

MORE TONNAGE TAX

A Two Percent Tax on the Gross Output of all Iron Mines Proposed by Representative Bjorge.

No Demand for Radical Temperance Legislation—How Long Will Revolving Fund Revolve?

St. Paul, Jan. 17, 1917.

Both branches of the legislature are settling down to business, and after this week there will be fewer long adjournments. Nothing of much importance is ever accomplished the first three or four weeks of a legislative session. When the committees get down to work and report on bills, then, and not before, the wheels of the legislative machine commence to revolve and grind out the grist of good, bad and indifferent enactments.

So far Speaker Parker has held the house well in hand. His committee appointments caused some heartaches; some of the members, with an over-weening sense of their own importance, think they were not properly recognized and are somewhat disgruntled; but that is to be expected in a body of 130 members. Naturally enough Mr. Parker gave his friends, the members who made his election as speaker possible, the best of it.

Tonnage tax will not down. I understand Representative Henry O. Bjorge has a bill about completed and that he will drop it into the legislative hopper within the next few days. It is different from any other tonnage tax bill that has been proposed heretofore. The present ad valorem system of taxing mining properties is left undisturbed, but it is proposed to add an additional state tax of two per cent on the value of the gross output of the mines, to be known as a production tax. For instance: If the gross output of iron ore for 1917 should be 30,000,000 tons valued at \$3.00 per ton, the production tax on the same would be \$1,800,000. This seems like double taxation, but I am told that Mr. Bjorge has consulted tax experts and lawyers of recognized ability and that all of them assure him that such a tax would be constitutional.

Every tonnage tax bill heretofore proposed has been faulty; it was either unjust to the localities where the mines were located or provided for an inequitable distribution of the tax. The last tonnage tax bill was introduced in the 1911 session; it proposed the ad valorem system of taxation on non-producing mines and a tonnage tax on producing mines, the tonnage tax to go directly to the state treasury. If that bill had become a law one result would have been a loss of probably \$250,000 a year to the state road and bridge fund. Under our constitution, as interpreted by the supreme court in the Cook case, no part of the tonnage tax could go into the state road and bridge fund, and the tonnage tax on the producing mines would be in lieu of all other state taxes, hence the producing mines, valued at upwards of \$250,000,000, would not have contributed a dollar under the one mill state road and bridge tax.

If an additional production tax can be constitutionally imposed I should like to see the proceeds go into the state road and bridge fund, but that would require a constitutional amendment. I believe, however, such an amendment could be easily carried.

I never have and I never will favor a tonnage tax that would prove injurious to the interests of the people of St. Louis county. But if the opulent steel corporation can be compelled to pay an additional tax of a couple of millions annually for the next forty or fifty years, the proceeds to be applied to road improvement, no one would be injured and much good would result to the state.

Notwithstanding the labored efforts of the professional prohibition propagandists I do not believe there is a crying demand for any further radical temperance legislation at this time. In the counties of the state where the people want prohibition they have it or can get it, and in the counties where they do not want it it ought not be forced upon them. Legislation ought to be enacted that would put the "wholesale houses" in the rural districts out of business, and put a stop to blind-pigging, and there let the matter rest. True friends of practical temperance are sick and tired of the eternal caterwauling of

canting hypocrites who preach and talk prohibition solely for the purpose of furthering their own selfish ends.

C. M. King, the typical Itasca county commissioner, as usual is around the capitol and hotel lobbies knocking the state highway commission. He wants the county commissioners to have the handling of every dollar expended for roads and bridges—county, state and federal—and wants no one to interfere with their rights, prerogatives and perquisites. How fortunate for Itasca county that it is able to retain the services of such a distinguished gentleman as C. M. King!

It is up to Magnus Johnson, chairman of the house committee on grain and warehouses, to see to it that the farmers get the remedial legislation they have been praying for. Thirteen of the committee of nineteen are farmers, and if the bills that the farmers are interested in are not promptly reported out it will be easy to place the responsibility.

A gutter-snipe scribbler writing to county newspapers tells of the unholy "senatorial combine." All there is to the combine is this: A number of senators got together, and they were men of all parties and shades of opinion, and agreed upon an organization. Good men were selected for the various positions, and that is all there is to it. Senator Blomgren secured the appointment of O. W. Blomquist of Spencer Brook to a clerkship, and the senator from Mille Lacs secured a place for Herman Hofflander, a deserving member of company G. What a terrible "combine!"

