

COX'S MESSAGE TO LEGISLATURE

Financial Relief of Communities the Problem of the Hour.

SCHOOLS FACE DIFFICULTIES

Radical Reorganization of Health Service Throughout the State Urged by the Governor—Conditions Prevailing at Correctional Institutions Set Forth—Prohibition Enforcement Legislation Sought.

Governor James M. Cox, personally appearing before a joint session of the house and senate of the general assembly, delivered his message dealing with affairs of state as follows:

To the Members of the General Assembly: You are assembled at a time when the human element of duty is exalted and glorified as never before.

Let us then recognize that since blood and tears have been shed in behalf of organized and righteous government, we should strip ourselves of every unworthy impulse and bring to our governmental trust the best product of our conscience.

Well might we recount the part Ohio has played in the war, but it is of recorded history.

I wish I possessed both the imagination and the eloquence of an orator to speak your undying gratitude to those who made the sacrifice and to those who pledged themselves so to do it necessary.

We would voice our appreciation of the harmony between labor and

the state and every local subdivision, under the terms of which authority is distributed, and responsibility divided. The major and very important part of the state's revenue comes from the state imposes very fixed taxes upon the counties, municipalities, townships and school districts.

Dealing with the purely municipal problem, let us take for the purpose of illustrating conditions the very latest figures. Much has been said about recurrent bond issues there and the continued accumulation of both expenses and debt.

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STATE SIFTINGS

Iron ton is to have a new theater. City of Dayton is facing a deficit of \$1,000,000. New Philadelphia business men started a campaign for a Y. M. C. A. building for returning soldiers.

Miss Anna Fackler, 70, New Philadelphia, for 53 years a school teacher before her retirement in 1908, is dead.

Unemployed soldiers at Sandusky were offered vacant seats on the Erie county grand jury.

A big victory arch will be erected in the public square at Canton in honor of returning soldiers.

Max B. Mallin, a Cleveland poultry and egg dealer, was held under \$1,000 bond on the charge of using the mails to defraud.

Trumbull and Ashtabula county commissioners plan the widening and deepening of Grand river for better cultivation of farm lands.

O. W. 900, a modern dog house, against the Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad company to prohibit it from collecting over 2 cents a mile fare.

Henry H. Stambaugh, 58, millionaire and chairman of the Brier Hill Steel company, Youngstown, died at New Orleans.

New Mary Rutan hospital at Bellefontaine, built from the gift of the late Mrs. Rebecca Williams, will be opened in February.

Montgomery county humane society will erect a modern dog pound in which captured dogs will be electrocuted.

Clarence South, 27, painter, was crushed to death in the rolls of a drying machine at a paper mill at Dayton.

Miller H. Stoneburner, 55, furniture dealer at Upper Sandusky, died a week after his marriage to Miss Virginia Bowers.

Body of a man found along the Panhandle tracks at Steubenville was identified as Joseph Solomon, Dayton, who disappeared from home three years ago.

Curt C. Schable, formerly of Marion and later attorney in Cleveland, now a soldier in France, was married in Paris to the daughter of a French count.

Surrounding a schoolhouse at Hills, near Sandusky, a posse led by Sheriff J. C. Perry captured Fred Hensley, an escaped trusty from the Mansfield reformatory.

Loot valued at \$1,000, silverware and jewelry, was hurried at daybreak and scattered in the streets by an alleged burglar, who was captured at Cleveland after a chase.

Pandora bank at Ottawa was entered and the safety deposit vaults broken open. Liberty bonds and stamps stored there by the postmaster were taken.

Mrs. Jefferson Riggs, 70, was burned to death when her clothes caught fire from an open grate at her home in Cambridge. Her aged husband was painfully burned trying to extinguish the flames.

John G. Price, attorney general, elected, announced the appointment of Joseph I. Eagleson of Cambridge as first assistant attorney general and D. F. Melhorn of Kenton as second assistant attorney general.

Edwin Baxter, cashier and secretary of the Fourth federal reserve bank since its organization, resigned to become assistant to the president of a Cleveland trust company. The change is effective Feb. 1.

Dr. H. H. Goddard, director of the bureau of juvenile reformatory, recommends for more institutions for delinquent children in Ohio. The population centers are smaller. It is an easier matter for the university officers and matrons to keep in direct touch with the student body.

Wilberforce university needs increased attention. It was established for the betterment of the colored race at a time when its number were relatively few. While primarily it was maintained to work out the very practical result of increased production of industrial arts, the small amount of help it has had done very well.

Lima fire department has been equipped with gas masks. W. H. Gifford was elected president of the Richland county bar association.

United Mine Workers of Subdistrict 3 adopted a resolution opposing universal military training.

Mrs. Adam Schneider, 40, Dover, was injured perhaps fatally in an automobile accident.

Mrs. D. T. Wogan, 68, Marion, was killed by a train while returning home from Sunday school.

Fire at Lorain destroyed the wholesale grocery of O. F. Hageman and Old Fellows' hall. Loss \$55,000.

Mrs. Peter Sachs, 54, Newark, was burned, perhaps fatally, when a gas stove exploded at her home.

William Covey, 60, Marysville, was killed accidentally while working with a bridge gang at Dayton.

Mrs. Mary Cassill, aged 55, was burned to death at her home in Richland township, Vinton county.

Lima voters at August primary will decide whether to issue \$125,000 bridge bonds and \$75,000 to \$100,000 street bonds.

