

PROPERTY IN CITY SHOWS INCREASE OF \$52,032,625

Tax Board Reports to Councils a Total Estimate of \$1,660,206,400 as Valuation Basis for Next Year.

An increase in the assessed valuation of Philadelphia property of \$52,032,625 over the figures for 1914 is shown in the report of the Board of Revision of Taxes submitted to City Councils this afternoon by City Controller Walton.

WARD CALLS CHARGES TEST OF BUILDING AND LOAN LAW

Retired N. G. P. Brigadier General Defends His Conduct. Brigadier General Joseph R. C. Ward, N. G. P., retired, of 5717 Girard avenue, an ex-captain of the United States Army, dentist and treasurer of the Weston Terminal Building and Loan Association, who was arrested on charges of making false entries made by Albert Wagner, an inspector for the State Department of Banking, said today he expected Wagner would withdraw the charge before the further hearing scheduled for Monday.

Dr. Ward is a veteran of the Army of the Potomac, in which he was a captain. He also served in Indian campaigns in 1859 and his office at the Girard avenue address is filled with Indian relics, including two arrows shot at him by Navajos. The specific charge against Doctor Ward, who is 70 years old, is that he marked up his dues in the association as paid for 4 months. He declares that the laws permit him to do this, as treasurer, for 6 months.

PEACE PROPAGANDA RIDICULED IN THE HOUSE

Gardner Says "Bombast" and "Plattitudes" Are Ineffective. WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—Stating his opinion that the United States is unprepared for any kind of war, and that the effect of the vast sums of money spent by Carnegie in his peace propaganda had been to blind Americans to the fact that our national security from a military standpoint is undermined, Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, today introduced a resolution providing for a commission of nine to investigate the preparedness of the United States for war, either offensive or defensive.

The commission would consist of three Senators, three Representatives and three other persons to be appointed by the President.

"I simply cannot understand," said Gardner, "how any intelligent student of history can fail to see that we are impotent to defend ourselves and to enforce the Monroe Doctrine by moral suasion and financial might alone. The time has not yet come when the United States can afford to allow the martial spirit of her sons to be destroyed, and all the Carnegie millions in the world will not silence those of us who believe that bombs cannot be stopped with plattitudes."

President Receives Montreal Mayor. WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—Mayor Maréchal of Montreal, today called on President Wilson. He is conducting an inquiry into sanitary conditions in various cities of the United States.

RAIN THE WEATHER For Philadelphia and vicinity—Unsettled tonight and Friday, with probably occasional rain; moderate temperatures; gentle to moderate easterly winds.

ENGLAND DUPED BELGIUM. SAYS VON BERNSTORFF

"Neutral" Nation Was Left to Its Fate, Ambassador States.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—"England instigated Belgium to go to war, and when the time came to protect the unfortunate little country it was left to its own resources," Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, replied today in an official statement to the British denial of an Anglo-Belgian military agreement. "The Ambassador said the formal denial issued by England 'provokes nothing.' 'The documents are in the hands of the German authorities, and will be published in full,' said the German Envoy. 'The fact remains that a so-called 'neutral' country concluded a military agreement with England, which provided for the landing of British troops in this 'neutral' country.' 'The document proved that by its own free will 'neutral' Belgium accepted the British offer and decided to fight on the side of the Allies.' 'Germany, on the other hand, who had heard of Belgium's agreement with England at the beginning of the war, offered to protect Belgium and to pay full indemnity for all her losses. Germany would have religiously kept her promise. The documents found in Brussels further prove that as far back as 1906 England was systematically trying to bring about the coalition which has now forced war on Germany.'"

SPEEDY AWARD OF CONTRACT MAYOR'S PLAN FOR THE POOR

Will Urge Councils to Prepare Ordinances Prior to Vote on \$11,300,000 Loan for Improvements.

Mayor Blankenburg will urge Councils today to prepare all necessary ordinances that will facilitate the early start on improvement projects in the \$11,300,000 loan measure that comes before the voters at the election next month. The ordinance could then be passed as soon as the vote on the loan is ascertained.