Hon. W. I. Nolan and Hon. W. I. Norton are the floor leaders for Speaker Parker. The former is chairman of the rules committee and is the real house leader. Mr. Nolan is not lacking in brains or assurance, is somewhat self-opinionated, and is an excellent parliamentarian. Mr. Norton is an efficient party whip and can always be depended upon to rally the support of the "drys" to any measure in which he is interested.

It may be treason to say so, but Senator McGarry has a big contract on his hands to put through a bill that will cause that \$250,000 revolving fund to revolve for any considerable length of time. I do not mean that he will have any trouble in pushing the bill through the legislature, but I do mean that I have my doubts about the \$250,000 ever revolving back into the permanent school fund.

State Auditor Preus is opposed to the public domain bill proposed by the efficiency and economy committee. So am I, but not for the same reason that Mr. Preus is. He thinks there should be a separate department to handle the lands, mineral and timber of the state, but that a constitutional amendment will be necessary. There is no earthly reason why another new department should be created. The auditor has ample time at his disposal to attend to the duties of the land department. In fact, since the tax commission was created, relieving the auditor's office of all matters pertaining to taxation, which was fully one-third of the work of the office, the duties of the auditor, outside the land department, are merely clerical. It is only in the land department that executive ability is required. The creation of another expensive department is totally unnecessary.

R. C. D.

M. E. Church Basement Dedicated.
The basement of the Methodist church has been plastered and painted, and it presents a neat and cozy appearance. Numerous pretty pictures adorn the walls, and it is in keeping with the other rooms of the handsome brick edifice. The social affairs of the church will be held there.

The formal opening of the basement occurred Tuesday evening, and a good sized audience attended. The choir sang three selections most pleasingly, and Dr. W. E. J. Gratz of St. Paul delivered an inspiring address along reminiscent lines. Dr. Gratz was pastor of the local church three years, and was here when the edifice was erected. He is ever interesting, but especially so on this occasion, and he held the closest attention of the audience throughout.

At the conclusion of the program the Ladies' Aid society served a tempting luncheon.

The church can now look forward to increased interest in social activities, and the society is to be congratulated on having such a splendid place to use in that connection.

STUPENDOUS LOSS

Hog Cholera Estimated to Have Caused a Loss of \$40,000,000 Annually Past 40 Years.

How the Disastrous Epidemic is Being Controlled—Simple Set of Preventive Rules Evolved.

An article in a recent issue of the Scientific American by C. H. Claudy, relating to the inoculation of hogs by serum, is timely and interesting, and it is here under reproduced in full:

"Hog" is a term of derision or contempt for the man in the city. But the farmer calls his hogs "mortgage lifters," because the revenue derived from swine raising is responsible for much swine prosperity, and because were it not for hogs and the profit they bring many a farm would go unimproved and undeveloped.

If one hog in a herd of a hundred dies, the farmer is sorry, but he doesn't tear his hair. But if the ninety-nine die the one that is left doesn't do him much good. A thousand, a hundred thousand, even a million dollars' worth of hogs might be exterminated yearly and still there would be no great economic problem to face. But when, as happened in 1913, \$75,000,000 worth of hogs die from a disease for which there is absolutely no cure—hog cholera—then, indeed, a wail goes up from the hog raisers.

At the present time there are 68,047,000 hogs in the United States. Their value is \$571,890,000. The average loss annually due to hog cholera during the last 40 years is estimated at not less than \$40,000,000. This is altogether too large a percentage to give up in one year to a disease which, while incurable, is preventable. And while the loss in direct dollars can be estimated the indirect loss, due to the discouragement of hog breeders, is without a price to set upon it, and no man can say what the public has had to pay because of the increased price of ham and bacon, which might have been saved were hogs freed from this, their greatest pestilence.

It was consideration of these things and realization of the urgent need of assistance to those whose greatest wealth was disappearing in dead hogs that made the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture begin in the year of the greatest loss (1913) a series of experiments looking to the eventual control of hog cholera by quarantine, sanitary measures, and preventive serum treatment. These experiments extended during 1914, 1915, and 1916 to 15 counties in Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Tennessee, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

The treatment of almost a quarter of a million hogs in infected herds has demonstrated the possibility of saving from 85 to 90 per cent of the animals. A determined effort on the part of the proper State officials and farmers co-operating with the bureau can undoubtedly control and eventually eradicate the disease.

