

UTAH CITIES WANT GREATER SHARE OF TAX

State Municipal League Asks Changes in Distribution Method

(Continued from Page One) pallies to fix their total tax levies without allocation as to purposes. The change sought here is to free municipalities from the necessity of segregating the levy for specific classes of activities.

(2) Renunciation of a bill authorizing cities to license all businesses and professions. (Such a bill passed the 1933 legislature, but was vetoed by the governor.)

(3) A law imposing a lien upon property served for the collection of water rentals and assessments.

(4) Legislation requiring that a party to a civil action involving less than \$50, who demands a jury trial, pay to the city court in advance a sum sufficient to defray expenses of such jury trial.

(5) Appointment of a committee of five to investigate and study directors and report to the league by December 1 on laws relative to cities securing and maintaining adequate water supplies.

(6) Appointment of a committee of five to study the feasibility of consolidating city and county governments to reduce taxes.

All of these resolutions, submitted and recommended by a committee headed by Neil Dahle, were adopted with one majority vote.

Time Not Profitous

A proposal that the league go on record favoring distribution to cities and municipalities of revenues derived from the liquor traffic was tabled. This action was taken after Mayor Marcus, Mayor Harman Peery of Ogden and City Commissioner Fred E. Williams of Ogden, who led the drive for the measure, expressed the view that it would be unwise to take positive action at this time.

Mayor Marcus urged tabling of the proposal until after the governor's committee on liquor control makes its report.

Another resolution presented, but later withdrawn, dealt with the direct primary system for municipalities. It was offered by Commissioner Williams, who withdrew it after Mayor Marcus called attention to the fact that the resolution was therefore out of place.

Delegates who expressed themselves on the subject asserted that the proposal had considerable intrinsic merit.

Annual Banquet

Tonight the members of the convention were at Skougard's tavern at Fish Lake for the annual banquet of the league. The morning session was cut short, discussion being eliminated to permit the adoption of resolutions at the banquet.

The morning session heard a report of the auditing committee, headed by City Commissioner Williams of Ogden, and of Secretary-Treasurer Terry J. Oldroyd, in which he reported a healthy financial condition for the league.

The resolution affecting the distribution of the proceeds of the gasoline tax carried by it authorizing a committee of three to confer with the state road commission on the immediate prospect of having a fair and just proportion of the collections from the gasoline tax diverted to rural road projects and spent within cities and towns. Mayor Marcus was named chairman of this committee, with Mayor Horsley and Mayor Hunter as members.

Old Plan Assailed

The resolution under which they were appointed states in the preamble that "we feel that in the past such exclusive control (by the state road commission) has been injurious and detrimental to the various municipalities, and we urge that a part of this gasoline tax should be spent on some reasonably proportionate basis within the municipalities of the state of Utah."

"We further favor that the state road commission of Utah, if it is found necessary, be directed by legislative action to discontinue the extension of the state road system outside of municipalities."

Whether this means that such construction work as that on Ninth East street and on Highland drive in Salt Lake City should be stopped at the city limits and should not be extended into the suburban areas, or that the "pork barrel bill" of the legislature by which each county gets some addition to the state road system designated within its boundaries, should be discontinued, was not debated on the floor of the convention. Pavement or road improvement done by the state road commission within cities so far has been without cost to the abutting property owners, since it was done in the state or federal road systems. Practically all other pavement laid within cities has been laid through the creation of special improvement districts, the property owners paying the costs, except for the paving of street intersections. Even that proportion of the cost that the cities have frequently found themselves unable to pay, with the result that the proposed paving or improvement project would be held up.

Peterson Acquiesces

"We have no objection to the resolution," was the comment of Preston G. Peterson, member of the state road commission, and K. C. Wright, its chief engineer, who were at Richfield for the convention of the league.

They did, however, take exception to certain statements made by Mayor Marcus in sponsoring this resolution and also the one concerning the division of federal funds. This resolution asked that the road commission be authorized to appropriate a sufficient amount to comply with the requirements of the law, or to make satisfactory explanation why the 6.5 per cent cannot be made immediately available for the purposes contemplated.

