

Equal Taxation.

"Equal taxation of every species of property according to its real value, including Government Bonds, and other public securities."—Fourth Resolution of the Democratic Platform.

The above resolution expresses in clear and terse language the Democratic idea of the principle which should underlie every system of taxation. The proposition is so fair, so just and equitable, as to commend itself to the common sense of every one who reads it without explanation or advocacy from its friends.

The only proper and legitimate object of the government is to furnish all persons with protection for their lives, liberties, property and characters. No government can be maintained without more or less expense. All interests protected by the government should contribute fairly and proportionably to its support.

Ever since the Radical party went into power, it has in its unjust determination against the poor and in favor of the rich in the manner of raising the revenues for the government. Under the policy of that party, the great amount of wealth invested in government bonds, and other securities of the general government, amounting to nearly three thousand millions of dollars (\$3,000,000,000) is exempt from taxation, whether for general state, county or local purposes.

Why should these bonds not be taxed? The money invested in them is paying a greater profit than if invested in houses, or lands, or in any of the ordinary business in which our people engage. The bondholder, without labor or care, receives from the government as interest, upon his bond, six per cent in gold, equal to more than eight per cent in greenbacks, every year.

It is alleged that the government solemnly promised bondholders that their bonds should not be taxed—that this promise is contained in the law by which the bonds were authorized to be issued—that the bondholder purchased his bonds on the faith of that promise—that now to tax these bonds would be a breach of faith, a violation of contract, and to the extent of the tax, a repudiation by the government of its own engagements!

What was the contract? If this were all true as alleged, the answer would be short and simple: any political party which, under any pretext would pledge the faith of the government, perpetually to exempt one fifth of the wealth of the nation (and that the most productive portion of it) from all taxation, thus throwing an unjust burden upon the remainder, is unfit to be intrusted with the administration of the affairs of the government, and should be kicked out of power on the first opportunity given to the people of doing so under the forms of law.

By the act of February 25th, 1862, which authorized the issue of the five-cent bonds, Congress provided: "All stocks, bonds and other securities of the United States held by individuals, corporations, or associations, within the United States, shall be exempt from taxation by or under State authority." Now this is the contract—not that these bonds

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shall be exempt from all taxation but exempt from taxation by or under State authority. The right of the general government to tax these bonds like other property, is as clearly and fully implied as is the right of the State government to tax them taken away. Whoever bought one of these bonds, did it with as full knowledge that the government reserved the right to tax them for its own purposes, as he did with the knowledge that the States were prohibited from laying any taxes upon them.

Avoiding the question of taxing the government bonds, the abolitionists allege that the resolution quoted at the head of this article commits the Democratic party to the policy of assessing all property, real and personal at its actual value, and then imposing upon it a United States tax as high as the rich man pays upon his income, to wit: five per cent or as much as the National banks pay upon their circulation, one twenty-fifth of one per cent per month, equal to five mills on the dollar per annum.

All branches of our complex system of governments, federal, state and local, must be supported by taxation. All subjects of taxation cannot be assessed equally to support each of these governments, for the constitution gives the general government exclusive control over some of these subjects of taxation, which compels the state and municipal governments to keep their hands off.

Who then supports the general government? During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, the government collected \$163,600,000, as duties on imports! One hundred and sixty three millions of dollars in gold! Who paid it? The importing merchants advanced it to the government, and then charged it as an additional price upon the articles imported, and it was ultimately paid by the consumer! On every pound of tea there is a tax of TWENTY FIVE cents in gold, on coffee FIVE cents a pound in gold, on sugar, FOUR cents a pound in gold, on every yard of calico, muslin, flannel, or cloth imported there is a tax levied which must be PAID IN GOLD.

paid in all the districts of the county for one year taken from the records.—These various taxes are levied upon the assessed value of all real and personal property in the county. Now how stands the account between the farmer and the bondholder? The farmer and mechanic pays every year upon all their property whether real or personal to support our governments, as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Tax type and amount. County and relief taxes, 10 mills; School and building taxes, 9; Road, 6; Poor, 5.