Hog cholera is an acute febrile disease which affects only hogs. It is extremely contagious. While it is found practically all over the world, it is especially prevalent in the hog-raising districts of the United States. It first occurred in 1883 in Ohio, supposedly from imported hogs from European countries. The disease was gradually extended to all portions of the United States along lines of transportation.

Hog cholera mortality is 100 per cent in some herds, while the average is probably from 70 to 80 per cent. Hogs which survive are usually worthless. There is no cure for hog cholera. But it is preventable, and by a method which will ring naturally in ears accustomed to hear of preventive serum for human diseases. Starting with the facts that hogs which recover are thereafter immune, the bureau discovered that an immune, injected with blood from a sick hog, can provide blood which will protect other hogs.

The process is scientific and exact and its results wonderful. A vigorous immune hog is treated with much blood from a hog cholera patient. After a week or two blood is drawn from the immune by cutting off the end of the tail. The fluid portion of the blood is mixed with weak carbolic acid, forming a serum which protects from hog cholera. It is used either by simple or simultaneous inoculation.

In the first method an injection of serum alone is made inside the hind leg. This protects from hog cholera for several weeks. If not exposed to hog cholera the immunity gradually lessens in degree and the hog may

again become susceptible. If, however, the hog is exposed to hog cholera within a short time after the injection of the serum, the immunity becomes of life-long duration. In simultaneous inoculation the same serum is used, but there is also injected a small quantity of blood taken from a hog cholera patient. This confers a permanent immunity.

So much for the facts. Now for the results. We give the figures of the Bureau of Animal Industry. Of the sick members of infected herds treated by the bureau's agents during three years, 28.8 per cent died; of the well members the mortality was 4.5 per cent among those treated by serum alone and 3.7 per cent among those enjoying simultaneous treatment. These results are indeed marvelous.

Hog cholera work is by no means confined to serum treatment. Close study of 738 cases showed that only 177 came from indefinite causes. The rest were directly traceable to some source, often preventable. One hundred and forty-five cases were traced to birds, 110 to visiting infected premises, 89 to exchanging work with infected farms, 52 to dogs, 50 to exposure of well hogs to sick ones in adjoining pens or pastures, 41 to infection harbored from previous sickness, 10 to polluted streams, 30 to purchase of new stock, and 4 to infection on cars.

From an examination of these and other causes of hog cholera a simple set of preventive rules has been evolved. Farmers in whose neighborhood hog cholera exists are advised to follow implicitly these rules, which consist in nothing else than the application of common sense methods of preventing the operation of the causes enumerated and in the adoption of decent sanitation in the homes of the pigs. The latter requirement may well be emphasized, in view of the still wide prevalence of the good old-fashioned notion that a pig is a creature of filth anyhow and will flourish only in filth. Nothing could be further from the truth.

These methods, together with serum treatment, have greatly reduced the economic loss, but the ideal of the bureau is the complete eradication of the disease. To this end at the present time intensive hog cholera work is being conducted in 130 counties in 13 states, with a view to the eradication of the disease in restricted areas.

The system is to select a definite territory in each state, assign competent bureau veterinarians to such territories, who co-operate with state authorities. Because the disease is so highly infectious and incurable, the important part of the work is one of prevention. Special stress is laid on the importance of sanitation, guarding against introduction of infection, and the better care of swine in general. The facilities of the bureau are available when ever hog cholera is prevalent.

House-Marshall.

A quiet wedding was solemnized at the M. E. parsonage in this village yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock, when Mr. Ralph Raymond House, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. House, and Miss Leila A. Marshall, daughter of Mrs. C. A. Babb, of Spencer Brook, were united in marriage. Rev. James A. Geer performed the ceremony.

The groom was attended by Mr. Reuben E. Norberg, and Miss Roxie Marshall, sister of the bride, was bridesmaid.

The bride was attired in a dainty gown of light blue crepe de chine, and the bridesmaid was dressed in a light yellow gown of the same material.