Mayor Marcus had stated at the convention Friday that whereas the federal recovery act appropriating \$400,000,000 for highway construction last year had called for not less than 25 per cent of the money to be spent on existing (in by federal aid system (originally applying only to rural roads) into or through municipalities, only 18.7 per cent of the Utah share of that amount had been appropriated for "national recovery municipal," or "N. R. M." roads in Utah. N. R. M. projects are such as the paving of North Temple street, the improvement of the conduit on that street, the improvement of South State street and of Beck street, all within Salt Lake City.

Figure Assailed

In accord with Mayor Marcus' statement, the resolution was worded as above. The two state road officials asserted that the figure of 18.7 per cent, as presented by the mayor, was somewhat in error.

They explained that they had been given permission by the United States bureau of public roads to vary the percentage somewhat either way, when it was found that, owing to the Utah policy of constructing through cities roads of an equal standard or better, with the federal aid projects entering the city, the number of N. R. M. projects was somewhat limited in Utah.

However, they said, the Salt Lake City mayor made his calculations from program estimates, and while the exact amounts spent cannot be determined until the projects are completed, the cost will actually be to be 20 or 21 per cent of the total amount available for the \$400,000,000 fund. That allocation amounted to about \$200,000.

Disagree on List

They also disagreed with Mayor Marcus in a statement of a list of states in which the road commissions do work on city streets. Utah was not included in the mayor's list, and the road officials asserted that Utah is, as a matter of fact, one of the leaders among the states in such activity.

Utah, they said, has assisted and is assisting both large and small towns whenever a state road runs through the municipality.

Another critic of Mayor Marcus was Frank G. Martinez, president of the Associated Civic Clubs of Southern Utah. He was told Saturday that Mayor Marcus had asserted that "we now have a fine system of state highways throughout our state."

He argued that therefore city streets should get the gasoline tax money.

Mr. Martinez reiterated the stand taken by the organization of which he is president, about two months ago, when it endorsed the present system of handling the gasoline tax proceeds.

"The Associated Civic Clubs of Southern Utah," asserted Mr. Martinez, "is definitely opposed to any change in the method of handling the gasoline tax money. Further, we do not agree with the statement by Mayor Marcus that the state roads are in a fine condition."

"The year-end report on the Utah highways are not completed, and many of the main entries into the state, and main highways within the state are still to be properly constructed."

Appropriation Cut

The federal appropriation for highways for fiscal year 1934 was cut to \$200,000,000. The same measure carries authorization to get back to the regular federal highway act terms for the coming biennium, at \$125,000,000 a year. Since the state road commission has taken over all costs on the state highway system, the cut in the federal aid is resuming matching on a \$1 to \$3 basis of any federal funds used for construction in Utah on the highway system. Such matching and the cost of maintaining the state road system would, it is calculated, take about all the proceeds from the gasoline sales tax, unless some other form of revenue is provided. Last year, and this, no matching funds are required of the state, and the state has devoted a considerable amount of gasoline tax funds to a betterment program for relief work, formulated after consultation with the county commissioners in each county.

The proposal that the county road tax be levied in part on city streets, as made in another resolution adopted, would mean in Salt Lake City that about two-thirds of the county road tax would go to Salt Lake City's street department, since the city has about two-thirds the assessed valuation of the county. Road construction in the county would have to be halted or eliminated if this were done, or else the present county road tax would have to be greatly increased.

Keyser Heads Committee

George D. Keyser, city commissioner of waterworks and water supply of Salt Lake City, is chairman of the committee authorized to report by December 1 on laws or proposals which would assure to cities the right to retain title to water supplies adequate for the future, should they obtain or develop such supplies. Other members of this committee are Joseph Nelson, Spanish Fork; Fred Will and James Ogden; Ray Holbrook, Provo; and City Attorney Henry E. Beal, Richfield.

The problem with which the committee is asked to concern itself is faced now by the several municipalities in the area to be served by the proposed Deer Creek reclamation project. It is one with which a group of city and state attorneys is wrestling, and it has been intimated that it might require action by the legislature, perhaps at a special session, to handle.

