

### URGES HIGHER COAL LAND ASSESSMENT

Vast Mineral Wealth of State Not Paying Share of Taxes, Says Expert

#### STEP TAKEN IN SCHUYLKILL

Special Dispatch to Evening Public Ledger  
Pottsville, Pa., Oct. 19.—Reduction of 75 per cent in the tax rate of Schuylkill County, just announced, has caused a flurry of interest all over the country and Frank C. Reese, tax expert, who led the movement for tax reform, is being flooded with inquiries as to how a reduction was accomplished at the same time that the public revenues were increased.

"Pennsylvania is facing one of the gravest financial crises in its history," said Mr. Reese. "An entire breakdown in its financial program is inevitable unless the vast mineral wealth of the State is made to pay its share of taxes, as we have begun to make it do in Schuylkill County. I say 'begun,' as the coal lands of this county could

easily be assessed \$1,000,000,000 instead of half a billion, and the taxing power still be within the limit of the law.

"State finances are affected in the same manner as in Schuylkill county, where with the wealthiest coal lands in the world, not enough taxes were levied to keep the school districts from bankruptcy or the public highways in repair.

"In the past five years I have made thorough investigations for the State of its mineral wealth in nearly every county within the confines of the Commonwealth and I have been convinced that a proper valuation of these lands for taxation purposes is the way and the only way in which the State can get out of its present Slough of Despond."

While with the State Mr. Reese worked in collaboration with his son, Captain John F. Reese, who is now connected with the Department of Internal Affairs, and the statistics he is furnishing of Pennsylvania's great mineral wealth are attracting wide attention. A separate book on each county of the State is being issued, with the mineral deposits summed up in complete detail.

Captain Reese's statistics show that Pennsylvania has 42,000,000,000 tons of bituminous coal in place, which would last, at the present rate of mining, nearly 300 years. If these figures seem vast, it may be pointed out that the United States Geological Survey es-

timates Pennsylvania's bituminous coal deposits at 75,000,000,000 tons. It is expected that both Mr. Reese and his son will be called before the newly appointed Coal Commission to testify as to existing mining conditions in Pennsylvania.

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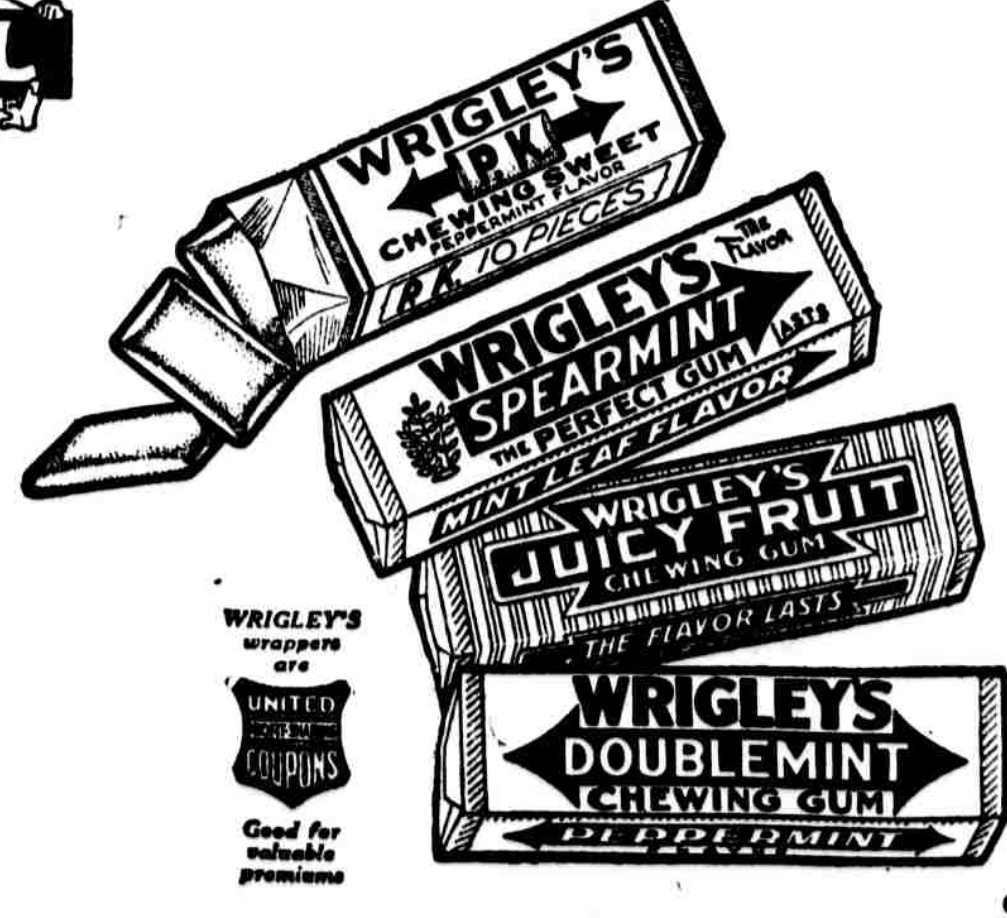
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