After the ceremony the wedding party drove to the future home of the bride and groom in Spencer Brook, where a reception was held. Numerous relatives and friends were there to welcome them, and extend congratulations. During the evening a bounteous repast was partaken of.

The groom is an energetic and industrious young farmer, who enjoys the confidence and esteem of all of his acquaintances, while the bride is a young lady whose winning ways have endeared her to a large circle of friends. That the future will contain unbounded joy and happiness for Mr. and Mrs. House is the wish of all who know them.

Doris Adeline Marshall.

Doris Adeline, the 17-months-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Marshall, succumbed to bronchial pneumonia at their homestead near America, on the 8th inst. The remains were brought here for burial, and the funeral services were conducted Friday by Rev. Samuel Johnson. Mr. Marshall was here for the final services.

THE SPUD SITUATION

Local Potato Market Continues Firm But Receipts and Shipments Have Been Very Light.

Embargo on Potatoes Out of Western States is Lifted—Chicago and New York Markets Strong.

The local potato market continues firm, and all varieties except Triumphs are bringing from \$1.40 to \$1.47 per bushel. Triumphs are worth \$1.75 to \$1.82.

Receipts have been light, due no doubt to the cold weather, as the roads are now in good condition and prices are high. Yesterday, being more moderate, the movement lived up some and about 50 loads were marketed. If warmer weather sets in a brisk movement is looked for.

Local buyers estimate that there are about 500 cars of spuds in the hands of farmers hereabouts, as compared with approximately 800 cars a year ago at this season. Princeton warehouses contain about 200 cars of tubers, and a year ago about 400 cars were stored here.

Shipments from this point have been extremely light thus far, due in part to the shortage of cars at certain periods when the outside demand was strong. About 270 cars of spuds have been shipped from here, and up to this time a year ago 800 cars or more had been shipped.

The Chicago potato market continued to rule firm last week. Fancy western stock brought \$2 a bushel under a good call from local and outside trade. The embargo which the railroads had placed on potatoes out of the western states has been lifted, but the movement has been light thus far. An increase is expected this week.

Although the movement up to date has been confined to table stock, interest has been attracted to seed stock now that the middle of January is here. Chicago seed holdings are light.

It is reported that the holdings of Triumphs in Minnesota are extremely light this year. Practically all of the Triumphs in this state, which leads the central northern states in production of that variety, are grown in the sand land district and a good percentage of the holdings are reported as already contracted for delivery.

The New York potato market was steady last week, and there was very little change in conditions. The stocks in all the yards about New York were still light—way below normal—but an increase in expected within a week or ten days, as a great many cars are reported rolling to that city.

No potatoes were being offered out of western New York state this week, as the shippers reported a better demand and higher prices in the middle western markets and most of their stock was supplying those points. Farmers are asking the unheard of price of \$1.75 per bushel and were getting it, too. Shippers were quoting \$1.90 @ \$1.95 per bushel delivered New York.

Pennsylvania potatoes were very scarce but the farmers were getting \$1.83 @ \$1.85 per bushel, loading station.

Joint Installation.

The I. O. O. F. and Rebekah lodges held a joint installation of officers Monday evening, and about 200 members and friends of these orders were in attendance.

The installing officers were: R. D. Byers, District Deputy Grand Master; S. E. Vandevanter, District Deputy Grand Marshal; John Bishop, District Deputy Grand Warden; A. B. Gramer, District Deputy Grand Recording Secretary; Chas. Ross, District Deputy Grand Financial Secretary; Harry Mott, District Deputy Grand Treasurer.

Hereunder appears a list of the officers installed.

Oddfellows—S. J. Smith, N. G.; Frank Schilling, V. G.; J. H. Hoffman, R. S.; J. C. Herdliska, F. S.; G. A. Eaton, Treas.; Wm. Baldowski, Warden; J. E. Yngve, Chap.; John Bishop, R. S. N. G.; Ernest Byers, L. S. N. G.; Elmer Earley, Cond.; A. G. Osterberg, L. S. V. G.; Nels Nelson, R. S. V. G.; Chas. Ross, I. G.; Wm. Davis, O. G.; Chas. Jaenicke, R. S. S.; L. F. Wilkes, L. S. S.