The topic was discussed in a general way at the convention by Justice Will H. Folland, of the state supreme court, former attorney of Salt Lake City.

The resolution with regard to the municipal tax levy is advocating a proposal turned down by the last legislature. The members of that body regarded it as merely an attempt to permit cities to exceed the present limitations on their tax levy for general fund purposes—in other words, as a proposal to increase the general property taxes, and the legislature was against anything favoring such increase. Nevertheless, it was recognized that the demand on cities for more expenditures is great and insistent.

Licenses for Revenue

The proposal that cities be empowered to levy all forms of professions and business is another suggestion of the law, or to make satisfactory explanation why the 6.5 per cent cannot be made immediately available for the purposes contemplated.

Mines and Utilities Bear Third of Utah's Total Tax Valuation

Municipal League Hears Report Showing Relative Ratios of All Major Classifications of Property

(Special to The Salt Lake Tribune) RICHFIELD.—Tabulations prepared by the research division of the "committee of nine," the gist of which was presented to the state municipal league convention by Senator C. Clarence Neslen, chairman of the committee, included statements showing that in 1933, mines and public utilities were assessed at 32.52 per cent of the total assessed value of the state.

Real estate the same year was assessed at 29.29 per cent, and improvements at 20.65 per cent. Livestock was assessed at 1.15 per cent. The total assessed value of the state was \$522,622,633, according to the statement. The former figure is 32.52 per cent of the latter.

The statement did not give the percentage of taxes levied against mines and public utilities. The taxes levied in the state, that has not yet been compiled, but reports of the state tax commission show that of actual taxes charged, the proportion charged against mines and public utilities in Utah in 1932 was 28.03 per cent; in 1931 it was 28.36 per cent; in 1930, 31.53 per cent; in 1929 it was 30.11 per cent; in 1928, 27.63 per cent, and in 1927, 27.91 per cent.

Delinquencies Small

No one has as yet compiled the proportion of actual taxes paid by the mines and public utilities, as compared with the payments by other classes of property. However, it requires no very deep analysis of returns of tax collections to show that in those counties where the mines and public utilities pay a large proportion of the tax, the proportion of tax delinquencies is proportionately small. There are exceptions, but the utilities and the active mines as a rule keep their property titles clear of tax liens.

The proportion of taxes paid, or even of taxes charged, is not quite as high as the proportion of assessed value, for the reason that tax levies vary with the location of the property. Municipal taxes, for example, are not levied on that portion of a railroad line which lies outside a municipality, though on the portion inside the city, or on the local tax levy, of course, applies.

Valuations Tabulated

The following from the report distributed at the meeting by Senator Neslen shows the valuation placed by the state tax commission, or its predecessor, the state board of equalization and assessment, on the mining and privately-owned utilities of the state, the total assessed value of the state in the corresponding year, and the percentage the former is of the latter.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Utilities, Total State, Percentage. Data for years 1917-1933.

Study Shows Fluctuations

During the same period, the assessed valuation of real estate in Utah, of which the four events is outside of cities and towns and the remainder is classed as city jobs, being at \$189,033,137, which was 35.64 per cent of the total valuation in 1930, when it was \$241,999,232, and 33.75 per cent of the total, and since that time has steadily declined until in 1933 all real estate outside of that owned by mines and utilities was assessed for only \$153,075,507, or 29.29 per cent of the total valuation.

The percentage real estate bore to the whole value has had several ups and downs, the highest reached being 41.11 per cent in 1917, when the total was \$259,930,000, while the lowest was 25.89 in 1930, when the value of metal mines, based on 1929 net proceeds, was at its peak.

Improvements on real estate began with a valuation of \$101,436,846 in 1916, and increased year by year until the peak of \$149,660,708 was reached in 1930. Since that time, the decline has been steady, until in 1933 improvements were valued at \$139,292,622, the lowest figure since 1926.

