST BILL will nearly equal our ANNUAL INCOME.

Governor Jelks spent \$12,000,000 during his term and since that time the amount spent per term by our Chief Executive has INCREASED to ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE MILLION DOLLARS—an increase of \$169,000,000 up to the beginning of the Miller Administration.

Our debts have steadily increased from year to year for the past ONE HUNDRED YEARS and during that time no appreciable amount has been paid on the PRINCIPAL. Some Counties have not paid ONE DIME on the original cost of Court Houses, and yet have erected new ones costing as much as \$3,000,000.

The above conditions (and I have only scratched the surface) mean that Alabama Taxpayers cannot expect or get RELIEF without a DRASTIC CUT IN OPERATING EXPENSE and a complete GOVERNMENTAL REORGANIZATION — no real savings can be accomplished without the elimination of COUNTY OX-CART GOVERNMENT.

There are many other conditions and facts that you should dig out for yourself and become more familiar with affairs that DIRECTLY CONCERN you and future generations.

If just the following Suggestions, and nothing more, were adopted as a Legislative Program conditions in Alabama would be greatly IMPROVED.

**WATCH FOR A SALES TAX**

### (Suggestion No. 1)

#### Initiative, Referendum and Recall

These laws are of MORE IMPORTANCE and will be of MORE DIRECT BENEFIT to the people of Alabama than any that could be passed—even the adoption of a badly needed Constitution.

As I have said before, there was much “Ballyhoo” (to becloud real issues) in the last campaign about protecting the rights of the people and preserving the ballot for Alabama voters. In other words, PERMIT OLD CONDITIONS TO CONTINUE.

I want to further protect the people's rights and give them the opportunity of using a USELESS BALLOT, not only as a means of protection against INTOLERABLE CONDITIONS, UN-SCRUPULOUS POLITICIANS and OFFICE HOLDERS, but in giving them SOME VOICE in the operation of their State, County and City Governments, and a way to PREVENT the RECKLESS SPENDING of PUBLIC FUNDS, a way to ease the BACK-BREAKING TAX BURDEN and stop the ETERNAL INCREASE EACH YEAR.

The only privilege you now enjoy is that of hiring an employee—you cannot FIRE him.

As stated before you cannot amend the Constitution or adopt a NEW one unless the Legislature which you elected will allow you to DECIDE THE QUESTION AT THE POLLS.

You may refuse to ratify an amendment to the Constitution, but if it is a “Pet Measure” of your Governor he may become INTOLERANT and keep calling the Legislature into Special Session (AT YOUR EXPENSE) and re-submit the issue from time to time until it is adopted, only because your patience is exhausted and your resistance broken—even as Miller and Feagin did.

Voters have no organization or campaign funds with which to fight an amendment, yet your Governor—again at your expense—may use State, County and City Elective and Appointive Officials as a CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE and POLITICAL MACHINE to force the issue. Still at your expense, he may use the Radio, State Stamps, Stationery, Stenographers, Gasoline, School Busses, Trucks and Automobiles in getting votes for his PET MEASURE.

Putting it in plain words, after casting your ballot for a candidate YOU ARE THROUGH.

Without the consent of the people of Jefferson County a NEW COURT HOUSE was erected at a cost of approximately \$3,000,000 even though we had not finished paying for the old one. We bought a NEW LOCATION and practically junked the



old site and building and they are now a **GREAT-ER BURDEN** on the Taxpayers than ever before.

Over the written protest of more than 12,000 qualified voters of Jefferson County our Legislative Delegation (One Senator and Seven Representatives) extended the terms of County Commissioners. One Commissioner, who was appointed by a Governor, has been holding an office for several years to which he has never been **ELECTED**—he, no doubt will receive another appointive office when his present term expires.

At the same time, the eight gentlemen mentioned above, attempted to extend the terms of Birmingham City Commissioners, but such a protest was raised they were afraid it might result in defeating the County Extension Bill so they let the matter drop. Two of these Commissioners were defeated in the last City Election.

This same delegation of eight men created an entirely new job—**ABSOLUTELY UNNECESSARY**—paying a salary of \$6,000 and fees that will run the total to \$15,000 or \$20,000. This work was taken out of the hands of another department and a **NEW DEPARTMENT** created. This was done despite the fact that property of Jefferson County taxpayers, valued at more than \$50,000,000 was being sold for taxes—in spite of the fact that everything was being reduced but **COUNTY EXPENSE**.

What has been done in Jefferson County, and more too, can be done in your County by your respective Senator and Representative through the medium of Senatorial Courtesy and there is no **LEGAL WAY** you can prevent it.

With the **INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM** and the **RECALL** written into our Constitution the **VOTERS WILL HAVE A WEAPON WITH WHICH TO FIGHT THE EVILS MENTIONED ABOVE. IN ADDITION TO THAT THESE LAWS WILL PLACE IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE THE RIGHT TO DO OR UNDO THE THINGS MENTIONED** under the heading "**What Your Legislature Can Do**".

The Professional Politician and Habitual Office Holder will tell you these laws are good, but very dangerous in the hands of an **IGNORANT ELECTORATE**—that's **YOU** and **I**. I say if the electorate of Alabama hasn't brains enough to **INITIATE** their own laws or to **RECALL** an official, then they should never have been allowed to vote in the first place—what they need is a **GUARDIAN** and not a **VOTE**.

**THERE IS NO VALID REASON OR EXCUSE WHY THE 1935 LEGISLATURE SHOULD NOT SUBMIT TO THE VOTERS OF**

**ALABAMA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS COVERING THESE LAWS AND LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE AT THE POLLS WHETHER OR NOT THEY SHALL BECOME A PART OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.**

Neither is there any reason for them to refuse to pass **ANY LAW** where its final adoption is left to the people.

Who is better qualified and has **MORE RIGHT** to decide this important question—over 300,000 voters, or the 141 men these self-same voters have recently elected to he Senate and Legislature? Which group should decide matters pertaining to the welfare of more than 2,000,000 people?

With few exceptions will you find anyone opposed to the Initiative, Referendum and Recall except Politicians and Office Holders. You cannot find a more Democratic Principle, for these laws place government **DIRECTLY IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE**.

Listed below you will find a few of the **MANY ADVANTAGES** to be derived by adoption of these laws. By presenting a petition, signed by a certain number of qualified voters, an election may be called to decide the following:

- 1st—Remove from office an Elective or Appointive State, County or City Official, even during the term for which he is elected. Judges of Courts of Record should be exempt from the operation of these measures.
- 2nd—By a majority vote, in the territory affected, rescind any act of the Legislature, County or City Authorities and repeal any law or ordinance now on the books or to be passed at a later date.
- 3rd—By the same procedure **INITIATE** and pass any law, ordinance or Constitutional Amendment.
- 4th—These laws will prevent occurring in Alabama the **DISGRACEFUL SITUATION** in Louisiana. Under our present set-up it is possible for the same situation to arise here.

Good officials should be kept in office and if these laws are adopted (but only in that event) the law should be changed so that Elective Officials may succeed themselves. Ample protection against Political Machines and Corruption is afforded by the **RECALL. YOU CAN REPEAL A SALES TAX IF THE REFERENDUM BECOMES A LAW.**

If you are in favor of adopting these laws write to-day making your wishes known and check Suggestion No. 1.

### **(Suggestion No. 2)**

#### **Abolish the Fee System**

In 1933, when schools were closing, the Tax Collector, Tax Assessor and Deputy Collector of Mobile County received in **FEES** over \$28,000 out of **MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL FUNDS** alone.

I have been informed that the financial affairs



of this County are in such shape that Salaried Employees may not receive pay for the next few months—but the FEE SYSTEM Officials will get theirs in CASH.

Millions can be saved the taxpayers by abolishing the FEE SYSTEM and through a proper Reorganization of County Governments. There will be GREATER EFFICIENCY and LESS EXPENSE in handling the PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Many Counties would abolish the Fee System and consolidate offices but they cannot do so without a Constitutional Amendment upon which electors of the entire State must vote. When such an amendment is offered the Politicians and Organizations of Office Holders and their Employees in the other Sixty-Six Counties join hands with the LOCAL CROWD to defeat the measure. When one county attempts to throw off this YOKE it should be a matter for the voters of the particular County to decide and not the STATE AT LARGE. Is it Democratic when we of Jefferson County have a vote as to what you shall or shall not do in YOUR COUNTY?

Under the FEE SYSTEM, in Jefferson County, the office of Guardian Ad Litem, (a part time job) pays approximately \$12,000.00 per annum and the office of License Inspector, approximately \$30,000.00.

Before appointing the Guardian Ad Litem, Governor Miller made the appointee enter into a contract whereby all FEES in excess of \$5,000.00 per year, would revert to the State.

A contract was drawn with the License Inspector, whereby his salary would \$5,000.00 per annum, the Deputy Inspector \$5,000.00 and office expense not over \$2,000.00, all FEES in excess of \$12,000.00 annually, to revert to the State.

Since Mr. Cooper has been removed from office, there seems to be some controversy. As I understand it, Mr. Cooper declines to turn over to the State the excess, claiming the contract is void.

This contract expires at the beginning of the Graves' Administration and these offices are again placed on a FEE BASIS, unless something is done by the next Legislature.

If these offices have been successfully operated for the past FOUR YEARS at annual salaries of \$5,000.00 and \$10,000.00 respectively, there is no VALID REASON why the taxpayers, when our schools are threatened with closing, should be called on to RAISE THE PAY approximately \$25,000.00 annually.

Mobile County is making ANOTHER ATTEMPT to abolish the FEE SYSTEM. You will have the opportunity to vote on a Constitutional Amendment at the November election giving them that privilege. You should vote "YES" and let Mobile County voters run their own affairs.

### (Suggestion No. 3)

#### Fair Re-apportionment

The 1901 Constitution provides that each County must have ONE REPRESENTATIVE regardless of population and that the Senate shall never exceed 35 members. In the event a new county is formed (as in the case of Houston) the House limit of 105 may be increased, which gives us 106 members in the Lower House.

There is also a provision that representation MUST BE REAPPORTIONED ACCORDING TO POPULATION EACH TEN YEARS THEREAFTER.

In view of this provision I cannot understand why a MANDATE of the Constitution was made an issue in the last campaign. To put it bluntly, and speaking collectively, since 1911 every Governor, State Senator and Representative has not only VIOLATED the Constitution but his OATH OF OFFICE.

In order to show the unfairness of the present apportionment I must give quite a few figures.

At the present time Jefferson County (population 431,000) has ONE Senator and SEVEN Representatives, Montgomery County (population 98,000) has ONE and FOUR respectively, Mobile County (population 118,000) has ONE and THREE while Lowndes County (population 22,000) has ONE Senator and TWO Representatives.

Thirty-one Counties comprising the State Senatorial Districts NORTH of the Black Belt (total population 1,473,399) have 16 Senators and 49 Representatives.

Nineteen Counties comprising the Black Belt Senatorial Districts (population 597,000) have 12 Senators and 34 Representatives.

Seventeen Counties comprising the Districts SOUTH of the Black Belt (population 575,000) have but 7 Senators and 23 Representatives.

In other words while the Black Belt only has TWO more Counties and exceeds the Southern Section by only 22,789 in population it has FIVE more Senators and ELEVEN more Representatives—just the same as if we created a New Senatorial District of 22,789 population and gave them 5 Senators and 11 Representatives.

Though there are TWELVE more Counties and 875,610 more people NORTH of the Black Belt they have only FOUR more Senators and FIFTEEN more Representatives. This is just as unfair as if we created a new district of TWELVE Counties (population 875,610) giving them only FOUR Senators and 15 Representatives.

Your combined Senate and House is now composed of 141 members, who at one time employed



256 clerks. Many of these clerks were Wives, Children or Kindred of Senators and Representatives and quite a few never attended a Legislative Session or were even in the City of Montgomery.

If 25,000 is used as a basis of apportionment, Jefferson County would have 17 Representatives—seven is too many—there would be 52 North of, 20 South of and 22 in the Black Belt, but even at that the House would only be composed of 94 members compared with the present total of 106 and the combined House and Senate 129 against 141.

If 35,000 is used as a basis there would be 42 North of, 19 South of and 20 in the Black Belt—81 against 106 in the present House.

With a basis of 50,000 there would be 38 North, 18 South and 19 in the Black Belt, a total of 75 against 106.

It will be to the best interest of all the people to REDUCE THE SIZE of the two Houses and RAISE THE RATE OF PAY CONSIDERABLY so that members will not have to depend on OUTSIDE help or SPECIAL INTERESTS in order to meet actual living expenses while in Montgomery. This will also remove the incentive to STRETCH OUT a session as has been done in the past, and will tend to SPEED UP the work and SHORTEN THE SESSIONS.

EVEN THOUGH THE LEGISLATURE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT DEPARTMENT IN THE STATE, LESS CARE IS USED IN THE SELECTION OF ITS MEMBERS AND IT IS THE POOREST PAID.

The Legislature should meet in REGULAR SESSION EVERY YEAR—certainly not less than every TWO YEARS. During the next four years questions will be continually coming up that require IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. In fact that condition exists to-day in Federal Relief and Road Funds, Tennessee Valley Authority Legislation and Operation of Schools. Meeting regularly every year we would not be subject to the WHIM of a Governor.

I would suggest that 100,000 be used as a basis for reapportionment and there will be no necessity for making a change for at least the next twenty years.

On that basis Jefferson County will have Four Representatives—instead of Seven—and the remaining 66 Counties ONE each, making a total of 70 against the present membership of 106. There will be 34 North of, 17 South of and 19 in the Black Belt. The present Senate of 35 members (if retained) will give a combined total of 105 against 141.

My idea is to ABOLISH THE SENATE, but ONLY in the event the Initiative, Referendum and Recall shall become a part of the State Constitution, because with these measures in force voters

of Alabama will hold the BALANCE OF POWER.

Then create a GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SEVENTY MEMBERS, paying each an annual salary of \$1,500. At first thought this may seem excessive, but when you consider THREE Sessions during the Miller administration cost over \$800,000 and while this plan calls for FOUR sessions, money will be saved. ?

Out of the \$1,500 annual salary Assemblymen must pay every expense (including clerk hire if one is desired) except the salary of 25 clerks to be paid by the State, but limited to a total pay roll of \$5,000 annually. This will give an annual pay roll for the Assembly of \$105,000 and clerks \$5,000; a total of \$110,000 per session. The salary cost of \$440,000 for FOUR sessions, approximately \$360,000 LESS than the total cost of THREE sessions under Gov. Miller.

If you insist of retaining the present Senate of 35 members, reduce the annual pay to \$1,000 and you will have the same financial cost as above per session—\$105,000.

If we must have a Senate it would be far better to use the present United States Congressional Districts in selecting them and we would have a Senate of NINE members. This gives a combined total of 79 against 141 and at \$1,500 four sessions will cost \$474,000 and at \$1,000 will cost \$316,000.

Regardless of what is done, as stated before, a law should be passed PREVENTING a Senator or Representative from holding an APPOINTIVE JOB DURING THE TERM FOR WHICH HE IS ELECTED.

Legislative rules should be changed to prevent the killing of a bill in committee. It should require that a bill MUST BE REPORTED within a reasonable time, either Adversely, Favorably or Without Comment and a majority vote of the House or Senate (as the case may be) required to kill a measure. This will prevent shelving a bill or its being killed by a stacked committee.

There should also be a provision that any Constitutional Amendment introduced MUST be submitted to a VOTE OF THE PEOPLE and cannot be killed by the House or Senate.

The people should have some protection as to LOCAL County or City Bills that have to do with TERM EXTENSION, CREATING OFFICES and RAISING PAY. Such bills should be submitted to the people in the territory affected for FINAL RATIFICATION.

We all agree that Senatorial Courtesy and its attending evils should be abolished.

It is unnecessary to tell you in detail the many

**WATCH FOR A SALES TAX**



benefits of the Assembly Plan except that it assures more careful and prompt attention to the State's Business and it will play havoc with Political Rings and Graft.

Write your Senator and Representative to-day if you approve of Suggestion No. 3.

**(Suggestion No. 4)**

**County and City Home Rule**

The most modern and economical form of County or City Government is the MANAGER PLAN, but the measure explained and advocated below does not specify any particular plan—it just places LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT in the hands of the people in their respective territories and by a majority vote they will have the right to adopt a new form of government or retain the present form.

A Constitutional Amendment should be submitted to the people of Alabama, for their rejection or approval, permitting the voters of any County or City to call an election for the purpose of adopting a NEW CHARTER—one that is more modern. This charter should provide, among other things, that any time a petition is presented by a certain number of qualified voters (only in the territory affected) an election MUST be called within a period of not over sixty days on any of the following questions:

- 1st—To adopt County or City Manager form of government, retain the present form or adopt any other form they desire.
- 2nd—Each charter should contain the Initiative, Referendum and the Recall covering every Elective or Appointive Official, Judges of Courts of Record excepted.
- 3rd—They should have the right of calling an election for the purpose of raising or reducing the rate of pay of any official, even during his term of office. This should include any official where all or any part of his salary is paid by the County or City.
- 4th—In the same manner they should have the right to abolish, consolidate or create offices at any time.
- 5th—By the same procedure pass any LOCAL laws or ordinances (not in violation of the Constitution) or repeal any local laws or ordinances now on the books or to be passed in the future.

