

## REVENUES FORCE ADDED TAXES

Coal, Gas, Oil Inheritances, Laundering, Manufacturing Sources of Assessment.

### IMMENSE STATE EXPENSES

Legislature Will Probe Officials as to Departmental Expenditures—One Bill Provides for a Constitutional Grading.

Harrisburg. The General Appropriation Bill carrying the funds for the conduct of the State government for two years commencing with next June, was presented to the House in preliminary form and accompanied by proposed revenue raising bills which will provide for an estimated increase of the revenues to the extent of about 12 million dollars a year, if they are enacted.

The general bill will be immediately sent to the Appropriations Committee to complete and it will inaugurate its own hearings, which will include quizzing of some department heads while the revenue measures will be considered and held awaiting developments.

The general bill will carry between forty-two and forty-four millions. It will represent what the Economy and Efficiency Commission has agreed upon and where the commission has not had time to go into everything the estimates will be put in as more, the total of the estimates is sixty-five millions. Last session the general appropriations were forty millions. The committee will likely call some department chiefs to ask why money is needed and whether attaches were employed on political business the last year and a half with the bills paid by the state.

A summary of the new revenue measure is as follows, so far as prepared:

**Would Amend Constitution**  
One proposes an amendment to Section 1, Article 9, of the Constitution, by which subjects of taxation may be classified for the purpose of laying graded or progressive taxes. The amendment would read as follows:

All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of subjects within the territorial limits of authority levying the tax, and shall be levied and collected under general laws, and the subjects of taxation may be classified for the purpose of laying graded or progressive taxes; but the General Assembly may, by general laws, exempt from taxation public property used for public purposes, actual purposes of religious worship, places of burial not used or held for private or corporate profit, and institutions of purely public charity. This amendment would be voted on by the next Legislature and submitted to the people at the general election following, if passed by the Legislature.

A direct inheritance tax provides that after proper appraisal, a tax of 2 per cent. shall be taken on the clear value of estates real, personal or mixed, situated within the Commonwealth owned by decedents, whether they were residents of the state or not, no matter to what direct heirs they may be devised. The tax also would be imposed on estates outside of the Commonwealth owned by residents of Pennsylvania. A discount of 5 per cent. is allowed for payment of the tax within three months after the decedent's death. The bill in no way conflicts with the collateral inheritance tax, in that it applies to direct heirs only, including father, mother, husband, wife, child, grandchild, lineal descendants born in lawful wedlock, children of a former husband or wife, or the wife or widow of the son of a decedent, or adopted children. The tax operates also on illegitimate heirs, their spouses or relatives.

**Coal Tax for Highways.**  
A State tax on coal dedicates half of the amount realized to the construction, maintenance, improvement and repair of State and State-aid highways. It provides that an annual tax of 2 per cent. shall be imposed on the value of each ton of coal when prepared for market, which shall be imposed at the time when the coal has been mined or washed and is ready for shipment or market.

The mine superintendent is charged with the duty of reporting the amount on blanks prepared by the Auditor General, and these reports must be filed with the Auditor General, the reporting office getting 1 per cent. of the sum collected. If the mine superintendent shall fail or refuse to make such report, the Auditor General has the right to appoint a person to make the assessment, and the mine books and records may be demanded to aid in such reports.

**Eye and Limb Liability.**  
Destruction of 283 eyes and amputation of 209 arms, legs, feet and hands of Pennsylvania workers, through industrial accidents in 1916, entailed an aggregate cost of \$562,404 in workmen's compensation payments. Commissioner John Price Jackson, of the Department of Labor and Industry, reports. He pointed out that these compensation awards comprise approximately one-eighth of the total compensation payments of \$4,224,875.43 awarded for all classes of disabilities and deaths during 1916.

## PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFS

Patriotic foundrymen at the Florence Iron Works have collected a fund to purchase an enormous flag. They erected a 75-foot staff and had a big demonstration.

In a demonstration at Wilkes-Barre the Wyoming Valley strongly demanded military training.

Broken glass, strewn for 100 yards on one of Hazleton's streets, ruined the tires of many autos.  
Every Catholic Total Abstinence Union between Carbonate and Freeport has voted unanimously to answer any call to arms which may be issued by the President.

In a proclamation issued by Mayor Hugentugler, Yorkers of foreign birth are assured that if they go peaceably about their business their personal and property rights will not be invaded.

Two thousand employees of the Pittsburgh Public Works Department, including engineers, draughtsmen and artisans, have offered themselves as a unit to the Government in the event of war.

Pittston's School Board president, John H. Foy, has charged Principal Thomas S. Foley with having falsely certified to a Philadelphia college that a Pittston young man had graduated from the High School.