1933 Percentage Highest

The 1916 figure was 19.07 per cent of the total of the state; the proportion fell off for a few years, and then rose again to a peak of 21 per cent in 1928; then, after dropping slightly, began to climb until the percentage for 1933 was the highest up to that date, being 26.63.

The bulk of the valuation on improvements by which cities might bring much needed revenue.

The last legislature also deemed the proposal that city water rates might become a lien against the property as too harsh, as permitting officials charged with such collections to be come lax in their duties, and as increasing the risk of losses to landlords, whose tenants might leave without settling for their water service.

The matter of jury costs has often been raised, but legislative attempts to lessen them have met the opposition of attorneys or have been found unconstitutional.

The league adopted a resolution of thanks to its officers. Richfield city officials and all others who had contributed to making the convention a success.

FERA SPENDS \$1,485,116 SINCE APRIL 1 IN UTAH

Projects Give Employment to 23,070 Workmen, Report Shows

A total of \$1,485,116.77 had been expended by the F. E. R. A. in Utah on works projects from April 1 to July 26. It is shown in a monthly statement prepared in the F. E. R. A. administrative offices Saturday.

This is less than one-half the total cost of \$3,290,503.57, which is the total amount approved for the 1933 projects, located in every county in the state.

The projects call for a total of 23,070 employees and 4,502,427 man-hours of work. The labor distribution will total under these estimates \$2,381,308.95.

In addition, the F. E. R. A. supplies materials and equipment representing \$368,817.57, or a total of federal funds of \$2,750,126.52.

The remaining \$540,377.05 of the cost of these projects comes from state or local sources. Sales tax receipts are playing their part.

Salt Lake county, with its intensive load of unemployed, bulks large in the program, with 269 projects, calling for 7904 employees and a total of 1,415,169 man-hours of work. The labor cost of these will reach \$853,000. It is estimated, in this county, while F. E. R. A. materials and equipment will bring \$109,992.77, to which will be added \$191,009.34 from local sources.

The total amount approved for the county, \$1,154,009.50, some \$557,481.74 had already been expended at the time of the report.

Summary by Counties

By counties the number of employees, the total cost of the projects and the amounts expended to July 26 are:

Table with 4 columns: County, Number of Employees, Total Cost, Amount Expended. Lists counties like Beaver, Box Elder, etc.

Totals ... 23,070 4,502,427 2,381,308.95

Chicago to New York Plane Record Broken

CHICAGO, Aug. 25 (AP)—The nation's leading cities, Chicago and New York were less than three hours apart today.

An American Airways plane, piloted by Earl Ward and E. H. Sloniger, flew from the Chicago municipal airport to the airport at Newark, N. J., in two hours, 59 minutes, two seconds to beat the old record of three hours, ten minutes by 11 minutes.

The record was broken by a special train with "through" orders. The transfer will be the second in the government's movement of recalcitrant and dangerous prisoners to the heavily fortified California island. A group of Atlanta penitentiary felons, including the former Chicago gang chief, Al Capone, was checked in at Alcatraz early this week.

Fire in Riding Stables Kills 32 Prized Horses

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 26 (Sunday AP)—Thirty-two horses, many of them thoroughbreds, were reported dead today in a fire early today that swept the Benjamin Carr riding stables in Hampton township, near suburban Glenfield.

Carr was roused from sleep by a neighbor. He rushed to the stable and fought to get the steeds to safety. He collapsed after bringing 14 from the burning building, bringing 14 from the burning building.

Pioneers' Descendants Attend Family Reunion

A reunion of descendants of Martin and Emer Harris, pioneer L. D. S. church leaders, was held Saturday at Lagoon, with H. H. Harris as program chairman. The program included music and talks about members of the family. A dance concluded the day's activities.

Pioneer Woman Doctor Will Be Buried Sunday

Funeral services for Dr. Caroline Amelia Mills Davis, 73, pioneer woman physician of Utah and Wyoming, who died Friday at 7:20 a. m. at her home, 1300 South Eleventh West street, of a heart attack, will be conducted Sunday at 2 p. m. in the Quail-trough-Alcott mortuary.