In other words entire control of the County and City placed in the hands of the qualified voters—the people who pay the cost of government. Under the present form citizens of a County cannot consolidate the offices of Tax Collectors, Assessor, Treasurer, etc., unless a Constitutional Amendment is submitted to a vote of the ENTIRE STATE. You cannot do as you desire in your own County unless the other Sixty-six Counties agree. Do you call in Democracy when we of Jefferson have a voice as to what you SHALL or SHALL NOT do?

**(Suggestion No. 5)**

**Uniform Accounting? Annual Audit and Statement**

This should apply to the State, each County and City and to all State, County and City Officials handling PUBLIC FUNDS—particularly those on a FEE BASIS.

In view of the fact that many of our Counties have not been properly audited for years, some not knowing what they owe and considering the examples of GROSS NEGLIGENCE to be cited below, I believe you will agree that DRASTIC STEPS should be taken to prevent this LAXITY in the handling of PUBLIC FUNDS and attending to PUBLIC BUSINESS.

To show the laxity in this matter, I am quoting extracts from a letter, dated March 6, 1934, of Mr. J. H. Hard, Jr., State Comptroller.

This letter clearly shows the necessity of a thorough system of UNIFORM ACCOUNTING, etc., and having our officials handling Public Funds (particularly those on a FEE BASIS) render monthly statements showing a complete itemized accounting of every expense, gross and net amounts collected and remitted to the State, etc. I quote,

Under the present system there is no way for the voters to find out HOW MUCH FEE SYSTEM officials draw annually. The PUBLIC should have this information.

"The Tax Collector, as well as other County officials who collect monies for the State, only remit NET AMOUNTS. The State or County does not deal in GROSS AMOUNTS but only in NET REVENUES."

"To determine the gross earnings of a County Officer, it is necessary to AUDIT THE RECORDS as they are NOT REQUIRED TO REPORT TO THE STATE. Furthermore, as there is NO SYSTEM OF UNIFORM ACCOUNTING in the State, much of this information is not available without a great deal of ANALYTICAL STUDY."

So that is the way your money is handled. Under the present system there is no way in the world (without a special audit) for the State to determine whether or not the CORRECT AMOUNT HAS BEEN REMITTED.

This point is further brought out by the following REPORTED SHORTAGES:

For some unknown reason, in Jefferson County, from Oct. 1, 1927 to Dec. 31, 1933 there was only collected \$18,588.30 out of a total of \$615,918.20 in State and County bond forfeitures, a shortage of over \$597,000. Additional reported shortages of \$18,000 and \$20,000 respectively were reported in Jefferson.

**WATCH FOR A SALES TAX**



Shortages reported of over \$43,000 in Clarke County, \$19,000 in Pickens County and \$39,000 in Etowah County, respectively. Over SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS lost to the Taxpayers either through GROSS CARELESSNESS or CRIMINAL INTENT.

This enormous shortage has recently developed in FOUR Counties—I shudder to think what a PROPER INVESTIGATION in the other Sixty-three Counties may bring forth.

Only recently the following report comes from my old HOME TOWN, Huntsville:

Mr. J. H. Hard, Jr., State Comptroller, has filed an Auditor's report showing a balance of \$10,991 due the City of Huntsville by the Tax Collector of Madison County and the report states: "THE MONEY DUE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE TAX COLLECTOR'S FAILURE TO PROPERLY ENFORCE THE COLLECTION OF TAXES."

The assistant examiner who made the report stated that he found:

"THE GENERAL AFFAIRS OF THE OFFICE TO HAVE BEEN LOOSELY AND CARELESSLY CONDUCTED WITH BUT LITTLE REGARD FOR ANY LAWS GOVERNING THE DUTIES DEVOLVING UPON A TAX COLLECTOR."

If you are opposed to having your affairs LOOSELY AND CARELESSLY conducted with LITTLE REGARD TO THE DUTIES DEVOLVING UPON A TAX COLLECTOR write your Senator and Representatives to-day approving Suggestion No. 5. This may happen in your County.

#### **(Suggestion No. 6)**

#### **Amend Fletcher Bill**

Is there any valid reason why the State, Counties or Cities should be permitted to spend their ENTIRE INCOME each year? Is it unreasonable to ask that they do what every Citizen of Alabama has been forced to do—not only LIVE WITHIN but UNDER their incomes?

It is an extremely unsound business principle to ANTICIPATE INCOME or spend every cent of it and not set aside, in a SPECIAL FUND, a certain percentage to REDUCE OUTSTANDING DEBTS, PAY INTEREST and MEET EMERGENCIES. Had not many of our citizens and business institutions taken this precaution for the past few years they would be BANKRUPT TODAY.

Just what is the financial condition of our State? Face the facts: We must LIVE UNDER OUR IN-

COME by ECONOMY and REORGANIZATION and REDUCING GOVERNMENTAL EXPENSE or get more income through a DRASTIC TAX INCREASE—without one or the other there can be nothing but BANKRUPTCY.

The State Department of Education has publicly announced that schools CANNOT OPERATE A FULL TERM this year WITHOUT FEDERAL AID or MORE MONEY. The Governor-Elect states they can operate AFTER THIS YEAR without Federal Aid.

More than a year ago I predicted that the schools would close during the 1934-35 year due to the fact that the Legislature would not convene in time to provide relief. Now comes a statement from Montgomery that PUBLIC SCHOOLS in some TWELVE Alabama Counties will close their doors before Christmas, and that approximately two-thirds of all the schools will be closed by Feb. 1, 1935.

The schools will be able to operate for normal terms during 1934-35, in only FOUR Counties, NINE Cities and ONE Secondary agricultural school. The counties are Blount, Bullock, Dallas and Pike. The Cities are Anniston, Elba, Florence, Huntsville, Opelika, Selma, Tuscaloosa and Union Springs and Birmingham.

Yes, the LITTLE FELLOWS' interest is being protected for only the schools in RURAL DISTRICTS and SMALLER COUNTIES will close.

The Fletcher Bill is a great instrument as far as it goes, but it doesn't go far enough. This bill should be amended so that a certain percentage of the ANNUAL INCOME (Counties and Cities to be included) shall be set aside in a SPECIAL FUND for DEBT REDUCTION and to meet EMERGENCIES.

IT SHOULD PROVIDE A PENALTY AND GROUNDS FOR IMPEACHMENT OF ANY STATE, COUNTY OR CITY OFFICIAL EXCEEDING HIS BUDGET—PUT TEETH IN THE BILL. THE PUBLIC FUNDS MUST HAVE EVERY PROTECTION.

Alabama's debts began accumulating a HUNDRED YEARS AGO and instead of DIMINISHING have RAPIDLY INCREASED from year to year; likewise the TAX BURDENS. If there is a single political sub-division within the State, or the State itself, that can show a REDUCTION in its TOTAL DEBT in the past FIFTY YEARS I would like to be informed.

**WATCH FOR A SALES TAX**



*(Suggestion No. 7)***County Gasoline Tax**

If nothing else is done, the law should be changed permitting LEGAL use of this tax for ANY PURPOSE, or its provisions should be DRASTICALLY CHANGED so that a PENALTY is provided, as well as grounds for IMPEACHMENT, for the DIVERSION of these funds to other uses than those for which it is intended—ROADS.

The Counties are just as much a part of the State as any other political sub-division and there is no reason why they should not bear their FULL SHARE of the responsibility, together with the State and Cities, in relieving STARVATION and DISTRESS during the coming winter, particularly when the cost of this service must increase. We could easily get along with FEWER POLITICAL SALARIES and MORE RELIEF and LONGER SCHOOL TERMS.

The State has already been notified that unless something is done towards matching Federal Relief and Road Funds the sum available for Alabama will be greatly reduced.

Even though requested to do so by the Hon. Bibb Graves, THE AMALGAMATED POLITICIANS' UNION (Association of County Commissioners and Probate Judges) not only DECLINED to aid in this cause by giving up a part, if not all, of the County Gasoline Tax to MATCH FEDERAL FUNDS, but voted to FURTHER INCREASE this MIS-USED FUND by continuing the temporary 1931 gasoline tax of ONE CENT that expires in 1935.

IF THE INDIVIDUAL VOTERS OF EACH COUNTY WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DECIDE THIS QUESTION AT THE POLLS THERE IS NO DOUBT AS TO THE RESULT. WITH THE INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND THE RECALL WRITTEN INTO OUR CONSTITUTION THE PEOPLE COULD DECIDE THIS QUESTION AT THE POLLS.

As I will prove to your satisfaction, much of this money HAS NOT BEEN USED for the purposes intended and many officials handling these funds (now and in the past) are subject to impeachment because if they are not CRIMINALLY they are TECHNICALLY guilty of the DIVERSION of FUNDS.

There has been available for Roads and Bridges in Alabama, including County Gas Taxes, Federal Aid Funds, Road and Bridge Bonds (exclusive of any amount the State has received in Gasoline

Taxes directly for road purposes) more than 123 MILLION DOLLARS.

The State reports it maintains 5492 miles of road classified as follows: 849 in Concrete, 251 in Bitumen and 3 in Brick, a total of 1104 miles of the better material. The balance, 4387, is of the cheaper materials classified as follows: 260 Graded Earth, 3002 Gravel-Chert-Slag, 860 Sand-Clay and 264 Surface Treatment. Please enquire from some reliable road contractor the average cost of construction in CONCRETE per mile and draw your own conclusions.

The State reports it maintains 43 miles of Gravel-Chert-Slag in Cherokee County, 22 miles of Graded Earth and 36 miles of Gravel-Chert-Slag (total 59 miles) in Winston County and in Jefferson County 18 miles of Bitumen, 37 of Concrete, 16 of Gravel-Chert-Slag and 47 of Surface Treatment, total 119 miles.

Your County (as well as the other Sixty-six Counties) has received in a ten year period more than \$435,000 in gasoline taxes for road purposes. I can furnish you the number of miles of State Maintained Road in your County. Don't you think it time you were finding out how much of this money, if any, has been diverted to pay POLITICAL SALARIES and for other than road purposes?

As a "Temporary Relief Measure", particularly in view of the fact that much Federal Aid Road work is now being done in each County, this money be used for other purposes far MORE IMPORTANT and of more DIRECT BENEFIT to all the people, viz:

- (1)—Assure full term operation of schools.
- (2)—Match Federal Relief Funds.
- (3)—Match Federal Road Funds.
- (4)—Pay interest on and help retire bonds (due in 1938) recently issued under the "McDaniel-Teasley Warrant Amendment—many of these bonds being for back pay of school teachers.
- (5)—Homestead Exemption, Old Age Pension, Auto Tag and Gas Tax Reduction and a General Tax Reduction.

I heartily favor the next Legislature turning this ENTIRE SUM over to the State temporarily for the SOLE PURPOSE of Matching Federal Aid Road and Relief Funds. In a suggestion following will show you how these funds can be PERMANENTLY USED for the best interest of the entire State, assuring BETTER ROADS, MORE RAPID CONSTRUCTION and repealing TWO CENTS of the present gas tax as well as the 1931 levy of ONE cent.

If you are in favor of using these funds for ROADS and aiding SUFFERING HUMANITY in Alabama, check Suggestion No. 7 on the attached slip, also write your Governor today.



*(Suggestion No. 8)***Highway and Convict Departments**

Not less than \$5,000,000 annually can be saved by a proper Re-Organization and Consolidation of these Departments by:

- 1st—Abolishing all County Highway Departments, Road Districts and like bodies and turning their duties and functions over to a NEW HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT.
- 2nd—The State to take care of all road construction and maintenance except in incorporated towns and cities. That cost to be pro-rated in a fair and equitable manner as heretofore.
- 3rd—The State to establish the necessary Road Camps in each County and employ convicts in the proper repairing and maintaining roads. This will eliminate a large part of the cost in transferring prisoners to Kilby Prison.
- 4th—The State to assume all Bridge and County Road Bonds and take care of all bridge building and repairing.
- 5th—Turn all County Gasoline Taxes, together with any other gasoline and Tag Tax over to the NEW HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT for the sole purpose of building and repairing roads, except that sum now pledged, and other sums necessary, as a sinking fund to pay interest on and retire road and bridge bonds.
- 6th—Complete first, as rapidly as possible, the paving of all Trunk Line Highways and keeping in proper repair existing roads. New construction to be taken up as rapidly as possible when this work is completed.

With this change you will be assured that the money is being spent for the PURPOSES INTENDED, better construction and care of roads and more rapid retirement of road and bridge bonds. Also we will have ONE HEAD responsible for all road work in the State and eliminate the duplication and enormous waste occasioned by so many different bodies doing the same work. This move will also make the Convict Department nearer SELF-SUSTAINING.

As stated before, were it not for the fact that the entire County Gasoline Tax Fund is needed for a more HUMANE PURPOSE we could prevent a continuation of the temporary One Cent levy and repeal at least TWO CENTS of the present gas tax—however this can be done later.

*(Suggestion No. 9)***Candidates for Office**

Some states have the requirement and so should Alabama:

- 1st—"Before a candidate may qualify for office he must present a petition to the designated authority, signed by a certain number of qualified voters, that they know him to be Mentally and Morally qualified to fill the office he seeks.
- 2nd—No person HOLDING AN ELECTIVE OFFICE

may offer as a candidate for another elective office (where he takes his seat before the EXPIRATION OF HIS PRESENT TERM) unless he shall first resign his present office and such resignation must take effect before he can qualify.

- 3rd—No person holding an elective or appointive office shall make speeches for or actively engage in campaigning in the interest of any candidate unless he shall resign his present position.

The first may prevent a re-currence of a recent happening in Jefferson County. Because the voters did not care to re-elect the incumbent they nominated for office a man who has since been indicted by the United States Grand Jury for FRAUDULENT use of the mails, a man against whom disbarment proceedings are now pending before the Bar Association and who has since been denied the right to practice in the United States Court. Without attempting to discuss the merits of this case, in justice to this gentleman wish to state that he has recently been acquitted of the FRAUD charge.

The second will prevent a person holding an elective office from NEGLECTING THE DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE, and campaigning on the PEOPLE'S TIME, while drawing a salary to perform other DUTIES.

The third will be a hindrance in building up political machines and will prevent the WHOLESALE NEGLECT OF DUTY by elective and appointive officials and at the same time drawing a salary from the PUBLIC Funds while campaigning for another, to say nothing of using Autos and Gasoline paid for by TAXING THE PEOPLE.

There should be some way of making RUNNING FOR OFFICE A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT; THEREFORE MORE OF AN HONOR TO HOLD.

If there was an accurate way to check this waste you would find the taxpayers lose enormous sums during every campaign. Just list in your community such men actively working in the last campaign (for a period of about five months), find out the salary they draw and add the result and multiply by 67.

*(Suggestion No. 10)***Poll Tax and Registration**

To encourage Registration and Voting, and aid the fellow to regain his vote, lost through no fault of his own but misfortune and adverse conditions:

REDUCE POLL TAX TO ONE DOLLAR, REINSTATE VOTERS ON THE PAYMENT OF TWO YEARS BACK TAX AND TAXES FOR THE CURRENT YEAR AND KEEP THE BOOKS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION AT ALL TIMES EXCEPT A PERIOD OF THIRTY DAYS PRIOR TO AN ELECTION.

ABOLISH THE BOARDS OF REGISTRARS AND PLACE THEIR DUTIES IN THE HANDS OF PROBATE JUDGES WHERE IT FORMERLY RESTED.



I believe more revenue will be produced under this plan than was collected under the old charge of \$1.50. However much money can be saved by eliminating these boards.

A provision should be made that Recall and other petitions must be checked, without cost to the petitioners. Making no attempt to discuss the merits of the case, wish to say that a Recall movement is being blocked in the City of Birmingham by Politicians, the wish of the Registration Board to charge so much per name for checking and then their refusal to turn their records over to the Probate Judge to be checked as the law provides.

It is a disgraceful state of affairs when a few over 300,000 citizens of Alabama, out of a population of more than 2,600,000 have the right to vote. Voting is a duty you owe, not only to yourself but your children and your children's children. Just recently we saddled a debt (though payable in 1938) on ourselves that will be a MILLSTONE AROUND THE NECKS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS FOR YEARS AND YEARS TO COME, unless Alabama's MANNER and METHOD of debt paying GREATLY IMPROVES.

#### *(Suggestion No. 11)*

#### **Annual Tax Assessments**

Much time and money may be saved by amending the law so that the USELESS and UNNECESSARY practice of annual assessments is discontinued.

By so doing, the offices of Tax Collector, Tax Assessor and County Treasurer (to say nothing of others) may easily be consolidated into ONE OFFICE and GREATER EFFICIENCY will result.

Provide for only ONE ASSESSMENT unless there is a SALE OF PROPERTY or CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP. If the assessing authority should think an assessment too low he may cite the owner to appear and show cause why the assessment shall not be raised.

There should be provisions either for SEPARATE ASSESSMENTS of each piece of property or for the payment of taxes on a specific piece where several properties are covered under a blanket assessment.

With such a law in force during these strenuous times a citizen could at least SAVE HIS HOME—many homes have been sacrificed and the entire fortune of some of our citizens wiped out by State Tax Sales from 1929 to 1934. More than 50 MILLION DOLLARS in property of Jefferson County Citizens has been sold for taxes, the State buying in more than 80 per cent of it and on Sept. 1, 1934 more than \$1,500,000 in actual taxes re-

mained unpaid in this County and will have been advertised for sale when this reaches you.

