

CAPITOL HILL WAR-TAX STAMPS ON STATE LICENSES NOT REQUIRED

Attorney General Bell Says Federal Government Cannot Impose Any Specified Duties Upon Commonwealth Officials in Collecting Revenue

Recently Insurance Commissioner Johnson asked an opinion of Attorney General Bell as to whether the license issued by his department must be stamped with the war tax revenue stamps. These licenses are issued to insurance companies, agents and brokers, who are required to pay for them the fee set by law. Attorney General Bell, after quoting the decisions on cases involving the same principle, says that the federal government cannot by law impose any specified duties upon State officials with reference to the collection of the tax provided by the act of Congress.

Commissions Signed Governor Tener to-day signed the commissions of J. Hay Brown, of Lancaster, as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, which position he assumes in January by reason of being the oldest Justice in commission when Chief Justice Fell retires; Robert S. Fraser, of Allegheny, Supreme Court Justice, and Frank M. Trexler, Superior Court Justice. The commissions were all executed on parchment by James C. Deininger in the highest style of art.

Money From Notaries The Executive Department, through Governor Tener, has collected as fees from the appointment of notaries public during the Tener term, up to the present, the sum of \$127,250, all of which has been turned over to the State treasury. Each notary pays \$25 on receipt of the commission, which holds for four years.

The New Army The Board of Public Grounds and Buildings having given the African M. E. church building, on State street below Fourth, to the Governor's Troop free for an army until such time as the State desires to remove it to use the ground for park purposes, the church congregation will vacate about April 1, when the troop will move in to occupy a number of alterations at its own expense. The alterations at the Capitol Park Extension Commission, says the buildings on the new park grounds must be acquired by June 1, 1917, but does not say that they must be removed at once, so the troopers will have at least two years in their new quarters.

Board of Pardons The Board of Pardons adjourned yesterday afternoon after the argument in half of the cases on the list, and will meet again on Tuesday morning next, to hear the remainder after which an executive session will be held and action taken in all of the cases.

Attended McClain Dinner Governor Tener and Private Secretary Gaither last evening attended the dinner given in Lancaster to Lieutenant Governor-elect Frank B. McClain, by his friends.

Personal Among the statesmen who were on the Hill yesterday afternoon were former Speaker Alter, Allegheny; Senator Salub, Philadelphia; Senator Thompson, Beaver; Senator Snyder, Schuylkill; and former Congressman Hicks, Blair.

Secretary Houck attended the dinner to Governor-elect Brumbaugh, in Philadelphia, last night.

Lieutenant Governor Reynolds was a guest at the McClain dinner in Lancaster last night.

Justices Appointed Governor Tener to-day appointed the following named persons as Justices of the Peace: J. C. Myers, Alderman, Third ward, Oil City, Venango county; Ernest H. Oslinger, Middlebrook town ship, Snyder county; Calvin E. Morgan, West Brownsville, Washington county; Charles S. Chapman, Freehold township, Warren county.

TO COMPLETE PLANT BY MAY Several Sites Have Been Offered to Merchants' Ice Company The directors of the Merchants' Ice Company, of Harrisburg, met last evening at the Hotel Metropolitan for the election of officers and general business. This company, which was in course of formation during the summer and fall, was incorporated as a Pennsylvania corporation on November 30. Its general purpose is the manufacture and sale of ice at reduced cost, two dollars per ton on the factory platform.

Levis R. Simonetti was elected president of the corporation; L. W. Kay, vice president, and Henry M. Hare, treasurer.

SHIPS SUNK BY MINES IN THE NORTH SEA

Continued From First Page. Scarborough, via London, Dec. 17, 1.33 P. M.—The steamer Princess Olga, bound for Aberdeen, Scotland, struck a mine off here last night and went down. The crew of eighteen men landed in their own boats.

The British steamer Princess Olga was a coaster of 438 tons and 185 feet long, and was built in 1901. The Elterwater also was a small coaster, 743 tons, 255 longs and built in 1907.

London, Dec. 17, 4.45 P. M.—In a dispatch from Rome the correspondent of the "Central News" says: "A Trieste official has announced the blowing up by a mine and the sinking of the Austrian training ship Beethoven, with the loss of the crew and all the cadets on board."