Black Widow Spider's Bite Fatal to Child

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 25 (UP)—The death today of Patrick Hendrix, 3, was believed to have been caused by the bite of a black widow spider.

Europe's Relief Plans Won't Work In U. S., Hopkins Tells Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (AP)—President Roosevelt heard today from the man he selected to guide unemployment relief that America cannot copy Europe's methods of caring for the jobless, the aged and the indigent.

Instead, Harry L. Hopkins told the president, there must be an "American" plan for "America."

He promised, too, that within 30 days there would be a report from the presidential committee on social security. This report will furnish the basis for comprehensive social legislation to be backed by the administration at the next session of congress.

Meanwhile, Hopkins will visit President Roosevelt at Hyde Park for an overnight stay late next week. This will be made the occasion for a continuation of today's discussions and consideration of the products of Hopkins' European tour.

"We've got to have our own scheme," he told newspaper men as he left the White House. He went on to reiterate his belief that "we're coming to unemployment insurance in some form—it's in the cards, that's sure." As for next winter's problem, as contrasted with a permanent program, Hopkins said that but for the drought the nation would be, generally, in a much better position than it was a year ago.

The picture from our point of view is distinctly better, outside the drought area, than it was a year ago. The relief administrator parried questions as to the difference between unemployment insurance and a dole. In some places, he said, it is called one thing and in some places another, while sometimes it is termed social insurance.

U. S. Labor Board Orders Smelter To Rehire Four

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (AP)—The labor relations board today ordered reinstatement of four employees of the United States Smelting, Refining & Mining company of Utah.

The board found the four men—James A. Foreman, Edward A. Coombs, Ross W. Newman and William M. Calloway—were discharged in violation of the labor clause of the recovery act, and that the company had refused to comply with the board's decision within 10 days.

The decision said, the board would refer the case to the N. R. A. compliance division for blue eagle removal. The issuance of an order by the labor relations board for the reinstatement of four employees of the United States Smelting, Refining & Mining company in Utah came as a complete surprise to E. A. Hamilton, general manager, he said Saturday.

Mr. Hamilton said the men were temporarily suspended pending installation of new hoisting machinery by the company and were asked on July 26 and July 28 to return to work, but failed to do so.

The fact of the matter, Mr. Hamilton said, is that it was a physical impossibility to retain the men during the time necessary for installing the machinery, but since the work was completed the men's jobs have been, and still are, open for them.

Many Officers Shifted By New Army Orders

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (AP)—Army orders issued by the war department today included the following:

Captain George C. Nielsen, now on duty with the organized reserves at McAlester, Okla., assigned to duty in Hawaii.

Captain Will H. Gordon, Vancouver barracks, Washington, assigned to duty in Hawaii.

Captain Clyde Grady, now on duty at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, assigned to duty with the 15th infantry, Tientsin, China.

Lieutenant Colonel Louis Farrell, now an instructor, California national guard, Berkeley, assigned to Fort Lincoln, N. D.

Major Frank Lockhead, now an instructor, Pennsylvania national guard, Norristown, assigned to duty in Hawaii.

Farmer Hurt in Fall Caused by Runaway

Clarence A. Jensen, 34, a farmer of Twenty-fifth West and Fifth South streets, suffered a possible fractured jaw and bruises and abrasions on various parts of his body Saturday, when he was thrown from a way rake after a high strung horse was frightened and ran away.

The accident occurred when Mr. Jensen was taking the rake to the home of a neighbor at 4:30 p. m. The horse became frightened when the rake began to rattle and clang while being pulled over a rough part of the field.

Mr. Jensen was thrown from the rake as the horse crossed a ditch, the hoofs of the horse striking him in the face and shoulder as he fell. He was treated at the emergency hospital and later taken to his home.

RAINS SWELL SEVIER RIVER

Flow Doubled by Heavy Showers, Assistant Engineer Reports

Sevier river, which at the lowest point this year was running only 45 or 46 second feet of water, is now producing about 70 second feet, it was reported Saturday by Reid Jerman, assistant state engineer, on his return from a visit to the Sevier valley.