Doubtless the same proportionate conditions prevail in the other Counties of the State—this is one of the reasons I contend that the taxpayers MUST HAVE RELIEF.

#### *(Suggestion No. 12)*

#### **Tax Payments and Redemption**

The State now has on its books MILLIONS OF DOLLARS in property acquired through TAX SALES. Most of this property will bring in no revenue until the redemption period has expired—much of it not even then.

Something SHOULD and CAN BE DONE to make this property REVENUE PRODUCING for the state, and at the same time make it EASY for the former owner to REDEEM.

If the law cannot be changed so that this property can be LEGALLY RESTORED to the former owner WITHOUT COST, then it can be accomplished by providing for redemption of property sold for Taxes or Municipal Improvements on a Monthly, Quarterly, Semi-Annual or Annual Basis covering a period of not less than SIXTY MONTHS (5 years). At the same time provide for a Monthly, Quarterly or Semi-Annual Tax Payment Plan, or the right of the Tax Collector (only upon request of the owner) to transfer his tax lien to an individual or firm. The latter will procure for some, though not all, the advantage of monthly payments.

#### *(Suggestion No. 13)*

#### **Schools and School Books**

To impress upon you I repeat: THE SCHOOLS OF RURAL DISTRICTS AND THE SMALLER COMMUNITIES WILL CLOSE FEBRUARY FIRST—PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS.

There should be no discrimination against EDUCATION and the SALARY OF SCHOOL TEACHERS as in the past, but the ABSOLUTE GUARANTEE of a full school year. The law should be changed so that education will become an ESSENTIAL FUNCTION of the state and thereby receive its pro-rata share of State Money just the same as other departments, many of which are not nearly so NECESSARY.

The price of school books CAN and SHOULD BE REDUCED. A contract with the present School Book Depository was made during the Graves' administration to extend through the entire Miller administration, and supposedly under the 1927 law.



This law is very plain and provides that only FIVE PER CENT may be added (by the Depository) to the WHOLESALE PRICE at which the books are obtained from the Publishers either by purchase or on consignment. This amount to reimburse the Depository for the cost of distribution, handling, insurance, etc.

It likewise provides that unless the state can secure an individual, firm or corporation to handle the books at FIVE PER CENT, then the state MUST ACT AS THE DEPOSITORY—the Legislature provided a Revolving Fund of \$150,000 for such an emergency.

Another section provides that not more than TEN PER CENT may be added to the above price for Retail Distribution. The object of this law was to deliver the book to the child at the LOWEST POSSIBLE COST.

The present State Depository not only RECEIVES TEN PER CENT (the law provides Five) BUT REFUNDS TO THE STATE IN CASH A PART OF THIS EXCESSIVE COMMISSION. Why does the State get the benefit of this rebate and not the child?

If figures at one time given out by the Jefferson County Tax Collector are correct, up to and including 1932 the average business of the Depository has been more than ONE MILLION DOLLARS annually. That being the case the Depository has ILLEGALLY COLLECTED more than \$50,000 per annum.

A book retailing for \$1.00 cost the Depository approximately .75c by purchase and .80c on consignment; add to this .75c the five per cent (.0375c) allowed the Depository and ten per cent (.075c) allowed the Retailer and we get .8625c or .92c, respectively. The simple fact of obeying the law will save .1375c and .08c, respectively, on a DOLLAR BOOK.

This price can be further reduced if the State will act as the Depository and handle the books through the State Board of Education or the Convict Department, using the \$150,000 revolving fund provided for the purchase, and distribution of books through the different Educational Institutions, viz:

If the State will waive its Five Per Cent allowed for distribution and deliver the books through Educational Institutions it will be possible to deliver a Dollar Book (retail price) to the child for .75c, or if handled through local Retail Dealers at Ten Per Cent can be delivered for .825c.

Using the \$50,000, mentioned above, as a basis, the annual savings would run from \$185,000 to \$250,000.

The law is again being violated because there are not as many Sub-Depositories, or agents in each

county as required—there must be not less than three in each county.

There has been talk of using convicts to print the books but such a plan is impracticable, not only will it mean the installing of costly machinery but we will have to make a specialty of convicting Printers and Mechanics—there could be a shortage of this class of labor in the regular run of business at Kilby.

By the first plan I believe books could be handled much more satisfactorily, be of better grade and quality and at much less expense.

At the time of the School Book Investigation there was a clause in the contract between the Depository and the sub-agent whereby the Depository had the right to cancel the contract if the Retailer should BUY, SELL OR ALLOW TO BE SOLD ON HIS PREMISES ANY SECOND HAND COPY OF THE ADOPTED BOOKS.

REMEMBER, INSTEAD OF REDUCING THE COST OF BOOKS THE STATE IS RECEIVING IN CASH A PART OF THE ILLEGAL FIVE PER CENT NOW BEING COLLECTED BY THE DEPOSITORY, AND THE DEPOSITORY PAYS WM. F. FEAGIN A SALARY OF \$5000 PER ANNUM—FORMERLY \$10,000.

#### *(Suggestion No. 14)*

#### **Restore Section No. 26**

Of the State Board of Administration Act which provided in substance: "NO MEMBER OF THIS BOARD SHALL RECEIVE LUCRATIVE REMUNERATION FROM AN OUTSIDE SOURCE DURING HIS TERM".

During the Miller administration this act was amended to create a ONE-MAN-JOB and Section No. 26 of the original bill eliminated (evidently for the benefit of Mr. Wm. F. Feagin). Whether for the particular purpose I cannot say, but at the time Mr. Feagin took office he received a salary of \$10,000 per year from the Depository and \$7,500 per year from the State—the HIGHEST PAID STATE OFFICIAL.

Recently the State pay was reduced to \$6,000 and the School Book Investigation revealed the fact that in December, prior to the investigation, the Depository reduced his salary to \$5,000. So instead of drawing \$17,500 per annum he is now drawing only \$11,000—still the HIGHEST PAID STATE OFFICIAL.

With the elimination of Section No. 26 a very SERIOUS AND DANGEROUS situation confronts us—the Chairman of the State Board of Administration can be prosecuted for accepting a bribe, but under the law as it now stands he may LEGALLY PLACE HIMSELF ON THE PAY



ROLL of any person, firm or corporation selling ONE DIME'S WORTH OF GOODS TO THE STATE.

You must admit that such a condition, even if it does not encourage GRAFT, offers a MOST EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY—again we may not always have a Mr. Feagin in this particular job.

If you wish to remedy this evil write today, and have your friends do so, endorsing Suggestion No. 14.

*(Suggestion No. 15)*

**Text Book Commission**

This commission is now composed of the Governor as Chairman, the State Superintendent of Education and the Chairman of the State Board of Administration, who serve without pay.

Of course the Superintendent of Education should know, but at any change of administration we may have TWO MEMBERS of this Commission who know NOTHING ABOUT SCHOOL BOOKS.

This law should be changed so that the Commission will be composed of FIVE, and its membership confined to OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS AND TEACHERS of the State to be appointed by the State Superintendent of Education (if that job can be removed from politics) or the Governor if it cannot.

The term of office of the original board to be 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years respectively and the members to elect a chairman. After formation of the first board one new member shall be appointed (or the old one reappointed) each year for a five year term.

The law should be changed so that, once a book is adopted (except for extreme cause) it must not be discontinued for a period of five years. This will prevent too many changes—I have heard rumors of a change next year, and times are still hard.

*(Suggestion No. 16)*

**The Short Ballot**

With the possible exception of Local Candidate, and that does not always hold true, we now have the privilege of electing to office certain State officials of who we know nothing as to their ABILITY TO PROPERLY ADMINISTER THE OFFICE, their MORAL CHARACTER, HONESTY or GENERAL REPUTATION. Even with this privilege MANY MORE ARE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR THAN ARE ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE. In either event, once IN we have no way of getting them OUT.

**WATCH FOR A SALES TAX**

For the sake of ECONOMY and EFFICIENCY, and to have ONE HEAD RESPONSIBLE, the Constitution should be amended so that the people elect only a Governor and a Lt. Governor and possibly the Public Service Commission, but only if the Recall is adopted. We can at least find out something about five candidates, but it is impossible to check up on a hundred or more.

The Governor should be allowed to appoint his cabinet Members and all other State Officials; their term of office to terminate at any time at the Governor's discretion, or unless they are Recalled by a vote of the people. This amendment IN NO WAY TO APPLY TO COUNTY OR CITY OFFICIALS.

For the DOUBTFUL PRIVILEGE of possibly making a serious and irreparable mistake in the selection of your officials, under the present system, wouldn't you be glad to exchange this DOUBTFUL BALLOT for one that is DEFINITE and CONCRETE—exchange it for the privilege of removing any State, County or City Elective Official from office, to PASS or REPEAL any law, RESCIND ANY ACT of the Legislature or to INITIATE any LAW or AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION?

In other words exchange the SHORT BALLOT for the INITIATIVE, the REFERENDUM and the RECALL so that you will actually have control of your State, County and City Governments. You will then have something TANGIBLE and of REAL VALUE to the people; something with which they can throw off the YOKE OF TYRANNY and break up POLITICAL RINGS.

You will gain more in one year under the Short Ballot, Initiative, Referendum and Recall than you have in ONE HUNDRED years under the present conditions.

*(Suggestion No. 17)*

**State Tax Commission**

This body was originally created by Governor Comer and known as the Back Tax Commission. Its duties being to see that assessments throughout the State were EQUALIZED and that all property was assessed at a fair and reasonable value, therefore its membership should be confined to people KNOWING SOMETHING OF LAND VALUES—not POLITICIANS AND THEIR FRIENDS.

For the month of December, 1932, the pay roll of this Department was \$15,588.31, which does not include other departmental expense or ENORMOUS FEES paid to Messrs. Cooper, Edmundson, Harris, Barbour, etc.

**WATCH FOR A SALES TAX**



The salaries of Department Heads amounted to \$1,675. The Department to collect revenue under Sec. 26, Revenue Act 1923 cost the taxpayers \$9,733.31, the Department, Sec. 23-26, Motor Vehicle Act cost \$1,425, Department Sec. 10, Gasoline Act 1923 cost \$450. A NEW DEPARTMENT, costing \$150, was created to collect the ONE CENT temporary gasoline tax of 1931. Even though this revenue comes from EXACTLY THE SAME SOURCE, the \$450 Boys could not collect that. There is also a Department for Roads and Bridges at a cost of \$150, Tobacco Tax Department at \$3,075 and Department of Telephones and Telegraph costing \$150. Don't know what the Income Tax Department cost us. Every time a new tax is added or an existing tax increased a new Department is created.

Much money can be saved by taking the COLLECTION DUTIES away from this Department and placing the collections in the hands of the State Comptroller where they rightfully belong. The State Tax Commission could then be reorganized and used for the purposes intended and composed of people KNOWING SOMETHING OF LAND VALUES. Better to abolish it entirely for there is NO LIVING MAN OR SET OF MEN COMPETENT OR HAVING THE ABILITY TO JUDGE LAND VALUES IN EVERY PART OF THE STATE.

There should be a SCIENTIFIC APPRAISAL of all property in the State by competent boards, and when completed the matter of PROPER ASSESSMENTS should be left in the hands of County Units capable of valuing property and not boards composed of Politicians, their Friends, Butchers, Bakers and Candle-stick Makers.

#### (Suggestion No. 18)

#### Departmental Consolidation

This is not a complete reorganization plan, but will give you an idea of what a systematic and thorough over-hauling of the State Departments will accomplish.

All figures used are taken from the December 1932 State Pay Roll and include only salaries—no OTHER EXPENSE.

The Game and Fish Department cost \$5,391.33. If the State Law Enforcement Unit is to be revived we could either use the Game and Fish Department as a nucleus for the organization, or abolish it and place its duties in the hands of the Law Enforcement Body.

For December 1932 the Pension Commission cost \$242, State Board of Administration \$29,541, Bridge

**WATCH FOR A SALES TAX**

Corporation, \$2,060, State Tax Commission \$15,541, State Treasurer \$1,383 and Secretary of State \$900—a total monthly cost of \$49,714, or \$596,568 annually.

By abolishing these Departments and transferring their duties to the State Comptroller we could save more than \$5,000 per month in salaries of department heads and about \$7,500 in salaries of personnel, to say nothing of the savings in departmental expense. The total savings would run considerably over \$150,000 annually.

All Counties have not duplicates of the offices mentioned below (just the richer counties where "pickings are better"), but just think of the savings that could be made in the Sixty-seven Counties if we consolidated into the office of County Comptroller the Guardian Ad Litem, Tax Collector, Tax Assessor, Deputy Collector, Deputy Assessor, Treasurer, Commissioner of License, License Inspector and Boards of Registrars—in the counties not having all these offices consolidate what they have.

Reminding you again Tax Collector, Tax Assessor and Deputy Collector of Mobile County received OVER \$28,000 IN FEES OUT OF MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL FUNDS ALONE.

YOUR MONEY IS BEING SQUANDERED WHILE YOUR HOMES ARE BEING SOLD FOR TAXES.

#### (Suggestion No. 19)

#### New Constitution and Antiquated Laws

One of our greatest needs is a New Constitution and the elimination of many absurd, antiquated and useless laws.

Georgia has a law in substance:

"All bathing beaches, etc., must have an expert swimmer attired in solid bright red bathing suit, the shirt of which must have on the breast thereof, in large white letters LIFE SAVER. At all times while on duty, he must have a LEATHER HARNESS arranged as follows: A belt around the chest connected with straps over the shoulders, said straps to be joined at the shoulder blades. At the back of the neck, to be an IRON RING about which shall be attached a life line one-fourth of an inch in diameter and not less than TWO HUNDRED feet in length."

Another Georgia law provides:

"If any dentist shall be guilty of CRUELTY . . . he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

A Michigan law:

"No Justice of the Peace shall hold court in any BAR or any other place where any INTOXICATING liquors are sold."

A law in California, Illinois, Kentucky, North Dakota and Pennsylvania provides:

"When a jury is composed of both men and women, the women must be separated from the men jurors in the event that it becomes necessary to retire for the night."



An Ohio law makes it a **FELONY FOR AN INSTRUCTOR IN ROLLER SKATING TO SEDUCE A FEMALE PUPIL.**

A law in West Virginia makes it unlawful for any unnaturalized foreign born citizen to own or have under his control a dog in any part of the state.

There are many foolish laws in Alabama and many obsolete provisions in our Constitution. How much better would it be to provide some manner of relief in emergencies?

Recently there appeared in the press a statement purporting to give the "General View" of the 1935 Legislature regarding a New Constitution, in substance: "THE PUBLIC IS IN TOO RADICAL FRAME OF MIND UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS TO UNDERTAKE THE PROBLEM."

I suppose the public, like a bad child, should be properly spanked and put to bed and not allowed the privilege of deciding for themselves whether or not they want a **NEW CONSTITUTION.**

Such "General Views," by men the people have only recently elected to office tend to **GOAD** them into really a **RADICAL FRAME OF MIND.** The Legislators (who won) were glad to listen to the "Voice of the People" in the recent primary and I feel sure the lucky ones think these **RADICAL PEOPLE** were ultra conservative and displayed rare judgment in nominating them—the people had lots of **BRAINS** on that occasion.

The implication that the people can only be **TRUSTED** in electing these Legislators to office and haven't the **BRAINS** or cannot be trusted to adopt their **OWN CONSTITUTION** or handle their **OWN AFFAIRS** is enough to make them **SEE RED.**

If this "General View" is really correct then what the Citizens of Alabama need is a Guardian—**NOT A VOTE.** Judging from the results of some elections I am inclined to believe we are not so smart after all.

I suppose it would be entirely fitting for these one hundred and forty-one men the people elected to the Legislature to undertake this job and we would be assured there would be no **RADICAL** provisions in the Constitution?

Is it being "Too Radical" insisting upon Governmental Reorganization, Economy and more care in the Collecting and Spending of the Public Funds? Are we being too radical in insisting that our Constitution be **RESPECTED** and changed so that Alabama may take full advantage of Public Works Funds, Tennessee Valley Authority, Road and Relief Funds and insuring an education for our children?

Much money has already been lost to the State

because of certain Constitutional Restrictions and because the present administration refused to submit amendments to a vote of the people correcting these deficiencies thereby making these funds legally available so that Alabama could take full advantage of the **NEW DEAL.**

The Politicians and Habitual Office Holders do not want a **NEW CONSTITUTION** because they are afraid the people will be **RADICAL ENOUGH** to abolish many useless offices and prevent **CRIMINAL WASTE** in the spending of **PUBLIC FUNDS** or that they might disturb the County Gasoline Tax. Evidently such **PROTECTIVE MEASURES** is what your Legislature terms being in **TOO RADICAL FRAME OF MIND.**

If there is **ONE THING** sorely needed in this state that thing is a **NEW CONSTITUTION**—it is needed **NOW**, not two years hence. We need help while starving, not after we are dead.

The Constitution should be rewritten to meet conditions of today and not those of thirty-three years ago. A Constitution with "Teeth **IN** It" and providing penalties for its violation—one that cannot be **OPENLY FLAUNTED AND VIOLATED** as is being done by many of our officials today.

Just why should a **MANDATE** of our Constitution have been made a Political Issue in the last campaign—**REAPPORTIONMENT**? Speaking collectively, every Governor, State Senator and Representative since 1911 not only violate the Constitution but his **OATH OF OFFICE.**

The question of Schools, Relief, County Gasoline Taxes and reported shortages of more than \$775,000 in only four out of sixty-seven Counties—a loss to the taxpayers through either **GROSS CARELESSNESS, IGNORANCE** or with **CRIMINAL INTENT**—should have received attention long ago.

