

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

Section 22, Pages 631 - 660

These folders contain correspondence subject files with Governor Allen. Some subjects included are land for soldiers, rifle practice, requests for assistance, the 35th Division, Fort Dodge Soldier's Home, the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, unemployment, venereal disease, and vocational education.

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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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beneficiaries of interest, as a rule, profit by the labor and toil of their fellowmen, and should be compelled in some way to assume a proper share in the support of the state.

Second. By the second plan property would be stricken from the assessment roll which in 1914 amounted to \$68,054,996. Taxes are increasing rapidly from year to year, and the tax which would be lost by striking this property from the roll would undoubtedly have to be made up in some other way. In other words, the burden now borne by twenty-five per cent of the locally owned mortgages would be shifted to other forms of property.

Third. All advocates of registry taxation, so-called, admit that the burden imposed must be assumed by the borrower, and thus his burden would be increased. Under practically all proposed registry laws there will be a loss of revenue, which must be made up by shifting the burden to other forms of property. There are approximately \$300,000,000 of mortgages in the state. Let it be supposed that the average life is five years, although it is probably greater, as gradually the life of mortgages has been and still is being extended, many mortgages now being for six and seven, and even longer terms of years; but supposing the average life to be five years, one-fifth of the \$300,000,000, or \$60,000,000, would be renewable annually, and the registry tax charge of fifty cents per hundred, or five dollars per thousand, would produce only \$300,000 in revenue, as against the \$900,000 now produced. Experience shows that public expenditures are increasing rapidly from year to year instead of being lessened, hence the loss of revenue resulting from this changed method would have to be recouped by increased taxation of other forms of property, and the \$300,000 of revenue derived would be the added burden placed upon borrowers.

Fourth. The continuation of the present system, which is the fourth method above shown, would probably continue to furnish the revenue now obtained, and the revenue might be slightly increased from year to year, but the method puts a premium on tax evasion and all the evils incident thereto, such as false swearing, fraudulent practices, and all sorts of schemes and devices that are resorted to by the owners of property to evade taxation.

Quite often there is criticism of "theorists." The best theory is based on conclusions which come from an intelligent study of past practical experiences, and instead of being condemned should be commended and followed. Wild and speculative theories without foundation upon facts of experience are properly to be questioned.

SAM'L T. HOWE,
J. H. HOSTETLER,
Members Tax Commission.

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Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

E. W. McNAGHTEN, PRESIDENT
CHAS. S. COLLADAY, VICE PRESIDENT

H. R. MOORE, SECRETARY
J. C. McNAGHTEN, TREASURER

THE McNAGHTEN LOAN COMPANY
INCORPORATED
FARM AND CITY MORTGAGES

HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

January 31, 1920.

Gov. Henry J. Allen,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Governor:-

We note from a recent issue of one of the leading news papers of the state that you are in favor of exempting mortgages from taxation.

We have felt for some time that this law which we now have is rather unjust and wish to commend your stand in this matter.

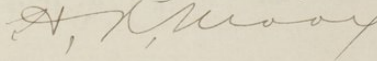
Quite frequently we find people who send their money to California or some other state for investment purposes and we feel that if we were placed on an equal basis with other states, we could retain much of the money that is now sent out.

If we can in any way give you assistance along this line, we will be very glad to hear from you and assure you that you have our hearty cooperation in this matter.