BIG TIME PLANNED FOR KIDS

Central High School Committees Arranging for Wednesday's Entertainment Work has been started by committees of Central High school students in charge of the Christmas entertainment to be given next Wednesday morning in the auditorium of the school at which thirty-five children from the Day Nursery will be present and will receive gifts from a thoroughly reliable Santa Claus.

The gifts for the girls of the Nursery will be purchased with the money donated by a committee of senior girls headed by Pauline Houck and gifts for the boys will be bought by William Hefelinger's committee. David Burns will impersonate Santa Claus. Committees have been appointed as follows: Candy, nuts, stockings, Marguerite Butler, Frances Bartlett, Lillian Speckman, Margaret Weltman, Irene Steinman, Sarah Nuncmacher and Mildred Day; stage committee, Benjamin Byers, Harold Houtz, Jonathan Black, Edward Roth, Arthur Winn, Harry Rote, Paul Sellbamer, Ernest Diefenbach, Walter Smolter, William Bingham, Tilwood Baker, Leroy Smucker, Zeigler, Lynch and Nissley; Christmas tree committee, Catherine Kelker, Emma Keeney, Mary Titzel, Gertrude Wilson, Gertrude Edwards, Katherine Peters, Charles Seigebaum, Karl Peters, Samuel Froehlich and Jay Smith; lighting committee, Kenneth Patterson, Richard Haver, Carol Denney, Lloyd Pierce, Ralph Pierce, Ralph McKee, Edward Lancy and Homer Balsbaugh.

HEPTASOPHS PLAN TRIP

Booster Committee Arranges for a Visit to Marysville Next Saturday The booster committee of the Heptasophs in this vicinity will pay a visit to the conclave in Marysville on Saturday night. Heptasophs will take the car at Market square at 7 o'clock on that evening.

This booster committee is composed of the members of the conclaves of Harrisburg, Steelton, West Fairview and Marysville. This committee is now making arrangements for a fine entertainment and reception to be held on Tuesday evening, January 26, for all Heptasophs and their friends. The act will be singing by the German Glee Club and speeches by Olin Bryant, of Philadelphia; Edward Scheffler, supreme organizer of Brookline, and Benjamin N. Neal, of Harrisburg.

The officers of the booster committee are: L. O. Phillips, treasurer; E. J. Seidles, secretary; W. W. Britsch, assistant secretary, and E. E. Ewing, E. J. Walsh, Mr. Bolger and Mr. Britsch on the entertainment committee.

COURT HOUSE

BANK FILES AN OLD DEED Instrument Making Conveyance of Lot in Market Square Is Recorded The original deed making the conveyance of the plot of ground which now is the site of the Harrisburg National Bank, Market square, has been turned over to the Dauphin county recorder to be entered in the county's official records. It is nearly 100 years old, bearing date of September, 1817, and is yellow with age. However it is well preserved.

The deed was unearthed several days ago, while one of the bank employees was making a search among old papers for bank records.

Marriage Licenses Harry L. Yingst and Beulah Fillmore, York. Charles T. Schillot, Philadelphia, and Anna H. Stull, Lewistown. George C. Sellers and Martha Seiders, Harrisburg. Lewis E. Lehman, York Springs, and Daisy E. Moody, Dillsburg. Clyde C. Woods, Bolling Springs, and Florence B. Block, Carlisle.

PRETTY "NURSES" INVADE THE ORPHEUM THEATRE

Continued From First Page. Wearing Red Cross Uniforms, They Are Selling Candies and Nuts in the Audience to Aid the Home and War Relief Association

Garbed as Red Cross nurses, but dispensing home-made candies and salted peanuts instead of bandages and dressings for wounds, a score of pretty misses are doing duty—genuine relief duty, too—at the Orpheum theatre to-day. It is recalled that this is "Belgian Week" in that theatre.