In demanding that immediate attention be given to these matters can we be blamed for being "Too Radical"? I call it being **TOO CAREFUL** to suit the Political Parasites.

**A LEGISLATOR SHOULD SUPPORT ANY MEASURE, REGARDLESS OF HIS PERSONAL CONVICTIONS, WHERE ITS FINAL ADOPTION IS LEFT TO A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE THAT PAY THE COST OF GOVERNMENT AND ELECTED HIM TO OFFICE.**

With the Initiative, Referendum and Recall written into our Constitution the above questions could have been settled **TWO YEARS** ago by a vote of the people and we would not be subject to the **WHIM** of a Governor or be at the **MERCY** of a Legislature who admit that they have more brains than the people electing them.

Without a new Constitution the present one is



going to be so plastered up with amendments it will never look the same and it will take a Philadelphia lawyer to interpret its provisions.

Just when are the people going to show how much brains they really have by taking control of their government from the hands of a small organized political minority and running their OWN GOVERNMENT to suit themselves?

### (Suggestion No. 20)

#### Basic Gasoline Prices

Some law should be passed EQUALIZING gasoline prices throughout the state where conditions, cost of delivery and handling are practically the same.

At one time, when gasoline was selling at .22c near Decatur, Ala., this amount was divided as follows: Oil Company .07c, Filling Station .03c, and Taxes TWELVE CENTS—incidentally at that time this was the HIGHEST GASOLINE TAX IN THE WORLD.

In City of Birmingham straight gasoline was selling for .23½c including a tax of .08c. About May 15, 1934, the Alabama Motorists Association established filling stations for the benefit of its members and open to the general public. Since that time the oil companies have reduced the price of straight gas from .23½c to .20c, while the Automobile Association is selling gas to the public at .19c and its members at .18c net.

This movement has resulted in a savings varying from ONE to TWO cents per gallon on gasoline and FIVE CENTS per QUART on oil, and in addition the general public has been saved more than \$1,800 per day; approximately TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS from May 15, 1934, to Sept. 15, 1934.

A short time ago the price of gasoline per gallon was as follows: .12c, Tax .08c, total .20c, Decatur .13½c, Tax .09c, total .22½c. Athens .15½c, Tax .10c, total .25½c and Calera .14½c, Tax .07c, total .21½c.

Pulaski, Tenn., .12½c, Tax .06c, total .18½c, Nashville, Tenn., .14½c, Tax .08, total .22½c, Hendersonville, Ky., .12½c, Tax .06c, total .18½c, Githrie, Ky., .14½c, Tax .06c, total .20½c, Evansville, Ind., .07c, Tax .05c, total .12c.

The base price of gasoline runs from .07c to .15½c in Cities where cost of handling is practically the same.

THE PRICE OF AND TAX ON GASOLINE SHOULD BE REDUCED.

**WATCH FOR A SALES TAX**

### (Suggestion No. 21)

#### Additional Revenue

A vast amount of money is now going into the pockets of the bootlegger and illicit distiller. This money should be diverted to legitimate channels, thereby producing much needed revenue for the state and its political sub-divisions, as well as help the property owner pay taxes.

The prohibition laws should be amended at once so that state-wide legalized sale of light wines and beer is permitted. We should also provide for a COUNTY LOCAL OPTION referendum on the sale of liquor permitting its sale in the counties so voting.

We should adopt either a State or County controlled system whereby liquor may be sold in unbroken packages (something on the order of the Canadian or Dispensary System) and confining the sale of mixed and other drinks to legitimate private clubs, restaurants and hotels with cafe attached. Beer to be sold by any responsible business making application and paying proper license.

We should be careful not to have an EXCESSIVE LICENSE AND TAX so that the bootlegger and illicit distiller cannot compete and will be eliminated.

At the present time BEER and BAD LIQUOR may be obtained in most every section of the state, particularly the larger cities and towns. In Birmingham REAL BEER (and home brew) may be obtained at .20c per bottle while NEAR BEER (if it can be found) cost .25c due to the State Tax. While the state has not legalized HOME BREW it condones the manufacture by placing a tax on MALT. In Montgomery the cost of REAL BEER is .15c per bottle and you can get CURB SERVICE.

Government Bottled in Bond liquor may be obtained at from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per quart—reduced from \$8.00 and \$9.00 since repeal of the 18th Amendment and the price of ALABAMA CORN has been materially reduced even though the YIELD has dropped below two hundreds quarts per acre.

Prohibition in Alabama has always been by Legislative Act—never by VOTE OF THE PEOPLE. ALABAMA HAS NEVER VOTED DRY. The people have been given but two opportunities to express themselves at the polls: First when they REFUSED to write prohibition in their own State Constitution and at the same time elected Gov. O'Neal and voted back OPEN SALOONS. Despite this fact a Legislature, elected on a platform not to disturb existing liquor laws, not only ratified the 18th Amendment but voted the state DRY. The second time was when we were, after a hard fight,



given the opportunity by our Legislature to vote on repeal of the 18th Amendment—you are familiar with the result.

REGARDLESS OF ITS MERITS, OR THEIR PERSONAL CONVICTIONS, A LEGISLATOR SHOULD VOTE FOR THE PASSAGE OF ANY MEASURE WHERE ITS FINAL ADOPTION IS LEFT TO A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE.

*(Suggestion No. 22)*

### Secret Ballot and Election Laws

I am informed that Alabama is ONE out of FIVE states having the SELF-IDENTIFYING, or NUMBERED MARKED BALLOT. I am unable to say just why this is done unless it is for the convenience of POLITICIANS—the average citizen never gets a chance to examine the contents of a ballot box.

While the Alabama law provides for the SECRET BALLOT, it also says the ballot M-A-Y, not M-U-S-T, be numbered—but when this number is placed on a ballot it ceases to be SECRET.

There has been much abuse of the Absentee Ballot and there are many flaws in our election laws that makes it almost impossible to prevent ILLEGAL VOTING and CROOKED ELECTIONS.

The election laws should be re-written with more DRASTIC PROVISIONS and PENALTIES for their violation, a new system of casting ballots devised and a REAL SECRET BALLOT PROVIDED.

*(Suggestion No. 23)*

### Modern Tax System

To install a practicable and workable plan not only requires the services of EXPERTS in the matter of taxation but many months of study and hard labor, therefore I am only offering this as something to think about.

First there must be a definite and systematic plan worked out for the payment of interest on and an ANNUAL REDUCTION of our debts before any material TAX REDUCTION is advisable.

The thing that H-U-R-T-S a business, corporation or individual is the payment of HEAVY TAXES, LICENSE AND PRIVILEGES when they are LOSING MONEY—our trouble today is partly due to the fact that when we were making money we did not care how much was spent and took no interest in PUBLIC AFFAIRS, thus allowing the Political Parasites to get a STRANGLEHOLD on Government.

TAXATION WITHOUT PROFITS MAKES DISGRUNTLED CITIZENS, and I must confess

that I was somewhat disgruntled over paying an income tax during 1930-31, even though I lost money, while J. P. Morgan paid nothing during those years, and at the same time property and HOMES of Alabama citizens were being confiscated by the State FOR TAXES.

Wonder how a plan along the following lines might work out in lieu of the present system:

- 1st—A Sales Tax of 5 per cent (less if possible) to be used as a basis, collected by the State and a certain percentage returned to Local Governments in the territory in which the revenue originates and not prorated on the same basis as the County Gasoline Tax.
- 2nd—Eliminate Homestead Exemption for the present, but give a flat 25 per cent reduction in all ad valorem taxes the first year and a further annual reduction of not less than 5 per cent each succeeding year until the ad valorem tax is reduced to a reasonable figure—do not favor abolishing this tax entirely. Property should carry a share of our burden.
- 3rd—Continue the Income Tax but making it a certain percentage of the gross income to simplify making out tax returns and save the expense to many business institutions having to employ TAX EXPERTS to file returns. Exempt from operation of the Income Tax all items included in the Gross Profit Tax and under Section No. 4.
- 4th—Profits of persons, firms or corporations engaged in wholesale or retail business, manufacturing, mining, insurance, real estate or any institution operated as a business for profit.
- 5th—Abolish all License and Privilege Taxes and in lieu thereof adopt a GROSS PROFIT TAX under a sliding scale depending on the amount of profit. Taxing a certain percentage of the Gross Profits will expedite and simplify filing of the returns and will result in quite a savings to business.
- 6th—To cover small establishments, suburban and rural districts we could have a UNIFORM License and Privilege, or a Uniform Gross Profit Tax (varying as to locality) covering those establishments whose gross profit is \$3,000 per year or less.
- 7th—Under this law firms whose books show a loss for the year PAY NOTHING while the firm showing a profit pays his share.
- 8th—After the financial affairs of the State, Counties and Cities are in better shape, EXEMPT FROM TAXATION ALL HOMES OCCUPIED BY THE OWNER EXCLUSIVELY AS A RESIDENCE FOR HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY. This will encourage home owning and make better citizens.
- 9th—When this has been accomplished reduce the Sales Tax rate to an amount just sufficient to meet our needs, leaving a small margin for EMERGENCIES.

Many firms are forced to spend thousands of dollars employing experts to file their income tax returns because they are so complicated and have so many ramifications the average citizen doesn't know "what it's all about." With a GROSS FIGURE and a fixed percentage of tax this cost will be eliminated—any bookkeeper will be able to file this return.

One of the great advantages of this system is if



you MAKE NOTHING YOU PAY NOTHING, while your more fortunate neighbor carries the burden. We will then have TAXATION AND REPRESENTATION, TOO.

Working out a modern system of taxation is a tremendous undertaking, therefore the SOONER STARTED THE SOONER FINISHED.

OPERATING METHODS MUST BE CHANGED.

(*Suggestion No. 24*)

### State Senators and Representatives

A law should be passed preventing a Senator or Representative from accepting a State, County or City appointive office, paying a salary or fees, during the TERM FOR WHICH HE IS ELECTED. He should be permitted to resign during his term and run for an elective office provided such resignation shall become effective before he can qualify.

Abuse of this privilege, as well as the appointment of clerks, has aroused the public to the dangers of TRADING and TRAFFICKING to secure passage of legislation through such patronage.

I wish to call your attention to some FACTS AS THEY EXIST concerning the 1931 Legislature, and please bear in mind I DO NOT SAY OR WISH TO IMPLY THAT THE STATEMENT OF FACTS FOLLOWING IN ANY WAY INFLUENCED THE VOTE OR ACTIONS OF THE GENTLEMEN MENTIONED OR THAT THEY WERE REWARDED IN ANY MANNER.

You are, of course, familiar with the case of Senator Jordan of Etowah—convicted on a bribery charge? His Reward.

Representative Tate of Jefferson County was a strong supporter of the Commission Term Extension Bill, also Representative Bradford of this County.

Gray Tate, a son of the former, is an assistant solicitor appointed by the Solicitor, but this appointment must be confirmed by the Commissioners whose terms were extended. Representative Bradford is employed by the County in collecting court costs.

A Northern insurance company ran a large type advertisement about their agent, Representative Pierce of Barbour County, writing ONE MILLION DOLLARS State Insurance, and a story about his plane flight to Montgomery in order to reach there in time to vote. I do not mean to infer that he was rewarded for his vote, just want to call your attention to the fact that this insurance was written in what is known as a Mutual Company in DI-

RECT VIOLATION OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

Only the voters of Alabama can PLEDGE THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE STATE, but the terms of this policy pledge its FULL FAITH AND CREDIT to pay any assessments that may accrue.

Representative Barbour of Jefferson County became a strong administration supporter and now has a position with the State as a Tax Gatherer on a FEE BASIS.

Representative Culver of Etowah, an administration supporter, was appointed by Gov. Miller to fill an unexpired term in that County.

Representative Christopher of Choctaw County, a practical floor leader in engineering the Tobacco Stamp Tax Bill, appears on the December, 1932, pay roll (after passage of the act) of the Tobacco Tax Fund as a Field Agent at a monthly salary of \$150.

I do not think State Senators or Representatives should accept passes on railroads, busses, picture shows or anything else gratis as he places himself under obligations to "Special Interests."

These instances are simply cited to show you that with such practices permitted there is an opportunity for mis-use and abuse of the privilege as well as a chance to "Bring Pressure to Bear" when votes are needed.

As mentioned before, regardless of any other fact, it is extremely important that LEGISLATIVE PAY BE CONSIDERABLY INCREASED so that members will not be forced to pay actual living expenses out of their own pockets while in Montgomery or depend on OUT-SIDE HELP or SPECIAL INTERESTS to meet these expenses.

It is impossible to place the entire 141 members of both houses on the Public Pay Roll, so why should there be just a FAVORED FEW?

A SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE IS THE POOREST PAID PUBLIC SERVANT, YET HE IS A VITAL COG IN THE MOST IMPORTANT BRANCH OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

### There Are So Many Changes

needed in the operation of State, County and City Government and in present laws it is impossible to cover them all in a "Booklet"—VOLUMES ARE REQUIRED. Some of the most important are:

(1)—No extensions (Local Bills) of terms, raise of pay or creation of new offices unless submitted to the voters in the territory affected for final ratification. (2)—Require



all State, County and City officials handling public funds to furnish bonds in REGULAR BONDING companies authorized to do business under the State Insurance Department. Private bonds, in many instances, are of no value. (3)—Front and rear automobile tags will be of help in enforcing traffic laws. Alabama is ONE out of THREE states not requiring this. (4)—Uniform State Traffic Laws eliminating speed traps and containing a strict driver's license provision for the protection of both driver and the public and to aid the authorities in the event of crime. The charge should be just sufficient to cover expenses. (5)—Remove State Superintendent of Education from politics, likewise the Department of Education. (6)—Abolish the Deficiency Judgment. (7)—Reduce legal interest rate to 6 per cent. (9)—Drastic Loan Shark Laws. (10)—Burial Associations to be under control of the State Insurance Department and the same protective restrictions as any other insurance company authorized to do business in Alabama. (11)—Improve and simplify all legal procedure. (12)—Improve State Banking Laws so that depositors will have ample protection and funds of closed banks not be depleted by LIQUIDATION and ATTORNEYS' FEES. (13)—THERE SHOULD BE A CIVIL SERVICE LAW COVERING ALL STATE, COUNTY AND CITY EMPLOYEES, WITH A PROVISION PREVENTING THEM FROM TAKING PART IN ANY POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE TAXPAYERS. HE MUST RESIGN IN ORDER TO TAKE PART IN A CAMPAIGN, OR BE DISCHARGED IF HE DOES. This will prevent the building up of political machines by office holders, and employees neglecting their duties while working for a candidate and being paid by the taxpayers for another service.

One of the primary causes of our present financial condition is DIVERSION OF FUNDS and the ABSOLUTE DISREGARD OF AND VIOLATION OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION by some officials and lack of interest by many officials and office holders in the welfare of our people—they are SELFISH.

In conclusion permit me to say that I have no personal axe to grind and I am not asking any favors. I do not belong to any Group or Organization or am I receiving any financial support except that mentioned in the early pages of this booklet.

A careful study of these suggestions will fail to reveal any hidden motives or an attempt to aid a particular class or interest at the expense of others; every suggestion is offered for the benefit of the State AS A WHOLE.

I intend to keep on fighting for WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT as long as my limited means shall last.

Upon a few days advanced notice I will be glad (at my own expense) to visit your community if you think my services will be of any value in addressing a meeting of citizens or in the forming of an organization for your protection and betterment.

I am against a sales tax in any shape, form or fashion unless there is a PROPORTIONATE REDUCTION in the present Tax Burden, and until the State, Counties and Cities have done their full

part in REDUCING GOVERNMENTAL COSTS by REORGANIZATION, ECONOMY and the elimination of COUNTY OX-CART GOVERNMENT. When that is done and it is clearly shown that PROPER ECONOMY will not produce the desired results, then impose a sales tax at a rate JUST SUFFICIENT to meet our needs. Once a sales tax is imposed, without proper reorganization, the need for ECONOMY vanishes—when additional funds are needed instead of ECONOMY another cent will be added to the Sales Tax rate by the Politicians just as done with gasoline.

It is my earnest desire to have some law whereby the people may remove an office holder for failure to carry out his CAMPAIGN PROMISES.

A PLATFORM is something a candidate stands on that he thinks the PEOPLE WILL FALL FOR.

Trusting you fully understand that NOTHING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED except through YOUR FULL CO-OPERATION and a HIGHLY ORGANIZED MOVEMENT and CONCERTED EFFORT, I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

Birmingham, Ala.,  
Sept. 1, 1934.

W. B. LEEDY,  
P. O. Box 2272.

WATCH FOR A SALES TAX



Mr. W. B. Leedy,  
P. O. Box No. 2272,  
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Sir:

I am interested in reducing governmental costs and the plans outlined in this booklet. I believe a Taxpayers Organization as outlined will be of material value in obtaining results.

I am signing this card with the distinct understanding that I am in no way obligated to CONTRIBUTE TO OR JOIN ANY ORGANIZATION. If the plan goes forward I will decide later whether or not I will become a member. This is just to let you know that the booklet has been received and its contents noted.

