

PROPOSED TAX PLANS OF INTEREST HERE

Gardner's Conference With Commission in St. Louis May Benefit University.

HE'LL TAKE CENSURE

Governor-Elect Offers to Carry the Blame—Dean Loeb Is On Committee.

By United Press
ST. LOUIS, Dec. 9.—Although scores of plans to raise additional revenues for Missouri were proposed and almost as many quickly disposed of at the first session of the Gardner Tax Commission at the Planters Hotel yesterday attention was called to the fact that no member of the commission, state official, legislator or on-looker, added a single plan by which any of the state wastes could be eliminated. The only intimation of such a plan came from one who attended the meetings as a private citizen and who merely called attention to the fact that a state board of purchase might cut down expenses materially through the wholesale purchase of supplies.

The efforts of governor-elect Frederick D. Gardner and his advisers to devise tax measures to meet the deficit in the state's finances and insure funds for conducting the state's business for the next two years are of special interest to the people of Columbia because the results will have much to do with the support the University will receive. Colonel Gardner met Friday in St. Louis with a special Tax Commission appointed by him. About the meeting, the St. Louis Republic says:

"If you are afraid these measures will be unpopular, throw the odium on Gardner. My shoulders are broad enough to carry it, and I have got the nerve to go through with this fight. I do not intend to run from the opposition, and I will never run for office again."

This was the dramatic matter in which Governor-elect Frederick D. Gardner, threw down the gauntlet to the members of the Tax Commission.

The incoming chief executive of the state has offered ten measures by which the revenue of the State could be increased. A number of the suggestions were not enthusiastically received by the committee.

Among the suggestions was a poll tax. This was bitterly opposed by the majority of the members of the General Assembly, who are members of the tax commission. Many of the measures suggested found some opposition and the conference was marked by numerous heated debates.

Tax Commission Agreed To.
It was finally agreed after much opposition to create a Tax Commission, providing the General Assembly acquiesces.

The conference committee further agreed to submit to the Legislature measures creating a corporation tax, a graduated inheritance tax, and the submission to the people of Missouri of a constitutional amendment for an income tax.

Attorney General Frank W. McAllister urged the committee to center its efforts on these measures and try to have them enacted into laws.

It was agreed to increase the collateral inheritance tax from 5 to 7 1-2 per cent. This measure is expected to increase the revenue \$1,000,000. A secured debt tax which would assess all bonds was suggested by Colonel Gardner in his report. This measure, as well as a suggestion to increase the dram shop licenses, a mortgage recording tax and a levy on pool halls, were approved and referred to a subcommittee composed of Dean Isidor Loeb of the University of Missouri and Representative Roos Feaster of Windsor.

Former Representative James P. Boyd of Monroe County, who acted as chairman of the conference was assigned to select committees to draft bills for the corporation and inheritance tax.

Gardner Tells of Needs.
Colonel Gardner, in addressing the commission, said the state's finances were in a deplorable condition "I propose to see that every dollar of your money which you spend while I am Governor brings you the maximum of service. I expect to rigidly enforce business principles in every department over which I have authority. I expect to practice all business economy consistent with good service; which I know you demand."

"I expect to start this economy in the governor's office. For instance, the state has been appropriating \$7,000 biennially for the governor's traveling fund, this fund, to cover traveling expenses, stationery, etc., and is a perfectly legitimate allowance. But with the present financial condition of the state I expect to get along without it. I shall not ask for it."

State Senator John F. Morton of Richmond, chairman of the appropri-

tion committee of the last State Senate, took exceptions to the statement that Missouri is financially embarrassed. He contended if the fiscal year ended in February instead of December there would never be a deficit in the state treasury.

"The Legislature did not make appropriations in excess of the revenue," said Senator Morton. "If the fiscal year ended in February, every claim against the revenue would have been paid and we still would have a surplus."

Secretary of State Cornelius Roach reviewed the recommendations made by former governors, David R. Francis, William Joel Stone, Joseph W. Folk, and Herbert S. Hadley. He said in each instance, a deficit faced the incoming administration. Roach said Missouri accomplished more from its limited revenue than any other state in the Union. "The collections from realty and personal taxes in this state for 1915 were in round figures \$1,764,000," said Roach. In Kansas City they were \$3,371,000, Iowa, \$4,134,000, Illinois, \$9,929,000, Massachusetts, \$8,983,000, Wisconsin, \$6,664,000. He said Missourians often claim their per capita tax is high.

"It is only 80 cents with us," he said. "In Kansas it is \$1.99, Iowa, \$1.85, Illinois, \$1.76, Massachusetts, \$2.66, Michigan, \$3.35 and Indiana, \$2.68."

Tax on Movies Disapproved.
Colonel Gardner favored an increase in the tax on oil. This was considered unconstitutional. The committee disapproved of taxing the movies.

The strongest supporters for the creation of a tax commission were Frederick N. Judson of this city and Dean Loeb. The committee will confer again before the General Assembly convenes on January 3.

NO "PENNY" SHORTAGE HERE
Columbia Banks However, Have Felt Need of Silver Coins.

The Columbia banks have not felt the penny shortage as have the banks in the cities. This is no doubt due, said one of the bank officials, to the fact that there is very little demand for the penny here. If there is a raise in the price of an article it is usually raised a nickel and we have not the street sale of papers. Another bank found that the nickel was most in demand and the hardest to keep on hand. When the school year opened the whole town felt the shortage of silver. This is the first time in eight years that the town was practically "broke" for silver.

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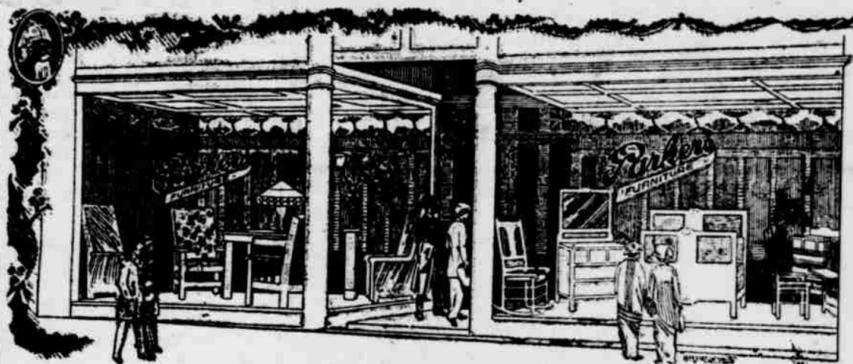
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