

# The Centre Reporter.

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## NO DRASTIC CHANGES IN TAX LEGISLATION

### Tax Commission Makes Few Recommendations After Months of Investigation.

The recommendations of the State Tax Commission for the elimination of inequalities in the present tax system, filed with the Legislature by the commission, provide for the abolishment or reduction of three current taxes.

The three phases of the tax reduction, presented by Franklin S. Edmonds, chairman of the commission, are:

1. Discontinuance of the four-mill tax on loans of counties, cities, boroughs, townships and school districts.

2. Reduction in bonus on corporate charters of from one-third to one-fourth per cent.

3. Discontinuance of inheritance tax on personal property of non-resident decedents.

Admitting, after ten months of active work in studying the tax system of the state, that it has arrived at no definite conclusion regarding an adequate system of taxation for Pennsylvania, the report of the commission states: "An adequate system (of taxation) cannot be devised to the satisfaction of the public without some more inclusive plan of general taxes universally applied."

The complete working out of a tax program must be the task of future commissions, or the same commission continued, the commissioners report.

The report is divided into four sections, exclusive of the legal, statistical and other exhibits, the first of which is devoted to the present tax system in Pennsylvania together with a statement of the advantages and disadvantages of the various forms of taxes which are now levied in the state.

The commission admits there are "certain excellent features" in some of the present laws, but adds it has found many inequalities which have grown up by reason of the state's numerous special taxes, each aimed at a particular business or group in the commonwealth.

The two sections of the report in which the financial problems as they will confront the state ten years hence are discussed will probably be one of the greatest interests to the legislators. An interesting note is the conclusion of the commissioners that a single year, 1935-36, will see the monetary needs of the state increased to \$180,000,000, as compared with \$100,000,000 or \$120,000,000 at the present time.

The last section says that the commission, because of inadequate data before it, cannot decide upon a definite financial program, but the report contains a suggested plan of General John P. Wood, a member of the commission.

This plan contemplates the abolition of all the present forms of business taxation, except the franchise bonus for incorporation, including capital stock, corporate loans, gross receipts, mercantile licenses, anthracite coal and substitutes a uniform rate upon the net profits of business, whether conducted by corporation, association, limited partnership or individual, based upon the average net profits of the previous three year period. Under this plan businesses whose aggregate annual receipts do not exceed \$10,000 would be exempt, and all concerns subject to the tax would be allowed an exemption of the first \$1000 of profits.

The Wood plan proposes to abolish the present four-mill tax on personal property, to abolish the poll tax and all occupation and school capitation taxes; and in lieu thereof to enact a tax on net income at a lower rate for earned than for unearned income, the taxes to be computed upon duplicates of the federal income tax returns and the taxpayer through a constitutional amendment to be allowed the same exemptions from the state income tax as are provided by the federal law. If these changes are made, the plan provides that one-third of the personal income tax collected by the state should be returned to the counties to replace the personal property tax, one-third should go to the school districts and the other third should be retained by the state. The permanent tax on motor fuels would be increased under this plan from one to two cents a gallon and there would be an increase in license fees for heavy trucks. The plan is presented merely to sound out sentiment.

P. Byron Musser, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Musser, of Millheim, joined the great throng who are looking over Florida, and will stop at Key West, Miami, and other points. Mr. Musser is employed in the P. R. R. freight office in Sunbury and will be accompanied to the south by a friend from that city.

## SUPREME COURT'S RULING MAY HAVE WIDE EFFECT.

### School and State Retirement Laws, and Mothers' Assistance Provision May Be Affected by Decision on Old Age Pension Law.

The action of the Supreme Court in declaring the Old Age Assistance act unconstitutional may lead to effects far reaching and undreamed of until now. Some time ago the court of Dauphin county held that the act was in violation of the constitution of Pennsylvania, and this decision was upheld when the case was carried to the supreme court.

Legal authorities are now looking up three laws which have been in operation for years, and which may meet the same fate if they are ever carried to the supreme court. These laws are: First, the public school employees' retirement system. There are 57,000 persons interested financially in that. Second, the state employees' retirement system, which has an active membership of 3,700 state employees. Third, the mothers' pension law, which has a constantly growing number of applicants for assistance.

The constitution of the state, which the supreme court held was violated by the old age assistance measure, in act 3, section 18, provides:

"No appropriations, except for pensions or gratuities for military services, shall be made for charitable, educational or benevolent purposes to any person or community, nor to any denomination or sectarian institution, corporation or association."