Total, 30 mills on the dollar or three per cent. upon the assessed value of all their property.—For the same purposes the bondholder pays nothing, even though he might own a million of dollars of government bonds. Why? Because, an abolition Congress provided that these bonds should not be taxed "by or under State authority." When the bondholder pays to the general government thirty mills, or three cents on the dollar upon his bonds, he will be taxed no higher than the farmer or the laboring man now is to support the local governments. Because the bondholder is exempt by contract from bearing any portion of our local burdens, he should be made to bear as much more of the burdens imposed by the general government. The unfairness of the radical policy is shown by a single illustration.

These bonds are not only exempted from all taxation for state and local purposes under the contract made by an Abolition Congress, but they pay nothing to support the GENERAL GOVERNMENT, although no contract stands in the way. This however is denied by the radicals. They assert that the bondholder pays an income tax—five per cent upon that portion of his income in excess of one thousand dollars a year! So does every one else in addition to paying thirty mills on the dollar upon all his property for local purposes. This is no tax upon the bonds, nor a special tax upon the bondholder. Again it is said that the NATIONAL BANK, which holds over THREE HUNDRED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, (\$300,000,000) of government bonds, pays monthly a tax of ONE TWENTY-FOURTH OF ONE PER CENT, upon their circulation, and the same tax upon their discounts!

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bondholder pays as heavy a tax upon his bonds towards the support of the general government, as the farmer does upon his land to support the local governments, these taxes PAYABLE IN GOLD upon the necessities of life may be greatly reduced if not entirely taken off. Then and not till then may the poor man expect to buy his tea, coffee, sugar, molasses, muslin, calico, flannel, cloth, and all other necessities of life at the old Democratic prices of 1860. Laboring men of Centre County, are you willing to pay double prices for these articles which are necessary for the support of your wives and children, in order that the First National Bank at Belleville which pays no taxes upon its bonds, may draw seven thousand eight hundred dollars a year in gold as interest? If you are, support the abolition party and its policy. If you are tired of this, repudiate that party and its policy of favoritism towards the bondholders, and support the Democratic party and its policy of EQUAL TAXATION.

The National Debt.

A learned gentleman, who addressed the Radicals at their Club-Room, in this place, a few evenings since, is said to have expressed the novel idea that the present is no time to propose or discuss plans for the payment of the National debt. The entire subject was disposed of in that summary way—a way that may have been exceedingly satisfactory to his own sense of ease and complacency under difficulties, but which certainly cannot be quite so agreeable to the great mass of tax paying people, who, unfortunately for his theory, are not so happily constituted by nature as to be able to laugh, with emotions of pleasure, when scourged by the onerous exactions of radical excess, or even to simulate a contented demeanor while oppressive burthens are being heaped upon them.

The fact that we are oppressed with a National debt of \$2,500,000,000 need not to have been repeated to make it known—and the fact that this debt must be paid is also fully realized and well understood—but the notion that the present is no time to propose or discuss plans for its payment is certainly a novelty in politics which must have caused a grimace of derision to settle upon the face of every sensible man who heard it.

So, now, the Democratic party—regarding the preposterous idea of our learned friend—regarding it as a manifest absurdity—takes time by the forelock, and does propose and discuss a plan for the payment of this debt, already enormous in its proportions, and still growing, under radical misrule, at the rate of over TEN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS A MONTH!

Think of it, tax payers! The public debt still increasing at this fearful rate! Is it not a matter that demands your earnest attention? Your serious consideration? Whether, by continuing the Radicals in power, your burthens of taxation are to be increased, in order to keep pace with this growing indebtedness, or, whether, by a change, the swelling tide is to be stayed, and the plan of the Democratic party for its gradual payment and final extinguishment, put into successful execution. This plan is given in the 3rd plank of the Democratic National Platform! Read it! Here it is:

3 Payment of the public debt of the United States as rapidly as practicable: all moneys drawn from the people by taxation, except so much as is requisite for the necessities of the government, economically administered, being honestly applied to such payment, and where the obligations of the government do not expressly state upon their face, or the law under which they were issued does not provide that they shall be paid in coin, they ought in right and in justice, to be paid in the lawful money of the United States.

