LOWER TAX RATES NOW POSSIBILITY

Both in City and County Because of Increase of Property Values.

ASSESSMENT IN SPRING

Big Corps of Men Will Be Placed at Work, Only Competants Desired.

Prospects are that in either 1911 or 1912, the county and possibly the Richmond tax rates will be reduced, unless the county and city determine to go in for a big amount of improvements. The reason for this is that in the spring the reassessment of real estate in the county will be made, and it is more than probable that the assessed values of these lands will be increased proportionately with the increase in the valuation in the last four years, it being four years since the assessment of real estate in the county was made.

As an illustration of the increase of values of real estate both in Richmond and in the county, there are lots without number in the city which were listed at about a hundred dollars four years ago, and since then have been sold for five to eight hundred dollars; and in the case of farms, there are equally as many cases which may be cited which have the taxing value of thirty dollars an acre, but can be sold for from $75 to $110 and $125 an acre.

Is Holding Its Own.

As a result of these great property value increases, it is generally felt that in the assessment of real estate in the spring, taxing values will be fixed on each piece of property which will be more nearly the present value. The more the value of real estate put on the county's books for taxation purposes, the greater will be the revenue derived. Under the present taxation rates the county is more than holding its own with an assessment of about thirty-four cents on the hundred dollars valuation. County officials predict that if the assessments of real estate fix the values any where near the amount which they anticipate, that the county's tax will be reduced to some figure in the twenties.

There is a demand for the South and, while there are several thousand dollars in a special fund in the county for this purpose, it has not yet assumed proportions which would make the construction possible without the county borrowing the money.

If it is decided that those who would be benefited by such a bridge can wait until sufficient money is in the special fund, then there is no reason, as the situation is viewed now, why the county tax rate can not be reduced. It is certain that even incurring a big debt in construction of the bridge, would not necessitate a rate increase.

Rate in This City.

As it is almost certain that Richmond property values will be increased in a corresponding rate with the amount of increase in property value four years ago, this city should have a revenue each year which will be several thousand dollars in excess to that now received semi-annually. The city has several big propositions under consideration. One is the improvement of streets and sidewalks, another the municipal ownership of the water works. If any of these are attempted, it will require much money.

The assessments of the real estate values in Wayne county will start on March 1, and will continue for seventy-five days. The corps of deputy assessors in each township will be much larger than usual, and also an effort will be made to get the most competent men possible, in order that taxing values at somewhere near the real property value may be fixed. Property owners who may be dissatisfied with the values placed on their property by the deputy assessors may appeal from the assessors' decision to the board of review. If no satisfactory adjudication is made in the appeal to the board, then the property owner may appeal still further, to the state board of tax examiners. The state board of tax examiners also have the power, if they are dissatisfied with the assessors' taxing, to increase the taxing value of property.

FOUR AFTER FUNDS

Banks Seek Wayne Township's Wealth.

Funds which will be received in the next two years by Wayne township will be securely taken care of as the four banking institutions of Richmond have submitted bids to become depositories for the township funds. The advisory board of the township met in the office of the trustee on Wednesday to inspect the qualifications of each financial institution and also to determine the proportion to which each institution is entitled.

The maximum amount which the township trustee will ever have, in the judgment of the board will be $24,000. It will be divided up in the following manner: To First National bank, 7-52; to Second National bank, 22-52; Union National bank, 10-52 and to the Dickinson Trust Company 13-52. In determining on the qualifications of the banking institutions the advisory board considered the capital stock of each and also the surplus of each institution. It was found that the total amount of capital stock and surplus of the four institutions was $1,300,000.

Mrs. Frank Gould and Her Sister

Mrs. Frank Gould, wife of the multimillionaire sportsman of New York and Paris and her sister, Miss Hattie Kelly, snapped upon their arrival in New York recently to spend the Yuletide holidays in America. Mrs. Gould before her marriage was Miss Edith Kelly, the celebrated English actress. Mr. Gould, who accompanied his wife, had considerable trouble with the customs inspectors. He was asked if he did not want to declare anything that he had in his seventeen trunks. He said he would not, as he was a non-resident of this country. He was reminded that he was reported to be the owner of a house on Fifth avenue. To settle the matter Mr. Gould called Collector on the phone. He told the collector that he had a nine years' lease on an apartment in Paris and that his permanent residence would be in Paris. His wife, he said, was an Englishwoman, and as he was going back to Europe in two weeks time he was clearly a non-resident. He had with him his lease.

Collector Loeb was satisfied with Mr. Gould's statement and directed that he be permitted to declare as a non-resident. As a result he only paid $4 duty on a few boxes of cigars that he brought in.

TWELVE KILLED IN GREAT EXPLOSION

Big Smelting Plant Near El Paso, Texas, Is Wrecked by Dynamite Today.