Yours very truly,

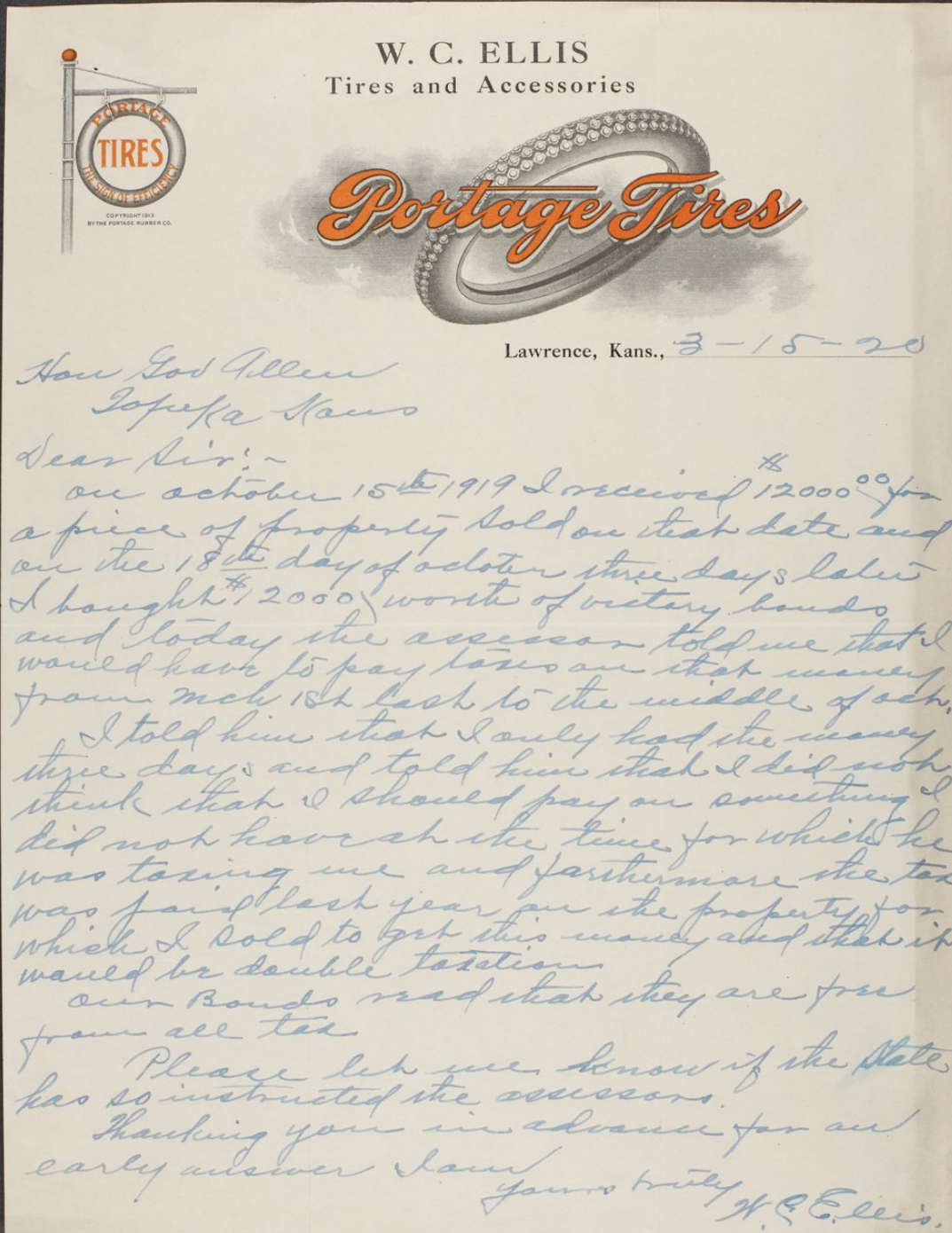
THE McNAGHTEN LOAN COMPANY .

BY



EWLM:H

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19



Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19



Executive Office
State House
Jefferson City, Missouri

FREDERICK D. GARDNER
GOVERNOR

March 9, 1920.

My Dear Governor:

State finances have been seriously effected within recent months by the low purchasing power of the dollar and, also, in some cases, by the loss of revenue from the liquor traffic.

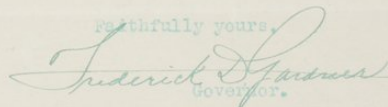
It occurs to me it might be helpful if the different Governors exchanged views on the subject and I have prepared a few questions which I am herewith enclosing. No doubt you can answer them off hand.

When the replies are received from the Governors, I will have them copied and send each Governor a copy. I am sure this information will be very helpful to us all.

Hoping I may have your cooperation, I

am

Faithfully yours,


GOVERNOR.

Hon. Henry J. Allen,
Governor of Kansas,
Topeka, Kansas.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

1. How much do you estimate the Budget of your State for the year 1920 to be, not including such items as Road Funds, Interest and Sinking Fund to pay bonds, but simply to cover operating expenses, such as the State's contribution to Education, Courts administration, Penal and Eleemosynary Institutions etc. In Missouri this is called the General Revenue Fund ?

2. What do you estimate your population and what is your per capita tax ?

3. What is the assessed value of real and personal property in your State to actual full money value ?

4. What is the rate for State purposes ?

5. What sources of revenue have you found to replace the revenue formerly received from the liquor traffic ?

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6. What means are you taking to cope with the low purchasing power of the dollar to meet salaries, supplies etc. ?

7. Do you find complaint because, besides Federal, you have a State Income Tax ?

8. What are the principal and most satisfactory sources of revenue in your State ?

9. General Remarks.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

I.

Paula Kautz March 15, 1920,

Mr Allen
Governor of Kansas

Dear Sir

I wish to bother you a few
minutes. Request a Bill
that you intend but thought
so the Rich men
money will not be taxed

You give me the
Principal Points so I can
hold and for you

I joined the Temper-
ance meeting that
as soon I joined the
Order, and I took my
Seat, after the By Laws

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

II.