A test case will probably be made to decide the constitutionality of each of the laws, and an effort will probably be made to have the constitution amended to permit these pensions.

### Cost of Nittany Mt. Road

The lowest bidder for the 11,375 feet of reinforced concrete pavement from the foot of Nittany Mountain, in Centre Hall borough, to the brick road terminating at the "watering trough," in Spring township, are the Reitz Brothers, Sunbury, their offer to construct it being for \$121,658.80.

### SOME DISCRIMINATION.

Theodore Roosevelt was next to George Washington, the richest of American Presidents, and yet when he died Congress gave an annuity of \$5,000 to his widow. Woodrow Wilson left a very modest estate, and his widow is not wealthy, but a committee of the Republican Congress has decided that she is entitled to nothing from this poverty-stricken republic. The same parsimonious policy has been followed in ignoring Mrs. Grover Cleveland, Mrs. Benjamin Harrison, Mrs. Harding and some other widows of Presidents. It would seem the better plan to recognize the claims to generous treatment of all widows of Chief Executives regardless of their personal means. Certainly it is difficult to see how justice is served by treating Mrs. Roosevelt with a liberality denied to Mrs. Wilson.

### HIGH SCHOOL PROJECTS IN ENGLISH.

#### Former Centre Hall Student Makes Record in Millburg High.

Among the honor roll students in the senior class of the Millburg High school is found the name of Isabel Snyder, daughter of Mrs. Ida Snyder. The young lady got her first school training in the schools in Centre Hall.

Under the caption of "High School Projects in English" in the Millburg Telegraph, on the subject, "Benefits Conferred Upon Our Community by Our New High School Building," Miss Snyder wrote as follows:

"Worthy citizens of Millburg, you gave to the community, in the form of a new high school building, a great reservoir of knowledge, from which all can freely drink.

"The auditorium makes possible lecture courses, literary programs, debates, social entertainment and educational amusement. The gymnasium affords pure, clean amusements where the town folks can gather and take a good, hearty laugh. Our old school was well described by the words of J. Q. Adams: 'We were all right, but the house in which we lived was worn out.'"

"The future generations will not have to tarry at the crossroads for the sign boards of one road are so attractively painted and decorated that the crudely carved and weather-beaten ones, leading to an uneducational life will be passed unseen.

"An ideal high school education is now the reward for equivalent work. This reward gained and college doors are open to you.

"Education is the spice of life and the hope of the world.

"Our new high school building is 'the glory of the day's work whether with hand or brain.'"

### "The Old Homestead" Coming.

Denman Thompson's quaint story of rural life in the New Hampshire fields and valleys, "The Old Homestead" is booked at the Moose Temple Theatre, Bellefonte, on Wednesday night, February 18. "The Old Homestead" tells a simple story, which bases its appeal upon a real heart interest, and upon its types of real characters recognized as portraits of the good, staunch-hearted people of New England. Miller and Lewis, the producers, have given the play a splendid production, showing the typical scenes familiar to those who recall the play back in the eighties, the barn yard of Uncle Josh with the well and "the old oaken bucket," the fashionable home of Henry Hopkins on Fifth Avenue, Grace Church, New York City, and back home in the kitchen of the old homestead in West Swanzey, N. H. The famous farm hands quartette and the choir from Grace church still remains the big musical feature with the present production.

At pre-war prices: Entire first floor, \$1.10; balcony, \$1.10, 83c and 50c.

### An Evening at Stoner's.

A very pleasant evening was spent at the home of David T. Stoner, Centre Hall. Those present were Mrs. Harry McClellan, granddaughter Martha, May McClellan, Eugene McClellan, Dean McClellan, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Stoner and daughters Edna and Estelle, James Runkle, Mrs. Anna Curry, children Mary and Fred, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Tressler, son Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Kline, Roxie and Mildred Kline, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Swartz and daughter Mary, Mr. and Mrs. William Martz, Mr. and Mrs. John Stoner and children Anna, Florence, Clarence, Arthur and Ralph, all of Tusseyville, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carter, of Centre Hall. Piano music and games made the evening go all to quickly. Refreshments were served consisting of ice cream, cake, pop corn balls, and potato chips. At a late hour all departed for their homes.

