

THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1925.

STATE GRANGE

Report of the Legislative Committee

The sessions of the State Grange at Sunbury closed last Friday.

The following report of the committee on legislation sets forth the position of the organization on many matters of public importance:

Worthy Master and Members of the Pennsylvania State Grange:

Your Legislative Committee beg leave to report that we have given during the past year careful consideration to legislation affecting the agricultural interests of our State and made every effort to carry out the instructions of this body given to us one year ago at the Erie meeting.

Under these instructions we prepared and presented to the last Legislature bills on those subjects, with the following results. A bill to allow trolley roads to carry freight. Killed by the Committee on City Passenger Railways. Bills favoring the return of all license money and personal property taxes, pigeonholed in the Ways and Means Committee. Bills regulating railroads and passenger rates, pigeonholed in the Railroad Committee. Bills favoring legislation for the initiative and referendum, pigeonholed in the committee. Bill for ballot reform. Pigeonholed in committee. Bill for a general primary election law met the same fate.

Nothing further was said about the treatment that the farmers received at the last session of that subservient Legislature until one day in November last, we think it was the seventh, when it was discovered that the people registered a mighty protest against this kind of treatment. And should this plan of defeating all reform movements continue there will be a mightier protest next time. The people are beginning to learn that political parties are supposed to carry out the wishes of the people, and when they fail to do this it is our duty to apply the remedy.

In the matter of taxation we can only repeat what has been said by this committee for more than 15 years—that the grossest inequalities exist in our present tax laws. Our present method of State taxation is not based on acts of Legislature, but on decisions of the courts, so that we find that competing corporations in the same town or city are taxed differently. One pays State taxes on its capital stock, bonded indebtedness and gross earnings, while the other pays no State taxes at all. We refer to electric light and gas companies. And it is common knowledge that the latter is not taxed because the Standard Oil Company owns many artificial gas plants either by purchase or lease. In short our tax laws are made to favor trusts and monopolies and cannot be changed on account of their campaign contributions.

The old chestnut that the farmer and other real estate owners pay no State tax is very delusive. Real estate is paying about 15 mills tax on the dollar, while corporate and personal property is paying an average of three to 30 mills. The fact that one pays taxes to the State and the other to the local authorities can not make up for this injustice. Because of this inequality the great corporate interests and their agents are opposed to any change in our existing tax laws.

The Grange plan of retaining in the counties the license and part of the personal property taxes is meeting with more favor and is the cor-

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rect way of keeping down the surplus. The return of these taxes would reduce local taxes to that amount and equalize taxation to a certain extent.

The laying up of a large surplus by the State is wrong in principle, because it breeds corruption and extravagance; it is wrong in law, since the governmental function in taxation is to collect only such amounts of money by taxation as is actually needed to run the government economically.

Suppose a municipality would collect twice as much money from the taxpayers as it needs for its schools, roads, etc. how long would the taxpayers tolerate it? Yet this is practically what we are doing in our State finances. A reasonable surplus, say from one to two millions of dollars, is all that the State should carry. Our tax laws are badly in need of revision. The Grange must keep on pointing out the way. Eternally keeping at it will win success.

ROADS

The Grange secured the passage of a Township Road Law at the last session of the Legislature. Its principal features are the election of a continuous board of three supervisors one being elected each year and all to serve without pay. Their duties are similar to those of the school board. This Board appoints Road Masters, fixes wages, and may contract out the building of roads for a continuous period not to exceed three years to the same taxpayer, and for a stretch of road not exceeding three miles in length. By petitioning court the citizens of a township may secure the right to decide by ballot whether the road taxes shall be paid in cash. In case the voters decide to pay cash the township will receive fifteen per cent. of the amount raised in said township. Your committee recommends that the percentage borne by the State be increased to fifty per cent., as in the States of Delaware and New York.

So far the various townships of Pennsylvania have built and maintained the 100,000 miles of public roads, at a cost of over four millions of dollars annually. The State Grange years ago took the position that as the public roads were used by all the people, all should contribute to their building and maintenance. This proposition is fundamental and must be respected.