Rebekahs—Mrs. J. A. Leathers, N. G.; Mrs. Chas. Ross, V. G.; Mrs. Chas. Klatt, R. S.; Mrs. Josie Zimmerman, F. S.; Mrs. J. C. Herdliska, Treas.; Mrs. Carl Ness, Warden; Mrs. O. B. Newton, Chap.; Mrs. W. G. Fredericks, R. S. N. G.; Mrs. Os. King, L. S. N. G.; Mrs. A. B. Gramer, Con.; Mrs.

S. E. Vandevanter, L. S. V. G.; Miss Grace Herdliska, R. S. V. G.; Mrs. Jas. Brown, I. G.; Mrs. Wm. Miller, O. G.

At the conclusion of the impressive ceremonies the following program was carried out, and each number was pleasingly rendered:

- Selection Orchestra
- Reading Miss Eva Ross
- (a) "So Was I"
- (b) "His Choice."
- Piano Solo Miss Florence Gramer
- Vocal Solo Miss Rita Byers
- (a) "Mauvorneen Roamin'"
- (b) "My Little Irish Girl"
- Selection Orchestra
- Vocal Solo Mrs. Geo. Ross
- Reading Miss Eva Ross
- (a) "Lasca"
- (b) "Do They Miss Me at Home"
- Vocal Solo Miss Rita Byers
- (a) "Little Grey Home in the West"
- (b) "Reveries of Home"

The "eats" were next on the program, and an appetizing repast consisting of stewed oysters, sandwiches, coffee, pickles, and celery was partaken of.

The floor was then cleared, and all danced to liting selections discoursed by Anderson's orchestra.

The I. O. O. F. and Rebekah lodges are royal entertainers, and they certainly lived up to their reputation on this occasion.

START WITH A WIN.

Co. G. Basket Ball Team Downs Wells Memorial Club Friday Evening.

The Co. G basket ball team displayed surprising form in the opening contest of the season at the Armory Friday evening, and overwhelmed the Wells Memorial club of Minneapolis by a count of 48 to 16.

Play started promptly at 8:30 o'clock, with Tom Olsen acting as referee. At the outset it looked like a real contest, and both teams battled on even terms for several minutes, neither quint being able to score. The visitors finally broke the ice when their center negotiated a free throw, after a foul had been called on Princeton. They held their slight lead but a short time, however, as Milbraith soon located the net for a field goal. From then on there was action galore. The locals were never in danger of being reached, and held a safe lead throughout the half. The visitors secured three field goals, while Princeton was negotiating six, in addition to three free throws. The count stood 17 to 7 at the end of the period.

The second half was most distressing to the visitors. The Co. G boys appeared invincible, and heaved the ball through the net almost at will. Milbraith alone negotiated eight field goals, while Smith was credited with four and a free throw, and Newton with three. The visitors managed to get within range of the net occasionally, and four field goals and a free throw netted them nine points. The count for this half was 31 to 9.

The two teams lined up as follows:

Co. G.	Pos.	W. M. C.
Newton	L. F.	Houston
Smith	R. F.	McLaughlin
Milbraith	C.	Sperling
Morton	L. G.	Wetheren
Doane	R. G.	Graham

Maggart and Raiche went in for Morton and Doane during the last half.

NOTES.

It was a fitting opening of the season. A large gathering of enthusiasts saw the game, and praise for Co. G was heard on every hand.

Each member of the G team played a star game, and the indications are that some fast contests will be staged here this season.

Manager Olsen expects to have another opposing team for Co. G here on the 26th. In the meantime, to morrow, Friday, evening the quints representing the Princeton and Anoka high schools will clash. This will be a regular conference game, the first one, by the way, and it bids fair to be a thriller. Don't miss it.

Quin Nickerson Dead.

Elk River, Minn., Jan. 13.—J. Q. A. Nickerson, a resident of Minnesota 68 years, died at his home here yesterday at the age of 92. He was born in New Salem, Me. He came to Minnesota in 1849 and spent the first four years at St. Anthony, coming to Elk River in 1853. He purchased the only house in Elk River at that time and converted it into a hotel, and for many years it was the principal stopping place between St. Anthony and St. Cloud. He was county treasurer for several terms and had held other county and town offices.

Isanti County Bank Deposits.

Isanti county is prospering and at the time the last reports were made the nine banks of the county had \$1,468,257.96 on deposit. This is \$128,653.01 less than were on deposit in Mille Lacs county banks at the time of the November reports.