### Fire at Marsh Creek.

The Clayton Poorman home at Marsh Creek was entirely destroyed by fire recently entailing a loss of approximately \$4,000. It is not known how the fire originated but it is thought to have been caused by an overheated stove. The fire was discovered by one of the children who was preparing to go to school. She warned the parents of the danger but before much of the furniture could be removed the flames had gained such headway that the members of the household were driven from the building. Little water could be gotten from a well nearby and the family remained helpless while their home was razed to the ground. Fortunately the out-buildings, including the barn, etc., were saved. Mr. and Mrs. Poorman and nine children were forced to seek shelter from the cold at the home of a nearby neighbor. There was no insurance on the property.

### Fell Under Dinky; Dead.

William G. Newman, aged twenty-one years, was instantly killed Tuesday night of last week when he fell from a "dinky" engine in the Chemical Lime quarries, near Bellefonte, landing under the wheels of the engine.

Newman was a brakeman and was at the time engaged in pulling a string of cars from the quarry. He reached down from the engine to pick up a piece of chain that was dragging, but lost his hold and fell under the train. He was dragged about fifteen feet before the engine could be stopped and it was necessary to jack up the "dinky" before he could be released. His skull was crushed and his left leg broken.

The young man was married in June. He leaves his wife, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William F. Newman, and twelve brothers and sisters.

### W. Harrison Walker, Esq., Burgess of Bellefonte Borough, attended the sessions of the convention, held by burgesses, councilmen and solicitors throughout the state. The convention was held in Harrisburg in the Pennsylvania hotel. Burgess Walker has been attending these conventions regularly and thinks they are of great importance in their aid to properly govern the smaller municipalities within the state.

The Junior class of the Centre Hall High school will present a play in the Grange hall, Friday, March 13th, entitled, "Engaged by Wednesday."

After the freeze last week the State highways in many places were hard to travel over. The snow had not all been ploughed to the side and when the thaw came, deep grooves in the slush were made which when frozen made travel dangerous.

## DEATHS.

GARIS.—Mrs. Sarah A., wife of J. Reuben Garis, passed away Saturday morning at 11:30 o'clock, in the Greensburg hospital. Two weeks prior she was stricken with typhoid fever and at the crisis of her illness passed away.

The body was shipped to Bellefonte, arriving Sunday evening, and reposed at the Harris morgue until Tuesday morning, when funeral services were held from the Lutheran church at Pleasant Gap, by Rev. W. J. Wagner; interment at Pleasant Gap. Deceased and her husband were members of the Lutheran church at Greensburg.

Mrs. Garis, before marriage, was Miss Sarah A. Tate, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Tate, both living, of Pleasant Gap. Besides her parents, her husband and four children survive namely: Marie, Minerva, Esther Louise, and Charles, who is less than a year old; also, a number of sisters and brothers. Her age was twenty-eight years.

About nine years ago Mr. and Mrs. Garis removed from Centre Hall to the Pittsburgh district where Mr. Garis has since been employed, first as butcher, and more recently as manager of a company store.

MURRAY.—Mrs. Lucy Murray died at her home in Boalsburg, Thursday afternoon of last week. Interment was made at that place Sunday afternoon. Services having been held by Rev. J. M. Kirkpatrick, of the Presbyterian church, the officiating minister also having been the pastor.

Mrs. Murray was the widow of Hon. W. Abner Murray and lived in Boalsburg during all of her married life. She was born in Potter township, and grew to womanhood on the Alexander farm, west of Old Fort, where her father, the late Francis Alexander, lived. She was the youngest of the Alexander children, and the last survivor. Her age was about eighty years.

Two daughters—Flora and Gussie—survive the deceased. They lived with the mother.

DUNKLE.—After an illness of about two weeks due to a paralytic stroke, Mrs. John R. Dunkle died at her home at Spring Mills, on Thursday morning of last week. Funeral services were held Monday morning from the home by Rev. S. F. Greenhoe, pastor of the Lutheran church, of which denomination the deceased was a member. Interment was made in George's Valley cemetery.

Mrs. Dunkle's maiden name was Miss Amanda Shugart, and she was a native of Carlisle. Mr. and Mrs. Dunkle lived at Spring Mills for more than twenty years, but previously had lived in Altoona and other points.

There survive the deceased her husband and one daughter, Mrs. Carl R. Roseman, of Altoona, and two sisters living in Carlisle. Her age was sixty-four years.

MENSCH.—Mrs. Sarah Mensch, relict of the late Lewis Mensch, died at the home of her son, Harry, in Sunbury, following a stroke of paralysis.