(American News Service)

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 28.—The latest report of the smelting plant explosion states 12 men are buried and believed to be dead. A score of others were injured, when the dynamite, stored in a pit, exploded near the smelter. The explosion was caused by a nearby blast, set off by railroad men. The great shock also wrecked several houses, burying and injuring the occupants. Many children are among the victims. One woman was taken out in a dying condition.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 28.—Many persons were killed by a terrific explosion that wrecked the plant of the American smelting and refining company five miles from here, according to telephone messages asking for help. The plant is the second largest smelter in the world. Hundreds of men were employed. This report states the greater part of the plant is wrecked and great confusion is prevailing.

TICKETS ARE NAMED

For Young Men's Business Club Election.

The following tickets for the Young Men's Business club election, to be held January 5, 1910, have been announced:

Committee No. 1, composed of Ed H. Harris, Arthur A. Burr and C. C. Allen, named the following ticket:

F. L. Torrence, President.
William M. Bailey, vice president.
Will W. Reller, secretary.
E. B. Knollenberg, treasurer.

Directors, Harlan Simmons, Raymond B. Mather, Willard Carr, Homer Hammond, Fred H. Lahrman, Charles W. Jordan, Stephen Kuth and Will Robbins.

Ticket No. 2.

Committee No. 2, composed of J. A. Spekenhier, Tom Butler and Isaac Dougan, named the following ticket:

Willard Z. Carr, president.
William M. Bailey, vice president.
Will W. Reller, secretary.
Fred H. Lahrman, treasurer.

Directors, Henry Bentlage, Fred S. Anderson, Frank L. Waidele, F. L. Torrence, Stephen Kuth, O. G. Whelan W. H. Romey and Demas S. Coe.

Goblets.

Goblets with stem and stand like those we use today were employed in Troy 900 B. C. Among the valuable objects found by Dr. Schliemann was a golden goblet. Vessels of this metal were commonly employed in the service of the temples.

"KIDS" GET GREAT XMAS FEAST TODAY

Over Four Hundred Poor Children Made Happy by Club Women.

Over 400 poor children of the city were given a Christmas dinner by the Penny Club today, at the I. O. O. F. hall. It was the twentieth feast given by the club and is considered the most successful of any that has yet been held. The menu consisted of chicken, dressing, sweet and Irish potatoes, pickles, doughnuts, pie and cake. The children were all very hungry.

It was noticed by women of the Club who were serving the dinner that the children are much better dressed than last year. This is considered a result of the work of the club in keeping the poor children of the city clothed well so that they can attend school. This is the most important work of the club. The children were given toys and dolls besides bags of candy.

The officers of the Penny Club are: president, Mrs. Anna Warfel; vice-secretary, Miss Katherine Todd; treasurer, Mrs. Clara Thomas; chairman executive committee, Mrs. Anna Dowell.

Until this year the feast has been held in the Pythian Temple, but as there have been several dances scheduled there this season, it was impossible to secure the hall.

CHEMISTS TO MEET

Session Opened at Minneapolis Today.

(American News Service)

Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 28.—The forty-third meeting of the American Chemical society will be held in this city December 28 to 31, 1910. The steady growth of the society during the past few decades, not only in attendance but in progressiveness, makes this meeting one of great interest to those who follow the advance of commercial chemistry.

The society will hold its meetings in the chemistry building of the university of Minnesota on Wednesday, December 28, and the conference will be opened by an address by President W. D. Bancroft.

The morning of Thursday the 29th, will be taken up by meetings of the different divisions and sections of the society.

A general business session will be in order on Friday, followed by short, straight, practical papers telling how to prevent waste, improve a process, or get better returns from materials, supplies, energy or labor.

Saturday will be given over to the reading of papers in the different divisions and excursions to the neighboring manufacturing plants where chemical processes of interest are in operation.

THE TURKISH BATH

A Victim's Story of the Real Thing In Its Native Land.

WELL MAULED AND SCRAPED.

He Was Kneaded, Plucked, Turned Over and Walked Upon and Then Scrubbed as Though He Were a Kitchen Floor.

The tourist who wanders about Stamboul will from time to time come on domed buildings of all sizes which might be taken for mosques but that they seem to have no fountains and no minarets. From some place, such as the terrace of the mosque of Sultan Sulayman, where their roofs may be overlooked, it will be seen that the low domes are often of a peculiar salmon pink color and always covered with glass bullseyes. These are the real Turkish baths.

Quite apart from the ceremonial wash before prayer, Islam, which considers cleanliness not so much next to godliness as a part of godliness itself, ordains a periodical scrub all over. And the Turk, unlike the sodden west, never sits in hot water, but prefers a hot room, a tap and a basin as a minimum and a shampooer and a flesh glove if he can afford such luxuries.

One enters, as in the west, into the cooling room, generally a high domed room with many galleries around, a marble floor and a fountain, and before going to a private room or, if the bath is to be done on the cheap, to a place on the big common sofas one exchanges dirty boots for slipshod heeless slippers. Watch and valuables may be left under the care of the cooling room attendant, who superintends the process of undressing, winds a loin cloth around one and throws a primrose towel over one's shoulders. Before crossing the floor of the cooling room the slippers are again exchanged for wooden clogs, wherein the novice walks like Agag, delicately, in fear of a fall, till he learns to imitate the speed of the bath men by abandoning all attempts to walk and executing a fast shuffle.

