OVER EIGHT DOLLARS IS PENNSYLVANIA'S PER CAPITA DEBT

Pennsylvania's net public debt as of March 16, 1942, was $80,551,350 or $8.14 for each of its residents, the Joint State Government Commission has revealed.

Net public debt is defined, the research agency pointed out, as the total bonded debt, less all sinking fund assets.

The research staff of the commission, in the first of a weekly series of studies of Pennsylvania State Government, exclusive of its political subdivisions—with nine other industrial states.

At the end of the 1939 fiscal year, the most recent year for which comparative data were available, Pennsylvania ranked fifth in the group of ten states as to debt per person. Ohio had the lowest figure of the group for that year, with a per capita debt of $1.71. Pennsylvania's per capita debt of $10.97 in 1939 was more than that of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Massachusetts, but less than that of New York, New Jersey, California, Illinois and Massachusetts. New York, with a per capita debt of $39.42 ranked last in the group.

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PROVISIONS OF DOG LAW ARE EXPLAINED

Courses of procedure in the case of dogs running at large and damaging property have been suggested by the Dog Law Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture as a result of numerous complaints having been received by depredations by dogs.

In cases of injury to property charges of general nuisance may be brought before any alderman or justice of the peace against the owner of the dog, or any constable or police officer in the territory in which the damage occurs may be notified to take action since they have jurisdiction over all cases of this kind.

It is pointed out that it is the duty of any police officers to seize any dog which bears a proper license tag which is found at large unaccompanied by the owner. The officer is also empowered to go upon any premises and enter any building to seize any dog which is at large, and it is unlawful for any officer to refuse to perform these duties under the dog laws. It is also unlawful for any persons to interfere with an officer in the performance of these duties.

It is further pointed out that it is unlawful for any person, excepting an officer, to kill, injure, poison or to attempt to do these things to any dog which bears a proper license tag, excepting in the case of a dog pursuing or wounding livestock or poultry or attacking human beings, whether the dog bears a license tax or not. Any unlicensed dog that enters any enclosure where poultry or livestock is domiciled may be killed by the owner of that place without liability.

In the case of an illegal killing by an officer or other person of a licensed dog the state is liable for $100 and action can then be brought by the State to recover the damage from the person who killed the animal.

WPB NOT TO ASK CHANGE IN DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

The War Production Board has no intention of asking that all clocks in the Nation be set up another hour during the summer months, J. A. Krug, chief of the power branch, has disclosed.

He explained that advancing timepieces a second hour during the summer would yield only a fraction of the substantial power savings gained through establishment of war time by presidential proclamation in February.

Certain states might take action, but nationwide action is remote unless power shortages become more critical than anticipated.

MUST TRADE IN OLD TUBES TO GET MORE TOOTHPASTE

That tube of shaving cream or tube of toothpaste may be empty, but don't throw it away if you want to buy another.

The WPB ruled Tuesday night effective at once that retail purchasers of toothpaste or shaving cream packed in collapsible tubes must turn in a used tin, tin-coated, or tin-alloy tube of any kind for each new tube they wish to buy.

The regulations are part of a general curtailment on the use and production of tubes for packing foods.

—Labor must not surrender its hard earned gains.

DEGASIFICATION OF UNMINED COAL

From the United Mine Workers' Journal

The natural occurrence of absorbed methane gas in coal is a serious handicap to present mining practice. The continuous release of the gas from the coal during mining requires costly ventilation to prevent disasters from explosions. The ventilation of some mines is said to carry away as much as 6,000,000 cubic feet of methane per day. Undiluted, methane has a heating value of 1,000 B.t.u. per cubic foot which makes it equivalent to natural gas from other sources.

Might not this liability be turned into an asset? The suggestion of boring long, horizontal gas wells in gassy coal beds to recover the natural gas in advance of mining the coal has been advanced by Leo Ranney in the June, 1941, issue of the Engineering Experiment Stations News Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. The method of drilling horizontally several thousand feet was developed earlier for recovery of oil from oil sands.