They are working for the General Supply Division of the Home and War Relief Association, and the product of their sales will help along the work by purchasing supplies and paying for making up of clothing and supplies. In charge of the work is the committee composed of Mrs. Mercer B. Tate, Mrs. C. E. Covert, Mrs. M. E. Olmsted and Mrs. W. E. Seel. The "nurses," who did duty at the Zumbo sale earlier in the week, are Miss Esther Hutman, Miss Catherine Thorne, Miss Esther Adams, Miss Marie McVillie, Miss Madeline Shonk, Miss Kathryn McCloskey, Miss Emma Morrow, Miss Helen Roberts, Miss Ann Fogarty, Miss Emily Vanderloo, Miss Ruth Kirkup, Miss Margaret Bacon, Miss Emily Morrow, Miss Ann Rissel, Miss Mary Koons, Miss Marie McCalley, Miss Laura Miller, Miss Irene McCalley, Miss Hilida Fohl and Miss Mary Booth.

On Saturday headquarters will be opened at 7 South Front street for public inspection and active operations. The Red Cross flag floats there now, and every division is showing activity as the hour approaches when first batches of unsewn clothing is to be given to the seamstresses of this city who will convert them into warm suits and dresses for the suffering Belgians. Every detail of the work has been attended to. The proper kinds of wool and special needles for knitting it are on sale at extremely low prices, so that the work of manufacture may be facilitated. A buying board, giving shipping dates, general and specific needs of certain kinds of materials or clothing and dates and hours of committee meetings, has been placed in headquarters.

Free services from corporations and individuals has been given to the general committee. The Harrisburg Gas Company is furnishing gas without cost. McCreath Brothers are donating a stove, give coal and wood for nothing, while George C. Fager & Sons and J. W. Morrow have done tinwork and plumbing repairs without profit. A booth for the sale of Red Cross stamps has been opened in the parcel post sub-station in the Donaldson building, 206 North Second street. The original supply of 3,500 Red Cross stamps at the postoffice has been exhausted. Miss Margaret Turner, in charge of this booth, expects to sell 15,000 stamps this year. She disposed of 10,000 last year in the postoffice.

PROFITS TO BELGIANS

United Manufacturing Company Will Hold Big Belgian Sale Next Monday In accordance with the various movements to raise funds to help the Belgians, the United Manufacturing Company, 9 North Market square, announced that it will have "Belgian Day" sale Monday, December 21, and will give one-tenth of the total moneys taken in for the relief of the Belgian sufferers. The prices on the merchandise will not be increased to cover the donation. On the other hand, the original low prices will apply to all merchandise.

One-tenth of the day's receipts will be turned over to the proper party for transmission to the relief commission. The day's business will be audited by a disinterested party who will be selected between now and Monday.

THIS APRON WASHINGTON'S?

Masons Interested in Insignia Believed to Have Belonged to First President Freemanoria in this city and vicinity is interested in an apron of a member of the Blue Lodge which appears to have been the one worn by George Washington as a member of the lodge in Alexandria, Va. It has just come into the possession of Jay C. Seltzinger, Jr., and is being exhibited in the display window of his antique store at 225 North Second street.

The apron, is of the regulation sheepskin and common size and shape, has every appearance of great age. It is underlaid with a fine material, the frame, an excellent piece of workmanship in its day, would be styled "gingerbready" or something else nowadays. Mr. Seltzinger says the frame is at least sixty years old, and this is borne out by the details of the framing.

Under the glass, above the apron itself, is a printed slip, yellow with age. It reads: "Masonic apron, owned and worn by Gen. George Washington in the Masonic Lodge at Alexandria, Va. Presented by him to General Horatio Gates and later came into the possession of Mrs. Gen. W. C. Anderson, a descendant of Gen. Gates, who presented it in 1854 to Dr. R. N. Short upon his being made a Mason in Missouri Lodge, No. 1, of St. Louis, Mo."

Sometime after becoming a Mason in Missouri, Dr. Short moved to Pennsylvania and made his home in Centreville, Cumberland county. The apron has just been handed to Mr. Seltzinger by heirs of Dr. Short who are settling his estate and who have commissioned the Harrisburg man to dispose of the relic.

DIVIDED ON PLAN TO CUT TAX RATE

Continued From First Page. tax rate is established for 1915 it will, in their opinion, be absolutely necessary to re-establish the nine and one-half mill rate for 1916. The Mayor's opinion, he said, is based upon the fact that treasury balances and other funds amounting to something like \$50,000 are now available for appropriation, whereas at the end of 1915 the treasury balances will be little or nothing.

