

# LAS VEGAS AGE

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CHARLES P. SQUIRES, Editor and Publisher  
JAMES W. SQUIRES, Managing Editor

## THE SCHOOL QUESTION

At the regular Tuesday meeting of the Chamber of Commerce the "MYSTERY OF THE ELIMINATION OF THE TWO MILL STATE SCHOOL TAX" was discussed.

Why all the secrecy by the state school lobby on initiative petition No. 1 that will appear on the ballot next Tuesday? Why not tell the people of the state what the measure REALLY MEANS?

A member of the Las Vegas school board stated at the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce meeting that "the removal of the two mill state school tax WOULD NOT INCREASE TAXATION." The school official who made that statement knows well that the schools are trying to get MORE MONEY TO SPEND, and that more money for the schools means MORE TAXATION. What is this two mill state school tax? IT IS TWENTY CENTS TAXATION ON EVERY HUNDRED DOLLAR VALUATION. The "two mill" wording is simply a blind for the taxpayers—whom the school boards of the state seem to think of as being only a bunch of first grade pupils.

WE WILL GIVE YOU HERE THE TRUTH of this taxation question. It is a vital question to EVERY TAXPAYER IN THIS STATE.

Should this measure pass on November 8th, and the schools decide to increase this "TWO MILL" tax to four mills, which they can do — WITHOUT ANY POSSIBLE RECOURSE FROM THE PEOPLE WHO PAY THE TAXES, here is what we would face.

Immediately the general county tax rate would be reduced from \$1.60 to \$1.475. The City of Las Vegas rate would be reduced from \$1.17 to \$1.045. This would be necessary if the \$5.00 constitutional tax limit was not raised. The only other measure that could be resorted to would be that the assessor of Clark County RAISE THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF EVERY PIECE OF PROPERTY.

WHEN THE COUNTY OR STATE SPENDS MONEY, THE TAXPAYER MUST FOOT THE BILL.

What do the Clark County schools pay for their maintenance and operation today? We will give you herewith THE OFFICIAL FIGURES OF THE STATE OF NEVADA.

Our schools spend, every year, 47 per cent of every dollar that the taxpayers dig up.

While the school lobby is giving the taxpayers the sob story for MORE money to spend, here IS ACTUALLY THE CONDITION OF THE SCHOOL FINANCIAL SITUATION:

The State School and University fund had on hand, June 30th, 1938, in BONDS THAT HAD BEEN LOANED TO OTHER STATES AND STATE INSTITUTIONS the grand total of \$3,148,000.00 of the taxpayers' hard earned dollars. THIS IS NOT ALL. They also had, IN CASH, \$352,578.00. AND OUR POOR SCHOOL OFFICIALS WANT MORE MONEY TO SPEND.

If any school in the state IS HONESTLY IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS, our statute provides for that emergency. It is not necessary for the people of this state to grant ANY few people the right to tax the property owners in any sum they might wish.

The Clark County school system is the HIGHEST INDEBTED COUNTY IN THE STATE per hundred dollar valuation. Washoe County (Reno) has an assessed valuation of

\$43,000,000.00 and has a total debt of \$971,550.00. Clark County debt ALL BUT \$39,000.00 is owed by the schools. In addition to this Washoe school funds were, on the 30th day of June, 1938, \$572,000.00. Those of Clark County—money in the bank—amounted to the grand total of \$189,000.00.

AND OUR SCHOOLS NEED MORE MONEY. What the schools REALLY NEED, is a little spirit of economy — and NOT OF SPENDING.

In addition to the regular tax funds the schools of this state receive— they get 65 per cent or 95 per cent of the \$200,000.00 state liquor tax.

It might be a good idea to turn the operation of the schools over to the board of county commissioners, or at least give them control of expenditures of the taxpayers money — they don't have any control now.

VOTE NO, taxpayers, on proposition No. 1 next Tuesday.

WE WANT good schools — and have gone far enough until we can pick the old dollar bills off the sage bushes and mesquite trees.

## IT'S IN THE AIR

Now comes Japan — and defies the world (America, England, France and Russia) to interfere with her conquest and murder of the citizens of China.

America, France and Russia will follow the lead of England's noble Chamberlain in the auction sale of little Czechoslovakia — and boy before the altar of the little brown men.

What the world needs is another THEODORE Roosevelt.

## SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF

It should give the American government a great deal of satisfaction in the final ambush of the widow Barnett in Los Angeles.

After caring for her aged husband for more than eighteen years, Mr. Barnett died — (a wealthy Indian from oil found on his land). There's gold in that tar oil, says the government, so Mrs. Barnett is told that she had no right — in all those eighteen years to share her husband's wealth — the government needs the money, and so—

The gallant government agents — tear gas and all— drag Mrs. Barnett from her home and to jail. It's the same old story — we took all the poor Indian had when we "Americans" came to this great land of the free — and we still have our taking ways.

I wonder if our great government would have been so interested if Indian Barnett should have died a pauper—with no money to divide up?

## THE PLAYGROUND QUESTION

The city commissioners put the imported playground instructor "on ice" as far as the city funds are concerned.

Mayor Marble made it plain that "if we are going to pay \$275.00 a month for an instructor for the playgrounds when we are trying to ease the tax burden in Las Vegas, we will hire a Las Vegan for the job."

And that's that.

## WHY?

Why has the "Taxpayers' League" almost faded into the past — when it should have been one of the outstanding organizations of the city? The answer is simple. Its failure to accomplish anything is due primarily to ignorance of the problems that they were supposed to remedy.

For example — one man made the statement that the county commissioners had accounted for only \$92 of each \$100 collected in tax money. I can't believe that Treasurer Bill Mundy nor Auditor Dave Farnsworth do not know what the county commissioners do with the money of the county. Neither do I believe — nor do 95 percent of the taxpayers of this county believe that the members of the present board of county commissioners are dishonest.

I firmly believe that either board of commissioners (city or county) would welcome ANY CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM.

It is foolish statements such as were made last night that make the so called taxpayers' league the laughing stock