Yours truly,

Signed

(Print Name Clearly)

Address

(Street, Rural Route or P. O.)

City

, Ala.

(Print Name)

## WATCH FOR A SALES TAX

Tear Here

Date \_\_\_\_\_, 1934.

Hon. \_\_\_\_\_,

State Senator-Elect,

\_\_\_\_\_, Ala.

Dear Sir:

Referring to the booklet issued by W. B. Leedy, under date of Sept. 1, 1934, beg to advise that I am in favor of adopting the suggestions below marked "X", and will appreciate your calling this to the attention of the other members of our delegation.

No. 1 _____	No. 9 _____	No. 17 _____
No. 2 _____	No. 10 _____	No. 18 _____
No. 3 _____	No. 11 _____	No. 19 _____
No. 4 _____	No. 12 _____	No. 20 _____
No. 5 _____	No. 13 _____	No. 21 _____
No. 6 _____	No. 14 _____	No. 22 _____
No. 7 _____	No. 15 _____	No. 23 _____
No. 8 _____	No. 16 _____	No. 24 _____

I think these suggestions should be brought to the attention of the 1935 Legislature and bills introduced covering them.

Yours truly,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, Ala.

Note: Mark with "X" the suggestions you favor, detach and mail to your State Senator. It might be well to mail a copy to your Governor.

## WATCH FOR A SALES TAX



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WATCH FOR A SALES TAX

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Nov. 4, 1932.

John Leichman,  
R 3, Daggett Mich.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of Oct 31 received and we hasten to reply: We are taking pleasure in mailing you herewith a copy of "History" of our Colony, a short statement of the Single Tax in general "The Single Tax, What It Is, and Why We Urge It", a copy of our form of application for land and "The It County of Alabama" dealing with agricultural conditions, etc. of this county.

We are not interested in sale of any land in Baldwin county, but only in leasing our land. We have a couple of opportunities now to secure improved leaseholds which are exceptional. One we consider extraordinary is improvements on 40 acres, the owner of which died within a few months, leaving no one here interested and the non-resident heir will sell the place for \$250 cash. This includes only on 40 acre leasehold consist- of small house, three or four rooms but quite livable, nearly all the land cleared; two or three barns, and two or three chicken houses, well fencing, cross fencing, etc.

The land is excellent. It is just two and one half from the center of town on a well traveled road, mail and school bus routes. The rent on the land, which is inclusive of taxes on the land and on improvements and personal property is at present rating about \$75 a year. Possession of buildings could be had at once, we understand, and of all the land the first of January

Yours very sincerely,

FAIRHOPE SINGLE TAX CORP.

by \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary.



Oct. 31, 1932

Single Tax Corp.

Fairhope, Ala.

Gentlemen: -

I am interested in  
the Single Tax. Please  
send me all the details  
concerning it. I would like  
to have some land in  
Alabama (Baldwin County). Please  
let me hear from you as  
soon as possible because I  
would like to move down  
there as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

John Leichman

Daggett, Mich.

R. B.



Sept. 5, 1930.

Joseph Leiser,  
3737 Polk St.  
Gary, Ind.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of Sept. 1 received and carefully read. I am sure you would be welcome at Fairhope and do not know where you would be likely to find a situation better for one in your position, as stated in your letter, than here--though you would find few of your religion in this immediate community.

The matter of a small tract of land suitable for gardening and poultry will be easy. To find something with livable buildings on it which could be rented would be more difficult, but I am sure there are such. It would be hard to name a figure for rent or purchase, without more information as to what your requirements would be.

I think it would be a fine idea for you to come over here when making your proposed visit to Augusta, Ga.

Am sending you some printed matter about this section and about our Colony and shall hope to see you before long.

Yours Very truly,

---

Secretary.



JOSEPH LEISER  
714 LIBERTY STREET  
HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

3737 Polk St  
Gary, Indiana.

Sept. 1,  
1930

E B Gaston  
Fairhope  
Alabama

Dear Mr Gaston

Mrs Tone whom I met this summer at Grant, Mich. mentioned your name as the most likely to be interested in the proposition that is about to be disclosed:

My inquiry to Mrs Tone relative to Fairhope as a possible location elicited from her the reply that I was the type fitted for the place and would find congenial company there within a short time

I have of course put the cart before the horse. But will set forth the situation briefly: I am a rabbi belonging to the same school as Alfred Moses in Mobile (a personal friend) but have been released or disengaged- what you will-- because depression floods and other disasters in Helena where I was located eight years- compelled the congregation to discontinue. Overproduction of the rabbinical cloth makes it difficult for one to be contracted for another job- I am therefore unemployed rabbinically. Through the intervention of friends, etc. a small subvention is granted me so that I have something whereon to live and subsist.

For many years I have had an invalid wife to maintain and until recently thru strong pressure on her family who have means, they made a gesture to aid me by assuming a part of the burden of caring for an utterly helpless person who is not now more than she ever been of any assistance to me. But this aside.

Realizing that a professional life disassociated from the soil was futile, unnatural, unhealthy and anti-social in a large sense I gradually schooled my self to farm in a small way. I have always had a garden and have not been divorced from the soil until this month when I came north.



The question therefore I presented to Mrs Tone was namely this: would it be possible for me to obtain a small cottage, very inexpensive, and the use of a parcel of land ~~sufficient~~ sufficient to truck at Fairhope?

My reasons for requesting this information were manifold. If possible for me to be located there I might maintain myself at a very modest figure and at the same time finish some literary projects that have been dangling before me, also revise the plays I have composed in recent years and probably have them printed if not produced, etc.

The single tax theory and ideal has always appealed to me and while I have not been a propagandist of it I am given to understand that one need not be among the crusaders to gain admision to Fairhope

Literature I am told will be mailed me in reply to this letter. I may also add that I have an engagement during our Jewish holidays (Sept 22-Oct. 4) at Augusta. Ga., It occurred to me that all things being satisfactory I might visit Fairhope since I am in the neighborhood at that time so to speak.

I will however be grateful to you for any information you might bring to my attention relative to this letter and its particular situation and problem or whatever else you care to disclose. Rental and living costs, prospects of fellowship are items of particular concern to me. ~~888888~~ In all probability I would be alone and on that basis you might reply to specific inquiries.

Appreciating your favor, I am,

Sincerely yours

Joseph Lieber  
3737 Polk St.  
Gary, Indiana



JOSEPH LEISER  
714 LIBERTY STREET  
HELENA, MONT.

*Handwritten:*  
Dear Sir,  
I have just received your letter of the 12th inst. and am glad to hear from you. I am well and hope this finds you the same.

Very respectfully,  
Joseph Leiser

I am,

very truly yours,  
Joseph Leiser  
I have just received your letter of the 12th inst. and am glad to hear from you. I am well and hope this finds you the same.

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I have just received your letter of the 12th inst. and am glad to hear from you. I am well and hope this finds you the same.



Sept. 26, 1934.

Mr. E.J. Leitenberger,  
3747 No. Park Ave.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

At the suggestion of Mr. Wilmer P. Hoopes, of Forest Hill, Maryland, I am taking pleasure in sending you some printed matter regarding our "Colony" and section, which I trust you will find interesting.

We have a successful Colony and a fine country and climate.

If you are looking for a home, better give us consideration.

We would help you, not rob you.

Yours very sincerely,

---

Secretary.



July 15, 1932.

Mrs. Ruth C. Lentz,  
1024 Bank St.,  
Webster City, Iowa.

Dear Madam:-

Your letter of 11th at hand. There is still opportunity for people to enter our community and will be as long as we have unoccupied land, but there is no requirement for entrance except to pay six months rent in advance on whatever land is selected; running from \$3.50 down to 90 cents for land in the country (per acre) and from \$10 ~~max~~ a year up on lots in Town.

We have no provision in our plan for employing any one, their employment and sustenance is wholly their own affair.

We are glad to extend our advantages to all who come but in these times cannot undertake the responsibility of advising any one.

Times are hard here as they are elsewhere--but from the inherent defects in the system everywhere else prevailing not to anything local to us.

I am sorry that we are very shy on literature, but am enclosing some matter which may help you to an understanding of our plan.

Am sorry not to be more encouraging.

Yours most sincerely,

---

Secretary.



1024 Bank St

Webster City Iowa

July 11-1932

City of Fairhope,  
Alabama.

Bolton Hall wrote me to  
ask you for information  
about your settlement similar  
to "Tree Acres" at Berkeley Heights,  
N. J.

Is there still opportunity  
to enter? What are the  
requirements? How much  
capital must one have?  
We would have no other  
means of livelihood.

Yours truly

(Mrs) Ruth C. Lentz



June 8, 1930.

M. Lesser,  
C/o. Lesser's Shoe Store,  
4824 Michigan Ave.  
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir:-

Yours received and read with interest. Glad to have some word of Morris Greenbaum, who is well remembered. We are taking pleasure in sending you an illustrated pamphlet report using a very excellent article on this county, Baldwin, from the L. & N.R.R. Employee's Magazine; also a couple of copies of the Courier of recent date, with some marked articles regarding poultry.

Up to Wednesday of last week nearly 3,000 cars of produce had already been shipped from this county, for this season, bringing in approximately a million and a quarter dollars and several hundred more cars will be shipped. Beside this is the constant flow of produce, truck, chickens, eggs, milk, etc, to supply local markets, and in the fall valuable fruit and nut crops.

We have here undoubtedly one of the best all round countries to be found anywhere; yet, here, as elsewhere, the laws are at present against the primary producers and they do not appear to have sense enough to vote for men committed to legislative policies which would be in their interest.

Our Colony is a success. Our town, of which the Colony is the chief factor, has grown to be the largest town in the county as shown by the last census. The Colony has land for lease in the county, for around a dollar an acre--no purchase price--all your money left for improvements and to get a start; or you can but, if you prefer the old ways--but not from us.

I am mailing you a copy of the Colony's lease. We should be glad to have you investigate the Colony and the country and to have you locate here, if you think you see your way to make a go of it.

Yours very truly

THE FAIRHOPE SINGLE TAX CORPORATION

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary.



**LESSER'S**  
FIT-WELL SHOE STORE  
4824 MICHIGAN AVENUE  
DETROIT, MICH.

June 3 1930

S B Gaston  
Fair Hope Alabama

Dear Sir

I have a lengthy conversation with  
Mr Morris Greenbaum regarding moving  
to farm colony. and upon his advice  
am writing to you for the following  
information. I am now 32 years old  
healthy and am willing to make a change  
in my life to a productive living  
I can have cash possibly 2000 and have  
a family with 2 girls, 1, 9 and one 2 1/2  
years I know nothing about farming  
and, 16 years ago was a tailor

In general would like to know  
how I could sustain myself and  
family there. Thanking you in advance for  
a reply beg to remain yours truly  
S B Lesser



March 25, 1934.

Carll S. LeValley,  
Mattituck, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of March 19th at hand. And I take pleasure in replying. I may say that we have not in practice gone into the determination of "economic rent" so particularly as Mr. Warren, of Tahanto and other "Enclaves" treated of in "Enclaves of the Economic Rent."

Under clause 1 of our form of lease and the application for land enclosed our view-point is set forth, I think, with sufficient clearness.

Our constitution, (copy of which I also send you, it is made the duty of our Executive Council Section 10, to make an annual appraisal of the rental value of all lands held for lease by the Corporation" which is to be done with all information before them.

Article VI, provides for a referendum on all acts of the officers, but confined to the members. We feel that we have pretty well determined that a Single Tax Colony can only safely be entrusted to Singletaxers; while we throw our land open for lease to members and non-members alike, the non-members have to take the rental valuations fixed by the members,

A Fairhope lessee fares in comparison with a citizen of Bay Minette, very much according to the use of his land and the amount of investment in it. Being free from any investment for purchase of the land, and having his taxes to town, taxing authorities taken care of, he in most cases will fare markedly better than the B.M. The savings in investment and the quality of improvements are most important factors.

I have no idea of the population of Mattituck, do not find it in the Postal Guide. You do not say, whether improved or not, nor give any idea of street frontage, depth, etc., all of which would figure in rent calculation under our plan.

We have no organized townships in Alabama a Twp. having no officers and being simply a tract embracing 36 sections in rectangular form.

Assessments are made by the counties, with taxes



collected for the state, municipality and school district, if any by the County tax collector and the Town assessment made on County's assessment, but town taxes collected by the town clerk.

We have a very poor assessing system in this state, in that we have no assessment on the premises. The tax assessor and tax collector made rounds of the precincts, sitting one to three days in the settlements--according to their importance, and taxpayers come in and set their own value usually on their property, subject to later review by the County Commissioners sitting as a Board of Equalization.

If the assessor learns from some source that a property owner has built a house on his holding, he will assess him with it usually "on information" not inspection--and will add 10% for non-assessment.

I hope this will be about the information you want. Am sending some printed matter under another wrapper.

Yours very sincerely,

---

Secretary.



Mattituck, N.Y.,  
March 19, 1934.

Mr. Ernest B. Gaston, Sec'y,  
Fairhope Single Tax Corporation,  
Fairhope, Alabama.

Dear Sir:

I have just finished reading "Enclaves of Economic Rent for the Year 1930," a book which was loaned ~~me~~ by a friend. I have also read some of Henry George, and Louis F. Post.

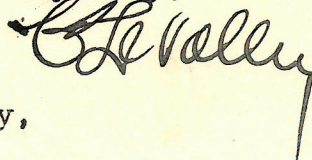
How do you folks determine true economic rent and apply it to Fairhope?

Also, how does a Fairhope leaseholder fare in comparison with a citizen of Bay Minette, similarly situated? I'm trying to get at this through my own experience. I own a corner lot in Mattituck, about 8 minutes' walk from its center, contains .64 acres, and taxes for 1934 amounted to about \$89., covering state, county and town levys, and extras for light, fire and school.

How does the property embraced within the bounds of Fairhope appear on the tax rolls of the township in which Fairhope is located? If the assessors of the township notice someone in Fairhope building a house on a heretofore vacant lot, do not they raise your assessment, same as they do here in my township?

Any information you may care to give me along these lines will be much appreciated.

Yours very truly,



Carll S. LeValley,  
Mattituck, N. Y.



Sept. 5, 1930.

Frank Leverett,  
1724 South University Ave.,  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Mr. Leverett:-

I was pleased to receive yours of Aug. 26, and to learn more of your plans for the winter, which will probably bring you to Fairhope in October.

You will have plenty of opportunities to rent cottages or apartments for a month at that time, as the time of winter tourist travel will not yet have set in.

You should be able to get accommodations to suit your needs from \$20 to \$40 a month.

Hoping to see you here as per your program,

Yours very truly



Ann Arbor, Michigan, August 26 1930.

Mr. E. B. Gaston,  
Editor Fairhope Courier,  
Fairhope, Alabama.

Dear Mr. Gaston:-

Your letter of August 18, with inclosures, and the August 14 copy of the Fairhope Courier have been received and read with much interest. As I do not have a copy of my letter to Mr. Griggs I do not know how fully it set forth our plans for the winter. So I may repeat some things that are in it.

Mrs. Leverett and I together with my sister and her husband of Denmark, Iowa, are planning to go South by auto from Denmark sometime in October. We are expecting to range quite widely along the Gulf Coast, stopping from a few days to a few weeks in places of interest. I am a geologist, and am interested in the old beaches that appear at different levels above the present sea level. So while on the borders of Mobile Bay I will attempt to map the course of one or more of these beaches, and also follow them for some distance each way from the Bay. From Fairhope I might perhaps work as far as Pensacola. This study may take nearly a month, in which I could use Fairhope as a base. We may decide to make Fairhope our first stopping place, reaching there probably in the latter part of October.

Mr. Griggs has written me of the attractions of your community, which leads me to anticipate a pleasant time there. We can probably find suitable accommodations after reaching there. We rented a furnished apartment and kept house each of the two winters we have been in Tucson, <sup>Arizona</sup> but perhaps our stay in Fairhope will be too short to make housekeeping feasible. We will be glad to learn what opportunities there are for renting apartments for housekeeping, and at what rates, for a period of a few weeks.

Very truly yours,

Frank Leverett

*I am inclosing abstract of a paper giving results of studies I made around Tampa Bay in March and April of this year.*



Reprinted from SCIENCE, May 23, 1930, Vol. LXXI,  
No. 1847, page 544.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

*Relative value of physiographic and paleontologic criteria in Pleistocene correlations:* FRANK LEVERETT. The physiographic criteria embrace certain persistent and practically uniform conditions, such as rainfall, stream gradient and character of formation, which produce a given result in the modification of a land surface in a given time. Thus each glacial formation of the several which are present in glaciated districts shows a degree of erosion and weathering consistent with its age. So also do the Pleistocene marine terraces of the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains. It is evident to a person who has studied both the glacial and the marine terraces that the Pensacola marine terrace which has a shore line in Florida at about 33 to 35 feet is no older than the late Wisconsin drift, but the higher marine terraces, Tsala Apopka and Newberry, are evidently of greater age than the Wisconsin drift. Turning now to the paleontologic criteria, it appears that the remains of many species of extinct vertebrates are found on the Pensacola terrace, some of them in close association with remains of man. From studies elsewhere it had been inferred that certain species had become extinct as early as Middle Pleistocene time. On this basis the terrace would be given a much greater age than is consistent with its freshness of contour, and the human remains if contemporary with those of the extinct animals would be given very great antiquity. This naturally raises the question of the value of paleontologic criteria in comparison with physiographic criteria. It is evident that the extinction of a species of either animal or plant life is due to factors of uncertain and varying character, which can not be predicted and which do not of necessity have time limitations. A given species may suffer extinction in one district long before it does in some other district in which conditions are more favorable for its continuation. The

around Tampa Bay



physiographic criteria may thus be made a basis for correlations where paleontologic evidence is of conflicting character. The physiographic criteria can be depended upon, however, only as a measure of age of relatively young formations. In older formations than the Pleistocene the paleontologic criteria are likely to be preferable to the physiographic. Neither set of criteria has the definiteness in determination of the age of an old formation that is possible in the determination of the age of a Pleistocene formation.