Besides, when the budget is made up for 1916, the Mayor said, it will be necessary to make an appropriation of \$22,000 to the sinking fund out of which the city's bonded debt is being paid. No such appropriation is being provided for this year, since there is sufficient money on hand to take care of the first installment of bonds, which are of the five-year series.

While the Mayor expressed belief that it will be necessary next year to re-establish the nine and one-half mill tax rate, if the millage is decreased this year, he added that he does not intend to discourage reducing the millage this year. There was some talk in official circles this morning to the effect that a reduction in the tax rate this year might mean a ten-mill rate for 1916. One of the City Commissioners said: "We take no stock in that statement."

Among the items which have been backed from the tentative bill are a \$1,000 appropriation for an automobile for the City Sealer of Weights and Measures; \$1,200 for an assistant to the plumbing inspector, and \$3,600 for the food inspection department. The food inspection department, through the laying of a special license tax is now self-sustaining. It is now practically certain that the requests for one additional policeman; increase of \$180 a year in the salary of Joseph Bach, one of the city detectives, and an increase of \$300 in the annual salary of Chief of Police Hutchison, will be allowed.

LOOTS TWO BANKS AND IS CAUGHT

Continued From First Page. The cent, but up to an early hour this afternoon the bandit was still at large. The work of the Cincinnati automobile bank bandit resembled in a remarkable degree the actions of Frank G. Hohl, of this city, the confessed robber of the Union bank of Altoona. Hohl escaped from the Blair county jail after his arrest in Canon, O., and has not been heard of since, except when a machine bearing an Indiana license tax drew up at his residence, on North Court street, early one Sunday morning and gave rise to the story that the auto contained Hohl.

OBJECT TO PROPOSED SITE

Dozen Property Owners and Manufacturers Oppose Putting Asphalt Plant at Cameron and Kittatiny Sts. A dozen protests from individual property owners and manufacturers have been lodged with the City Council in opposition to the plan to establish the proposed municipal asphalt repair plant at the southwest corner of Cameron and Kittatiny streets. Highway Commissioner Lynch, at the Tuesday meeting of the City Commissioners, introduced an ordinance carrying an appropriation of \$9,675 with which to buy the Cameron site for the plant.

Manufacturers contend that if the plant they will discourage the possibility of that section becoming a greater business and manufacturing center. Arthur D. Bacon, of the D. Bacon Co., who formerly was president of the old Select Council, in a letter to the Commissioners to-day pointed out that his company moved its candy factory to Cameron street "to get away from a dirty section of the city."

Those protesting further claim that there is more dirt and stench around an asphalt plant and suggest that the plant be placed in another section of the city. City Commissioners to-day said that every effort has been made to obtain a site for the plant in another section of Harrisburg, although they have been unsuccessful. If another suitable site can be purchased, Lynch ordinance will be amended, it is said.

GROVE'S SIDE BEING HEARD

Witnesses Express Belief York Avenue Building Is Unsafe Further hearing in the injunction proceedings by which James J. Lynch and W. F. Martin, contractors, seek to have Judge McCarrell issue an order restraining building inspector James H. Grove from raising the story apartment house at 603 York avenue was held in court to-day. Many witnesses yet remain to be called by the City and a decision will not be obtained for several days, at least.

Grove has condemned the York avenue house as unsafe because of a bulged Building Inspector and John Wagner, the owner of the apartments, entered into a conspiracy whereby the building would be razed and the contractors cheated out of their money, something like \$2,500.

Judge McCarrell yesterday stated from the bench that he will decide all points at one time. He added: "No evidence has been advanced thus far to support the conspiracy charge." The majority of the witnesses heard to-day were contractors, and builders who expressed the belief that the building is unsafe.

SERVICE COMMISSIONERS DO NOT FEAR IMPEACHMENT

Continued From First Page. Say It Would Not Be Dignified for Them to Discuss Threat of Commissioners' Lawyer to Start Action to Have Them Ousted From Office

The threat of Edwin M. Abbott, attorney for some business men and the Commissioners' Association of Philadelphia, that he will start proceedings in an effort to throw out of office the Public Service Commissioners, in the event of certain things developing, had not materialized by noon to-day, and the Commission is still doing business at the old stand.