An opinion of City Solicitor Ryan advised against the preliminary action of Councils in passing ordinances before the voting on the loan at the general election as suggested by Mayor Blankenburg in his effort to provide work for unemployed men on loan projects early in December.

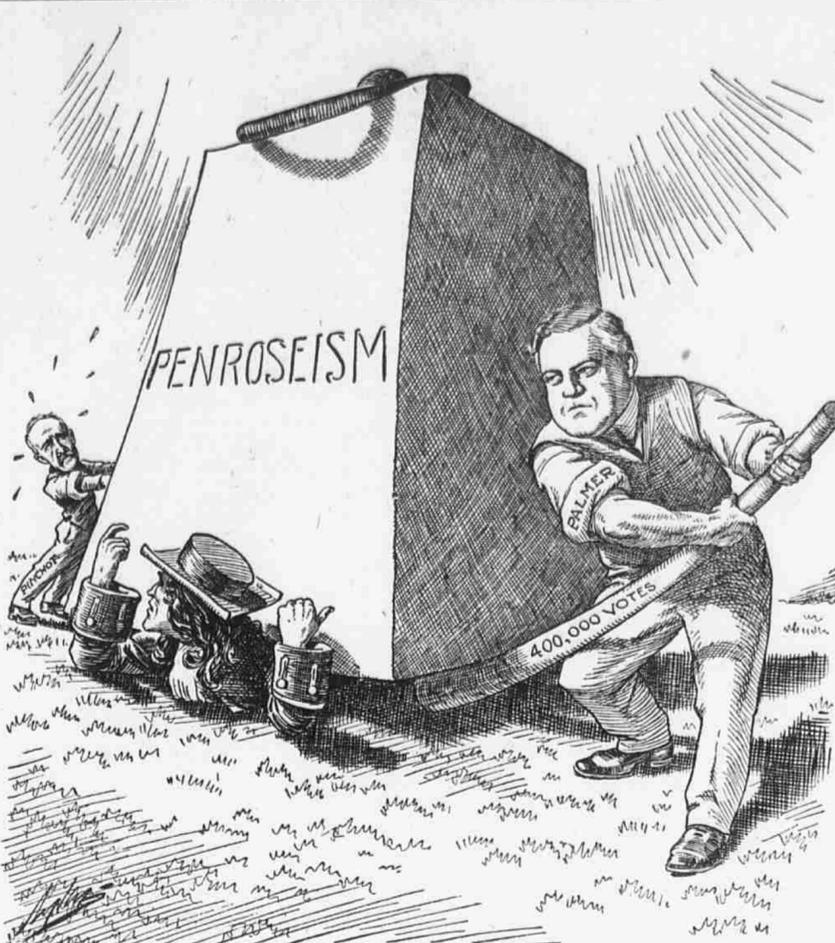
One of the messages the Mayor will send to Councils today will emphasize the duty of the legislative bodies to appropriate at least \$5000 for the proper presentation of the case begun by Director Cooke, of the Department of Public Works, before the State Public Service Commission in an effort to obtain lower rates for the city and residents from the Philadelphia Electric Company. A hearing of the case, which is championed locally by the United Business Men's Association, will be held before the commission, November 17. The \$5000 appropriation asked from Councils would defray the expenses of consulting engineers and other witnesses. Action will be taken in committee today on the bill introduced in Select Council which would authorize the Mayor to transfer of funds from the \$10,140,000 excess appropriation to the Sinking Fund to provide the amounts necessary for the operation of municipal departments and city offices the rest of the year. Approximately \$270,000 of that amount will be appropriated to the Department of Health and Charities for heat and power plants and a sewage disposal system at the city's institutions for the indigent and feeble-minded at Holmesburg and Byberry.

Mayor Blankenburg is preparing to refute the statement included in the opinion of the City Solicitor that approximately \$11,000,000 is at present available for the heads of the municipal departments in construction projects that would provide work for the city's unemployed.