1724 S. University Ave.  
Ann Arbor, Mich. August 1 1930.

Mr. J. W. Griggs  
Pasadena California

Dear Cousin:

Mrs Leverett and I and my sister and husband are planning to spend considerable time in the South this fall and winter, while I am mapping a shore line along the Gulf Coast between Florida and Texas, in which I got started while at Tampa, in March & April, and it has occurred to me that you wrote me winter of finding an agreeable community on the east shore of the bay. We would like to know more about this place and the people & if the same conditions are in vogue now that were when you wintered there.

We plan to drive down to Florida and work westward from there in October or November. We have rented our home for the school year, Sept 10 to June 20, so will have several months for travel. We may go on to Arizona and perhaps to Southern California in the course of the winter. If we get to Southern California we shall of course visit you, if you are still there. My cousin who lived in Monrovia died in January but his wife, and son & daughter, and their families, are still in Los Angeles. You met the daughter who took me out to see you in Pasadena.

I hope you and Mrs Griggs are enjoying good health and that we may have a chance to meet again in the near future. My health keeps about the same winter & summer, whenever I am, but I like to get away from the ice & snow of our Michigan winters. You may be interested in knowing I was awarded an honorary degree of doctor of science by the University of Michigan in June & have been addressed as "Dr Leverett" frequently in past years but have not before carried the degree.

Very truly yours,

Frank Leverett.



Aug. 18, 1930.

Mr. Frank Leverett,  
1734 S. University Ave.,  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Sir:-

Our mutual friend, Mr. J.W. Griggs, of Long Beach, California, has forwarded me your letter of recent date to him and I take pleasure in sending you a late copy of our local paper and some other matter which will give you some information about our unique and very delightfully located town of Fairhope.

I am not able to send you what I would like, as we have quite exhausted our last edition of an illustrated folder.

Most people like our town very much and some prefer our climate to that of Florida.

If you should like more specific information on any point please write me.

Yours very truly,

---

Secretary & Editor.



March 21.1934

Otto Lieb,  
4528 So. Turner Ave.  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I am chagrined to note that yours of 2/26 has esaped attention and beg your pardon.

I am pleased to sen you some printed matter about our Colony, and an interesting fold rabout this section, entitled "The 'IT' County of Alabama.

We have considerable land open for lease, at \$1 to \$2 an acre a year; but uncleared, though there some favorable opportunities to buy the improvements on leaseholds.

This is a fine country and I hope you will come down and look us over.

Yours very truly,

---

Secretary.



<sup>QW</sup>  
Chicago, Feb. 26. 1934.

Mr. E. B. Gaston,  
Fairhope, Ala.

Dear Sir:-

Would like to have  
some information in re-  
gards to your colony land.  
I am intreated in farmland  
and intend to move to Baldwin  
Co., near Fairhope. Any ad-  
vice and information you  
could give me will be very  
much appreciated

Yours truly  
Otto Lieb

4528 So. Turner Ave.  
Chicago, Ill.



Jan. 23, 1936

Wayne Like,  
Plainwell, Mich.

Dear Mr. Like:-

Your letter of 18th at hand. I am quite disappointed at your advice that you have not sold your property there. Though you reported having done so some time ago. I would not like to take the responsibility of advising one to make a move even to such a good place as Fairhope and Baldwin County, Ala., without means to provide him with reasonable requirements to take care of himself, and family if he has one.

You refer to the "ferry" by which we used to get across Mobile Bay. But with the completion of a system of bridges and causeways, which was completed in 1927, it was not long until the ferries were all out of business and we are now reachable by railroad and motor roads with through bus rates from anywhere north to any considerable point in this part of the country; or if you an automobile --which almost every one has---though I do not have-- you can fill up your gas tank and come on.

That is what I should advise. There is nothing like seeing for yourself. But you should be able to make the return trip if desired. People are driving from here up to Chicago and other places in that general territory every few days. Many loads of peaches were trucked up into that country and sold there and loads of apples brought back to sell here.

I do not want to discourage you nor do I want to make any money off of you; but neither do I want you to be likely to get stranded here, without having reasonable chances of establishing yourself.

I hope to hear from you further.

Very truly yours,

---

Secretary

We are having a "cold spell" with freezing some at night which feels mighty cold to us; for we do not prepare for it as people have to up there



Plainwell Mich Jan 19-36.  
E. B. Gaston, Fairhope Ala.  
Dear Sir, Yours of Jan 12<sup>th</sup> rec'd,  
And I haven't gave up coming to  
Fairhope, but it seems like I  
cannot dispose of my property  
at any price, I am offering it  
at less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of what I have in  
it, but no sale yet. You spoke  
about it seeming like spring  
down there. It certainly isn't  
looking like it here, 3 weeks  
ago tonight it was from 10 to  
12° below zero here, and feels  
like it will be below tonight.  
Have had snow and ice on the  
ground since early Dec. I've  
saw boys skating on the roads  
and sidewalks last week.  
This is what makes one get  
the southern fever when we  
know it will be 3 months or more  
before one can begin to make



2.

preparations to plant garden, I have a nice flock of Chickens but they are eating their heads off. Now I wish to ask you a few questions about the best way of getting there when I do get ready to start. I have made up my mind to come by rail, road, as the uncertainty of my roads and cold weather to camp out makes it seem safer and more comfortable for the children. I was ~~wondering~~ wondering what the ferry charges was across from Mobile to Fairhope? I can get to Mobile as cheap as to any point on the Foley Branch, and I thought this would be the best way. What time does the ferry leave Mobile? I can get in there about 3<sup>15</sup> P. M., or about 4<sup>15</sup> A. M., and it



would make a difference <sup>-3-</sup> how  
I started from here, so as to  
make ferry connections. The L. & N.  
have a cheap rate, but the  
R.R.s up here string you right.  
It costs less than \$2 or more  
to get from Cincinnati to Mobile  
(782 miles) than it does from  
here to Cincinnati, 270 miles. I may  
take a bus to Cincinnati. As it will  
save me about \$20 or on my  
family if I can. But I am  
coming soon but I want to  
cut loose and stay when I  
get there. You know by your  
experience that a person must  
live in a place a year before  
they know if they will like it  
or not, so if I cut loose here  
entirely, I won't think of  
having to come back. Also I  
have confidence <sup>enough</sup> in your



-4-  
judgement to know that if I  
have enough to get started  
on down there, that I will  
regain what I am losing  
now, and live a lot more  
comfortable, and I hope, will  
be able to forget forever, that  
dread of winter and its allied  
sufferings and discomforts. I  
certainly wish to thank you for  
your interest, and kind help  
in this matter, and I hope to  
be able to return the favors  
many fold in the near future.  
Please ~~inform~~ <sup>what</sup> me about the  
ferry, or railroad station to  
come to that will be the best  
way to get there by. Again I  
thank you, and remain yours  
Very truly yours,

Wayne Like.



Dec. 2, 1935

Wayne Like,  
Plainwell, Mich.

Dear Sir:-

Yours received. I remember previous correspondence with you and am pleased that you think you are now able to consider coming to Fairhope. It is just the time to be doing that and I hope you will decide to come.

I have not had time to go hunt up all the small places that are on the market but enough to find that you ought to have choice of a number likely to suit your needs at from \$180 <sup>1</sup> for ten acres, with small house up to \$1,000 for 40 acres, <sup>2</sup> small house, barn, good well, nearly all clearedm that which is not, good pasture land. Good for small stock farm, more can be had adjoining; <sup>3</sup> 30 acres, house, barn, mostly in cultivation, \$800 <sup>4</sup> another 40, mostly in cultivation; tile, house and barn never been finished up inside, but with a few dollars could be made a good place, price cheap at \$400. Am sure any of these could be had for half cash, balance secured on the property, and some could be shaded in price some.

You will never find opportunities better.

I am not a real estate agent and do not stand to a commission on any of these.

Hoping to see you here,

Yours very truly,

- 1 Bank  
no of Jim Andrews.
- 2 Milechick
- 3 Jess Simpson
- 4 Du Brack



Plainwell Mich. Nov 30-35,  
Secretary, Fairhope Single Tax Exp.,  
Fairhope Fla.

Dear Sir:

I had considerable  
correspondence with your office  
(Mr. Gaston) some time ago, but  
have not been able to carry out  
any of my plans relating to making  
a change to your country, but I  
am in a position now to do so.  
What I wish to know is this: -  
~~Does~~ your corporation anything  
in the farm line that I can  
locate on temporary, (or permanent  
if satisfactory) until I can get  
a start. I have this in mind  
to avoid the expense of building  
at present. According to my in-  
formation, I will be there in  
time to get a spring crop in  
the ground if located there next  
month. Things are not very much  
better here, but old winter



is here according to schedule,  
The ground is covered with snow  
today with outlook for more, I  
can furnish you references as  
to my ability, honesty, etc., if  
you wish. What I want most  
is a chance to develop a home  
somewhere out of this 6 mo's  
winter, a living without the  
uncertainty of early and late  
frosts, heavy fuel expense,  
dr. bills for my children, the  
added expense of winter clothing  
etc., that I have here, I am  
especially interested in the  
poultry game, but the over-  
head expense is too much to  
make it very profitable here,  
dressed poultry, Capons and eggs  
surely appeal to me as a good  
business. Thank you,  
Wayne Like.



Bank

\$1801

On one of Taylor's place ---

"Du Bruck"

about 400

20 or a hundred

Milechuk

\$1000



July 21, 1934.

Wayne Like,  
Plainwell, Mich.

Dear Mr. Like:-

I am glad to learn of the interest awakened in you regarding our Colony, from the report of your son Wayne, a recent visitor, and appreciated your appreciation of the tendency of people to ask "foolish Questions." Think you were pretty free from doing so.

We have got a fine country, here, about the best little town in the south and our "Colony" is a mighty good proposition; yet it is taking big chances for anybody--especially advanced in years and with small means to undertake to make a change now, when everywhere is poverty and unemployment varying only in degree.

We will lease any number of acres from two or three--preferably not less than five in the country up to 40 or even more; but we prefer small holdings, to accommodate a good many to a big holding for a few.

Just now we do not have any improved tracts available, with buildings on. but may have to forego on some soon which we would very much regret to do, but we cannot pay our obligations without others pay us and I am sorry to say there is a tendency to let the Colony wait until the last.

As to any business opening, it is hardly necessary to say that there is no conspicuous lack in the business line; but I am reminded of many times I have known people to make a success in business where there was no opening apparent to me.

I hope some way may be found for you and wife to come and make your home with us.

Yours very truly,

---

Secretary.



Plainwell, Mich. July 16-34  
E. B. Gaston, Sec. Fairhope S. T. Corp.  
Fairhope  
Ala.

Dear Sir:

My son Wayne like  
showed me some literature from  
you and I am interested also.  
Would like to come down but  
our means are very limited  
and of course want to find  
out all we can before coming  
Of course I realize that you  
must be all fed up on answering  
a lot of foolish questions  
that a lot of people ask.  
I have spent several years of  
my life dealing with the public  
and know what one is up against



2.  
I was elected Township Treas.  
here in 1933 and re-elected  
again last Spring. Then this  
little village got the idea  
they would like to incorporate  
into a City and did. So that  
automatically cut me out  
of a job as I live inside.  
But here I come.

1st. What is the least no. of  
acres one can lease from your Co.

2. Have you any developed  
pieces that you have re-  
possessed that can be taken.

Or some little business of  
any kind that my wife & I  
could manage.

We are past middle age and  
are not over ambitious to  
jump in the green woods.  
Something adapted to  
Poultry would suit us fine.



If it is not asking too  
much of you to ans. those  
questions and any other in-  
formation will be appreciated.  
Whatever we do will have  
to be done soon as possible.

Yours Truly  
Edmund E. Egan

903 E. Bridge St.

P.S. My wife says to ask you if  
there would be any chance  
for a dress making shop.



April 28, 1934.

Wayne Like,  
Plainview, Mich.

Dear Mr. Like:-

Yours of 20th received. Glad you were pleased with the matter I sent you regarding our Fairhope propositions and conditions. Glad you recognize that Singletax goes down to bed-rock in establishing equality of opportunity to enjoy the bounties of nature.

I am not much interested in people's "interpretations" of ancient Bible or other prophecies. I try to keep within the bounds of fact and logic. I agree with Senator Reynolds, of N.C. whom you quote in regard to destruction of cotton, of hogs, perhaps cows to come, taking land out of cultivation, etc. That is taking entirely too much responsibility upon individuals.

The trouble is not with producing too much. It is not over-production that is the trouble with us. It is improper division of the product and this is the result of special privilege of one sort and another. The worst, the right ~~tax~~ rather power for some to come between their fellow men and the source of all wealth, all life, the earth and demand tribute for that which the creator intended equally for all. Some years ago in this part of the country, we had something even worse--slavery--in which the master owned his fellow-humans, of another race and color. That has been done away with. Let us hope ownership of the earth against other humans will be done away with. Other special privileges, which will have to be done away with private ownership of railroads and all public utilities, private control of currency, escaping individual responsibility by corporate organization, etc.

We seem to understand each other very well on general principles; now to your further inquiries about Fairhope.

Yes. we have unimproved land open within two miles of town and farther out. Within 2 miles the rate would be about \$2 an acre, farther out as low as \$1.00 The rent cannot be guaranteed for five years for our rule is for annual valuation. That does not mean necessarily going up every year, but must be consideration. For this year we made a general reduction of 4%.

As to timber; we consider that as an improvement or "crop" to be appraised and paid for by the lessee when taking possession. The land has all been cut-over during past years and there are few cases in which there is timber of any considerable value. Paid for by the lessee he is free to do as he pleases with



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it, can let it stand and recieve the increasing value by growth, or sell the turpentine privilege or the timber for lumber or pulp wood. It is generally in demand.

Yes, we have some partly improved places, a few, which we could dispose of; and would make reasonable terms to purchaser of improvements; but hardly worth while to take up same at this stage.

Yes, we have a good deal of clay topsoil, with heavier sub-soil, some much sandier. Each has its advantages.

We have to go a good deal deeper for water than about Foley, ordinarily about 60 Ft.

We ship mostly through Robertsdale. There usually cooperative buying at local sheds; or one can haul to Robertsdale.

We have no local industries employing labor on a large scale; at present, like all the balance of the country have a lot of families under relief. The chences to get work are poor. The relief is paying a minimum of 30 cents an hour, when plenty of men would be glad to have \$1 and others who could use help, do not feel able to pay more,

This is a great chicken and egg country and properly conducted will furnish a living. I see you seem to have a lot of information about feeds etc.

You are right about this being a country in which by proper industry and intelligence people can make a living and a "dern sight" more worth the making here than in your cold country.

Children are assembled by busses ~~mx~~ over a big territory to our excellent public schools and most of our land is in convenient distance of school bus lines.

There is usually a good deal of complaining about school books, complaint of grafting on prices, and too frequent changes, about the same as I have observed elsewhere.

We have no tax direct on the individual except poll tax of \$1.50 a year, but almost all businesses are taxed at varying rates, to state, county and town--but no town taxes in Fairhope.

Hope I have done my duty by you. Hope to see you here.