This new Township Road Law has been published in the official paper of our order, the Grange News, as well as explanations relative to the more important points. It passed the House and Senate unanimously and while not perfect it should receive the support of every one that is interested in having a system in the management of our public roads. One of the strong points of this new law is that it puts all the power in the hands of the people instead of delegating it to outsiders. Even the provisions allowing the voters to adopt a cash tax can be repealed by the same authority if not satisfactory. The

law has been attacked because the Board of three supervisors receive no pay. In our opinion this is one of the best features of the law, as it will have a tendency to secure the services of men who are interested in good roads at the lowest possible cost. And it is our hope that the farmers of the State will make an effort at the coming February election to put the law into operation in good shape, and whatever its defects are can be remedied at the next session of the Legislature.

STATE ROAD LAW

At the last Legislature, through the efforts of the Grange, the part which the township and county pay toward the building of a State road was reduced from one-sixth to one-eighth each. Another change is that applications must be filed by May 1st of each year or the money will go to those counties that have applications filed for more than their share of the state aid. This state road law needs some radical changes because it is impossible for the State Department to build roads in 67 counties in the state at the same time, unless it has a regiment of men at Harrisburg. This is too expensive and slow a business. The red tape around this law must be removed. The money paid direct to the counties. The department having the overseeing power with the right to withhold the appropriation if a road is not properly built. The cost of these roads are excessive and we are opposed to bonding counties and townships for their construction. It would seem reasonable that some cheaper method could be devised for building many roads which would answer the same purpose as the more costly ones. Another subject that is coming up and creating a great deal of trouble is the reckless use of automobiles on our public roads. It has come to pass that we farmers are afraid to send our wives and daughters out with a carriage lest they be injured or killed. So far the automobile people have paid little or no tax toward building or maintaining our country roads, and while under the law they have a right to travel them, we insist that they use the greatest care.

SCHOOL APPROPRIATIONS

The appropriation to Township High schools was increased from \$100,000 to \$200,000 at the last session of the Legislature through the efforts of the Grange. Our common school appropriation should be increased. We are not appropriating as much to them as we did when the treasury carried no surplus, because there are deductions made that were not made at that time.

DIRECT LEGISLATION

On this subject we quote from our report of last year, as follows:—"Relative to the initiative and referendum the Grange cannot afford to take a backward step when we consider that this is no new thing, except perhaps, the name. Many questions in the past have been referred to the people for their approval or disapproval. The constitution gives us a right to petition Congress and the Legislature in favor or against measures. The initiative and referendum in only a more extended use of privileges we now possess and its adoption is sure to come. It seems to be a wise method to overthrow the work of corrupt officials and give the people a chance to enact laws in their interests."

PURE FOOD LEGISLATION

We congratulate the State Grange upon having secured the enactment several years ago of a state oleo law, which, under its vigorous enforcement by our present Dairy and Food Commissioner, has proven itself to be highly efficient. In this age of food grafters it is highly necessary to have a National pure food law establishing uniform regulations in all states. Honest manufacturers, as well as consumers, are entitled to this protection. We favor striking out the word "knowingly" in the Federal oleo law and insist that no reduction be made in the tax upon colored oleo.

We favor a parcel post. Postal savings bank, election of U. S. Senators by a direct vote of the people, and endorse the action of the President in his efforts to grant greater powers to the Interstate Commerce Commission as was intended when the act was originally passed. There is no subject on which the people are so thoroughly united. We favor the passage of a law allowing the manufacture of de-naturalized alcohol. We believe there should be some changes in our present tariff laws. For instance, can anyone give a reason why we should have a tariff on lumber and then spend millions for forestry, permitting our trusts and monopolies to sell cheaper abroad

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of

than at home. In conclusion we wish to emphasize the fact that in order to secure the needed legislation we must be alert. The appointment of Legislative committees in our Subordinate and Pomona Granges will help us materially. The committee extends its thanks to the newspapers that have so ably championed the measure in which farmers are vitally interested.

Bibles, teacher's edition, large and small at Mercer's Drug and Book Store.