VILLA FOLLOWER RULES COUNCILS OF PEACE PARLEY

General Garza Dominant Figure, Commission Government Probable. AGUASCALIENTES, Mex., Oct. 14 (Delayed by Censor).—That General Roque Gonzalez Garza, personal representative of General Villa, is the dominant figure in the peace negotiations, was proved today when the convention decided to postpone action on all important matters until October 20 to await the return of General Garza and General Emiliano Zapata, who are said to be on their way here from Morelos. The decision to postpone action was reached after a stormy session in which first threatened to end in complete disagreement and the immediate resumption of hostilities by the warring factions. It was a brilliant personal victory for General Garza, and not a few of the northern leaders expressed their disapproval of his fiery eloquence and the personal remarks he addressed to the convention. "Other members," General Yobet Robles made a splendid, impartial speech urging harmony, and was followed in a large measure by General Alvarez Obregon and General Eugenio Benavides. Harmony was at last restored, and after a recess of an hour the agreement to postpone action on all important matters until next Tuesday was reached. Everything now points to the success of the plan for a commission form of government for Mexico City. The committee of seven members. Five of these will undoubtedly be General Francisco Villa, commander of the division of the north; General Alvarez Obregon, of the division of the northwest; General Emiliano Zapata, leader of the rebels in the State of Morelos; General Pablo Gonzalez, of the division of the northeast; General Candido Aguilar, of Vera Cruz. The remaining two are yet to be agreed upon, but it is considered likely that the five already named will have the controlling power.

The commission, according to the plan already outlined, will have complete charge of the Mexico City Government, with full civil and military powers. It is with full civil and military powers. It is with full civil and military powers. It is with full civil and military powers.



"IF YOU ARE REALLY TRYING TO HELP ME, HELP HIM."

PEACE IN MEXICO BELIEVED IN SIGHT AS CARRANZA YIELDS

Situation Indicates "First Chief" May Be Succeeded as Provisional President by Calderon, Villareal or Hay. WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—Peace in Mexico will be obtained within a few days by the selection as Provisional President of either Fernando Iglesias Calderon, Antonio Villareal or Eduardo Hay, according to confidential dispatches today from Aguascalientes to men high in diplomatic circles here.

The situation at the Carranza-Villa peace conference, as reviewed in these messages, is that General Carranza has stepped aside from the provisional leadership, and may even withdraw as a candidate for the elective presidency.

The advantage at Aguascalientes thus far is claimed by Villa, who has made certain of concessions from Carranza. Administration officials today expressed the belief that the crisis on the border, which yesterday threatened "grave international complications," has been passed.

The compliance of Governor Hunt, of Arizona, with the request of Secretary of War Garrison not to send the militia to the border removed the chief cause for concern. It was stated, War Department officials assert the Federal troops will be able to prevent any serious disturbances along the international line.

The Department waited word from the Brazilian Minister at Mexico City in reply to its request for information concerning the seizure of the tramways system by the Carranza Government.

The decisive attack upon Naco, Sonora, by the forces under General Maytorena is expected today, according to advices to the War Department from Colonel Hatfield, commanding the American forces at Naco, Ariz.

Colonel Hatfield reported that heavy reinforcements have reached Maytorena and that others are on the way. The rebel commander is expected to overcome the Federal garrison.

Colonel Hatfield added that everything was quiet on the American side of the border and that the Government troops were doing everything possible to preserve peace. Secretary of War Garrison said he did not anticipate any further trouble at Naco.

TAFT'S FRIEND SAYS DEFEAT OF PENROSE IS PARTY'S DUTY

Franklin W. Shotwell, Prominent Republican of Nebraska, Calls Pennsylvania Senator "Menace to Country."

OMAHA, Neb., Oct. 15.—The Pennsylvania political fight and the effort to defeat Penrose for the Senate is attracting much attention in Nebraska. Many prominent Republicans are hopeful that he may be beaten.

"Penrose is a menace to the party and to the country and should be defeated," said Franklin W. Shotwell, prominent Republican and friend of W. H. Taft.

Mr. Shotwell last month came within less than 100 votes of being chosen the Republican nominee for Lieutenant Governor, but he refused to contest the primary.