Congressman A. S. Krieder has announced nomination for Annapolis Naval Academy, Hobson Wagner, principal, of Myerstown; Allen Howard, first alternate, Lebanon, and Guy W. Moore, second alternate, Lebanon.

Every home in Collingswood will fly the Stars and Stripes under an appeal by Mayor Jack. Those who cannot afford to buy one will be supplied free by the Defense Committee.

Weatherly.—The plant of the Weatherly Foundry and Machine Company, which makes anchors for the United States navy and buoys for the light-house service, will be enlarged.

Howard Kramlich, of Northampton borough, who was convicted in February of selling hogs suffering from cholera, was refused a new trial at Easton, and sentenced by Judge Stewart to pay a fine of \$100 and costs, about \$150.

John Sanderson, 70, a farmer, near Roxbury, blew his heart out by pulling the trigger of his shotgun with his toe. He lived with a stepson, aged 11, and invited the boy to sit down and watch him end all.

The last shipment of shrapnel cases for six-inch shells was made by the Milton Manufacturing Company, and its big plant is idle. For eight months three shifts of 600 men turned out 1500 shells a day, and wages amounted to \$40,000 weekly.

Sherman Milligan, 40, of Font, Chester county, the father of eleven children, has died from the effects of drinking poison, taken presumably for whiskey.

The Mt. Gretna narrow-gauge railway is to pass into history and be sold for scrap.

At a mass meeting, Dickinson College students arranged for military training at the institution.

Through a main representative in Altoona, 75,000 Mennonites have petitioned the president for exemption from military service.

Harry Sisk, of Factoryville, formerly a member of the Thirteenth Regiment, was recently made captain of a machine gun company stationed at El Paso, Tex. The company, recruited at Sayre, and commanded by Captain Sisk, consists of 53 men and eight horses and five automobiles.

The question of detaching a portion of the borough of Mount Holly Springs and annexing it to the township of South Middleton, in Cumberland county, is being considered. The borough of Mount Holly Springs was incorporated by a special act of Legislature, which was approved April 10, 1873.

Fire destroyed the plant of the Indian Refining Co., at Philadelphia, at a loss of \$200,000.

The Pennsylvania Public Service Commission was asked by the railroads operating in Pennsylvania to consent to a flat increase of 15 per cent. in freight rates within the state.

Shooting mark with a fobert rifle on the mountainside, 6-year-old Michael Wayne, of Mahanoy Plane, was fatally wounded in the abdomen. He died shortly after at the State Hospital.

Ickesburg is organizing a State bank with \$25,000 capital and a garment factory.

Railroads not being permissible playgrounds, George Kneily, aged 14, was denied damages by a Luzerne jury for the loss of both legs under a Jersey Central car.

The Tidewater Pipe Company, handling oil from the West to the seaboard towns, has issued orders to all its foremen to till all the company's land fit for agricultural purposes and grow oats, potatoes, barley and other food products. The corporation declares it makes the mandate purely from patriotic motives.

James City, the glass centre of Elk county, has gone dry through the expiration of the Lepach Hotel license. Directors and patrons of the public schools of East Bradford and Pocopson townships have formed an organization to take charge of the offer of \$50,000 made by Pierre S. duPont, of Longwood, for the erection of an agricultural and vocational school at Lenape.

Mayor Filbert, of Reading, has ordered theatre managers to display only the American flag, as applause for a German flag on a screen caused a disturbance.

## FARMERS TO PROFIT

BENEFIT BY OPERATIONS OF FEDERAL FARM LOAN BOARD.

Will No Longer Pay Usurious Interest for Money Needed to Develop Their Land—Reduction in High Cost of Living.

The most direct attack that has recently been made on the high cost of living is the announcement of the federal farm loan board that the interest rate on all farm loans throughout the country will be five per cent. A rate of four and one-half per cent on bonds issued by the land banks was also announced.

The creation of the farm loan board has been followed by declining rates of interest to farmers with mortgages to renew. But long-time loans at five per cent on farm lands will seem almost too good to be true in many sections of the country, where the rates have ranged from 8 to 12 per cent, not counting the bonds to be paid to the agent securing the loan. No borrower was ever subject to the lender as the American farmer has been, and the result has not only been seen but felt in the moving of the people from the country to the towns, the decreasing amount of foodstuffs raised for an increasing population and the high cost of living to the more than 50 per cent of population who cannot be classed now as rural.

Cheaper money means better equipment, better methods of farming, more fertilizers, better breeds of stock, and the ability to hold one's products for the best market. Farming life made attractive again, we may count on a larger proportion of tillable land being put under cultivation, upon a larger class of landowners and a decreasing army of tenant farmers. When the investing public discovers how safe the farm bank bonds are, there will be plenty of money to go around. But for the present five per cent is the limit of interest that the farmer must pay.

