

CONNECTICUT ROBBS ITS CITIES OF MILLIONS

MAYOR BUCKINGHAM'S MESSAGE RELATIVE TO STATE TAX, DIRECTS ATTENTION TO CRYING EVILS IN FISCAL SYSTEM OF COMMONWEALTH.

Enormous Values Taken From Cities and Towns Are Given to Private Corporations in Perpetual Charters—Cities Are Not Then Allowed to Tax the Property, and State Undertakes Them—How State Tax Could Have Been Avoided.

The city of Bridgeport is faced with an extraordinary expense of \$34,000 which must be raised upon this year's grand list. This sum includes the state tax for two years, but the levy of this tax was so violent and so unexpected that this city cannot meet it by any customary means provided by the law, but must raise the sum to be paid during two years in one year.

This impost, coming after 20 years of indirect taxation, has already attracted the attention of Mayor Buckingham, who, in his message, shows the annual character of this extraordinary demand together with the fact that Bridgeport receives no direct benefit inasmuch as the state tax was laid to meet a deficiency, and inasmuch as this deficiency is plainly to be traced to extravagance in the management of the state.

Bridgeport has had little part and from which it has had substantially no benefit.

For the purpose the state tax has, however, already served. It has fixed the attention of the people in every town and city in Connecticut upon the wastefulness of order and frugality in the administration furnished by the men who have for many years been responsible for the financial mismanagement.

Again it has brought into the limelight the means by which the state revenue is raised, especially so far as the taxation of the state service corporations is concerned.

Connecticut is one of the few states in the Union which has given away largely the property values that belong to the people of the cities and the larger towns and boroughs and almost the entire state has granted franchises in perpetuity.

In most states such charters are for a term of years. In many states the cities have power to regulate the rates and the corporations using the streets have to pay large sums for the franchise privileges.

Hartford is burdened with perpetual franchises, but it does receive a small percentage of the gross income of its street railway corporations. It is the only city in Connecticut so favored.

In Toronto, Canada, the Toronto Street Railway Company pays to the City of Toronto a sum which was almost \$800,000 and which is growing larger each year.

Chicago receives 55 per cent of the net profits of the Chicago Street Railway company.

In Massachusetts the state taxes street railway companies, but a large portion of the sums received are turned back to the cities and towns in which the property is located.

No protection has been given to the cities and towns of Connecticut either by limitation in the franchise period of charters, or by payment of taxes to the cities.

The state has robbed the cities and towns of millions in values to give them to a few private persons.

This may be easily seen by looking for a moment at the taxation of railroad and railway property in Bridgeport.

The railroads are owned by the Connecticut Railway & Lighting Company. They are leased to the New Haven Railroad at a sum soon to be \$1,000,000 annually.

The state has permitted these companies to water their securities until they are in a position to demand interest and dividends upon more than \$30,000,000, but it taxes them on less than \$20,000,000, and only at one per cent.

Moreover the state does not permit this property to be taxed in the community where it is located.

And the state does not tax this property at the same rate at which it would be taxed in the community where it is located.

The same is true of the property of the railroad.

The rate in Bridgeport now is 15.5 mills. Homes are taxed at this rate. But railroad and railway property are taxed only at the rate of one per cent.

The effect upon the finances of Bridgeport is something like this. Assuming the taxable value of the railway property located in this city to be \$6,000,000, the tax on this property at the rate of one per cent would be \$60,000, but the state taxing at 1 per cent, takes only \$60,000. The difference is \$5,940,000, the amount of the state tax for one year.

Bridgeport therefore has to pay a state tax because the state will not permit the city to tax all of its own property, and because the state will not tax it at the same rate at which it would be taxed in the community where it is located.

The railroad property of Bridgeport, perhaps the taxable value of \$10,000,000 which the state taxes at one per cent, obtaining a revenue of \$100,000 upon the part of the property so located.