Mr. Abbott's grievance is based on the contention that the Commission tipped the railroad officials off as to its decision in the passenger rate case before the decision was conveyed to the complainants, and he holds that this is a violation of the law and renders the Commissioners liable to be thrown out of office. To that end he visited Governor Tener yesterday afternoon, and laid his case before the Governor, who said he would confer with Attorney General Bell and let Mr. Abbott know what the chief law officers say.

Mr. Abbott left for Philadelphia last evening and on his arrival there announced he will await developments, but he has not yet made public just what particular developments he is awaiting before he proceeds against the Commission. In the office of the Commission to-day it was said that the decision of that body in the railroad passenger rate cases had been given to the railroad officials as soon as possible in order that they might have time to prepare their tickets before the new rates, as decided upon by the Commission, should go into effect. While this action may have been irregular, it is held no body was injured by it.

None of the Commissioners seemed in the least perturbed to-day over Mr. Abbott's threat, and all declined to discuss it on the ground that to notice it would be undignified, as it was scarcely worthy of notice. Application was made to the Public Service Commission to-day by officials of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company for a rehearing on the 100-trip ticket ruling, and it is contended that the company's commuter service is not remunerative and that the 100-trip tickets are sold over a very short part of its lines. The Commission will consider the application later to-day and also discuss the application of Mr. Abbott for a rehearing of the rate case.

H. L. Everett, of Norristown, protested to the Public Service Commission this morning in regard to the restriction placed upon the 100-trip ticket by the Commission's recent ruling, alleging that the cost of that ticket between Norristown and Philadelphia has been increased more than 60 per cent., and that it is now good for only six months instead of twelve, as heretofore.

M. N. Bailey, of Royersford, filed a similar complaint regarding the 100-trip ticket sold between Royersford and Philadelphia, alleging that the rate has been increased 94 per cent., and the life of the ticket cut in two. Mr. Bailey objects particularly to the latter restriction.

AGED RESIDENT EXPIRED

Francis Flury, 84 Years Old, Died at Middletown Last Night Middletown, Dec. 17.—Francis Flury, 84 years old, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John H. Kramer, Emma street, at 12 o'clock last night. The funeral services will be held on Friday evening at the home of Mrs. Kramer, with whom he resided, at 7.30 o'clock, the Rev. W. R. Riddington, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, officiating. The body will be taken to Wrightsville for burial on Saturday morning.

Mr. Flury was born and raised in Wrightsville and lived there until about 12 years ago, when he came to Middletown to live with his daughter. He leaves three children, Mrs. J. H. Kramer, Mrs. J. C. Cries, of Newark, N. J., and William Flury, of this place. One brother, Augustus, living in Wrightsville, also survives.

A. A. EATON DIES SUDDENLY

Was Well Known in Eastern Part of United States Abram A. Eaton, 76 years old, a salesman who was well known in the eastern part of the United States, died last night at 10.15 o'clock at the home of his daughter, 1735 Market street. Mr. Eaton had been complaining of ill health for the last week, but his condition was not thought to be serious until last night.

Mr. Eaton had been very active during the Stough campaign and has been in regular attendance at the tabernacle. The funeral services will be held to-morrow evening at 7.45 o'clock at the home, the Rev. W. H. Dallman, pastor of the Market Street Baptist church, officiating. Further services will be held on Saturday morning at Kingsley, Susquehanna county, and burial will be made there.

George A. Gorgas, Edw. F. Doehne, Security Trust Co.