**Taking the "If" Out of Tariff.**

If the tariff commission appointed by President Wilson succeeds in taking that pestiferous issue out of politics it will have performed one of the most valuable services of the new administration.

Tariff making is purely a business proposition. Nevertheless, from the beginning it has been made a shuttlecock for political prejudice and partisan expediency.

"I will vote for your duty on cotton goods," says the senator from Louisiana to the senator from Massachusetts, "if—you will vote for my duty on sugar." The senator from Montana is willing to hold the tariff on cotton and sugar to the limit "if" wool and hides are given equal protection.

So everybody is satisfied except the people, who eventually must pay the tax.

The task that the new board undertakes is not easy. The interests that have profited by tariff injustice will be found still on the job. But the old game of give and take that has been played successfully through successive congresses no longer will answer. Tariff robbers hereafter will not be dealing with officials who are concerned chiefly with fulfillment of campaign obligations and their prospects of re-election.

**Wilson as a History Maker.**

President Wilson says: "It is much less of an adventure to write history than to try to enact it." The president should know. He has written no little history. He has enacted a great deal of history. It is plain to be seen that he will occupy a good many pages of the histories which others shall write. It cannot be foretold that he will rank with George Washington in the minds of future historians, but it may at least be said that he has done much for the betterment of the American people, that he has acted bravely under most trying circumstances, and that he has not been accused of dishonesty, or shirking responsibility, or of ingratitude.

**Why They Oppose Taussig.**

The Illinois Manufacturers' association wired Senator Lewis Taussig as a member of the tariff commission on the ground that his utterances prove him to be one-sided and partisan. In view of Professor Taussig's reputation as an economist who has made a specialty of looking on both sides of the tariff question, this is surprising. There are those, however, who consider anybody who does not look upon Nelson Dingley as a canonized saint to be rankly partisan on the tariff question. This mistake arises from their point of view, which they choose so as to make the middle of the road appear 40 miles away.

**This is An Age of Force.**

In international relations, force, actual or possible, is what counts. This ought not to be so, but it is. There is no use shutting our eyes to facts. Belgium is the classic example of what the nation that is too weak to protect itself may expect from ruthless neighbors. If the United States should give the world the impression that it was so soft it could not protect itself any better than Belgium did, this country sooner or later would invite the fate of Belgium.

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## THE MARKETS

**NEW YORK.**—Wheat—Spot strong; No. 2 hard, \$2.27; No. 1 Northern Duluth, \$2.38; No. 1 Northern Manitoba, \$2.32 f o b New York.  
Corn—Spot strong; No. 2 yellow, \$1.33 c i f New York.  
Oats—Spot firmer, standard, 77c.  
Butter—Creamery higher than extras, 44 1/2 @ 45c; creamery extras (92 score), 44; firsts, 40 1/2 @ 43 1/2; seconds, 37 1/2 @ 40.  
Eggs—Fresh gathered, storage packed, firsts, 34 1/2; fresh gathered firsts, 33 1/4 @ 34; State, Pennsylvania and nearby Western hennerly whites, fine to fancy, 38; nearby hennerly browns, 35 @ 36.  
Cheese—State held, specials, 27 @ 27 1/2; do average fancy, 26 1/2 @ 27.  
Dressed poultry—Chickens, 18 @ 29c; fowls, 18 1/2 @ 24 1/2; turkeys, 18 @ 34.