Youngstown health board recommends a bond issue of \$250,000 to build a contagious disease unit of the proposed municipal hospital.

Awakened by a Phantom sleep in an alarm clock near his bed, Orlo E. Burdick, 40, fell back on his pillow dead at his home in Ashtabula.

Mike Mivih and George Bogovich, Serbians, were burned to death in a bomb house fire at the plant of the Central Steel company at Mazon.

Warren plans the erection of four new school buildings, including a central high school, at an aggregate cost of \$1,000,000.

Columbus, Delaware and Marion Traction company may take over and operate the defunct Columbus, Magnetic Springs and Northern Electric line.

A jury at Warren awarded a \$3,200 verdict in a damage suit against Crown Slinger for killing of Elmer J. Haines in an auto driven by Slinger's chauffeur.

Peter A. Stocky, 36, owner of a Cleveland motion picture theater, lost his life in a fire that destroyed a film exchange building at Pittsburgh.

Eighty-third general assembly convened at Columbus and its organization was effected. All the Republican caucus nominees were confirmed and installed.

At Toledo, firemen carried three men and three women down ladders from the third floor of the burning Oakland flat. Fifteen other tenants fled in their night clothes.

Noah Helman, 30, a farmer, living near Sidney, was killed when his head was crushed between a tractor and a barn door through which he was endeavoring to draw the tractor with a team of horses.

Roy Putnam, 16, of Worthington, Franklin county, was given a year in the industrial school at Lancaster when he pleaded guilty to holding up Willis Ayleshire, aged 12, in that village.

Purchase of the residence of Charles H. Lindenber, 1234 East Broad street, Columbus, as a governor's mansion, instead of erecting a new one, is proposed in a bill drawn up by Senator Jones.

More than 1,000 complaints of profiteering by Cleveland and other Ohio physicians during the recent influenza epidemic are under investigation by Dr. J. C. Smith, secretary of the state medical board.



GOVERNOR JAMES M. COX

capital of the tireless hours that women and men and children labored for the common cause—the of the selfish service rendered by those who assembled the army from our communities. But their deeds, everyone, are known and their highest compensation is the conscious thought that they did their best. Posterity can exact no more.

Finance the Pressing Problem. The pressing problem before the legislature is that of providing financial relief to counties, municipalities and school districts, and authorizing the means of restoring to the state the revenues which will be lost through the prohibition amendment to the constitution.

During the last fiscal year, municipalities were paid from saloon tax collections, \$3,080,464.91; taxation, \$894,100.05; townships, \$106,828.05.

To the county funds there were \$122,570.95, so that state and local governments this year must have their estimates upon an aggregated loss of revenue of not less than \$6,500,000.

Frankly, the condition which faces the state government is not so grave as what confronts counties, municipalities and school districts. The general constitution says that, "The general assembly shall provide for raising revenue sufficient to defray the expenses of the state for each year, and also a sufficient sum to pay the interest on the state debt."

Three very definite developments have contributed to the financial stringency of cities. Just about the time the supreme court decision was made, Aug. 4, 1916, compelling, and very properly so, the local subdivisions in their issuance of bonds to

provide for yearly payments in order that the concluding part of the debt and its complete cancellation would come together, the war has brought its high prices on everything which cities purchase. Quite contemporaneously ensued the change in the state constitution or sale of intoxicating liquors and deprived the municipalities of the revenues previously produced from that source.

It is this combination of events which brings affairs to a head at this time.

Public Schools. Passing to schools, it develops that in Cleveland the number of additional pupils in 1918 numbered more than 5,000. Even during the four years of the war, when stoppage in immigration was expected to reduce this inflow, practically the same ratio of growth was shown.

Both the nation and the state have asked Cleveland, with other cities of mixed racial population, not only to continue but to enlarge the work of Americanization. This has required attention since the beginning of the war in parts of the state where nothing was done previously.

Cities Beset With Troubles. This more or less elaborate recitation of conditions in our largest city will, I trust, bring about a better realization of what responsibility life leaves upon cities in the terms of public expense. The schools, speaking generally, are better off in the strictly farming communities than in either the villages or the cities.

While some county districts have had their troubles, they are not comparable to what is found in the cities. Madison county, for instance, which has centralized nine or 10 out of her 14 rural districts, reports but one of these in financial distress and that was occasioned by the necessity of erecting a school building at war-time expense.

As the permanent system of highways is extended into more rural parts and the smaller school units are consolidated, ultimate economies will be realized. There are some places of some places of an increased overhead expense, but under the new code the extent of supervision is determined entirely by local desire.

This unhappy state of affairs involving the finances of governmental agencies is a part of the series of events that mark this transitional period. At this time, decisions from the supreme court are awaited in order to ascertain just what inherent rights your honorable body possesses in the matter of providing new and additional methods of public expense. Not until this determination can a concrete plan be evolved.

There is no need more pressing than a radical reorganization of the health service throughout the state. The present plan under which the state department of health operates is highly regarded by competent authorities, but speaking in general terms it is well-nigh impossible for it to provide for protection and render the co-operation desired for the reason that in a vast majority of communities there is no organization to be called into use.

Within the last year we have experienced the epidemic of influenza. The death rate was appalling all over the country, and throws into both the health and the life of the people were so serious that the federal government recognized the task of scientific resistance as scarcely second in importance to carrying on the great war.

Through the surgeon general of the

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