Her maiden name was Harter, one of a family of twelve children, and was born in Hahnes township, near Aaronsburg, in 1840, and was just ten days short of attaining the age of eighty-five years. Her husband died in Aaronsburg, March 16, 1916. She is survived by three sons, Robert W., of Aaronsburg; Charles F., of Bellefonte; and Harry H., of Sunbury, at whose home she died. Four brothers and two sisters also survive—Daniel H., of Rittman, Ohio; Thomas H., of Bellefonte; Aaron, of Harrisburg; Mrs. Rebecca Murray, of near Pittsburgh; and Mrs. S. M. Campbell, of Millheim.

The remains were shipped to Aaronsburg and funeral services were held last Wednesday morning, conducted by Rev. P. H. Daubenspeck. Interment was made in the Aaronsburg Lutheran cemetery.

HESS.—Mrs. Emeline Wagner Hess, widow of the late Michael Hess, died in Bellefonte, at the home of Mrs. Harvey Schaeffer, a daughter. Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon of last week by Rev. J. F. Harkins, assisted by Rev. J. W. Wagner. Interment was made at Boalsburg.

She was a daughter of John and Sarah Weiser Wagner, and was born in Gregg township. The family later moved to Ferguson township and then to Roopersburg. Mr. and Mrs. Hess began farming on the Hess farm above Boalsburg, where they lived until 1901, when they moved to Bellefonte.

Her surviving children are Newton E. Hess, of State College; Ira and John, of Altoona; Mrs. Hall Bortoff, of State College, and Mrs. Harvey Schaeffer, of Bellefonte. She was the last of the Wagner family but in addition to her children leaves sixteen grand children and five great grandchildren.

George and John Hess, of Altoona; Samuel and John, of State College; Edgar and Robert, of Boalsburg, six grandsons officiated as pall bearers.

### Low Bidder for Road.

The lowest bid received for the construction of 83,502 feet of concrete pavement through Boggs, Huston and Worth townships and Unionville borough, was from the Miller construction company, Punxsutawney. The sum was \$841,589. This is the road leading from Snow Shoe Intersection to Bald Eagle, through Bald Eagle Valley, and will make a direct all concrete road between Bellefonte and Tyrone.

The lowest bid for the western section of this road, 46,214 feet, was awarded J. K. Hutchison, Altoona, for \$410,825.

### Crippled Auto Drivers.

Crippled auto drivers, regardless of the length of time that they have been driving an automobile or whether they have held drivers' licenses in former years, are being notified to appear before the examination boards. Men minus an arm or a leg, or both, who apply for licenses find that they must appear for examination and a driving test. The law is said to cover applicants with any deformity.

### Farmers Sell Wheat at \$2.05.

Farmers took advantage of the high tide in the wheat market, the latter part of last week, and unloaded large quantities on Friday, Bradford & Co. paying \$2.05, which was above the market price by five cents. Saturday the market was down and farmers failed to produce. Monday the market warranted \$1.95, but no deliveries were made.

### The Gore Way.

Farmers are being advised by the Federal Department of Agriculture to raise less as a remedy for low prices. That is a new old one, and has never worked out to the benefit of anyone. A farm should be run to capacity to be profitable.

"The less effort you make to produce, the greater will be your prospective returns," is the paradoxical hint that has been emphasized in a series of "special reviews" of the crop outlook for the approaching season issued during the past two weeks by Secretary of Agriculture Gore.

Few farmers will accept this advice. The farmer needs conditions that will make a big yield profitable.

### Crust Property Sold.

The Crust property in Centre Hall, located on West Church street, was sold on Saturday at public sale to William S. Walker, farmer, west of town, for \$4,100. The property consisted of a dwelling house, stable and vacant lot.

The property was purchased by Mrs. Mary Crust in 1919 from W. O. Heckman for \$2400. Mr. Heckman purchased it a short time previous from Mrs. Bushman for \$2200. Some slight improvements had been made since Mrs. Bushman parted with it. Nearly all the increase in value is due to the general rise in real estate in this place.

\*Mr. Walker contemplates occupying the place himself, and it is said he will erect a shop and engage in general blacksmithing.

### SAVE MONEY NEXT WEDNESDAY. HERE'S HOW!

Here's some news that will be of exceptional interest to every thrifty inhabitant of Centre Hall. The mere announcement that Altoona Booster Stores will stage their regular quarterly Dollar Day makes shrewd housewives and husbands plan days ahead to be in Altoona for these greatest of all merchandising events.

### Next Wednesday, February 18—In Altoona Booster Stores.

Every Booster Dollar Day grows and grows, and gets bigger and bigger in the number of people who take advantage of them and of the real bargains that are to be had at this popular price—ONE DOLLAR.

