

TAX SYSTEM CHANGES FAVORED BY GAFFNEY HIT OPPOSITION SNAG

Lennon, President of Select Council, Back of Proposals. Gleason, Common President, Against Them

AUTOISTS PLAN FIGHT

Opposition developed from many sources today against the changes in the city tax system proposed by Joseph P. Gaffney, chairman of the Finance Committee of Council.

In an open letter to Mayor Smith yesterday he suggested a plan under which the Board of Revision of Taxes would lose much of its authority and the control of the municipal taxation system would be vested in Council.

But one opinion was expressed that was unqualifiedly favorable to Mr. Gaffney's plan. It was that of James E. Lennon, president of Select Council, who, like Mr. Gaffney, is a Vore follower.

"I've just finished reading an account of the letter," said Lennon, "and the plan impresses me as being practicable and advantageous. Control of the taxation system should be vested in Council. This is the body, being the Board of Revision of Taxes, is more representative of the people. Mr. Gaffney's proposition, I think, will make for greater efficiency and more democracy. It will furthermore bring more revenue to the city. As president of Select Council I can give it my complete endorsement."

UPHOLDS REVISION BOARD

Dr. Edward B. Gleason, president of Common Council, of which Mr. Gaffney is a member, expressed an opposite opinion. "I have felt for years that our taxation system is not an ideal one," he said. "I have known of many instances of assessments that are too high in the older, central district of the city and where the valuation in outlying neighborhoods was far too low. I have seen many of these deficiencies. But in spite of these faults, I look upon the Board of Revision of Taxes as an expert body. And it is necessary a more efficient body than Council would be in the matter of taxation because it is smaller in number."

"But with certain features of Mr. Gaffney's plan I cannot help but agree. I certainly approve the plan to tax automobiles and although I don't own a motorcar, I can assure you that if I had one I should willingly pay the tax on it. The city needs the money and any plan to raise additional revenue I can heartily endorse. But I cannot see the value of changing the entire system of the assessment of property."

Stedman Bent, president of the Automobile Club of Philadelphia, served notice on the public that if the tax on automobiles is enforced that organization will fight it in the courts.

"The proposition is absolutely illegal," he declared with emphasis. "The city of Philadelphia tried it and was overruled in the courts. The Legislature of Pennsylvania, two sessions ago, decreed that any tax on automobiles should be levied exclusively by the State and that the revenue thereby derived should be devoted to the betterment of the public roads."

EDWIN WOLF DISAPPROVES

Edwin Wolf, banker and chairman of the finance committee of the Board of Education, expressed general disapproval of the Gaffney plan, although he favors the automobile tax. His opinion was significant because of the fact that he is the head of the committee which levies the school tax and spends about \$12,000,000 of public funds annually.

"The Board of Education," he said, "levies its own taxes. But the amount of the taxation, as determined by the total assessments, is fixed by the Board of Revision of Taxes. If Council control the real estate assessments, the school tax, as well as the municipal tax, will be fixed according to the councilmanic estimates."

"But, as a general proposition, I think that Council should not be given the power which it is proposed they shall be given. It will only mean more politics."

"As far as the automobile tax is concerned, I should willingly pay it. What I owned horse I willingly paid taxes on them. Why shouldn't I be taxed for my motorcars?"

"Of course, some of the automobilists' organizations will complain. That is to be expected. Every scheme to add to the revenue of the city will arouse complaint. The fact is that the municipality needs the money and something must be done to get it."

DOCTOR KEEN SILENT

Dr. W. W. Keen, who recently sent a communication to Council protesting against any increase in the tax on real estate, refused to comment upon the Gaffney proposition.

"Mr. Gaffney is making a commendable effort to solve the city's financial problems," said Thomas Shallice, Jr., former president of the Philadelphia Real Estate Board and now a member of its committee on taxation.

"But we real estate men don't feel that the power of assessment should be taken away from the Board of Revision of Taxes. We don't feel that the assessments are now too low and that the city is losing any money to which it is entitled. As a matter of fact, the real estate of Philadelphia is taxed to the limit."

"At the beginning of each administration the city is raised that more money is needed. Then the impression goes abroad that the assessments are too low. The result is a discussion of the powers of the Board of Revision of Taxes and an attempt to deprive it of its powers."

GAFFNEY'S STATEMENT

"I did not recommend the levying of an occupation tax by Council, to be effective next year," said Mr. Gaffney today. "Because apparently it has not been thought advisable in this city since 1844. Several committees on municipal finances have considered an occupation tax in recent years, but they all passed it up as undesirable. I did not recommend an increase in the city tax rate on real estate, and will not

do so, because we do not know yet exactly what the city's operating requirements will be next year.