According to Mr. Ranney, some of the coal seams in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania contain from 800 to 2,000 cubic feet of methane per ton of coal in place. The gas is slowly exuded into the mine workings from the face. These coal deposits are great gas fields which are estimated to contain as much as 22 million cubic feet per acre.

The suggested plan of recovery is the drilling of parallel, horizontal wells 4,000 to 5,000 feet long in the coal seam and spaced 800 feet apart. Only the first 400 feet of each well is to be cased and grouted. A high vacuum is to be maintained on the completed wells to remove the gas from the coal to a distance of 400 feet on both sides of the wells.

The over-all cost of producing gas from these horizontal wells is estimated at five cents or less a thousand cubic feet. The degasification would, of course not reduce the heating value of the coal because the gas normally escapes from the mined coal before burning by the customer. Degasification might provide an added source of revenue and might reduce ventilation costs appreciably.

THE WAGE-HOUR LAW

A fine up to $10.00 for the first offense, and imprisonment up to six months, as well as a fine, for a second or subsequent offense, are penalties provided for wilful violations of the Wage and Hour law, including the discharge of or discrimination against any employee who has filed a complaint.

The Division may enjoin the shipment in interstate commerce of any goods produced in violation of the minimum wage or overtime provisions of the Act or any goods produced in an establishment in or about which oppressive child labor has been employed within 30 days.

Violations of the law may be halted by injunction.

Employees may bring suits themselves, or through an agent, in any court of competent jurisdiction to recover unpaid minimum wages or overtime compensation, the law providing that employers are liable for double the unpaid sums, plus court costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

(Additional information may be obtained by writing to or calling at the office of the Wage and Hour Division U. S. Department of Labor, at 1216 Widener Building, Philadelphia, or at 216 Old Postoffice Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.)

Two Cambria County miners, injured in an accident last week in the Cardiff mine of the Imperial Coal Co., Nasty-Glo, are improving. George Novotaky, 40, Spangler, was treated at the Miners' Hospital, Spangler, for chest injuries and abrasions about the head and shoulders. George Reed, 41, Mineral Point, was a patient at the Memorial Hospital, Johnstown, suffering of back and chest injuries. The two men were injured when caught under a fall of rock.

NEED STENOGRAPHERS FOR FEDERAL POSITIONS

The Civil Service Commission is now recruiting stenographers and typists for government bureau jobs at Washington D. C., according to E. E. Hines, secretary of the Johnstown Boar dof Examiners. Persons qualifying for positions will be classified as junior stenographers or typists and will be paid $120 a month. Those who show special ability will have opportunities for advancement. Tests are to be conducted at Johnstown each time that sufficient applications accumulate. Application forms may be obtained from Mr. Hines at the Johnstown Post Office.

Removal of the old wooden bridge spanning the Lilly Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad has been authorized by the Public Utility Commission.

The old span which carried Route 11028 across the railroad tracks, has not been in use for some time, due to its dangerous condition. The bridge was damaged in the flood of 1936.

It is expected that after the bridge is removed a grade crossing will be established to carry vehicular traffic over the branch line.

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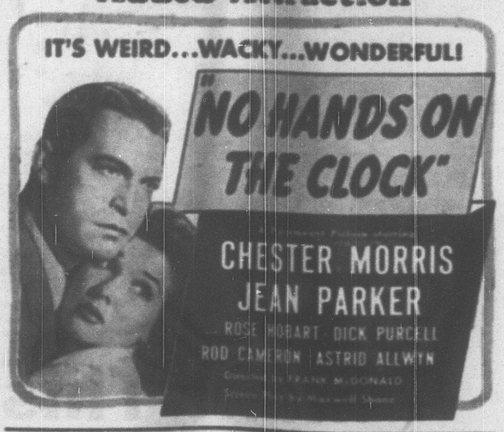

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