But the additional yield to Bridgeport would be at 15.5 mills \$58,000 in excess.

Therefore if Bridgeport were allowed to tax its own property at the rate imposed upon the portion it goes to, or if the state would tax its portion of local property upon the same basis, there would not only be no levy of a state tax upon the grand total of this year, but there would be a surplus of \$50,000 to be returned to Bridgeport to use in making civic improvements.

By the way, in the state of Connecticut pay less in taxes upon their property than the single trolley company in the single city of Toronto.

And as fares higher in Toronto: On, near no morning and evening hours eight tickets are sold for a quarter. The rest of the day six tickets are sold for a quarter. The city regulates the number of cars.

No portion of Mayor Buckingham's message is more trenchant with benefit to the people than that in which he fixes attention upon the state tax, as the latest step in the long process by which the state robs its children, the cities and towns.

EAST SIDE PEOPLE COMPLAIN

Complaint is made by East Side people because a certain tug boat makes its appearance at the footbridge, Coast Street, at 7:30 on many days 11:30 and 5:30, during the day season, to the great inconvenience of traffic over the bridge.

Drastic Treatment Demanded For Abuses and Frauds

(New York World, Dec. 18.)

The people of Kansas City at Thursday's election showed very plainly that they want no more long-term, wide-open franchises given to street railway corporations. In that respect they only reflect public sentiment as it exists today in most large cities in this country. The abuses and frauds upon the public growing out of unrestricted grants to corporations call for drastic treatment. In part they can be reached through regulation by such a body as the Public Service Commission, but the vital point in all reform is the interest of the public is that no perpetual or excessively long franchises shall be conferred or renewed under any pretext.

Santa Claus Approves Gifts for Smokers

Mr. S. Nicholas, 1909 Hollywood avenue, S. E. A., who is a yearly visitor to this city announces that nothing gives him more cheer during his Yuletide stay here than the sight of the pure Havanna cigars sold by D. D. Smith, tobacconist, 44 Fairfield avenue.

Mr. Smith's many years experience in cigar trade makes him place an ideal one to purchase Christmas cigars. He makes a specialty of box goods. Factory managements are compelled to buy pure Havanna and grade of goods at prices that are right. An order of any size can be filled with goods of one grade.

If you have a Christmas tree it will not be complete unless it bears its box of cigars for the smoker of the family. This store has the finest line of pure Havanna and domestic cigars in the city expressly for Christmas. They are packed in boxes of 25, 50 and 100. They are the same as the 1909. They are the same as the 1909.

A cigar store is the place to buy smokers' articles for Christmas. All are useful, presents, meerschaum pipes, briar pipes in all sizes and shapes in cases and without cases; cigar holders of finest amber and meerschaum; handsome real leather cigar cases and tobacco pouches.

BRIDGEPORT ENGLISHMAN TO GIVE TRAVEL TALK

Charles Clifford is a Bridgeport Englishman who has spent many years in foreign travel. The modest and pleasing manner in which he relates many strange and interesting experiences in out-of-the-way parts of the world is a source of constant pleasure to his friends.

Mr. Clifford has kindly consented to entertain the members of Pioneer lodge, Sons of St. George, after the regular lodge meeting Monday evening. His subject will be "From New York to Japan."

POINTS OF INTEREST

The Alling Rubber Co. are headquarters for all kinds of reliable rubber goods. They also carry a large stock of sporting goods which they sell at reduced prices.

E. H. Dillon & Co., 1105 Main street are displaying an unusually large line of fur scarfs, fur and hat trimmings, which they sell at about one-third less than elsewhere.

Christmas Trees. Our Christmas trees are good balsam fir, stock and are nice and shapely. If you give us your order, we will pick one out and deliver any time you wish. Also remember our holly and mistletoe wreaths and wreathings are all splendid stock and we invite your inspection. Jas. Horan & Son, florists. See adv.