Rather frequent if not abnormally heavy showers in the headwaters region of the river had increased the flow, Mr. Jerman said, and much benefit has resulted from the careful use of the additional water, even though the river is flowing as yet but a fraction of its total primary rights flow.

Farmers of the upper valley, with the aid of the drought relief committee, purchased a supply of storage water belonging to some of the users in Millard county, and as a result the beet crop from Sigurd south is looking good, Mr. Jerman said. North of Sigurd the effects of the drought are more apparent.

In Millard county, the agriculturists are encouraged by a recent increase in the price of alfalfa seed, which is one of the main crops of that region. The crop expected this year is better in volume than it has been for some years, and with 15-cent alfalfa the farmers in the Delta region are feeling encouraged, Mr. Jerman said.

On the trip, Mr. Jerman conferred with Lawrence Margets, formerly assistant commissioner on the river, and now commissioner, recommended the post by the water users.

Mr. Margets succeeded Brice McBrice, who has been on the river, first as commissioner on the lower river and later on the entire river, for about 14 years. Mr. McBrice resigned to take a position in South Dakota with the United States biological survey. His new duties will have to do with the water supply and appurtenant works for a federal bird refuge there, it is understood.

Flames Sweep Through Grain

FAIRFIELD, Idaho—About 27 acres of uncut grain on the ranch of M. W. Costello were destroyed last week by the second fire in two weeks on Camas prairie. This blaze was similar to the first, which burned over about 20 acres in a field of 300 acres, owned by Frank Tucker, where a combine had just started threshing.

The Costello fire burned over about 27 acres of stubble in addition to the same acreage of grain several miles southeast of Fairfield. Combines were at work in the fields when the blaze started near the southwest corner and swept eastward before a brisk wind.

Volunteer firemen succeeded in keeping the fire on a straight course eastward until it burned itself out on a stretch of broken ground.

The harvest of dry land wheat on Camas prairie is now at its peak, with a very good crop reported from most of the acreage. The wheat is running up to 15 bushels per acre, which is higher than was anticipated.

Injured Couples Sue for \$20,050

POCATELLO, Idaho—Sheldon Low and R. R. Kuss, both of Portland, were named as defendants in two damage suits, each for \$10,025, brought following an automobile accident near Idaho Falls August 18. They were filed Friday.

R. G. Waters and his wife, Mrs. Margaret Waters, seek \$10,000 damages and \$25 special damages for injuries alleged to have been suffered in the accident by Mrs. Waters.

S. E. Henderson and his wife, Mrs. Katherine Henderson, asked a similar amount for injuries alleged to have been suffered in the same accident by Mrs. Henderson.

The plaintiffs were riding in an automobile owned by Vernon C. Whitten of Pocatello, when it was struck by a car in which Low and Kuss were riding, the complaints allege.

County Adult Courses Employ Three Teachers

BURLEY, Idaho—Employment for three teachers will be provided in Cassia county with I. E. R. A. funds for adult classes in commercial and other branches, announced Mrs. Marguerite M. Buchanan, county school superintendent, in charge of this project.

Teachers will have their applications sent to State Superintendent J. W. Condie, Boise. Those accepted will have four weeks' training at some place to be designated by the state superintendent.

The government projects also include the establishment of nursery schools, which are applicable only to factory towns where mothers are employed throughout the day. In Burley instruction will be given in night classes, as was done last year. No nurseries will be established.

POCATELLO, Idaho—Mr. and Mrs. George Carter of 541 North G. field avenue, announce the birth of a daughter at the St. Anthony hospital Friday and Mr. and Mrs. Don Kelly of 310 South Hayes avenue, a daughter at the general hospital Thursday.

Seventy Girls, Balked in Love, Gulp Hardware

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Aug. 25 (AP)—Love, that mighty emotion, led 70 young Hungarian girls, victims of mass hysteria, to swallow one of the most shocking hoaxes of hardware physicians at city hospitals ever saw.

Denied the right to see their sweethearts, the young girls—inmates of the girls' reform school at Rakospalota—forced shoe horns, tooth brushes, hair pins, teapoons and similar objects down their throats in protest.