Read, the best one of the
Farmers Union Lodge Prot. the
Gives him to me. I hope I
thought about Governor Henry
Allen Speech. Regarding Richman
money. Should not be
taxed. So to be a
Law. So a Rich man
money not be taxed &
I think it is just right
about you know are half
of the money come down
on me. I know it over
that I did not read up
get posted on the bill
I thought a Real Rich
man ought to pay some
taxes. Under the bill that

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III

that you wish to become
a Law Record Manager
man not to be tax
give me all good points
so I can put my self
up. This will call
meeting in 2 or 4 weeks
your Respectfully
Jerome J. Stocum.

Ende me your Best
Points Record the Bill
also the self you wish
to become a Law
address Paola, Kansas,
R.R. 2, Box 10

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

Agra Kansas
March 14/1920

Hon Governor Allen

I send you
a cut out of my
paper and I want
to tell you we have
a lot of Kansas bats
that their pay should
be stopped

We are paying
enough to ~~pay~~ ^{state} ~~state~~
officers to run the we
have road engineers at
from \$1,500 ^{two} to \$2,000 ^{per} ~~year~~
a year we have a county
assessor that appoints
the township assessors
all he does is draw his
pay and we have a

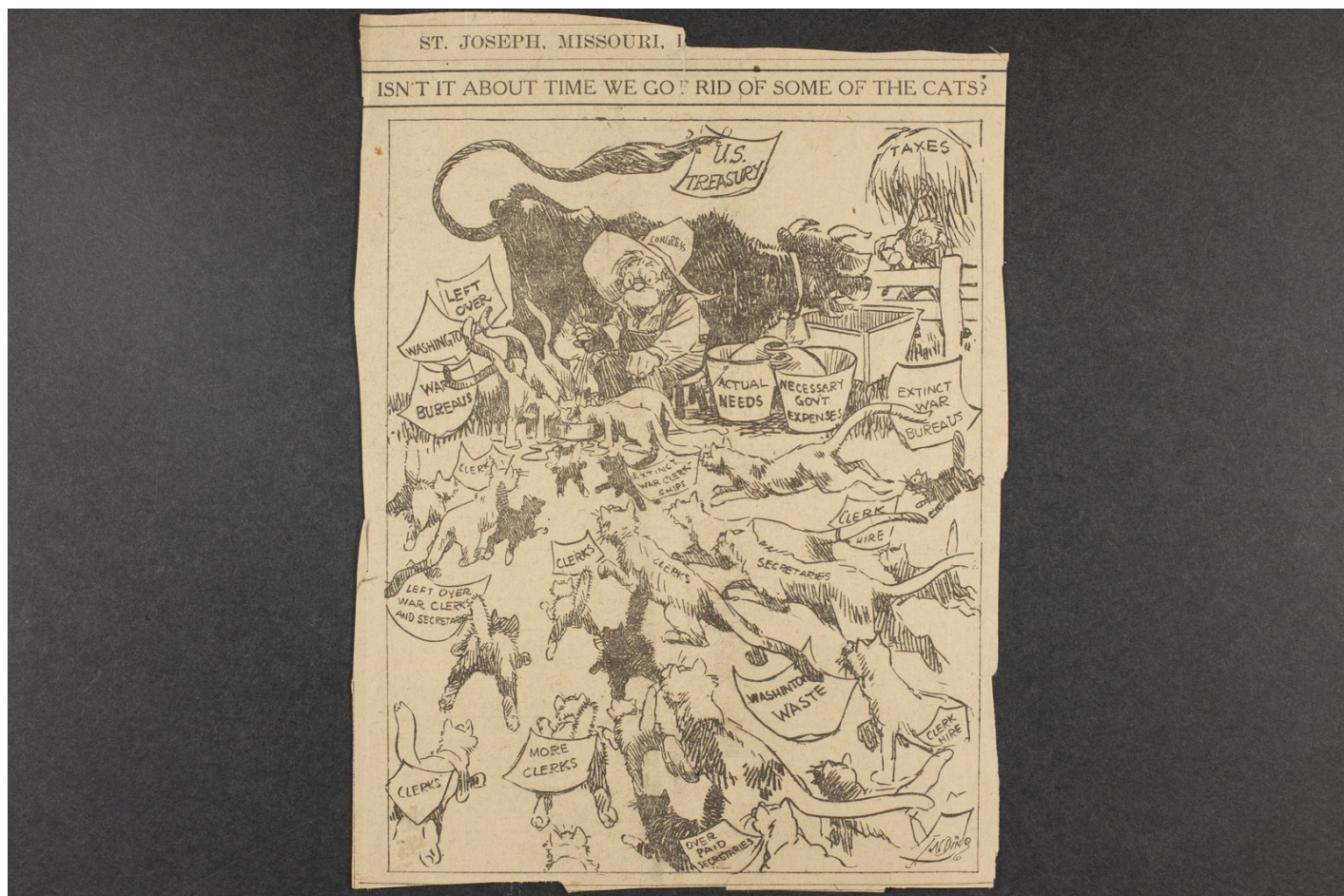
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Not more that draw
Pay that we could
get along better without
The time has
come when we must
stop needless expenses
on the labring men and
Farmers will be broke up
My taxes last
year was \$85.00 this year
they was \$102.00 every
year they are higher
We have to pay
government tax on
everything we buy and
still they want more
Government and State

