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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1909

Creasy Hits Exemption.

Satirically Demands That Auditor General Disclose State Losses.

How much revenue the State has lost on account of the trust company tax bill enacted two years ago is what "Farmer" Creasy wants to know from Auditor General Young. That loss, however, since the law took effect, is authoritatively estimated to have been about \$350,000. The bill enacted came from Representative John P. Moore, of Allegheny, and changed the taxing of trust company stock on the market value or actual value to the book or par value.

There are 300 trust companies in the State, and the larger ones have been the principal beneficiaries of the Moore law, but one of the chief two is in Philadelphia and the other in Pittsburgh. The stock of the Pittsburgh concern has had a selling value 20 times its par.

Representative Creasy presented, on this subject, in the House, the following satirical resolution of inquiry.

Whereas Robert K. Young, Auditor General, in his last report submitted to the Governor, has urged a tax on bank deposits, favors more rigid assessment of personal property and a levy on trust funds, and also seeks other methods of imposing additional taxes; and

Whereas, The last Legislature passed the act of June 13, 1907, which was entitled "An act to provide revenue by levying a tax upon the shares of certain companies," etc., and which act relieved certain trust companies from the payment of taxes which they had heretofore been liable to pay under the general law, and which act was passed by that Legislature and approved by the Governor, notwithstanding the fact that the Department of the Auditor General, after making a thorough, painstaking and complete report on the loss of the revenue previously derived from such taxes, and which report found that in the opinion of the Auditor General, if that act passed, the State would lose in revenue in the neighborhood of \$300,000;

Resolved, That this House before passing any law to increase taxation requests the Auditor General to furnish it with information as to how much revenue has been lost to this State by reason of the passage of the aforementioned act, and that this information be furnished by him as soon as he can conveniently do so.

There is hardly a member of the General Assembly at Harrisburg who has not up his sleeve some measure involving a new drain on the treasury. Yet this is a time when all business and employment is going forward at a slackened gait, and when the chief concern of men and women is to adjust expenditure to lessened income. The real task before the legislature should be to devise economies that should help the people to better bear the burden of government, but this is a labor for statesmen which political buccaneers disdain to even consider. — Phil's Record.

WASHINGTON

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 9, 1909.

Congress which has now but little over three weeks for the passage of many important measures before inauguration continues to dawdle and waste its time. This week it has spent many hours arguing over a twelve thousand appropriation for automobiles for the White House. Representative Sims of Tennessee and twenty-seven of his friends are sternly opposed to the introduction of automobiles for the President and he with a number of his colleagues have made speeches against this their pet aversion. Their arguments have been futile in the lower House though and all of their gory pictures of the dead and wounded who are left in the trail of the gasoline machines succeeded in securing only twenty-seven votes against the appropriation to 185 in its favor. Mr. Taft will have a machine. Maybe he will have two and he is to have a chauffeur and a footman and if the ordinary man is a judge of such things he will get all of the punishment that Mr. Sims and his friends wish him. The horse is a known and tried luxury but the automobile is a fitful, unreliable thing as yet and no man can be the possessor of one, much less two or three without having as much trouble as his envious friends and enemies can wish him. And if the automobile is a care there are no mild terms for the description of the load of trouble he has undertaken in a chauffeur. If the automobile is still far from perfection the average chauffeur has just emerged from the nether regions. Probably Mr. Taft will not be so unhappy in his automobiles as the average man. His chauffeurs will be responsible to some one besides the President who will not have to find out that his car is left to stand in oil to weaken the tires; that tacks are recklessly sprinkled in his garage for the same purpose and that gasoline is soaked into the inner tubes with the object of having them blow up. The chauffeur has a rake off on all the supplies and repairs for his machine and it is up to him to see that the car which would ordinarily behave like an angel on wings does not pursue its peaceful career. Presumably there will be some one to see that when the cars are turned in at night the chauffeur does not take his family and friends out for moonlight drives and it is to be hoped that there will be some adequate inspection of the car before it starts out on a long trip so that Mr. Taft may not find himself stranded miles from a car line on a lonely road. Still if all of these safeguards are provided there will doubtless be many times when the President-elect and his family will wish for horses and when Mr. Sims and his twenty-seven friends may indulge in "I told you so's."

State to Pay Teachers.

Bill Introduced Carries \$23,000,000 for Salaries.

A bill providing that from and after June 4, 1909, the State will assume and pay so much of the operating expenses of the common schools as is comprised in the items of teachers' wages was introduced in the House by Walter S. Reynolds, of Lawrence county.

Twenty-eight millions of dollars, or so much of the annual revenues and surplus fund of the State as may be needed to carry the act into effect is appropriated by the bill.

The computation of the amounts to be paid is to be made upon the cost of the items for the school year ending June 1, 1909.

CONSUMPTIVES CAN'T MARRY.

Marriage of persons affected with consumption and other diseases such as would affect their offspring is prohibited by a bill introduced in the House by H. A. McClung, of Allegheny county. It provides that before a marriage license shall be granted the applicants must produce a certificate from physicians that they are not afflicted with pulmonary tuberculosis, epilepsy, venereal disease, insanity, imbecility and idiocy.

FOR A WATER COMMISSION.

Expressing the belief that the purification of the State's water supply can best be carried out by the State in cooperation with the counties, a resolution was presented in the House by W. A. Magee, of Allegheny county, authorizing the appointment of a commission to investigate and report on the matter of the water supply of the State.

The commission is to be composed of five citizens of the State appointed by the Governor, who shall report before April 1 to the Legislature upon their findings.