And the Dollar Price is not alone. Jewelers, Milliners, Furniture Dealers, Shoe Stores, and Men's Outfitters, while featuring thousands of Dollar items, also make special prices on higher priced goods that will make your visit really worth while.

Extra salespeople have been secured for your better service, so come early in the morning before the real values have been exhausted.

Community Rest Room on Fifteenth street, in Christ Reformed church, was created for your comfort. Nothing for sale, just a place to relax after a tiresome journey through the stores.

Tell your neighbors you expect to go and have them come with you. Good places to eat and the movies have the best first-run films in Central Pennsylvania—See the Strand.

Next Wednesday, BUT, be sure you buy in Booster stores. adv.

The Centre Reporter, \$1.50 a year.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

The days are lengthening to a very noticeable degree.

Union county auditors reported a balance in the treasury of \$42,165.39, which equals the year's total tax levy.

Kerlins poultry farm is selling 17 per cent, mash for \$3.25, which is a difference of 10 cents from price quoted in their ad. on page 2, which price we were unable to change in time for this week's issue.

Coburn has a family of five generations: Mrs. Harriet Kerstetter, aged 83 years; her son, J. W. Kerstetter, his daughter, Mrs. M. E. Stover; her daughter, Mrs. John S. Slack, and little daughter, Louise Slack.

Among the Reporter's callers Friday of last week were Henry H. Houser, of near Linden Hall, and James W. Raymond, of near Centre Hall. Both are prosperous farmers in their districts, and had no complaints to make.

J. A. Haines, of Beaver Springs, was a visitor of Rev. S. F. Greenhoe at the Lutheran parsonage. Mr. Haines for eighteen years has been a lineman on the P. R. R., taking care of the telephone and telegraph lines in his section.

Tyrone is looking forward to a \$250,000 post office building. Provision for such an expenditure was made in a bill that has already passed the National house of representatives and is being favored by leading Senate members.

The first consignment of baby chicks were shipped from the Kerlin poultry plant, at Centre Hall, on Friday of last week, and were sent South by parcel post. The shipment consisted of about two thousand. Shipments will be made almost daily from now throughout the season.

John M. Boob, proprietor of the Millheim meat market, was called to Pittsburgh for examination by physicians of the U. S. veterans bureau. Mr. Boob was a member of the 79th division overseas and suffered an injury while in the service that necessitates the periodical examination.

Well, the world didn't come to an end night of February 6th, and the following day dawned as one of the most beautiful of the whole winter season. And we bet the Reformed Adventists were glad they were "disappointed." The only thing left to do is to postpone such "end" until some future date, which they likely did.

Fire originating from a defective flue totally destroyed the Weaver school, located on the back road between Axemann and Zion. The flames were discovered in the loft of the frame building by the teacher, who quickly and in orderly manner dismissed the thirty-one scholars, then risked his life in an attempt to smother the fire.

Colonel Henry Wharton Shoemaker, famous as a writer of stories of Pennsylvania, is booked to speak in Old Chapel, Penn State College, Thursday night of next week. Colonel Shoemaker is the author of "Legends of the Seven Mountains," "History, Legends and Description of Penns Cave" and many historical tales of early life in Pennsylvania.

At midnight, about two weeks ago, the summer house and woodshed on the William Boob property, near Woodward, took fire and were destroyed. The main house was also afire as was also the barn roof, but by heroic efforts the buildings were saved. There was no insurance on the buildings. The loss of contents is about \$500.

At a Father & Son dinner held in the Lutheran church dining room, Muncy, one hundred men and boys participated. An elaborate program was executed. The Sunday-school orchestra furnishing most of the music. The pastor, Rev. B. F. Bieber, spoke on "Why Boys Leave Sunday School." Among the young people who recited and sang was Miss Frances Bieber.

Prof. W. O. Heckman resumed his duties in the High school Monday morning. Since the middle of last week he has been out of the house, after the local physician, and Dr. Sebert, the county medical inspector, put their o. k. on his state of health. Mr. Heckman also complied with the precautions required by the health officials.

Andrew Immlil, well known in Brush and Penns Valleys, was a recent caller. He has been in the county among friends for several weeks, but is about to return to Fairview, Erie county, where he has lived for many years. He will make sale of additional property there and then return to Penns Valley where he will establish a permanent home. Mr. Immlil is in his eighty-first year, but is mighty good timber at that.