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

Bonds they want bonds
to build rock roads
through ~~A~~ Kansas and
where are we to end
A Duffin . . .
Agra
Kansas

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A MERE
CE TO PAY
BLE PRICES
A LUNCH
TER



3-16

SHY AT OLD WOMAN PARTS.

Young Actresses Always Have Been Unwilling to Play Roles of Aged Characters—Men Different.

Everybody's: Several famous American actors, while still young men, were perfectly willing to portray roles that called for an old man makeup. On the other hand, according to Alexander Woolcott, women of the stage have always been willing to play the roles of characters supposed to be younger than they are. Actresses have been extremely age shy, adding to Father Time's toll against them by appearing as old women, while the bloom of youth was still on their cheeks.

If Jefferson had waited till he was an old man before donning the white beard of Rip, he probably would not have played the part as well, and certainly would not have played the part so often, yet such fame as mellowed and hallowed that impersonation of his is not the work of a single season nor can it be achieved in a single place. It is when such a part has been played not only in New York but one or two of the largest cities, but

...ant, Greek Slashes ... Taylor.

An argument that culminated in a fight between Zachary Taylor, thirty years old, a waiter at Lee Iroom's restaurant, 420 Francis street, and George Schanus, a Greek dishwasher, took place in the kitchen of the restaurant this forenoon. Taylor is in a serious condition at Emory Hospital. Taylor is married and lives at 1321 Buchanan avenue. He is attended by Dr. W. T. Stam.

Taylor is said to have first struck Schanus, landing the Greek atop a big range in which there was a lively fire. Then Schanus seized a small boiling knife and stabbed the waiter three times in the chest and slashed his arm in three places, after which he ran from the kitchen and escaped. It is not known where he roamed and he has not been apprehended, although the police are searching for him.

WILL HEAR INDIAN LECTURE.

Chief William Red Fox, Sioux, Will Give Entertainments for Public School Children.

Chief William Red Fox, Sioux Indian, has received permission from Vernon G. Mays, superintendent of schools, to give

ADVERTISEMENT

FRECKLES

March Brings Out Unsightly Spots. How to Remove Easily.

The woman with tender skin dreads March because it is likely to cover her face with ugly freckles. No matter how thick her veil, the sun and winds have a strong tendency to make her freckle. Fortunately for her peace of mind, Othine—double strength, makes it possible for even those most susceptible to freckles to keep their skin clear and white. No matter how stubborn a case of freckles you have, the double strength Othine should remove them. Get an ounce from your druggist and banish the freckles. Money back if it fails.

Segall's Big Clearing Sale

...costume and gives exhibitions of dances and ceremonies of the aborigines. He also lectures on the subject of the Custer massacre. Chief Red Fox is active in war work among the Indians. He was in the navy when the United States entered the war, but was discharged in order that he might engage in rounding up the red men for military service. His home is in North Dakota. He is a graduate of the Carlisle Indian school.

ILL HEALTH CAUSED DEATH

Lifeless Body of Mrs. Temperance Wolffey Found by Nurse Upon Returning After a Brief Absence.

Tying the cord of her bathrobe about the transom of a door opening into a room, and the other end about her neck, Mrs. Temperance Wolffey, thirty-five years old, wife of W. E. Wolffey, stepped off a chair at 8 o'clock last night

Extra Specials

10 lbs. Pure Lard	\$2.00
Boiling Beef, lb.	17
Choice Veal Roast, lb.	17
Milk Fed Veal Chops, lb.	17
2 Tall Cans Condensed Milk	17
Sliced Calf Liver, lb.	17
Veal Hearts, lb.	17
Lamb Roast, lb.	17
Lamb Steaks, lb.	17
Lamb Stew, lb.	17
Veal Breasts, lb.	17
Pork Steaks, lb.	22
Pork Roast, lb.	22

BUY NOW!

No. 1 Smoked California hams, lb.	21
Fresh Channel Catfish, lb.	30
Fancy Fresh Seattle Halibut, lb.	30
Smoked Kippered Salmon, lb.	40
Fancy Smoked Whitefish, lb.	35
5-lb. Pails Pure Lard	\$1.30
10-lb. Pails Best Compound	\$2.40
5-lb. Pails Best Compound	\$1.20
3-lb. Cans of Crisco	\$1.00
Bacon for Seasoning, lb.	25
Sugar Cured Corned Beef, lb.	20
3 Cans of Tomatoes	25

FRESH VEGETABLES

Open Sunday Mornings

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

Topeka, Kan. March 9th 1920.

