

Missoula Montana

Jan 28, 1884

To the Constitutional Convention now in session in Helena Montana Territory

Honorable Sirs,

We would submit the following to your careful consideration:

Neither the General Assembly, nor any County, City, Town, Township, school-district, or other public corporation, shall ever make any appropriation, or pay from any public fund whatever, any thing in aid of any church, or sectarian purpose, or to help support or sustain any school, academy, seminary, college, university or other literary or scientific institution controlled by any church or sectarian denomination whatever; nor shall any grant or donation of land, money or personal property, ever be made by the state, or any such public corporation to any church or for any sectarian purpose."

Names.¹

¹ 26 signatures

To the Members of the Convention –

We, undersigned, citizens and tax-payers of Montana respectfully ask that the Constitution embody the provision that no property (except as hereby suggested) shall be exempt from taxation.

We maintain that exemption of society, sectarian school, church or any such property, is not only unjust, and special legislation, but a relic of the past, and opposed to the advanced spirit and intelligence of the age.

No injustice can result from taxation of such property – it should take its chances with the general interest; and its exemption is not only opposed to fairness, but it establishes a precedent menacing to free institutions.

Public sentiment is rapidly changing upon this subject- such exemption meeting more and more with logical opposition; and Montana should secure statehood without establishing to all intents and purposes, a privileged class.

Therefor [*sic*], your petitioners ask adoption of such provision and, as in duty bound, will ever pray.²

Bozeman, Montana – Fby. 5 1884.

² 139 signatures

To the Honorable.

The President and Members of the Constitutional Convention of Montana.

In session at Helena.

Gentlemen:

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union organized in this Territory, to resist the spread of the evil of intemperance through every lawful means in their power, respectfully request your attention to the following Memorial:

Whereas: The use of intoxicating drinks in excessive and injurious quantities is widely prevalent in this ~~in~~ ~~this~~ Territory, resulting in personal injury, physical and moral degradation – especially of our youth – and even in loss of life to individuals; in suffering to families; and in crimes and pauperism, which call for additional expenditure of money by the Commonwealth and thus for additional taxation upon every citizen.

Whereas: The utmost efforts which can be made by philanthropic and religious organizations to check the further spread of this potent evil within the Territory, or to destroy its present influence are largely unavailing, so long as the manufacture, importation, sale and indiscriminate use of intoxicants is legalized, and

Whereas: Many voters of this Territory are resolved to use all the resources in their power to secure suitable legislation to protect themselves, their families and their property from the evil which threatens them from this source;

Therefor: Be it resolved that this Woman's Christian Temperance Union of the Territory of Montana do hereby earnestly urge upon the members of the Constitutional Convention of this Territory the wisdom and the necessity of making provision in the Constitution itself, against the manufacture, sale, or use of intoxicating liquors in Montana or the importation of the same into it, save only for medicinal, mechanical or scientific purposes, and that they do expressly pray your Honorable body to insert such an article or provision into the Constitution which you shall frame and present to the people.

Mrs M. J. Clark, President.

Mrs. H. H. Priest Secretary.

To the Constitutional Convention now in session at Helena, Montana Territory:

The undersigned citizens & tax payers of Montana respectfully petition your honorable body to insert in the Constitution a clause to the effect that all property shall be subject alike to taxation except public property of the State, Counties and Townships, and property of the United States.³

³ 46 signatures

Bozeman Montana

January 23rd 1884.

To the honorable, the members of the Constitutional Convention now convened at Helena Montana.

We the undersigned citizens of Bozeman do most respectfully petition your honorable body to embody the flowing in the Constitution for the Territory of Montana, To wit "Neither the General Assembly nor any County, City, town, township, school district or other public Corporation shall ever make any appropriation or pay from any public fund whatever, any thing in aid of any church or sectarian purpose or to help support or sustain any school, academy, seminary, college, university or other literary or scientific institution controlled by any church or sectarian denomination whatever, nor shall any grant or donation of land, money or other personal property ever be made by the State or any such public corporation, to any church or for any sectarian purpose"⁴

⁴ 136 signatures

Petition from Citizens of Custer County.

Relative to Cons.

Jan 26 Read

Referred to Com of the whole having in Considerat [sic] General File No 4

To the honorable members of the the [sic] Convention assembled at Helena M.T. for framing a State Constitution.

We the undersigned citizens of Custer Co M.T. most respectfully petition your honorable body to make the following or similar provision in the Constitution you are about to frame. Vis

“Neither the legislature nor any County, City, town, township, School district or other public corporation, shall ever make any appropriation or pay from any public fund whatever anything in aid of any church or Sectarian purposes, or to help support or sustain any school, academy, seminary, college, university, or other literary or scientific institution controlled by any church or sectarian denomination whatever; nor shall any grant or donation of land, money, or other personal property ever be made by the State or any public Corporation to any church or for any Sectarian purpose”

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⁵ 63 signatures