Jewelry

Christmas is the time to remember that jewelry is appreciated by those who would never think of providing themselves with anything in that line, but would be doubly pleased to be surprised with something of that kind. At Henry's jewelry store you will find a fine assortment of watches and clocks of all kinds at low prices. 523 Main street, near Bank street.

For little folks' feet there has never been such fanciful and attractive provision made as is seen this year at Mollan's. There is nothing in the line of pretty shoes for children that cannot be shown there. From infant footware to shoes for older children the variety is limitless. Only the best materials and the latest designs will be found in Mollan's assortment of children's shoes.

Christmas Haberdashery. There's a complete section at the Liberty Corner store, displaying many useful gifts for every member of the family. The assortment is splendidly prepared to supply useful gift things for every member of the family. The assortment is splendidly prepared to supply useful gift things for every member of the family.

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ATTORNEY SHAPIRO TO WED MISS ROSEN

DAUGHTER OF WELL KNOWN SPECIALIST BRIDE OF WELL KNOWN LAWYER.

Cablegrams From Relatives in Warsaw and St. Petersburg Extend Felicitations to Charming Bride.

Attorney Charles H. Shapiro, brother of the bridegroom, will be best man. Only members of the immediate families of bride and groom will attend.

Three cablegrams were received from the grandfathers of the bridegroom, two from Warsaw, and one from St. Petersburg, carrying best wishes from over the sea. A wealth of handsome gifts have been given upon Miss Rosen, carrying expressions of good will from a host of friends of bride and groom.

The bride is the daughter of one of the leading specialists of the city, and is well known in musical circles, being a vocalist of rare attainments. She is the daughter of the late Dr. David Levy, rabbi of the Temple Mishkan Israel, New Haven, at 5:30 tomorrow afternoon. Miss Natalie Rosen, sister of the bride, will be bridesmaid, and Attorney Joseph G. Shapiro, brother of the bridegroom, will be best man.

The ceremony of a wedding breakfast will be served. Bride and groom will leave the city at 9:30 for a honeymoon of several weeks through the south. On their return they will take up their home at 61 Sherwood avenue, where Attorney Shapiro has established a cozy home.

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STARFISH BOTHER GROWERS FIND IT NECESSARY TO SPEND MUCH TIME IN FIGHTING THE PEST.

Starfish are so plentiful at South Norwalk, at this time that many of the oyster planters in that section have had to temporarily put aside all other business in order to deal with the pests which are such a menace to the industry.

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THE SMITH-MURRAY CO.

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Sensible Suggestions For Gift Buyers

Silk Waists at the Cloak Department, Gloves, Lace, Neckwear, Dress Patterns in the newest fabrics; Blankets, Linen Sets, etc. There is not a stock in the store but offers something that's good, cheap, and serviceable for those who buy sensible gifts.

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New "Military" Coats, made in heavy Cheviot, in navy, Oxford and tan, 54 inch length, semi-fitted, buttoning on side, with large horn buttons, velvet military collar, trimmed with colored silk and gilt braid, \$16.50.

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A handsome collection of Scotch Mixture Colorings, made up in two full length models with choice of tailored or storm collars, body and sleeves lined with Skinner's satin, tan, brown, gray and olive tones, \$18.50.

NEW BROADCLOTH COATS

An effective new model, made in semi-fitting and loose backs, of a superior grade of spotproof Broadcloth, yoke and cuffs are handsomely braided trimmed, lined with heavy yarn dyed satin and interlined, \$18.50.

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Furs are delightfully opportune gifts—seasonable, beautiful. Every woman loves furs. Our splendid stock affords opportunity for discriminating selection—exceptional values. Children's Fur Sets, all kinds, \$1.00 set up.

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Misses Pure Wool Sweaters, all colors, \$1.50 each. Pure Wool Yarn Sweaters in white, gray, red and combination colors, sizes 34 to 44, \$2.00 each.

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A Serviceable Christmas Gift.

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