ELECTION NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the policy holders of the Briarbrook Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company of Line 1010 Co. Pa., will be held at the Hall of Centre Grange No. 36, 2, of B. on Tuesday January 9, 1926, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 2 P. M. for the election of twelve Directors to serve for the ensuing year and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

H. H. BROWN, Secretary Dec. 21, 25

At Whary's China Store.

Salad dishes from 15 cents to \$2.50. Orange bowls, \$2.00 to \$2.50. Chocolate sets, 25 cents to \$6.50. Sugar and cream sets, 25 cents to \$2.50. Cereal Jars, 50 cents to \$2.75. Jardiniere, 17 cents to \$4.50. Bread and butter plates, from 10 cents each to \$6.70 per dozen. Fine line of hand painted china in odd pieces.

Pocket Books for ladies and gentlemen at Mercer's Drug and Book Store.

The Smallest Coins.

The natives of the Malay Peninsula have in use the very smallest current coin in the world. It is a sort of wafer, made from the resinous juice of a tree, and is worth about one-tenth-thousandth of a penny. The smallest metal coin in circulation at the present day is the Portuguese three-reis piece, worth twelve-one-hundredths of a penny. The smallest coin circulating officially in any part of the British empire is the five-millosima piece of Gibraltar, about half a farthing.—Lahore Tribune.

Great Depths of Ocean.

A French writer in a scientific magazine tells of the great ocean depths of 28,000 to 30,000 feet, the temperature tending toward zero, the perpetual darkness ranging below depths of about 1,280 feet. At that level plants, deprived of light, cannot exist. The organs of sight, not being used, have become atrophied and disappeared. Yet there is light even in that sightless world. A German exploring ship found a fish with enormous eyes at a depth of 6,400 feet.—Exchange.

Eccentricities of the Shah.

Recently he came upon a kitten that immediately charmed him. For a while the shah played with the kitten, and at last he picked it up and presented it to the grand vizier with the instructions to take good care of it. Its owner, the wife of a gardener, ventured to protest. She loved the kitten, she could not part with it; but the grand vizier threw her a piece of gold, silenced her with an awful look, and walked off with the kitten under his arm.

India's Mounted Nurse Corps.

India has a staff of mounted army nurses. The Indian government allows these ladies of the Indian nursing service 20 rupees a month for the upkeep of their horses, and free conveyance of their animals to and from active service. This corps of nurses are all ladies of good social position, and have to undergo three years' training in a general hospital before qualifying.

A Valuable Crown.

The Pope has ordered a firm of Florence jewelers to manufacture a crown set with imitation stones for the image at the Virgin in the basilica of the Vatican, in place of a crown containing gems valued at \$7,500,000, which is to be deposited in the vaults of the Vatican.

Hindu children are remarkable for their precocity. Many of them are skillful workmen at an age when European children are learning the alphabet. A boy of 7 may be a skillful wood carver, while some of the handsomest rugs are woven by children not yet in their teens.

Fortunate is the man who is a hero to his wife.

BRIGHT'S DISEASE--GRAVEL.

"I have long resolved that I would apprise you of the deep sense of obligation which I feel. There is nothing which I now enjoy that I do not owe to the use of Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy at a time when I was suffering all that a human being could endure. My troubles began in my kidneys and I never expected to Recover.

I was compelled to use a cane so weak that I could not stand alone. When I walked, and I finally got so weak that I had to be carried, a physician said I had Bright's Disease, which was, indeed, alarming information. To add to my affliction, after I had been ill about two years, I had a bad attack of gravel. I saw Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy advertised in our paper. After using one bottle I threw away my cane and went to New York on a visit, and three bottles cured me. I have never had a return of gravel, nor of the pains or weakness in the back, and though I am over sixty years of age

I Am Now Vigorous and Strong as I was in my prime. I do all my own work and rarely know what it is to be tired. What physicians and all of the many remedies I had taken could not do Dr. Kennedy's Favorite Remedy did; it stayed the disease and made me a strong, vigorous woman."

Mrs. Emeline P. Mizer, Burg Hill, Ohio. Dr. D. Kennedy's Favorite Remedy Prepared at Rondout, N. Y. Sold by all druggists. \$1 a bottle; 6 for \$5.

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