Auxiliary to this plan—so just and equitable—a change will bring about other reforms in the administration of the government that will be of incalculable benefit. The bond barons, now exempt from all state, county and municipal taxes, will be compelled to bear a just share of these taxes! Unknown millions of money will no longer be recklessly and wickedly squandered and stolen through such agencies of oppression and fraud as the Freedmen's Bu-

reau! More than fifty millions a year will be saved by reducing the standing army—now only of use to tyrants in their effort to destroy the liberties of the people of ten states of this—Union to its proper peace-footing! Reform will be the watchword and the rule of action in every department of the government, instead of the reckless and rationally extravagant that now absorbs FIVE HUNDRED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS a year, and permits the debt to increase.

Turn out these unfaithful public servants, and put better men in their places! Do this, and give success to Democratic principles! The Democratic plan for the payment of the public debt will accomplish the purpose, and in accomplishing that, the weight of the oppression that now prioritizes the labor and industry of the country will be taken off, and the danger that threatens such direful consequences, should the Radicals triumph in the coming elections, will pass away as the mist of the early morn, and a bright day will dawn upon us. Elect a Democratic Congress, and with it, Seymour and Blair, and you are saved!

Reconstruction Expenses.

In Mr. BECKLEY'S speech, published in our last number, there was an important but important omission in the enumeration of appropriations made by Congress to the purpose of Reconstruction. This error we now correct by giving below the Joint Resolution of July 19th, 1867. This Reconstruction in its original form (as appears from the Congressional Globe) was for an appropriation of \$1,675,000,000 based upon estimates from the War Department, but the amount was cut down on Mr. Beckley's motion to \$1,000,000.

Joint resolution to carry into effect the several laws providing for the more efficient government of the Rebel States. BEIT RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That for the purpose of carrying into effect the above named acts, there be appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of one million of dollars, to be paid over the President's Veto, July 19 1867. (Cong. Globe, 1st Sept 40th Cong App p 49)

More Swindling Unearthed.

It is impossible for Democratic journals to place before the public all the facts and figures that are comprised in the enormous bulk of corruption, and fraud, and maladministration by the Republican party. The total is huge beyond the powers of human computation. It extends over a period of eight years. It covers the expenditure and waste within that brief space of time of more money than was expended from the foundation of the republic down to the year 1860, including the expenses of the revolutionary war, the war of 1812, and the Mexican war. It includes the frightful extravagance of a Congress more wasteful of the people's money than any other in all history. It embraces corruption in every branch of the public service. It includes frauds of greater magnitude and more frequent perpetration than the history of any other civilized country during an equal period can show. It is made up of a thousand swindles that have never been brought to the light for every fifty swindles that knavery did not succeed in keeping from the public knowledge. It is a huge, hard, monstrous, and immovable fact, that stands like a black mountain to condemn the political imbecility and knavery under which it grew.

Another of the hideous hidden frauds has recently been partially unearthed at Washington. The unearthing process has gone far enough to show that "The report to Congress concerning alleged frauds in the payment of negro bounties was intended as a piece of whitewashing to cover up the iniquity of parties against whom the most unrequital evidence was easily obtainable." How not to attain the unequivocal evidence that would enable the people to behold another huge swindle upon the public treasury, seems to have been the point held steadily in view by the congressional whitewashers. This is but one new exposure in thousands that are yet to come, unless the Radical whitewashers can prevent the people from gaining possession of their government through a change of public servants. There is no ground of doubt that a change in the administration will disclose to the people of this country that they have been the worst cheated and the most awfully swindled people by their rulers that ever lived in the world. —[Holmes County, (Ohio.) Farmer.

The people are said to be starving in the region of the Red river of the North, owing to the destruction of crops.

A terrible storm passed over Central Illinois, doing much damage.

Lady's Tribute to Gov. Seymour.

The Revolution, Mrs. Cady's Stanton's paper, publishes an extract from a letter of a lady in regard to the Presidential nomination:

In private conversation Gov. Seymour's instructive and interesting, and, if possible, more remarkable for his elegance of manner and graceful courtesy in the drawing-room than for his matchless eloquence and magnetic power as a public speaker. Although most captivated in private life, he is in no sense a man of forms or fashion. In his presence the plainest persons are placed at their ease and feel at once they are with a kind and good man, democratic in all instincts, principles, and purposes. Simple and unostentatious, strictly temperate, he uses neither strong nor spirituous liquors, nor tobacco; of the most refined tastes and elevated morals, it is said of him, by those who have known him from his earliest youth, that he was never under the influence of strong drink; never known to tell an untruth, or utter a profane oath—to indulge in a vulgar story, a coarse anecdote or an obscene jest; nor did he ever violate the proprieties of the Sabbath, or sit at a gambler's table, or cross the threshold of more fashionable vice. Priggy of life is with him a marked characteristic. Educated in the Episcopal church, he has ever remained faithful to his communion, adhering its doctrines by a blameless life and multiplied deeds of charity. Yet free from sectarianism, he has contributed liberally to the erection and maintenance of every other church and place of public worship in the city of Utica and its vicinity. An active trustee of Hamilton College, he has been made by it an LL. D., as well as by a Methodist University in another State. The children of the orphan asylum have been guests at his house, (which is a house of prayer) and it was noticeable that, when the news of his nomination for President reached Utica, these children spontaneously turned out in procession, and manifested their joy in many pleasant ways peculiar to the innocency of childhood.

What they are to Vote for.

The Radical leaders are struggling to make their disciples believe that the contest now is a "continuation of the war" against the rebellion. But here is what the supporters of radicalism are really expected to vote for:

- Taxes for the payment of interest on the national debt till the next century.
Taxes for the payment of the national debt in coin.
Taxes for the support of a standing army to subjugate states.
Taxes for the support of the Freedmen's Bureau to feed Southern negroes.
Taxes for the enrichment of the loyal members of a rump Congress.
Taxes for feeding an army of pensioned cripples.
Taxes for the support of a legion of tax gatherers.
Taxes for the protection of Eastern manufacturers.
Taxes to pay the expenses of impeaching honest officials.
Taxes to pay the board and pleasure-travels of whitewashing Congressional committees.
Taxes for the interest on Eastern bank currency.
Taxes to pay the cost of military communitism.
Taxes to pay for the suppression of press.
Taxes to pay for the suppression of the freedom of speech.
Taxes for the cost of suppressing the right of suffrage.
Taxes to pay for continuous sessions of Congress.
Taxes to carry out Paine's project of organizing a congressional army in the North.
Taxes to enforce Sumner's bill for regulating suffrage in the North.
Taxes to run Southern negroes.
Taxes for every scheme of partisan greed and despotism which a Radical Congress may see fit to invent and enforce "outside the constitution."—Etc.

"Don't be too Sure of Dab"

One of Thaddeus Stevens' colored friends who went to Lancaster to attend Thad's funeral, on his return was accosted by another colored brother as follows: "Well, Mr. Simpson, I've of opinion dat we's gwine to 'lect Grant for shure."

"By Golly, Mr. Brown, don't be too shure of dat—for I telly you now it looks mighty unsharin. When I went to Lancaster to lead de funeral of our friend Mr. Stevens, I never heard tell nuffin about Grant de hole time I was gone. Dere was plenty of fellers a holdin' an 'shoutin' for dpt Rebel Seemore, but I 'clare, for God, dat I didn't hear one man holler for Grant. I telly you thea fact, Mr. Brown, a fact. Why, when I started for Lancaster I tought de people up dar was all Radicals—dat dey would be berry glad to see us colored folks, kase you know Mr. Stevens was our friend—but shure as I telly you, dey waan's glad to see us no how. Dey wouldn't let us wash our hands an faces at de hotels—dey wouldn't get us nuffin to eat—dey wouldn't walk in de funeral procession wid us up shure no how. I woa'd unsharin, I don't. I telly you, Mr. Brown, dese here Radicals is sly fellers. Dey don't mean what dey say. Dey say dey lub us colored pweons, but they don't; dat dey don't. Dey be too shure Grant's gwine to be 'lected; for I telly you now, it didn't look dat way much up in Lancaster. Don't bet nuffin on Grant, less you'se got more money an you know what to do wid it."

"Why, Mr. Simpson, you 'sprise me." "Can't help dat. Facts is facts, Good bye."

Look! Mark! Read!

The fearful increase of the public debt 389,672 dollars per day—16,236 dollars per hour—over 270 dollars per minute, and of 40 dollars every time the clock ticks a second, is well calculated to alarm a people, already crushed to the very earth with taxation to pay the interest! One of the best printing presses driven by steam, and running uninterruptedly day and night, could not print in one dollar bills enough greenbacks to keep up with this terrible and useless increase of the burthens of the people