Disinfection of Houses.

Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, State commissioner of health, has issued a circular calling attention to a new feature that has been inaugurated by the State in its crusade against tuberculosis, which is nothing less than a systematic house disinfection. It is believed that dwellings occupied by persons suffering with tuberculosis become infected the same as in the case of many other diseases. It is to protect others, especially families that may unconsciously move into such houses after being vacated that the department of health has provided for fumigation in all cases of tuberculosis.

The letter, reads as follows: "Dear Doctor:—The disinfection of houses that have been occupied by persons suffering of tuberculosis is such an important feature of our campaign against this disease that this department has decided to extend somewhat its services for this purpose. District health officers through you will be authorized to perform house disinfection for tuberculosis only, within the limits of a borough or first class township under the following conditions:

A statement in writing must be made by the chief burgess or president of the board of commissioners setting forth the fact that the borough or township is financially unable to do the work and asking that it be done by the board of health. Upon the receipt of such a communication you are authorized to instruct the nearest available district health officer to disinfect the house in question. Instruct the officer that in rendering the bill for this service he must state on the voucher that the work was done under special orders from yourself.

By order of Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, Commissioner."

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the Signature of J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

the next and also the question of the tariff on lumber and how its removal would affect the matter of the conservation of forests.

The thrilling incident of the rescue of more than one thousand persons from the steamer Republic through the agency of wireless telegraphy has inspired Congress to take some action with regard to equipping of all passenger carrying steamers with the apparatus. Had the Florida been so equipped the accident by which the Republic was sent to the bottom would not have occurred for the two vessels would have been able to exchange signals in the fog. It appears that the French Assembly has already taken up the subject and it is probable that England will follow with laws requiring vessels to carry the wireless equipment. Its cost is slight ranging from three hundred to one thousand dollars and its maintenance is not exorbitant, and it is proposed by the Committee on Merchant Marine to urge that all ocean steamers carrying more than fifty passengers shall carry the apparatus.

The Chances of Local Option.

Hearing For and Against on Law this Month—Advocates Are Not Sanguine.

Local option now in the centre of the stage will be given a full hearing on the floor of the House on February 23. This announcement was made by Speaker Cox, who also set February 25 for the hearing of the opponents of the bill. The Law and Order Committee, which has consideration of the bill, will report it out without recommendation.

Conferences which Representative Fair has called of the local optionists has brought together about 50 members who are willing to openly defend the bill. This number will be increased to 70 or 75 when the bill comes to a vote, but even the most ardent local option advocates are not sanguine of its passage.

Fleet is on Way Home.

With a booming farewell from the guns of a dozen foreign warships, the American battleship fleet sailed from Gibraltar for home last Saturday. It has been "sailing for home" ever since the ships turned their prows from the Orient, but as long as there were intervening stops and ports of call, the sailors hardly considered themselves home-bound. The next land they will see will be their own, the next flag the Stars and Stripes.

The ships weighed anchor at nine o'clock though they remained with steam for several hours before sailing. The home voyage will probably be made with reduced speed of ten knots an hour, as there is no occasion for hurry. The vessels will not raise their homeward bound pennants until they enter the Virginia capes.

Editors Want Laws Published.

The State Editorial Association Wednesday adopted a resolution asking that the legislature enact a law requiring newspaper publication of certain laws, especially those relating to the Departments of Health, Dairy and Food, Fish, Game, Factory Inspection and Education, under the direction of the heads of these departments.

The association believes that such a course will make for a better public understanding of new laws.

In order to obtain the passage of such legislation, if possible, the State Editorial association and the Western Pennsylvania Associated Dailies each appointed a committee to work jointly for this law. It was proposed that the next annual excursion of the association should take in a trip to the Isthmus of Panama, which would bring the canal under editorial inspection. The proposition is a good one, and if it should be carried out a flood of light would be thrown upon that great national undertaking by the Pennsylvania editors that might eclipse the result of Taft's investigation. This highly interesting trip would come off next fall, and taking in Havana, could be accomplished in about fifteen days. At Havana the editors could arrange for the raising of the Maine.

The February Sale of FURNITURE AND LINENS Began at Pursel's Monday, February 1st.

In this Sale we have "buzz-sawed" Furniture prices and "torn" a good bit off Linen prices! But then you EXPECTED THAT, and we only mention it to emphasize the importance of this Sale to every person having a home to furnish. Your main interest will center 'round THE VALUES. You already know that Pursel Furniture, like Pursel Linens, is of "first" quality—that goes without saying.

Linens of all Kinds at Big Reductions.

Table with 2 columns: BLEACHED TABLE LINENS and MERCERIZED TABLE DAMASK. Lists various linens and damasks with their reduced prices.

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We Have Ten Styles of Envelopes and Paper to Match

— FOR — Invitations, Acceptances, Regrets Announcements, &c.

Full size Wedding with two Envelopes, down to Billet-doux size with Card to Fit.

Twenty-Four Styles of Type FOR CARDS AND INVITATIONS.

We Do All Kinds of Printing. Columbian Printing House, BLOOMSBURG, PA.

Not Coughing Today? Yet you may cough tomorrow! Better be prepared for it when it comes. Ask your doctor about keeping Ayer's Cherry Pectoral in the house. Then when the hard cold or cough first appears you have a doctor's medicine at hand. Your doctor's approval of its use will certainly set all doubt at rest. Do as he says. He knows. No alcohol in this cough medicine. J.C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass. Robust health is a great safeguard against attacks of throat and lung troubles, but constipation will destroy the best of health. Ask your doctor about Ayer's Pills.