

COBBS CREEK MEN HIT ASSESSMENTS

Parkway Home Association Says Values Are Boosted Artificially on Falling Market

263 PER CENT ADVANCE

A broadside of criticism was fired at the real estate assessment system of this city today by the Cobbs Creek Parkway Home Association.

While the objections against recent assessments have been directed particularly to the rises affecting the Cobbs creek section, the association gave facts and figures affecting the entire city.

The increased assessments were denounced because, it was declared, they artificially boost the price of real estate when the market is reported to be declining.

The higher assessments, which mean the payment of more taxes, it is stated, are all the more objectionable when wages are being reduced, unemployment is shutting off the earnings of workers and heads of families are struggling to keep the homes they bought in the last few years.

The average increase in taxes for the entire city, the association declared, between 1916 and this year, is 130 per cent, while the average increase in the same period in the Cobbs creek section has been 263 per cent.

The association represents property owners in the district embraced by Angora terrace, Fifty-eighth street, Ellipse street and Sixty-third street, nearly 1000 members in all.

"One of the most outrageous increases" since 1916, the association contends, was on Cobbs creek parkway between Fifty-ninth and Sixtieth streets. In 1916, property owners there paid \$67.50 a year each in taxes. In 1921 they will pay \$244.85, a 263 per cent increase.

The association's formal statement was signed by James J. Breen, Michael A. Maloney, Joseph Klapp, Nicholas and Joseph Newman, attorneys for the association. It first was presented to William L. Bettler and W. A. Connor, real estate assessors, whose districts embrace the Cobbs creek territory.

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Crow-Grundy Feud Sleeping, Not Dead

Continued from Page One

his right, to begin with. It was clearly a matter of honor that led him to espouse the cause of Chairman Crow.

When the latter, for whatever cause, decided to accept Mr. Spangler to the exclusion of Mayor Whittaker, as a candidate for the speakership the Governor acquiesced. His relations with the speaker at the last session were both harmonious and agreeable.

With this alliance does Senator Penrose guarantee a fair deal in the selection of committees and the progress of legislation by Speaker Spangler at the coming session? It is an important point.

As to the coming crucial test of harmony:

Grundy Often Militant

Mr. Grundy is interested in anything that affects the manufacturing interests of Pennsylvania. Let the Legislature lay a finger upon them and the president of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association regards it as a challenge. It is a call to battle, and he sallies out in war paint and feathers.

The administration has a fixed purpose long standing to impose a tax of from two to five mills on the capital stock of manufacturing corporations. It also favors a six or eight mill tax on the gross profits of such concerns. There are reasons for such a movement.

It is imperative that the state obtain greater revenue. The reorganized school system which, under Dr. Finegan, is striding into pre-eminence among the states, requires more money.

A two-mill tax on corporations alone

would bring an additional income to the state of about \$12,000,000.

Railroad corporations pay a tax and the argument is, why not manufacturing industries?

A bitter contest over this issue cannot well be avoided. It will be one in which the committees appointed by Speaker Spangler will play an important part.

It has also been decided by the party leaders, irrespective of faction, that legislative and congressional reappointment come up at the approaching session. The census of 1920 justifies it. It may prove a complication to the revenue bill.

The entire situation on the opening of the Legislature will be fraught with opportunities for testing Spangler's sincerity as to a fair deal.

Big Fight on Tax Plans

The biggest fight of the session will undoubtedly center around the proposed tax on manufacturing concerns as a revenue measure.

Thus the fatuous belief, if such exists anywhere, that the Spruce street arrangement is the angel wings of peace that will drop sweetness and light, will be most effectively dissipated. If I mistake not there will be a mimic replica of Sinn Fein and "Black and Tan" in Harrisburg this winter.

Senator Penrose, I am positively assured, has agreed as part of the arrangement that State Chairman Crow is to be consulted in the distribution of state patronage. But even this will not serve as oil on the troubled waters, I fancy.

The upstate members, particularly as taxes in most of the rural counties have been increased, will be more than willing to demand that the manufacturing

interests be compelled also to shoulder additional burden.

The Crow-Grundy feud is just now enjoying a lull. It will awaken to renewed activity within sixty days. But where does Philadelphia come in? What part does she play?

Thus far Mayor Moore has not been drawn into the controversy. He has called on Senator Penrose and discussed the city situation. Neither side has entered into any agreement nor made any promise.

This much can be asserted, that Mayor Moore has made to Senator Penrose, just as he has given to others, the positive declaration that he cannot and will not change his policy in favor of any ward leader or any set of ward leaders. Nor will he deal with the Vares.

The platform pledges that he made prior to his election are to be fulfilled. On the part of Senator Penrose there has been no statement as to his attitude on Philadelphia legislation. That question is up in the air, and it is the thing in which Mayor Moore is chiefly interested.

A curious situation has arisen as an

outcome of the "mixed pickles" kind of politics Philadelphia is experiencing.

Senator Penrose personally will not effect a truce, or even tentative arrangement, with the Vares. There is, though, every indication that some of the Vares following will shortly march under the Penrose colors; not conspicuously, however, but in a modest way.

The Republican Alliance, of which Clerk of Courts Thomas W. Cunningham has been in course of formation. Several of the more influential of the former Vares leaders, it is understood, while not actually severing their connection with the down-town organization, have expressed a willingness to "go along" in the new movement.

One of the most influential of the latter desires to join hands in a legislative program.

This is about what might be expected seeing that there is nowhere else for them to go under the new deal. Had the speakership fight been waged, the diminished Vares representation in the

Legislature from this city would have rallied under the Crow banner as against Penrose and Grundy.

The Moore following in the legislative delegation has formulated no plans. They will stand together in demanding remedial legislation for the city.

Whether the new city coalition will second the Mayor's demands depends entirely upon orders issued by Senator Penrose.

Meantime Mayor Moore is going ahead with a constructive program irrespective of the outcome of the Crow-Grundy feud. He recognizes Senator Penrose, and has so informed him, as not only the titular but actual head of the Republican party in the state.

boomed for the office of postmaster, to succeed John A. Thornton. The boom will be carried to Washington on inaugural day by the McCaughn

Marching Club, which is being organized by Benjamin Fields. McCaughn's chief aide in the ward. A delegation will be sent to confer with Senator Penrose on the subject.

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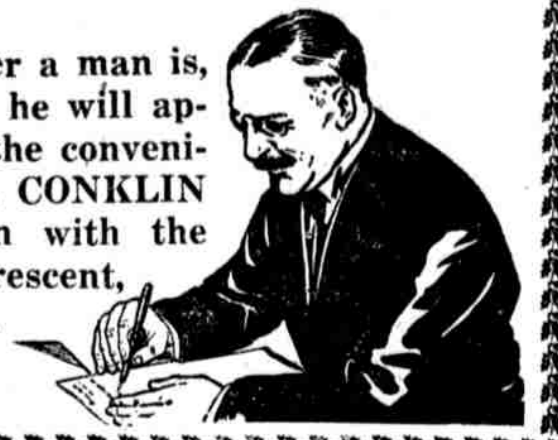
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