Dear Sir: - Hear me for my cause. Five years ago I left the state of Missouri to get away from interminable litigation and persecutions. In Missouri with a brother I was a partner for twenty years, and we were the largest farmers, stockraisers and cattle feeders - so considered, in Bates Co. We sold out and the brother took nearly all the assets to Gray County, Kan. upon a cattle ranch, all in his name, and made me a silent partner which I was until his death. His two sons and only heirs were with him. He found all the property - real estate and personal was encumbered. The estate was in a condition that division of it was impracticable, if not impossible. I could not end and was not desired to continue as a silent partner, and I could not be paid. We then agreed the two sons to continue the business of the ranch and estate for five and a half years the same as during their father's lifetime, with all obligations for the same, but to provide me with a note for \$30,000.00 with interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, not as a loan. The death of my brother partner, created no property nor destroyed any. The note at the end of the five and a half years was not paid - \$24,000.00 is still unpaid. What was paid was used to live and the purchase of a house in Topeka and Liberty Bonds. While yet in Missouri learning the note was to be assumed I wished to change the value of the note into real estate and enter into a contract of a lease and conditional sale and the paid and annual rental. Mr. A. B. Howe a lawyer of Topeka City, drew up an agreement of that nature for which I paid him five dollars. He advised one of the nephews not to sign it which made it valueless. The assessor of Topeka insisted for 1919 to assess the note which was wrong and unjust. I paid half the tax \$319.00 under protest and paid of the balance, all of which should be refunded and the unpaid part cancelled. Our action was not improper, but the low rate of interest was a sacrifice of \$5,000.00 to me. The tax upon the note of prohibition is double taxation and is a species of profiting for the state. Mr. Howe's jurisdiction I charge to favor the Missouri political friends who were opposed to me. (over)

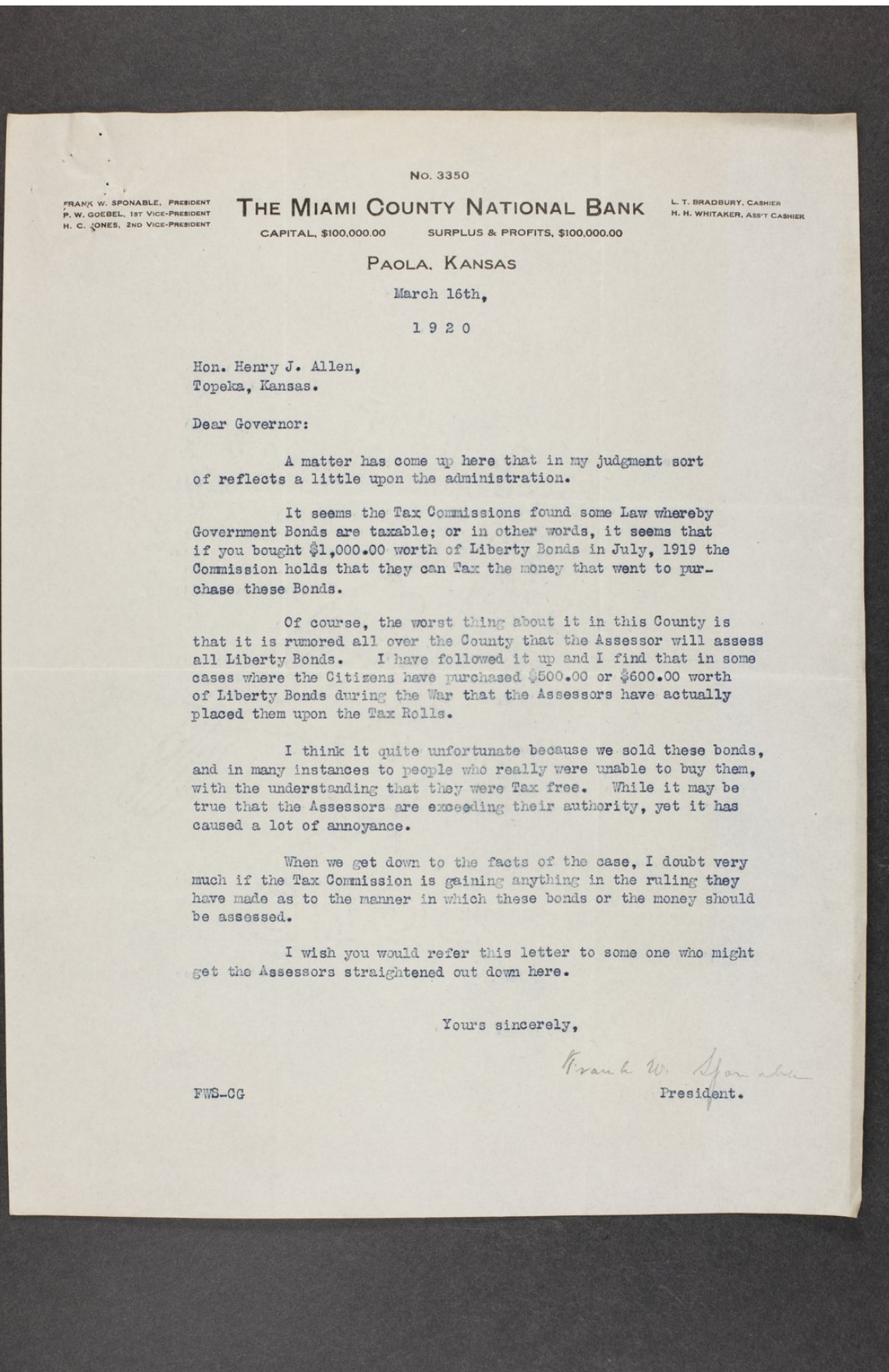
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Respectfully,
Martin E. Fry,
Said Commander Lewis County, L. A. W. post No. 1
Department of Missouri.