"Pennsylvania Republicans should remember that a United States Senator belongs to all States," Mr. Shotwell said, "and not to a single State. A Senator's vote affects the entire country, not simply the affairs of a single State. Upon those broad lines Pennsylvanians should carefully consider before it decides to send this man back to Washington to misrepresent that State and the entire nation as well."

"Senator Penrose may not be everything that he is charged with being, but that should not save the day for him. His usefulness as a public servant is over; the country is a suspicious of him; the new era in public affairs calls for his defeat."

"Penrose stands at the very head of the class of men who have made the word 'politician' a reproach. If Pennsylvania will not eliminate him from public affairs for his own sake, it should do so for the sake of the remainder of the nation. Penrose and the things for which he stands must go, and Pennsylvanians have it in their power to remove him from national politics. They should do so."

LANDSLIDE IN CULEBRA CUT Canal Probably Will Be Closed Temporarily to Traffic.

PANAMA, Oct. 15.—A landslide occurred in the Culebra Cut this morning, which probably will cause the canal to be closed to traffic temporarily. It appears there were simultaneous slides from both sides of the cut, the larger from Gold Hill, the highest point of elevation of the canal banks. The double character of the avalanche has complicated the work of clearing out a channel.

CLUBWOMEN VOTE FOR SUFFRAGE, BUT NOT AS FEDERATION

Delegates to Pittsburgh Convention Go on Record "as Individuals," With a Two-thirds Majority.

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 15.—Woman's suffrage was endorsed "individually" by the delegates to the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women, in convention at Memorial Hall this afternoon, by about a two-thirds vote. But the organization did not so on record as favoring it.

Some preliminary routine business was transacted by the federation this morning, but this gave the leaders of the contending forces an opportunity to marshal their armies, strengthen the weak points and win over neutrals.

The generals were busy while Mrs. Kate Walker Barrett, of Washington, president of the National Florence Crittenden Home and confidential adviser of the United States Government on immigration problems, delivered an address on national and international relationship.

Mrs. Barrett urged an international congress of women, declaring that although men might not understand those speaking a foreign language, the women of all nationalities understood each other because of the bonds of motherhood. She said women would play a great part in the settlement of the European war.

The federation does not follow the usual parliamentary procedure of presenting a resolution and then discussing it. They work backward. Mrs. William I. Hull, of Swarthmore, chairman of the Suffrage Committee, read her report before the resolution was read.

Mrs. Hull recommended that the convention adopt the resolution which was adopted at the convention of the Federation of Women's Clubs in Chicago last June. The resolution reads as follows: "Whereas, The question of political equality of men and women is today a vital problem throughout the civilized world;

"Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs give the cause of political equality its moral support by recording its earnest belief in the principle of political equality regardless of sex."

Mrs. Horace Brook, of Lebanon, leader of the anti-suffrage delegates, entered a protest to the report of Mrs. Hull, saying it was an ardent appeal for suffrage and not the unbiased report which should have been made on the suffrage committee's deliberations.

HARASSED ALLIES CHECK FOE'S RUSH BY FURIOUS CHARGE

Paris Announces Wedge is Being Driven Between Armies of von Boehn and von Beseler—German Defeat Near Arras and at Centre Reported.

French, British and Belgian Troops Close With Kaiser's Forces and Bitter Engagement Now Is in Progress—Lille and Bruges Captured.

While Ostend has been evacuated by French and British troops and the Germans are only 10 miles away, French War Office announces that the invaders have been pushed back all along the line.

The Germans have evacuated the left bank of the River Lys in Belgium, the official statement adds, and reports French advances near Craonne and Arras and the capture of German trenches near Rheims.

Heavy firing is reported near Dunkirk, France, on the French coast, southwest of Ostend.

Unofficial dispatches state that the British and Belgians from Ostend have joined a strong French force, and that the combined armies have turned with fury on the German advance guard.

Heavy fighting east of Soissons and east of the Argonne is in progress, according to the official Berlin statement, which denies French claims of successes in the Woivre region.

The crucial battle in Russian Poland has entered the eighth day of furious fighting without decisive result. It is known that the Austro-German forces are more than 100 miles across the border and are engaging the Russians vigorously on a 300-mile north and south line, parallel to the Vistula and running from the vicinity of Warsaw to Przemysl.