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS: Our 1915 HOLIDAY SAVINGS CLUB is now forming and we are pleased with the many new customers who are taking this plan with our old customers to save. SAVE what you can—have an OBJECT IN VIEW. YOU CAN SAVE IF YOU TRY JOIN OUR CLUB NOW MAKE THIS BANK YOUR BANK Security Trust Co. Open Saturday Evening, 7 to 9 36-38 North Third Street

\$600 FOR PARADE PRIZES

Mummers' Association Make Final Decision at Meeting Last Evening More than \$600 will be offered in prizes for the participants of the mummers' parade on New Year's Day by the Harrisburg Mummers' Association, the association so decided at a meeting last evening. Chairman Koen, of the finance committee, reported that the finances were in good shape and that local merchants were contributing liberally. The official list of prizes for the parade follows: Best comic organization or club, first prize, \$25; second prize, \$15; best comic individual costume, \$5; best comic unpaired band, \$25; most comic team, \$10; organization or club making the finest appearance, first prize, \$75; second prize, \$35; team making finest appearance, \$10; unpaid band making finest appearance, \$50; aid making finest appearance, \$10; individual character, \$5; most elaborate costume, \$10; second most elaborate costume, \$5; finest float, \$50; most original float, \$30; best historical float, \$25; finest decorated motorcycle or bicycle, \$10; most original motorcycle or bicycle, \$5; most historical motorcycle or bicycle, \$5; city organization having the most men in line, \$75; visiting organization having most men in line, \$75; best drilled club or organization, \$50.

GUARD INSPECTION PLANNED

Governor's Troop Will Be Reviewed by U. S. Army Men, January 4 An inspection of the different organizations of the National Guard of Pennsylvania will be held by officers of the United States Army during the months of January and February. These inspections will be separate and distinct from the inspections to be held in March, April and May by the National Guard inspectors. The Governor's Troop will be inspected on Monday, January 4, and the headquarters of the Eighth regiment in Harrisburg, and Companies D and I of the Eighth, on Friday, January 15. The other organizations of the Eighth regiment will be inspected as follows: Band and Company G, Carlisle, Monday, February 1; A and K, York, Thursday, January 14; B, Tamaqua, Wednesday, January 20; C, Chambersburg, Tuesday, February 2; E, Mahanoy City, Monday, January 18; F, Huntingdon, Thursday, February 4; H, Pottsville, Tuesday, January 19; L, Bedford, Friday, February 5; M, Lewistown, Wednesday, February 3. Captain James B. Kemper, Inspector-Instructor, U. S. A., will inspect the State Arsenal and the Fourth and Eighth regiments, and Lieutenant William H. Bell, Inspector-Instructor, U. S. A., will inspect the cavalry, including the Governor's Troop.

WRAP YOUR WATER METERS!

Commissioner Bowman Tells How to Prevent Damage Through Freezing Pointing out the danger and expense attending the freezing of water meters Harry P. Bowman, Commissioner of Public Safety, to-day addressed a letter to Harrisburg property owners urging them to protect the meters from cold by wrapping burlap bags, or old carpet about them. The Commissioner's letter follows: "Every one having a water meter unprotected is advised to have all cellar openings closed and the meter, if necessary, wrapped with burlap or carpet, thereby protecting it from freezing."

"Last winter there were between three and four hundred meters practically destroyed by freezing in our city. The cost of repairing a frozen meter ranges from \$2.25 to \$4.75. This amount is paid by the property owner, the city making no charge for its labor, saking only the price of the parts replaced. This department does not make any profit for such work. You can therefore see that the loss is entirely to the property owner."

The Washington Fire Company was called at 3 o'clock this afternoon to a slight fire in the front room of the Hotel Bollinger, at Court and Chestnut streets. A window curtain had caught fire. The damage was slight.

Fire at Hotel Bollinger Undergoes Successful Operation Robert Boltz, 1328 Verona street, underwent a successful operation at the Polyclinic hospital this morning. Artistic Printing at Star-Independent.

Bill to Increase U. S. Army

Washington, Dec. 17.—Senator Lodge to-day introduced a bill embodying Secretary Garrison's plan for increasing the aggregate mobile army to full strength, for 1,000 additional officers and for the discharge of soldiers after 18 months' service in a regular army to constitute an army reserve.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS. Furnished by H. W. Snavely, Broker, Arcade Building, Walnut and Court Streets New York, Dec. 17.

Chicago Grain Market Chicago, Dec. 17. What—December 120 1/2, 120 1/2, 120 1/2, 116 1/2. Corn—December 62 1/2, 64, 69 1/2, 48, 48, 52 1/2.