P.S. There is much opposition to profiting
to which I dislike to be subjected. I desire a square deal.
(At Home 1372 College Ave. Topeka Kan.)



Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19



No. 3350

FRANK W. SPORABLE, PRESIDENT
P. W. GOEBEL, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
H. C. JONES, 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

THE MIAMI COUNTY NATIONAL BANK

CAPITAL, \$100,000.00 SURPLUS & PROFITS, \$100,000.00

L. T. BRADBURY, CASHIER
H. H. WHITAKER, ASST. CASHIER

PAOLA, KANSAS

March 16th,

1920

Hon. Henry J. Allen,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Governor:

A matter has come up here that in my judgment sort of reflects a little upon the administration.

It seems the Tax Commissions found some Law whereby Government Bonds are taxable; or in other words, it seems that if you bought \$1,000.00 worth of Liberty Bonds in July, 1919 the Commission holds that they can Tax the money that went to purchase these Bonds.

Of course, the worst thing about it in this County is that it is rumored all over the County that the Assessor will assess all Liberty Bonds. I have followed it up and I find that in some cases where the Citizens have purchased \$500.00 or \$600.00 worth of Liberty Bonds during the War that the Assessors have actually placed them upon the Tax Rolls.

I think it quite unfortunate because we sold these bonds, and in many instances to people who really were unable to buy them, with the understanding that they were Tax free. While it may be true that the Assessors are exceeding their authority, yet it has caused a lot of annoyance.

When we get down to the facts of the case, I doubt very much if the Tax Commission is gaining anything in the ruling they have made as to the manner in which these bonds or the money should be assessed.

I wish you would refer this letter to some one who might get the Assessors straightened out down here.

Yours sincerely,

Frank W. Sporable
President.

FWS-CG

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

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March 17, 1920.

Hon. Frank W. Sponable,
Pres., The Miami Co. Nat'l Bank,
Paola, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 16th inst. to Gov. Allen with respect to the question of taxing moneys invested in Federal securities, has been referred to the Tax Commission for answer, and I am directed by the Commission to say that the question involved is merely one of the administration of the law of assessment and taxation.

Gov. Allen on many occasions has publicly announced his dissatisfaction with the present Kansas system of taxation and has pronounced in favor of the proposed amendment to the constitution submitted by the legislature of 1919, which if adopted will open the way to a more equitable system than now exists. No one can question Gov. Allen's sincere desire to resolve all questions in favor of the public when within his power to do so, but the Governor is not authorized to suspend the operation of the law of assessment and taxation as enacted by the legislature; neither are the officers charged with the administration of the law given discretion to say whether this, that or the other statute shall not be enforced.

The question you suggest in your letter to the Governor has not arisen because of any new proposition, but has been the rule in this state for many years.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

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Section 11161, General Statutes of 1915, which was enacted as section 10, chapter 34, Laws of 1876, in providing for the listing of property for taxation, has among the listing requirements the following:

- "15. All interest on bonds of the United States.
16. All bonds and interest on bonds of any state, county, district or municipality.
17. All other bonds, not exempt from taxation."

This statute has been modified by the act of the legislature of 1907 excusing the owners of municipal obligations from listing such obligations for tax purposes.

Section 11163, G.S. 1915, which was enacted as section 11 of chapter 34, Laws of 1876, has this provision:

"But where bonds of the United States have been purchased by any person during the year prior to the first day of March, where property is required to be listed as of that day, the value of such bonds in money shall be divided by twelve, and the quotient shall be multiplied by the number of months or fractional parts of months remaining after deducting the time which such bonds were owned, and such product shall be listed as money on hand on the first day of March by the party."