"I want the people to understand that I am not making any official recommendation for next year. My recommendations will deal with the future, beginning with 1917. As regards 1917, I only indicated to the people what can be done, and it is up to them to do it if they desire, through their representatives in Council. It is my earnest hope we will need any increase in the city tax rate, but even if it is shown to be necessary, I leave it to the people to have the last say."

DR. "JIM" KEATH HAS LOYAL "SET" OF FRIENDS

From Wheel Chair on Hospital Roof He Sheds Rays of Optimism

On the roof garden on the eighth floor of the Jefferson Hospital—right across from where the rays of the sun and a score or more of sickly babies to grow plump and rosy, sat "Jim" Keath this morning, the twinkle in eyes and smile so broad that it earned him the name of "the sun" among the patients. For "Jim" Keath, M. D., has a "set." From the time he was paralyzed from the hip down, when he fell three stories and broke his back, he has had his "set." When he lay on his back on a cot in the hospital, fighting for life; when he grew better, studying in bed for his diploma from "Jeff"; when first his left leg was amputated and then the right, he has always had his "set." Sometimes doctors and nurses; sometimes students and now convalescing invalids on the sunny roof garden.

Perhaps it isn't so much for himself—or even for his wife and little daughter that "Jim" Keath keeps this smile flashing from sun-up to dusk. It's for the other folks on the roof, even if he wouldn't admit it this morning.

With a blanket tucked in around his body to keep the cool air that hadn't been tempered yet by the sun, "Jim" Keath sat in a wheel chair and smiled. The other four patients smiled in sympathy.

"Oh, I don't find it hard to kill time," he said, with a puff from an cigarette. "One thing follows another so quickly that you are surprised when it's time to go down." The third year of his stay in the hospital is not far from ending. Resident physicians have passed through the cycle from accident ward to more important cases and started practice of their own. Patients have changed and gone to the dim past, but "Jim" Keath remains. To every one he has given some of his own optimism to pass the days until they return home.

There is no hope of him returning home; he admits he has no plans for the immediate future, but neither of these facts prevent him from helping others along.

"I may say that Doctor Keath helped me more than any medicine I know," said one of the men in the group on the roof this morning.

"He certainly has, and I don't know what I would have done if it hadn't been for him," added another.

"Jim" Keath said nothing himself; it wasn't necessary. His "set" did it. A month ago, another group. A month from now, still another. Always changing with the exception of the giver of gladness—"Jim" Keath, M. D.

HONEYMOON ENDS ABRUPTLY

Passing of Alleged False Checks Causes Bridegroom's Arrest

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 25.—A week after he met Miss Catherine M. Cowers, C. C. Cole, 22 years old, married her and started on a luxurious honeymoon. This included a suite in a hotel here and a touring car, purchased after the wedding. For three weeks the "honeymoon" continued, the bride, an orphan, and her husband driving over the boulevards and partaking of the best the city could afford.

But the police interrupted their happiness by arresting the bridegroom on the charge of passing worthless checks. The automobile was said to have been purchased with one, but when another was offered in payment of the hotel bill the clerk looked it up and then called the police. The bride fainted when her husband was taken away.

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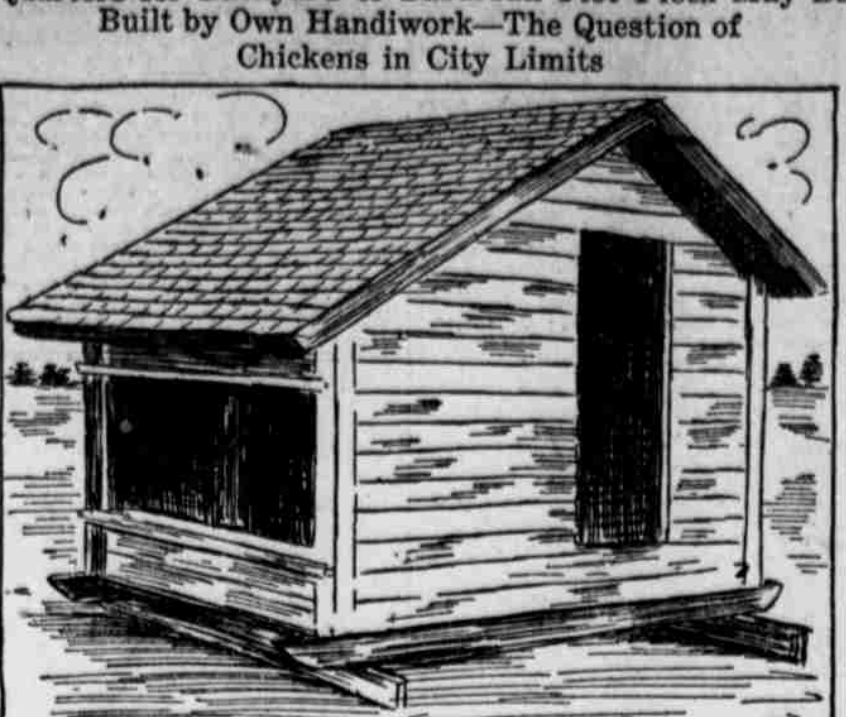
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ELABORATE HOUSE NOT NECESSARY FOR POULTRY-RAISING AT HOME

Quarters for Backyard or Suburban Plot Flock May Be Built by Own Handiwork—The Question of Chickens in City Limits



OPEN-FRONT POULTRY HOUSE The advantage of the open-front type of house is the gradual acclimatization of the fowl to the severity of winter. The chickens acquire an iron-clad hardiness. The opening should always face south.