Berlin advices report Germans have cut lines of communication between Ivangorod and Warsaw, the two strongest positions in Russian Poland.

The Russian objective toward Silesia has been checked, as the troops are concentrated for defense of their own fortified cities of Ivangorod and Warsaw.

Galicia is quiet, but the Russians deny Vienna reports of abandonment of the Przemysl siege and the retaking of Lemberg.

In East Prussia, Berlin reports holding back the Russian advance and defeat of a large force near Schirwindt. The battle of Wirballen has been under way since October 4 with constant losses to the Russians.

Montenegrins report a decisive victory over 15,000 Austrians in the vicinity of Sarajevo. The Austrian mortality was enormous and many guns were taken.

Turkey is reported to have opened hostilities by an attack on Russian ships in the Black Sea. However, it is also reported that the Turkish army has been ordered demobilized.

While Portugal has not formally declared war against Germany the country is animated by martial spirit. Congress has been called in extraordinary session for tomorrow to authorize mobilization of the army, which consists of 150,000 men on a war footing, and this action is regarded as directly preliminary to a declaration of hostilities. Martial law has been proclaimed in the Portuguese Congo, which is threatened from German Southwest Africa. German citizens have fled in numbers from Lisbon.

British troops have been sent against Colonel Maritz, rebel leader of the Boers in South Africa. It is reported that only 500 troops comprise the revolutionary forces.

ALLIES DRIVE BACK LINES OF ENEMY, FRENCH ASSERT

PARIS, Oct. 15.—An offensive move throughout the French battle line was indicated in today's War Office statements. It was the cause of unusual optimism here. From far up into Belgium, zig-zagging here and there across into French territory and down to Metz, the Allies are apparently pressing the Germans hard.

There is every indication here, from reports, that the wedge of Belgians, British and French, with which the Allies countered the German blow at the North Sea ports in Belgium, is being pushed forward between the armies of Generals von Boehn and von Beseler.

Before the German occupation of Antwerp the Allies had prepared to engage the German right along the River Lys. The Germans' retirement from this position now is reported officially. So also have the Kaiser's troops been thrust back east of Arras. Unofficial dispatches here say the Germans lost heavily and that the town itself was greatly damaged by incendiary fires. The Hotel de Ville, a splendid type of Gothic architecture, is reported greatly damaged.

Particular satisfaction is expressed here at the enforced German retirement to secondary entrenchments along the centre—a retreat forced by fierce French attack. Military observers noted a slackening in the German offensive to the extreme right, promptly met by French advances in this section.

The official statement follows in full: In the Belgium theatre of war the German troops coming from Antwerp are marching toward the west and reached the region of Bruges and of Thilout on the evening of October 14.

On our left wing the enemy evacuated the left bank of the River Lys. Between the Lys and the canal of La Bassee the situation is stationary. In the region of Lens and between Arras and Albert our progress has been notable. Between the Somme and the Oise there is no change. The Germans have bombarded our line, but made no infantry attacks.

Lille has been occupied only momentarily by the Germans. At the centre, between the Oise and the Meuse, we have advanced toward Craonne. At the northeast of the road from Barry-au-Bac to Rheims and at the north of Huy in the direction of Beine (a short distance east of Rheims) numerous German trenches have been captured. Between the Meuse and the Moselle, after having repulsed on the night of October 13-14 attacks at the southeast of Verdun, our troops advanced on the 14th to the south of the road from Verdun to Metz.

On our right wing the partial offensive taken by the Germans in the Ban-de-Sapt, in the north of St. Die, has been definitely stopped. In Russia the conflict continues on the front extending from the region of the Warsaw along the Vistula and the San as far as Przemysl and still farther toward the south to the Dnieper. There is no change in East Prussia.

French, British and German infantry with their artillery supports, that have been hidden behind screens of clashing cavalry on the Belgian border north of Lille, now are engaged in an important combat on Belgian soil.

The Allies' army that occupied Ypres and Antwerp are marching toward the west and reached the region of Bruges and of Thilout on the evening of October 14.