

J. F. REIS TURNS OVER CHECK FOR \$182,650.77 TO DEVINNEY TODAY

19/14/33
Simple Climax Marks End
To Two Years Of Court
Litigation

PLEASED SAYS REIS

Six Companies Now Largest
Single Taxpayer,
Outside Of U. P.

Boulder Dam tax litigation became history at 9:35 this morning when J. F. Reis, administrative manager for Six Companies Incorporated, Boulder Dam contractors, tendered County Assessor F. C. Devinney a check for \$182,650.77 in full payment of 1931, 1932 and 1933 taxes, and received in return a handfull of county receipts, closing the transaction.

It was a simple climax to the litigation of the past two years to determine the status of the area the interior department claimed to be federal reservation and therefore tax-free, and was witnessed only by District Attorney Harley A. Harmon, who led the fight on behalf of Clark county; A. C. Grant, president of the Las Vegas chamber of commerce; employees of the assessor's office and newspaper representatives.

THE QUESTION of jurisdiction of the state of Nevada and Clark county in the matter of collecting taxes in the dam area arose as a result of the assurance of former Secretary of Interior Ray Lyman Wilbur to all contractors bidding on the job originally, that they would be free from state and

SUPERSTITIOUS? HELL NO — DEVINNEY

“Superstitious? Hell no! At least not where \$182,650.77 is concerned! Anytime anybody wants to pay the county all that money, I don't care when the check's dated so long as it's good.”

This was the reaction of County Assessor F. C. Devinney this morning when it was called to his attention that the Six Companies tax check was written on Friday the 13th, and that the digits of the number of the check “B6061” totalled 13.

“I don't believe in black cats and all that stuff,” Devinney said. “I've always maintained that what's going to happen will happen whether it happens or not. You bet that check's all right with me.”

county levies. It was to determine the exact status of the situation that Six Companies in June of 1932 finally filed an action in the federal court against the county assessor seeking an injunction to prevent him from collecting taxes in the so-called reservation. In March of this year Judge Frank H. Norcross handed down a deci-

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J. F. Reis

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sion in which he held that no reservation had been created, and that the state and county were entitled to levy against the privately owned property within that area.

Since that time Six Companies attorneys have been working with District Attorney Harley A. Harmon, County Assessor F. C. Devinney and the board of county commissioners on a friendly settlement which would end the litigation and eliminate any necessity for an appeal to the higher courts. This agreement was reached several weeks ago and since that time the district attorney's office and Six Companies attorneys have been straightening out the legal technicalities preparatory to final settlement.

THE PAYMENT this morning by Reis definitely places Six Companies and its subsidiaries in the role of the largest single taxpayer in the county outside of the Union Pacific railroad, and ends all question regarding future payment of taxes, which will be paid as assessed, according to Reis.

"Believe me when I say this is just as much of a pleasure for us as it is for Clark county," Reis said this morning. "We've been anxious to get it settled and get on the same basis as everybody else in the county. We're a part of Clark county and want to do our part, whatever it may be. We are looking forward to several more years of friendly operations here and hope to participate to a small degree at least in the development of southern Nevada we all expect will follow completion of the dam."

THE DISTRIBUTION of the huge check, largest single payment ever made to Clark county in its 24 years of existence, is as follows:

Anderson — Personal Property Taxes—1931-1932-1933:

\$1,513.34

1,174.84

2,694.48.

B. C. Co.—Personal Property Taxes—1931-1932-1933:

\$20,115.41

14,884.46

34,999.87.

Six Companies—Personal Property Taxes—1931-1932-1933:

\$ 40,692.48

64,597.94

105,290.42.

Anderson—Poll Taxes to 9-30-33,
Totals:

579.00

3,273.48.

B. C. Co.—Poll Taxes to 9-30-33,
Totals:

846.00

35,845.87.

Six Companies—Poll Taxes to 9-30-33, Totals:

38,241.00

143,531.42.

Total taxes paid by concerns

operating within the reservation area will total approximately \$211,130.77, according to Devinney, these sums to be distributed among the various funds as follows:

State	\$32,545.60
County General	14,018.17
County Roads	51,796.27
Highway bonds	4,448.23
Courthouse bonds	855.22
Bridge bonds	691.66
Lincoln County bonds	5,945.94
Farm Bureau	444.82
Indigent fund	14,896.39
Old H. S. Bonds	1,531.07
County schools	25,517.77
Emergency loans	5,193.18
Publicity Fund	889.65
Teachers Retirement	106.90
Courthouse and Jail	222.22
High School	14,086.05
New H. S. Bonds	16,013.62

Approximately \$45,000 has been collected in poll taxes, Devinney points out and all of this goes by statute into the county highway fund. The sums in the courthouse bond, teachers' retirement and courthouse and jail will revert into the general fund as these no longer exist.