Yours truly,



Plainwell Mich., Apr 20-33

/ Mrs. E. B. Gaston, Fairhope Ala.,

Dear Sir: I was very much surprised and very much pleased indeed to receive such a fine lot of descriptive matter relating to the Single Tax Corporation which you sent me. I ~~sure~~ appreciated your fine letter also. It seems to me you are to be envied the years of work and time you have given to this project, seeing it develop year by year into a substantial monument to an Ideal as yet shared by comparatively very few. I wish to state right here Mr. Gaston, that I may not be acquainted with all the details, yet I can see where it is far ahead of anything of a practical nature that I have ever studied. I have been quite interested in <sup>the</sup> International Bible Society books which deliver the message of the near-by culmination of the Last Days. Their belief based on Bible Prophecy is that the world is on the verge of the Great war of Armageddon. The last war before the end. Then those who are saved will set up an Ideal Nation on earth  
(over)



that will live in peace and harmony for a thousand years or more. They may be right in this, but it seems to me that if the people would look into the simpler forms of living, they would not need a world war to change the system of today. I saw in my local paper today an article by Sen. Reynolds of Nor. Carolina, who says in part "I never yet have been able to understand why we are persistently calling for the destruction of Cotton when Millions are praying for raiment with which to clothe their naked bodies," --- Where there are 125 million people --- hungry and starving while we of this Nation --- should indulge in wilful destruction of food for which Millions upon Millions are crying and praying at this very hour. Sen. Bailey of the same State says, if the Cotton Control Bill Be enacted that Tyranny has come to America and with it Regimented Socialism. Rep. Fish of New York says in part "The President has established a new form of government, he leans but little on his Cabinet or on Congress. The real government consists of a kitchen Cabinet of Professors



Radicals and near Socialists. Many of them are admirers of the system of government in Soviet Russia and are bending their efforts and energies to bring about an approach to that system in America. These are but straws that show ~~which~~ way the wind is blowing. Never in the history of the civilized world have the conditions been in such a state of unrest and discontentment as they are today. My ideas are not worth much, but it looks to me like maybe the old prophets were pretty good students of Natural Laws after all. Which brings us back to my objective - Henry Georges Land ~~Daestire~~ Page 9. "All this is contrary to nature. The poverty, -- the vice -- that spring from the unequal distribution of wealth, are not the results of Natural Law!" So Brother Gaston I am the guy that believes the day is coming when such justifiable practical projects as yours are going to win out, for "The Mills of the Gods grind slow" but the Laws of Nature are sure and certain, and will balance some time. Now I guess I've went far enough around



- to get down to ask you for a few details of the Single Tax Corp. The first thing that interests me is
- ✓ this: Have you any unimproved land open within a reasonable distance of School Market? What would be the average rental on
  - ✓ such land for 5 yrs? The average yearly rent increase is based on the rate of improvement is it not?
  - ✓ I do not see any reference to timber in the lease. Do you allow the lessee to use the timber that may be on the Leasehold? Have you any partly improved land you have taken back within the last 3 yrs? If so what terms and price? Does not
  - ✓ your lands run quite a lot to clay ~~top~~ soil? What depth to water on
  - ✓ the lands you tell me about? They tell me that around Foley they have to go 18 to 30 feet to get good water. Your country is higher so I imagine water is deeper. Where does the bulk of
  - ✓ your farm produce strike the R. Road, at Mobile or the Foley Branch? What do they do, have a buying station at Fairhope or does the individual have



- to market his own produce? Have  
✓ you any local industry? What is  
✓ the chances to get work and what  
are the average wage scale? Is  
✓ there any opening for a small  
business of any kind or is it like  
we are here, everything overdone?  
✓ Can one make a go of poultry and  
egg farming? I would like this  
branch of farming if there are not  
too much disease + vermin to fight. I  
have had experience in feed mixing  
and grinding, as well as raising stock  
from incubator chicks. Our climate  
makes it hard here, as we have to shut  
up our chickens about 5 mos a year  
and feed high priced feed - heat making  
as well as egg making feeds. Our  
grains run \$2 or better corn in the winter.  
The egg mashers run 20% each Corn - Bran  
middlings, Hulled Oats, and Meat scrap  
besides Oyster shell, grit, Charcoal, and  
green feeds. Some feed Cod liver oil  
in their mash, also dried Buttermilk  
if liquid milk is not available. I  
don't see why in your climate with  
green feed all the year, why one  
cannot produce eggs and meat.



a lot cheaper without the investment in Buildings etc., that are necessary here to make it pay out. My idea of your country may be wrong, but I cannot see why one who will put as much time and labor into farming there, that they do here, why they cannot make a decent living and a few cents for emergencies. The trouble here is short seasons, dry seasons, high taxes, poor soil, and poor prices, with one uncertain crop a year its a hard proposition farming. Last week we had snow almost every day, most of the gardens are not plowed yet. Nothing has started to grow very much. Lilac buds are swelling, grass is starting a little, and it will freeze tonight. Now I guess I've imposed on your kindness enough for one time so will bring this rambling letter to a close by saying that I appreciate your courtesy in sending me what information you have, and trusting to be able to come to your country this year and locate under your project. I am yours very truly, Wayne Lake.



P.S. There are one or two other things I did not think to ask about. one of them is about your land being so located that my children can reach school. I have 3 children of school age, and another will be in 3 yrs. do you have the bus system there? Our schools are up against it here in some places too. I note in the Hedge Ad. in your Courier, this statement "To obtain a standard and cheaper text book for the Public Schools," what does he mean? Maybe your schools make you buy new books every year, and change them to a younger



Child cannot use them another  
 year. We are up against it  
 here the same way. Town and  
 country in the same township  
 have different books. A big  
 graft for school book mfrs.  
 Some places in the States the  
 books are furnished until the  
 pupil graduates. What about  
 a sales tax, got it there?  
 What is your occupation  
 tax? We've got a \$2.00 head  
 tax to pay some time, but the  
 people rebelled Mar 1<sup>st</sup> and  
 wouldn't pay it. Never in  
 the history of Mich. has a  
 governor been so universally  
 disliked as our present one.  
 No help to the common people  
 at all. Well will close again.  
 W. L. H.



I note you have heard of our Single Tax Colony, I the secretary of same. We think it is the only economic salve for the world and that our application of it on a small scale and handicapped by the contrary system of taxing everything fixed in 1861, is a great improvement over ordinary conditions. I am sending you some printed matter, which I trust you will read carefully.

Our town was founded by the Single Tax Colony from Wayne, Mich. It includes also land bought and sold in the usual way. However, almost all the businesses are conducted on our land and most of the people of the town reside on the land. Dear Sir:-

At the request of our postmaster I am replying to your letter of 11th to him. I do not wonder that to you northern folks this country from what you hear of it, appears like a paradise to you. I am from Iowa, but in my 40th year of residence here, and would not on any account consider a return north to live.

We like the fertile soil of Iowa, but our climate is immensely better; the soil has a wide range of products; and knowledge how best to make use of it is growing constantly.

Commercial fertilizers are used largely--and it seems a dreadful handicap to an Iowa farmer to have to buy expensive materials and spread them on the ground before planting the seed--or along with it. But we are discovering or developing new soil enriching growths which take the place of commercial fertilizers--or increase their effectiveness, so that this bugbear is decreasing. And our seasons are so long that we can grow fertilizing crops and market crops the same season; and can grow legumes, some of them in the winter and others in the summer, and can often grow two market crops the same season; for instance we can fertilize rather heavily in the early spring, say January for Irish potatoes, one of our principal market crops, get them off by May and replant the same ground to Irish sweet potatoes or corn, and get the second crop out of the way of a winter-growing crop like Austrian peas.

You write of L. N. R. B. literature. I think the compilers of this are at pains to make it accurate--to give facts--but to be taken with due allowance as better than the average, and which cannot be duplicated every time. In practically every pamphlet they let out, there is mention of Fairhope and pictures of places or crops growing.

The "subsistence farming" idea is very much to the now-a-days and well so; and there is no section of the country better adapted to it than this; with the chance to have something come from the ground almost every week in the year in normal seasons.

Our streams and bays are also well stocked with fish and the bays with oysters and this is a great help.



I note you have heard of our Single Tax Colony, I am the secretary of same. We think it is the only economic salvation for the world and that our application of it on a small scale and handicapped by the contrary system of taxing everything fixed in the laws is a great improvement over ordinary conditions. I am sending you some printed matter, which I trust you will read carefully.

Our town was founded by the Single Tax colonists from Iowa, ~~comprised~~ but includes also land bought and sold in the usual way. However, almost all the businesses are conducted on our land and most of the people of the town reside on it; and it is now the largest town in the county, having passed the county seat.

We are immediately on the shore of Mobile Bay. Our greatest handicap is that we have no good hard-surfaced road into our town. That however, will be remedied in a few years.

We have a boat operating between Fairhope and Mobile. Years ago we had two big boats, one allowed 100 passengers operating alternately between here and Mobile; but a series of causeways and bridges was put across the waters of the bay in 1927, with a toll of \$1 for an ordinary car, trucks and busses more, and each passenger above the driver charged 10 cents.

However, we have excellent stores and all ordinary want can be about as well supplied as in Mobile.

While we are strong for Fairhope and glad to have other people come and share our advantages with us, we do not like to urge other people to do so, without enough to give them a reasonable to get a start. And always recommend people to come or send some one you trust to investigate, before undertaking to move.

Our Colony is not a money-making institution, as you will find by reading our printed matter.

Hope to see you or a representative here soon.

Yours very truly,

THE FAIRHOPE SINGLE TAX CORPORATION,

By

Secretary.



Plainwell Mich. 4/11-33.

Postmaster, Fairhope, Baldwin Co.,  
Ala.,  
Dear Sir:

I have, in various ways become interested in Baldwin Co., Ala., and as it is almost an impossibility to get information and details concerning many things one wishes to know before venturing into a new country, I was wondering if you could do so, or would give this letter to some one who would be generous enough to satisfy my thirst for knowledge of a country that to us northern folks looks like a paradise compared to our conditions here. We have had  $20^{\circ}$  below zero here in Feb'y, and today (Apr 11) it is spitting snow. Now according to L. & N. R.R. Co., literature you have 300 to 325 growing days per year. You have but very few frosts, and, as for hot weather, our northern cities average hotter in summer than N. O., Mobile & Pensacola. We see  $100^{\circ}$  days here every year. The last 4 years has saw our crops practically ruined



burnt up in August. Our planting  
 here is mostly done in May. The last  
 few years have been wet and cold in  
 the Spring, which does not give the  
 stuff a chance to get growth to  
 go through the dry Weather. Our  
 first frosts are usually in Sept. so  
 you can form an idea how we do  
 not or rather cannot comprehend  
 the difference between our one ~~uncertain~~  
 uncertain crop per year climate and  
 your 2 and 3 crop climate and live  
 stock on pasture practically all the  
 time. One must live some way, and  
 I, and lots of others have always been  
 in the North and don't know any  
 thing different, so we make the best  
 of it, with our heavy clothing, our  
 large fuel bills, our doctor bills  
 fighting sickness caused by our  
 climate etc., occurring each and  
 every year forever as long as we  
 stay here. Prosperity is still  
 "around the corner" here. There has  
 been lots of people lost everything  
 they owned and many 5-5/10<sup>00</sup> per  
 year Salaried men have been on  
 C. W. A. work this winter. So I am



interested, and I must say I wonder if all these things are true in your country? There must be something I do not know about it, but I do not see just what it is. I have corresponded with others who say hard storms are rare, who say the water is good, who say that live stock are easily raised and are always in good condition. What about insect pests? What about fruit, potato, and other diseases that must be sprayed to produce a crop? We do here or take a chance also seed must be treated. Cherries, Apples, Plums, Berries, Peaches, etc., must be sprayed in commercial orchards, from 3 to 5 times per season. A friend of mine was telling about the Single Tax proposition in your country. What are the facts about it? Can you refer me to whoever handles the deal if there are any land still open. I am, as lots of others are, not very well supplied with ready cash, and I was wondering if this proposition would give one a chance to get a fair



start ~~on~~ with a limited Capital, If the  
 Conditions are one half as good as they  
 are represented, I sorely want to  
 try it anyhow. I am a married  
 Man with a family of 4 Children  
 and if I can get them somewhere  
 away from here where they do not  
 have to suffer with Colds, flu,  
 etc, which we always have here  
 every winter, I feel it is my duty  
 to them to do so. I have farmed it  
 here, have been in business, and  
 have worked for others, and it  
 is a tough row to hoe at anything  
 here to make a living. Please  
 do not think I am asking  
 these questions merely out of  
 curiosity, for I am not. I am  
 Certainly going to get somewhere  
 out of this Cold country, and if I  
 can find anything between now and  
 Sept, am going to go to it. I am  
 especially interested in Poultry  
 and fruit. Also Truck farming. I wish  
 to thank you in advance for  
 your courtesy, and assure you it  
 will be appreciated. Thank you, Yours  
 Truly, W. A. L.



Jan. 31, 1933.

John Lindstrom,  
2206 Giddings St.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of 18th at hand and noted. From what I hear of the situation in Chicago I think yourself and small family would be vastly better off with \$400 here than there. I know of some bargains in small farms, but it would take money to secure them and I would not advise you nor any one else to take a place without seeing it. As you do not expect to come until about the last of June nearly six months away, I suggest that you let the matter ride until near that time; though it would be a good idea for you to subscribe for the Courier, so that you might see many places advertised for sale and write for information on them. A place could be held perhaps for a month or so, in view of your coming to inspect it but not longer. The Courier would cost you 85 cents for 6 months. I am mailing you last couple of issues.

Yours very truly

---

Secretary.



2206 Giddings St.  
Chicago, Ill.  
January 18, 1932

Fairhope Single Tax Corp.  
Baldwin County, Ala.

Dear Sir:

I want to thank you for the printing matter and the letter that I received. Of course I prefer improved land if it is possible for me to get it. Do you think that it is possible for me to get started and make a living with the sum of \$400 in cash?

I am a church janitor and will not be able to get away to look at the farm until I come to stay. My small family and I intend to make the trip by truck, in the latter part of June.

There are other families interested who may come down the same time I do.

If you know of a nice little farm suitable for poultry raising please tell me so I can make arrangements before I arrive. I trust your honesty.

Yours sincerely,

*John Lindstrom*



2206 Gidding St  
Chicago Ill.  
Dec. 24. 1932.

Chairman,  
Single Tax Colony.  
Fairhope, Baldwin County, Ala.  
Dear Sir:

Your Single Tax Colony has  
interested me. Will you  
please give me information  
concerning the plan that  
has been established for  
new settlers in the Colony.  
Also please state the amount  
of taxes to be paid and when  
they are due.

Please inform me if there is  
any improved land to be had.  
I Thank you very kindly.  
Yours truly,  
John Lindstrom.



Dec. 31, 1932.

John Lindstrom,  
2206 Gidding St.,  
Chicago, Ill.

dear Sir:-

Yours of 27th at hand. I am taking pleasure in sending you some printed matter which ought to explain to you our Colony plan. The application for land pretty well explains it.

It costs \$100 to become a member of the Colony corporation, but it is not necessary to become a member in order to get land and enjoy all the benefits of the organization, except holding office and voting on officers.

To get land one has only to select land which is available and pay a half year's rent at the rated rent charge, which runs around a dollar to \$3.50 an acre. If there is any timber of any value on it, that is appraised and has to be paid for, when it becomes yours to make use of as you see fit, dispose of or let stand to grow into future value.

Just now there are some favorable opportunities to get land with some improvements, clearing fencing, fruit and nut trees, etc. Of course, farming, here as elsewhere, is in the dumps. If one has a little cash he could pick up great bargains, inside and outside the Colony.

If you are interested and situated so that you could come down and look things over, I strongly recommend it.

Read through the matter I send and let me hear from you further. There is one thing to bear in mind, that while there is no money in farming today, the ability of land to sustain human life by its products is as great as ever; and the way things are going now, that may be a serious thing with many.

Hoping to hear from you further,

Yours very truly,



June 6, 193 1

Connie Long,  
Route 1,  
Jackson, Ala.

Dear Sir:-

I am sorry that yours of May 15th appears to have been overlooked--was addressed to Bank of Fairhope and referred to us.

We could accommodate you with five to ten acres of land near town, but it would have to be unimproved land, unless you dealt with some one already in possession and reached an agreement with him regarding a purchase of his improvements. We would be glad to steer you up against some opportunities of that sort.

It is an easy drive over from Jackson and I suggest you drive over some day and look us over.

In the meantime am ~~xxxx~~ mailing you some printed matter.

Yours very truly

FAIRHOPE SINGLE TAX CORPORATION,

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary.



Jackson, Ala.  
May 15, 1931  
Bank of Fairhope.  
Fairhope, Ala.

Dear Sirs:-

I am interested  
in securing a small  
house and 5 or 10 acres  
of the Colony land  
there.

Thinking that you  
might be able to  
help me to get in  
touch with the people  
who own it prompted  
me to write you.

any help or in-  
formation you can  
give me will be app-  
reciated Resp  
Rauler Connie Long.



Nov. 19, 1930

H. R. Lorimer,  
308 Arthur St.,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Sir:-

The best way to answer your inquiry of 10th, I think, is to mail you a copy of our lease and application--which becomes a part of the lease contract.

An application in this form has to be made, whether one is applying for a piece of land in the Colony's hands, that is unleased to any one else; or whether a transfer is secured of some one else's leasehold by buying his improvements.

The lease you will see is for 99 years, but the rent is adjustable from year to year.

Yours very truly

---

Secretary.



Des Moines Iowa

Nov 10-30

Tranhope Single Tax Corp.

Gentlemen will

you advise me as to how  
to get one of your lots  
and what kind of a  
title they carry  
one builds on them  
your add in the Tran-  
hope paper reads as if  
you do not give deeds.  
How then could one  
build on a lot.

Respectfully

H. R. G. G. G.

308 Arthur St

Des Moines

Iowa



LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE RAILROAD COMPANY  
THE LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE EMPLOYEES' MAGAZINE

THOS. E. OWEN,  
EDITOR

LOUISVILLE, KY.

June 19, 1935.

Fairhope Courier,  
Fairhope, Ala.

Gentlemen:

Our attention has been called to Section 5373 of the Alabama Code which provides that "Editors and publishers of newspapers in Alabama may exchange with railroads and other common carriers in this State advertisements and space in the columns of their newspapers for mileage issued to editors and publishers of newspapers over the railroads and other common carriers."

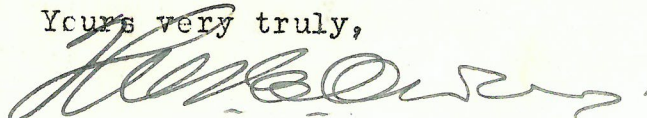
The Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company has given consideration to the suggestion and has concluded to enter into agreements, with such newspapers as desire it, to place some additional advertising on an exchange basis. The advertising matter to be inserted under this plan will be principally of a policy or institutional nature and will in no way affect the schedules of such passenger department advertising, if any, as may be run on a cash basis.