This statute since its enactment in 1876 has always been observed except as to the war obligations floated by the government to secure funds to finance the war. The application of the statute to investments in those bonds was carefully considered by the departments of the Attorney General and the Tax Commission jointly, and the conclusion was reached that the purpose of the flotation of those bonds was such as to justify the suspension of the law as to them while the government was feeling its emergency need for funds, but after the war ceased and after the government stopped issuing its war obligations the reason for the suspension no longer existed, and again, upon consultation of the two departments it was decided

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

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that the law is applicable to moneys used to purchase Federal obligations, of whatever kind or character, during the year preceding March 1st of the current tax year.

The departments may have erred in holding investments in the war obligations not subject to the law, but from every direction came intimations that if they were considered subject to the law the government would be seriously embarrassed in placing the loans with the people, and it was felt that the patriotic motives which inspired the public generally in subscribing to those loans took them out of the class which the legislature had in mind when it enacted the law, but since raising moneys to finance the war by popular subscriptions ceased the motives inspiring investments in these obligations are no different from those in respect of investments in other Federal securities. Now investments are chiefly for three purposes -i.e., to secure nontaxable investments, for speculative purposes, and in some cases to evade taxation.

As to ordinary obligations of the government the rule never was suspended, and moneys invested in accordance with the statute have always been assessable under the rule of the statute, and as to the war securities the Commission holds that the statute is applicable only to those which have been purchased since the government ceased its flotation of war obligations which was toward the close of May in 1919. Assessors have been advised everywhere that they should not cause the taxpayers to list moneys invested in war obligations prior to June 1st of 1919.

The obligations themselves are of course not taxable as the state cannot tax obligations of the Federal government, but a law of Ohio, similar to the Kansas law, was litigated through to

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

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the Federal Supreme Court, and that court decided that a statute of the kind was valid; that it did not either directly or indirectly tax Federal securities.

There can be no proper criticism against any person who sees fit to make a legitimate investment in tax-free securities. So long as the law permits such a privilege just so long a citizen is entitled to the privilege without criticism, but when he thus gains entrance into a class which is privileged and limited in number comparatively, and is entitled to the benefits thereof in after years, it is felt that he should at least submit to the slight burden that the law imposes in the attainment of the privilege.

Objections to the law are of course to be addressed to the legislature or to the courts, but not to administrative tax officers. Many citizens are constantly objecting to the requirements of the present law, and some devise and use various shifts to avoid sharing in the public burden, but the only answer administrative officers can make to such objectors is that the rule of the law is applicable to all citizens whose financial transactions bring them within its operation, and that because some object is no reason why they should be excused from the obligations, and especially so in view of the fact that a great many citizens make no objection and attempt no evasion.

Yours truly,

Secretary.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

STATE OF KANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
TOPEKA

April 8, 1920.

Mr. W. S. Edgerton,
Topeka, Kansas.

My dear Mr. Edgerton:

Governor Allen directs me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 22. He begs to advise that he has taken up the subject of your letter with the Tax Commission and is advised by Mr. Howe that so far as his Department is concerned there is no substance, in fact, to the complaint. Judge Howe urges upon me that he would like to have every one making complaint along the line of your letter to come personally before the Commission and make an investigation. He assures you that the office is always open for that purpose and the records always available.

Very truly yours,

Samuel D. George
Secretary to the Governor.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

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April 8, 1920.

Mr. W. S. Edgerton,
Topeka, Kansas.

My dear Mr. Edgerton:

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Very truly yours,

Secretary to the Governor.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

Topeka, Kans.
March 22, 1920
My dear Governor Allen:
In conversation with a
western Union officer the other
day he tells me that the
Chairman of your Tax
Commission allows his
Secretary to do personal
work for them during office
hours. As a tax payer I
am not very pleased to
hear of this. Here we tax
payers go and vote raises
for these state employees and
they work on personal business

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

on state time. Can't something
be done to have this Chairman
of the Tax Commission
stop this kind of work
or get a new outfit down
in that office. It would
seem that if this highly paid
Secretary has spare time, we
tax payers can spare him
and the Chairman too. Some-
thing is rotten, Governor
or this would not be going
on. I am for the tax amend-
ment and your other ideas and
you can count on me to help
you in any way I can.
(over)

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

Wishing you success
in cleaning up graft where
ever you find it, I am,

W. S. Edgerton

Joseph, Mo.

R. J. A.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

SAM'L T. HOWE,
JASPER T. KINCAID, } COMMISSIONERS
W. McD. ROWAN, }

CLARENCE SMITH, SECRETARY

STATE OF KANSAS

Office of the Tax Commission
Topeka

IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE NO. _____

March 27, 1920.