**BALTIMORE.**—Wheat—Steamer No. 2 red spot closed at \$1.97 1/4 and steamer No. 2 red Western at \$2.01 1/4.  
Corn—Contract opened finer. Spot mixed corn, \$1.24 1/4; April corn, \$1.24 1/4.  
Oats—Standard white, 73 @ 73 1/2; No. 3 white, 73 sales.  
Rye—No. 2 rye, Western, \$1.75; No. 3 do, \$1.71 @ 1.72; No. 4 do, \$1.70 @ 1.71; bag lots, as to quality and condition, \$1.35 @ 1.55.  
Hay—No. 1 timothy, \$18.50; No. 2 do, \$17.50 @ 18; No. 3, \$14 @ 16; light clover mixed, \$17 @ 17.50; No. 1 clover mixed, \$16.50 @ 17; No. 2 do, \$13 @ 15; No. 1 clover, \$15.50 @ 16.50; No. 2 do, \$13 @ 15; No. 3 do, \$8 @ 10.  
Straw—No. 1 straight rye, \$14 @ 14.50; No. 2 do, \$13 @ 13.50; No. 1 tangled rye, \$10 @ 11; No. 2 do, \$9.50 @ 10; No. 1 wheat, \$8.50 @ 9; No. 2 do, \$8 @ 8.50; No. 1 oat, \$9.50; No. 2 do, \$8.50 @ 9.  
Butter—Creamery, fancy, 41 @ 42c; do, choice, 39 @ 40; do, good, 37 @ 38; do, prints, 42 @ 43; do, blocks, 40 @ 42; Maryland and Pennsylvania rolls, 28; Ohio rolls, 27; West Virginia rolls, 27; storepacked, 28; Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania dairy prints, 28; process butter, 32 @ 34.  
Eggs—Maryland, Pennsylvania and nearby firsts, dozen, 30 @ 31c; Eastern Shore Maryland and Virginia, do, do, 30 @ 31; Western, do, 30 @ 31; West Virginia, 30 @ 31; Southern, do, 29; duck eggs, choice, nearby, do, 35 @ 36.  
Live Poultry—Chickens—Old hens, 4 lbs and over, 23c; do, do, small to medium, 23; do, do, white leghorns, 22; old roosters, 13 @ 14; winter, 2 lbs and under, 28 @ 30; young, large, smooth and fat, 25 @ 26; do, poor, rough and stagsy, 21 @ 22. Ducks—Young Pekings, 3 lbs and over, 22 @ 23; do, puddle, do, do, do, 21 @ 22; do, muscovy, do, do, do, 21 @ 22; smaller, 20. Turkeys—Hens, 28c; young gobblers, 26; old toms, 24; poor and crooked breast, 20 @ 21. Pigeons—Young, per pair, 35c; old, do, 35. Guinea fowl, as to size, each, 35 @ 45.  
Dressed Hogs—Choice light weights, 14 1/2 @ 16c; do medium weights, 15; do heavy weights, 15; do stags and sows, 12 @ 12 1/2; boars and rough stock, 11 @ 11 1/2.

**CHICAGO.**—Hogs—Bulk, \$15 @ 15.25; light, \$14.40 @ 15.20; mixed, \$14.65 @ 15.30; heavy, \$14.60 @ 15.30; rough, \$14.60 @ 14.75; pigs, \$16.50 @ 14.15.  
Cattle—Native beef cattle, \$9.10 @ 12.90; stockers and feeders, \$7 @ 8.50; cows and heifers, \$5.50 @ 10.60; calves, \$9.50 @ 14.  
Sheep—Wethers, \$10.50 @ 12.75; ewes, \$9 @ 12.30; lambs, \$12 @ 15.35; extra fancy Mexicans, \$15.70.  
**KANSAS CITY.**—Hogs—Bulk, \$14.50 @ 15.10; heavy, \$15 @ 15.15; packers and butchers', \$14.75 @ 15.10; light, \$14.30 @ 14.90; pigs, \$12.25 @ 13.85.  
Cattle—Prime fed steers, \$11.75 @ 12.50; dressed beef steers, \$9.75 @ 11.50; Southern steers, \$8.50 @ 11.25; cows, \$6 @ 10.50; heifers, \$8 @ 11.75; stockers and feeders, \$8 @ 11; bulls, \$7.50 @ 10; calves, \$8 @ 13.  
Sheep—Lambs, \$11.75 @ 14.90; yearlings, \$13 @ 13.85; wethers, \$11.50 @ 12.75; ewes, \$10.50 @ 12.50.

### TOLD IN SHORT ORDER.

Sounds travel through dry air at the rate of 60 feet a second; through water at 240 feet a second, and in steel wire at 17,130 feet a second.

With nearly the whole town looking on, Bessie Norton and Joseph Bowling, of Florence, Col., were married recently on top of a smokestack 200 feet high.

Among the many fine gems that the new Austrian Emperor has inherited from the dead Franz Josef is an opal which weighs 17 ounces and is estimated to be worth about \$300,000.

Up to March 4 there had been shipped from the new sugar crop of Porto Rico 106,283 tons of sugar, or somewhat more than 20 per cent. of the estimated crop for the year, which has been placed at slightly in excess of 500,000 tons of 2,000 pounds each.

Weather news is now received regularly by wireless at 270 amateur radio stations located in nine of the Northern and Western States. In this way the wireless operator is enabled to give his neighborhood weather forecast as soon as it is issued.

### Live Stock

**PITTSBURGH.**—Cattle—Choice, \$10.50 @ 11.25; prime, \$11.50 @ 12. Sheep—Prime wethers, \$11.75 @ 12.50; cull and common, \$5 @ 7; lambs, \$12 @ 15.50; veal calves, \$14 @ 14.50. Hogs—Prime heavies, \$15.45 @ 15.50; mediums, \$15.25 @ 15.30; heavy Yorkers, \$15 @ 15.35; light Yorkers, \$13.50 @ 14.50; pigs, \$11.50 @ 12; roughs, \$13.50 @ 14.25.