Our proposal is to issue passenger scrip of a value equal to the total amount of the contract entered into with each newspaper publisher, computed at the newspaper's prevailing advertising rates. Probably a dozen, or more, advertisements of this nature will be prepared during the year (July 1, 1935 to July 1, 1936) for insertion in newspapers with which exchange contracts are made. Roughly, these advertisements will each occupy a space equivalent to approximately two columns in width and eight to twelve inches in depth.

The scrip may be used by the editors and publishers for the purchase of transportation on any of the passenger trains of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad for journeys wholly within the state of Alabama.

As information, there is enclosed herewith form of suggested contract. If you are interested in accepting additional L. & N. Railroad advertising on this basis, won't you please send me your regular advertising rates and mechanical requirements so that contract and full information can be prepared for you?

Yours very truly,





LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE RAILROAD COMPANY

Passenger Traffic Department

ALABAMA INTRASTATE NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING CONTRACT

An agreement made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, between \_\_\_\_\_, publisher of \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, Alabama, hereinafter referred to as "THE NEWSPAPER", party of the first part, and the LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE RAILROAD COMPANY, hereinafter referred to as "THE RAILROAD", party of the second part,

WITNESSETH:

1. The Newspaper agrees to publish at its regular published advertising rates, as set forth herein, such matter as the railroad may find to its advantage to advertise during the year\_\_\_\_, to the aggregate value of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ \_\_\_\_\_) Dollars, computed at its regular advertising rates, as specified hereinbelow, copy for which amount of advertising the railroad agrees to furnish; and in full payment and compensation for such services the railroad agrees to issue, and the newspaper agrees to accept, individual non-transferable press scrip books of the transportation value of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ \_\_\_\_\_), good only in exchange for transportation within the State of Alabama, during the calendar year\_\_\_\_. Whenever the charges for advertising have reached the maximum amount provided by this contract the newspaper will promptly notify the railroad of the fact, and in default of such notice the railroad will not be liable to pay for any advertising published in the newspaper during the time the railroad is without such notice. The railroad's usual passenger department advertising, paid for in cash, is not included in the advertising covered by this paragraph.

2. The non-transferable press scrip books shall be issued only for the use of the Editor and Publisher of the newspaper.

3. Said non-transferable press scrip books shall be non-transferable and non-negotiable, and if offered for passage by other than one of the persons entitled to use it, as described in paragraph 2, it shall be forfeited.

4. The said non-transferable press scrip books issued by the railroad shall not be good even within the State of Alabama for any part of an interstate journey, and the party of the first part covenants and agrees that said scrip books shall not be used for the purchase of transportation within the State of Alabama for any part of an interstate journey, and if so used for an interstate journey, the scrip book or ticket issued thereon will be forfeited.

5. The said non-transferable scrip books herein provided for shall be issued only by the General Passenger Agent or such Agents of the railroad as the General Passenger Agent may authorize to issue the same.

6. This agreement may be cancelled and abrogated by either party upon thirty days' notice in writing from either party to the other. Unless sooner cancelled it shall terminate at 12 o'clock midnight, June 30, 1936. Upon cancellation of this contract by either party unearned transportation shall be surrendered and cancelled. In the event the total value of the advertising published is more than the total value of the transportation scrip furnished the newspaper at the time of cancellation, the railroad shall issue additional scrip of sufficient value to balance the account. If, upon cancellation of the contract, the newspaper surrenders unused transportation, but the total value of transportation theretofore used exceeds the value of the advertising published, the railroad



will be permitted to publish such additional advertising as may be necessary to balance the account.

7. Neither after the expiration nor upon the cancellation of this contract shall the newspaper be entitled to the redemption in cash for any unused transportation.

8. The newspaper will place the name of Thos. E. Owen, Editor, L. & N. Employes' Magazine, 908 W. Broadway, Louisville, Kentucky, on its mailing list and send him regularly a copy of each issue of the paper.

9. Rates to be charged by the newspaper:

10. Rates to be charged for transportation are the rates specified in the schedules and tariffs filed according to law.

In witness whereof the parties hereto have executed these presents the day and year first above written.

Executed in presence of us:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Newspaper.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Louisville and  
Nashville Railroad  
Company.

This contract to be made in triplicate, one copy furnished the paper, two copies retained by the railroad.



June 21, 1935.

Thos. E. Owen, Editor  
L. & N. ~~RxRx~~ ~~Men~~ Employees Magazine,  
Louisville, Ky.  
Dear Mr. Owen:-

Yours of 19th with offer of transportation within the state, in exchange for advertising received, and I thank you for same; but I travel so little that it seems hardly worth while to contract for same.

Yours very truly,

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Ed. and Pub. Fairhope Courier.



May 23, 1935.

Mr. W.O. Lott,  
box 1015,  
Mobile, Ala.

Dear Mr. Lott:-

I hope you have received replies from the other two parties you addressed at the same time as myself, with regard to the attached item from the Courier; I tried to get some James attention to it a couple of times, but he too busy and have not seen Mayor Ruge. It will be up to him to particularly to reply to your query, about ~~running~~ extending the improvement of Mobile Ave, to the Bighead Gulley bridge. Undoubtedly it was the understanding at Montgomery, with the State Highway Department and the federal road man that the cross county road was to connect this road with Fairhope; there being some discussion of whether it should stop at the town limit or come to the center of town; if, indeed, it should not be improved through the Town. Glad you raised the point.

The north line of the town, as runs, as I understand, through the north part of the Mayor's house; never have had it exactly pointed out to me.

As stated in this week's paper, work will be begun on the street improvements program within a very few days, at the north town limit.

Yours very truly,

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Mobile, Ala., May 17th 1935.

Mayor Howard Ruge,  
Fairhope, Alabama.

Dear Sir:-

The undersigned understands that the Town of Fairhope's paving plans, among other things, provides for a hard surfaced roadway from north limit to south limit of the Town: Further that the south limit is at or about the south line of the Woman's Club House. If this is true, would you not have a much better place to stop at the bridge over the gully, just beyond the Club house?

I assume you cannot spend Federal money beyond the limit of the Town, but cannot the Town of Fairhope find a way, otherwise, to take it to the bridge? Or cannot the Town of Fairhope and the Baldwin County Commissioners between them find this means?

I take the liberty of sending a copy of this enquiry to Commissioner James E. Gaston and will be glad to have an expression from him as well as from you.

Yours very truly,

Cy James E. Gaston,  
Commissioner-Baldwin Co.,  
Fairhope, Ala.

W. O. Lett  
Box 1015 - Mobile.

(Blind Copy)

Dear Mr. Gaston:-

Note what I have asked the Mayor and the Commissioner. What do you think?

W.O.L.

P.S.

I have read and re-read this news item a number of times. I do not understand it. If and when the Robertsdale-Fairhope is finished will it not come in from Fish River to north line of the Town of Fairhope. Wasnt that what Montgomery promised two years ago rather than a road from Robertsdale in to the Shore Road?

W.O.L.



## Highway 31, Stapleton to Bridgehead to be Paved at Once

Gaston Scott chairman of the Alabama Highway Commission, has given positive assurance of the early paving of the gap of ten and one-half miles of Highway Thirty-one, connecting Cochrane Bridge with the completed section from the north at Stapleton.

Six and one-half miles of grading and draining were completed during the winter with convict labor, but the lack of sufficiently warm weather for the type of paving—"double bituminous mix"—with slag surface, (the same as that from Robertsdale toward Fairhope) caused suspension of the work.

Mr. Scott says the remaining 4 miles will be prepared for surfacing at once and the whole ten and one-half miles surfaced.

Two other gaps in this main highway from the Gulf to the Great Lakes are under construction, and when completed will give Mobile and this section their first all weather route to the north.

At the bridgehead this road will be 11 miles from Fairhope, but with completion of the Stapleton-Loxley road and Robertsdale - Fairhope road to a connection with the Eastern Shore road, which we hope for in the near future and the completion of Fairhope's street improvement program we would have a gap of less than a mile unpaved by that route.

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# Congressional Record

SEVENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

## A CONSTITUTION FOR CORPORATIONS

### RADIO ADDRESS

OF

HON. JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY

OF WYOMING

August 25, 1935

(Printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of Aug. 26, 1935)

Mr. LA FOLLETTE. Mr. President, the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. O'MAHONEY] last night delivered a very interesting address over the radio in connection with the subject matter covered by an important bill which he introduced, Senate bill 3363, a bill to insure domestic tranquillity and to promote the general welfare by regulating and promoting commerce with foreign nations and among the States. I ask unanimous consent that the address may be inserted in the RECORD.

Mr. NORRIS. Mr. President, may I ask the Senator what the bill is?

Mr. LA FOLLETTE. It is a bill to provide, among other things, for the licensing of corporations doing business in interstate commerce.

There being no objection, the address was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Do you remember the story of the aged Isaac and his two sons, Esau, the beloved first-born, and Jacob, whom his mother, Rebecca, taught to dissemble that he might receive the blessing intended for his elder brother?

His hands covered with the skin of a goat so that the blind patriarch might mistake him for the hairy Esau, Jacob approached his father's bedside. "The voice is the voice of Jacob", said the old man, "but the hands are the hands of Esau." And Jacob, who had already traded his more simple brother out of his birthright, received the blessing that Isaac wanted to bestow upon Esau.

Today managers of great corporations, financiers who have already traded the States out of their economic birthright, which is the power to regulate corporate commerce, are playing the role of Jacob before the American people. Arrayed in the habiliments of defenders of the Constitution, they seek the blessing of the people that they may resume complete, unregulated, and irresponsible sway over the economic fortunes of America. The voice is the voice of Monopoly, though the hand seems to be the hand of the constitutional fathers.

#### \* MONOPOLY DEFENDS THE CONSTITUTION

From the headquarters of many a corporate giant there is pouring over the land an incongruous flood of literature in defense

of popular rights. The president of a great nationally known corporation, the parent of a numerous progeny of affiliates and subsidiaries, doing business in every village and hamlet, only a few weeks ago sent a letter to every one of his four hundred and fifteen thousand-odd stockholders attacking a recent act of Congress and implying that the interests of the small stockholder are being put in jeopardy at Washington. The president of a powerful New York bank, is sending copies of the Constitution to his stockholders and customers, telling them that legislation by representation is the heritage of all Americans and implying that the principle of popular government is somehow being endangered by the National Government.

In like manner, other captains of commerce and industry are raising the banner of the Constitution. Employees, stockholders, and the public generally are asked to believe that the foundations of our American system are being undermined by those who would rescue the people of America from the economic despotism which during a generation has driven 70 percent of our population below the poverty line though the general wealth of the Nation has been steadily increasing all the time. A great campaign is underway to reestablish, not the freedom of the individual, but the freedom of corporate monopolies to control the economic resources of the United States.

The Constitution of our country was drafted in 1787 to establish and perpetuate free popular government. How much popular government exists today with respect to the huge corporate agencies that dominate the economic life of this Nation? How much control does the public exercise over them? How much control do their own stockholders exercise over them? Every person who hears my voice knows that the principles of self-government upon which our political system is based have little or no application in the modern corporate economic system by which are carried on the industry and commerce that affect the happiness and prosperity of 125,000,000 people.

#### CORPORATE SYSTEM A MODERN FEUDALISM

I am perfectly well aware of the fact that the great majority of the officers and directors of American corporations are sincere, able, and patriotic men. I know that most of the stockholders and employees are likewise inspired by the highest motives and that they desire not only justice for themselves, their associates, and their customers, but also the maintenance of all the traditions of popular government and liberty which have made ours the greatest Nation of all times. I know that the corporate system has been and will continue to be an indispensable factor in the development of our country. But the fact remains that it is governed by the principles of feudalism, not by the principles of democracy.

If you are a stockholder in any national corporation engaged in national commerce, let me ask you what voice or representation you have on the board of directors of the corporation in which you have invested your savings. The answer, unless you are yourself a member of the board, is, none; and this is true whether you own voting stock or nonvoting stock, preferred stock or bonds; you are actually without representation in the corporation to



which you have committed your fortunes. You have entrusted your capital to men whom you do not know and who, though they are in fact your employees, you cannot discharge or even direct.

Under the present corporate system you must act entirely upon faith. I freely acknowledge that in most instances this faith is wholly justified, but the managers of your corporation may, if they choose, use your money for their own personal advantage. They may, if they choose, use for wholly selfish purposes the tremendous economic power that has been placed in their hands through the investments of hundreds of thousands of trusting citizens. You have nothing in the world to say about it. You are absolutely at their mercy. The employees of these far-flung economic institutions, men and women who are numbered in the millions, are equally helpless though, unlike the stockholder who invests money, they have invested their very lives.

This, then, is the fact to which we cannot close our eyes, that neither stockholders nor employees nor the public at large have had any effective protection under our present corporate system. This is not because the power is lacking or because the need of establishing what might be called a national constitution for national corporations has not been recognized. It is solely because, though urged to do so for a generation by the ablest statesmen and jurists, Congress has not exercised the power which the Constitution unquestionably gives it to regulate national commerce in the public interest.

#### NATIONAL CONTROL FOR NATIONAL COMMERCE

We shall fail to understand this problem unless we keep constantly in mind the fact that when the Constitution was drafted there were no national industrial and commercial corporations. They are the product of the last 70 or 80 years. We have never had a national incorporation law, though a quarter of a century ago, in a special message to Congress, a president—William Howard Taft—who later became a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, urged one. Because we have had no such law, the corporations which shape the economic life of the whole people came into existence under charters granted by the several States under local and special laws. A corporation which receives its existence from Delaware or New Jersey under a charter which increases the powers of management to the highest degree and reduces its responsibility to the lowest, carries on its business throughout the land, regardless of State lines and, to all intents and purposes, above the law. These corporations are greater than many of the States, with more stockholders and employees than some States have inhabitants, with greater assets and larger revenues than many others.

The people of America would not think of allowing a self-perpetuating board of managers, operating under self-drafted regulations, to rule a political state. Yet that is exactly what we tolerate with respect to these great corporations which are the very nerve system of our economic life. And because there is no national rule to restrain them, a few ambitious and irresponsible men in positions of corporate authority have the power to destroy the security of our entire industrial and commercial structure.

There is not a banker or a lawyer or a business man in any community of the country who does not know how wide-spread, serious, and unwarranted have been the abuses of corporate power, abuses which have been made possible because the checks and balances which the Constitution imposes upon political government are utterly lacking in corporate government. To these abuses, more than to any other one thing, may be attributed the disaster of 1929; and it may be predicted with absolute certainty that no mere political change can effect permanent economic stability until as a Nation we have developed a means of establish-

ing in commerce and industry the same principles of representative government of which we have been so proud in our political institutions.

As is so often the case in ordinary human contacts, our chief trouble arises from a misconception of a simple fact. As a people we have confused corporate rights and personal rights. We seem to have completely forgotten that corporations are the creatures of the people, with no rights or powers save those conferred upon them by the people through their governments, and that it is the solemn duty of the National Government, since the State governments are powerless, so to circumscribe the activities of the corporations as to preserve all of their undoubted advantages as instruments of social and economic progress while preventing the misuse of the powers with which they are endowed.

Of course, the managers and stockholders of corporations are fearful of Government interference. Of course, the people are fearful of too much government. Of course, it is not the business of government to meddle in personal and private affairs. The Jeffersonian axiom that "that government is best which governs least" is still the rule by which we should guide our course. But of what avail is it to curb irresponsible political power if we allow irresponsible economic power to remain unrestrained? It is only because we have permitted arbitrary economic power to dominate our national commerce and industry that it has been necessary for the Federal Government to use the emergency powers which alone rescued this Nation from the brink of irreparable disaster to which unregulated, irresponsible economic power had brought it.

#### INDUSTRIAL FEUDALISM AND BUREAUCRACY—TWIN DANGERS

We must recognize that not alone management but the stockholder has a stake in corporation control. We must recognize that not alone the owners and managers of capital but the wage workers have a stake in corporation control. We must recognize that not only capital and labor but the consumer and the numerous public also have a stake. For we have come to that point in our national development when we must realize that no man, no State, no industry can live an isolated life. The complexities of our modern existence are such that we rise and fall together—one great Nation of Americans under the Constitution in an indestructible Union of indestructible States. We cannot continue to permit industrial corporations, created by authority of the people, to handle the very subject matter of our existence without effective responsibility to law. Continued failure to act means one of two things; either that industrial feudalism will crush our boasted liberties and destroy the Constitution under a species of fascism, or those same liberties will be lost through an equally abhorrent centralization of power in bureaucracy. This twin danger has been growing almost unobserved for more than a generation. If we are to avoid it, all the patriotism, all the patience, all the vision of our people will be needed.

The answer to this problem is democracy in industry under a national statute which shall not put commerce and industry under the heel of some bureaucracy but which shall lay down the broad general rules under which national corporations must operate in the national interest. To this end I have recently introduced in the Senate of the United States what I believe to be a perfectly constitutional bill to regulate commerce among the States by providing a national licensing system and a national incorporation law. The purpose of the plan outlined in this bill is not to regiment business or industry, but to release it; not to suppress it, but to foster it; not to check the expansion of any unit, but to make possible a continuous growth by which the immeasurable and boundless potentialities of our national resources may be made available to all our people.

There is no reason for the existence of economic misery under our flag if we but have the will to push forward with common sense and tolerance under the Constitution.