By the Poultry Editor

If ten chickens are to be tried experimentally, the owner will wish to spend as little as is necessary to house them at first. He should take sixty square feet as his area, and run it if possible ten by six feet. The height should be eight to ten feet. If fifty birds are to be kept, he can reckon on 250 square feet, divided ten by twenty-five feet, or if he has the room 300 square feet, divided ten by thirty feet. The height remains about the same. In the case of the larger flock the house should be divided into two fifteen foot houses by a central partition, as it is easier to handle the fowls in this form. It is a good general rule not to maintain more than twenty-five birds to a pen; this is authoritatively agreed to by the proper unit.

The smaller size described would be ad-

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tractable for a city yard all the way in the back, as it would fit in the limitations prescribed by the builders of city houses. The larger size is all that the suburbanite with more or less limited time should attempt at first, and even, it is sufficient for a unit in a series of houses if commercial raising is to be tried out later.

If the exposure is just right two sides of the city yard chicken house can be built right against the fence, though this will necessitate securing the sides of the fence against drafts. A simple house is shown in the illustration. This can be readily constructed by any one handy with tools.

Several readers have called attention to an ordinance which they conceive precludes the keeping of fowl within city limits. This, they argue, would effectively prevent the maintenance of chickens in a city backyard as advocated in this department in order to have a constant supply of fresh eggs and thus to reduce the high cost of living to an appreciable extent. There is such a law on the books, but it by no means absolutely prohibits the keeping of fowl within city limits. The objection is to the maintenance of large or carelessly kept flocks which are let run around at will and which, it is alleged in some quarters of the city prior to the passage of the new sanitation bill, were a menace to the public health. But there is a distinct provision covering the case of those who wish to keep from a half to a dozen hens for family laying in their premises and who are willing to guarantee that these will not endanger the general welfare. If the Bureau of Housing or the

Board of Health is satisfied as to the good faith and the reliability of the petitioning party, a license will be issued on application to the proper offices at the City Hall for the period of a year on payment of a fee of fifty cents. The law, in full, is as follows:

Section 28. No horse, cow, calf, swine, sheep or goat shall be kept or slaughtered in a dwelling, rooming house or tenement, or any part thereof; nor shall any other animal or fowl deemed objectionable by the chief of the Division of Housing and Sanitation be kept or slaughtered in any such building; nor shall any of the aforesaid animals or such fowl be kept in the yard of any such building, or the lot thereof, or the property adjoining, in closely built-up sections, without the person desiring to keep the same first having obtained a permit from the Bureau or Board of Health. Application for such permit shall be accompanied by a fee of fifty cents; and such permit, when granted, shall expire not later than the calendar year for which it is issued.—Housing law of June 3, 1915.

Why Hens Don't Lay

Why don't hens lay at this time of the year? They do, if their owner is on to his job. It is about as natural for a hen to lay in the fall and winter as it is for roses to bloom at the same season. But the expert poultryman nowadays with his modern methods of breeding, of feeding, of housing and of handling has his hens to lay 200 or more eggs per year and

to lay a goodly number of these in the fall and winter. Can an ordinary farmer or small poultry keeper get a good fall and winter crop of eggs? He can if he will have a proper built house—not meaning an expensive one, but a house that poultry use and live in with in litter; feed beef-carcass, fish scrap, or milk—animal protein—exactly; feed dry mashes, and perhaps wet mashes. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the replies are usually like the above. The outstanding feature of most of these letters is the fact that these writers manifestly believe that if they learn what to feed their hens they must feed. That feed, good feed, or plenty of feed, will make hens lay is a great if popular fallacy.

The department wishes to especially emphasize that fecundity and persistency in laying are inherited factors and that, while, if a flock is to lay well it must be out of a flock ahead of it that has laid well. And that this is the factor that makes the difference between hens not laying at all and laying well at this season.

(Next Wednesday: "Pointers About Poultry Houses.")

Motor Tank Explodes; Youth Hurt

LANCASTER, Pa., Oct. 25.—A lumber-laden motortruck, owned by R. H. Shaverly, of Little, and operated by his son, Arthur, was blown to pieces when the gasoline tank exploded. Young Shaverly was brought to the Lancaster General Hospital and is in a critical condition.



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