Hon. Henry J. Allen,
Governor, State House.

Dear Sir:-

I have read carefully the letter purporting to have been written by one W. S. Edgerton.

I wish to go on record as saying that the statements therein contained are false from start to finish. What is suggested in the letter is so contrary to the actual management of public affairs in this office that I am almost amazed that there can arise any such innuendos and imputations as to wrong doing. The fact is that if there are any departments of the state organized with the idea in view of preventing graft of any sort, this office is in the class.

When the Tax Commission was organized thirteen years ago, one of the first propositions laid down was that no employe of the office should ever devote any of his or her time to the doing of work for outside parties to be compensated for and this rule has always been rigidly enforced. Very soon after the organization public utility corporations who are required by law to make returns to this department for assessment purposes began to ask to have copies made of their returns after the assessment was completed. All such requests were refused and the parties were advised that they could send any person they chose to the office to make the copies they desired. This practice continued for

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TAX COMMISSION

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

E-H.J.A.

some years when it was represented to the Commission that it was more expensive to get the work done in this way and that they would prefer very much to have the work done by some employ of the office who was familiar with the records and the work. In all such cases prompt advice was given that no such work could be done by any employe of the office during the official time of such employe, but if anybody in the office could be prevailed upon to work over time, that is to do the work outside of office hours, there would seem to be no objection, and this has been done in some cases, but never to my knowledge has the time of any employe during the regular office hours been used in any such way and I think I am in a position to know what is going on. As a matter of fact the railroads send their personal representatives here to copy these returns as do many other utility corporations. It is only occasionally that there is a request made that the work be done outside of office hours by some employe.

I wish to call attention to the fact that office hours in this department are not surpassed in length in length by those of any other state department; in fact, it is doubtful if there is any other department in which the employes are required, day in and day out the year round, to commence work promptly at 8 o'clock A.M. There has always been complaint among the employes because they have not been allowed privileges and holidays equal to those enjoyed by employes of other departments, but the work of this department is so heavy and so pressing at all times that there is no time to be spent by any one on the pay roll in idle moments.

I could cite you to many things which prove conclusively that the management of the department has always been against anything

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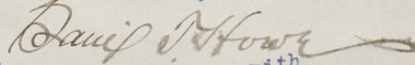
3-H.J.A.

which in any wise might have the appearance of graft. Within two minutes after the Edgerton letter was received it was shown to the secretary in the presence of another member of the commission, and inside of an hour Mr. Cox, Manager of the Western Union appeared in the office and orally stated to the members of the commission that the statements in the letter were false from start to finish—that it had always been understood by him that work would not be done by any employe of the office during office hours. Mr. Cox is the only person in the Western Union service who has anything to do with this department.

It is beyond my imagination what could have given rise to such a letter and I challenge Mr. Edgerton, or any other person, to controvert what I say herein.

It has been a source of pride to me that I have always been associated with men whose ideas were just as extreme in opposition to any sort of graft as is possible. It is an unfortunate thing that public servants are always open to charges of the kind made by irresponsible people, generally made through ignorance, or it may be sometimes for malevolent purposes. Just what inspired this letter I do not know, but I would like to have Mr. Edgerton or any other person having views as he suggests to personally appear before the Commission and make his investigation. The office will always be open for that purpose and the records always available. Ordinarily I pay no attention to criticisms of the kind and would not now had you not sent the letter to me.

Very truly yours,



P.S. The Edgerton letter is returned herewith.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19



State of Kansas

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1919 SESSION

ANTHONY, KANSAS

L. N. LYDICK
REPRESENTATIVE SEVENTY-FIRST DISTRICT
ANTHONY, KANSAS

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
VICE CHAIRMAN ELECTION
MEMBER ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION
AGRICULTURE

May 26 1920

Mr. Ernest McClure
Greeley Kan:--

My Dear Sir:-- Will answer your letter of April 25th which has been mislaid in my desk for some time.

Regarding the proposed Tax Amendment I will say that I am very much in favor of its adoption. I happen to be on the Committee on assessment and taxation in the House where this amendment originated.. You state that the Grange of Kansas feels that this amendment is unjust to the farmers .

One of the primary objects of this amendment is to eliminate so far as possible the double assessment of farm mortgages and if the Grange is opposed to this proposition it is news to me and I can hardly believe it as Mr Needham was at the Capital a great deal and neither he or any other person made any protest against the action of the committee or the legislature when the matter was up.

That is so far as I know.

Believing as I do that this amendment will work to the great advantage of the farmers of the state, unless it be to the large land barons who hold land for speculation, I can not exert my influence along the line suggested in your letter . I hope this delayed reply will fully answer your enquiry.

Yours Very Truly

L. N. Lydick