The outer hot room, at about the temperature of an English shampooing room, is a very secondary affair. One stays there for a little, still clothed in the primrose towel, reclining on a distant imitation of a bed, drinking coffee and smoking a cigarette, perhaps watching a couple of shampooers amusing themselves by a wrestling bout. The customer and the shampooer wear the same type of loin cloth, an elaborate check of red and yellow that may be seen any day in the streets on an apron worn by the Albanian sellers of chestnuts or sweetmeats.

If that cigarette is finished come into the inner room, heavy with damp heat, the real bath. The attendant pulls off the shoulder towel and opens the door, a heavy wooden affair, kept shut by a counterweight, whose banging is not the least characteristic noise in the bath. Inside is a large square domed room. Innumerable bullseyes in the dome admit the light, which the whitewashed walls reflect, making a light and airy effect. On the great square slab in the middle they have placed a towel and a pillow, and here one lies, leaving the clogs on the floor.

Round the room, screened from one another by dwarf walls, are a row of marble basins, and here may be seen all classes—such is the democracy of Islam—from the army officer to the day laborer, whose shaved head oddly suggests a tonsure. The poorer classes do not indulge in the luxury of massage. They come for a wash only and often bring their own soap for economy's sake. It is not uncommon to see two of them scrubbing one another by turns.

Presently, unbidden, the shampooer mounts the slab and squats beside his victim. Most of his work consists in kneading the flesh rather than the long, heavy strokes of an English masseur. But when the customer is turned on his face the masseur becomes more energetic. He plucks the skin on each side of the spine, walks up and down on the back and strenuously gathers up arms and legs into curious bone breaking knots regardless of the grunts of the stiff jointed west. A final super-Gordian knot and the clapping of his hands show that it is over.

The customer, as soon as he can collect limbs which seem to have been pulled clean off him, adjourns to one of the basins and is rubbed with a rough glove to take off the old skin. Then the man brings a battered metal bowl ("old bowl, old bath," is the Turkish proverb for "the old, old story") with soap and a lather wisp of "lyf" (Mecca palm fiber, and scrubs conscientiously for some ten minutes, working with the abandon of a zealous housemaid on a floor, forgetful apparently that the object he is scrubbing is flesh and blood.

Finally he pours warm water from the bowl to wash away the last of the soapsuds and, if the bath is a large and up to date one, conducts his well scrubbed victim to a cold douche.

Drying takes place in the outer hot room, sundry loin cloths and towels are wrapped about the body, a small towel makes a turban for the head and clean clogs are produced for the feet, which have been dried with great—sometimes inconveniently great—care. A loud clapping of hands announces that the process is over, and the three or four Turks who seem always to be doing nothing zealously in the room crowd round to wish one good health. —London Globe.

FELL PROSTRATE ON COURT FLOOR

After being fined this morning for drunk, O. L. Schneider, with a groan, raised his hands in the air and fell to the floor. It was first believed he was in serious condition, but he soon revived. The man engaged in a disturbance at a restaurant on Main street last night.

Palladium Want Ads. Pay.

FAIRBANKS STABS HIS ALLY WATSON

"Et tu, Brute," Gasps "Our Jim" and Believes He Must Be Dreaming.

(American News Service)

Washington, Dec. 28.—President Taft has been urged to place an Indiana man at the head of the national committee to carry on the work of "rehabilitation" on which the president has entered to strengthen his chances for 1912. Durbin, Goodrich and even Joe Kealing have been suggested. The president has been told that "Joey Bagstock" Kealing is devilish sly as a political "rehabilitator." Following the call of Hemenway and Kealing on the president, when Taft looked Joe over, the former vice president, who is familiar with Kealing's prowess, was a guest at the White House. Taft has been making careful inquiries about the "Big Chief." Durbin is to come east soon to talk over the work of the reorganization of the party in Indiana. His name has been suggested to the president as manager. Taft thinks highly of the ex-governor, but Durbin's friends say he will run for governor two years hence and as he has a fight ahead of him he will decline to leave Indiana temporarily to direct the national party affairs. One of the developments of Indiana politics at the White House is the disclosure of a plan among some of the old Fairbanks-Hemenway organization to throw "Jim" Watson. Some of the Indiana visitors to the president put in a "knock" on Watson. Then editorial drubbings started on him in Indiana, as newspapers friendly to Fairbanks and Kealing came out against him. The former congressman was dazed at the developments, according to some of his closest friends. He could not believe that his former political associates in the old machine would throw him down. But he is restless and suspicious. Watson's friends say he went out in the financial district and collected a fine sum of money in the spring of 1908 to help Fairbanks' presidential boom along at the Chicago convention and turned it over to Fairbanks and Kealing. Friends of the former congressman from the Sixth district think that it is a poor return for this labor to have Fairbanks friends now turn and rend him politically.

RESTORED TO LIFE

Was Edward Neal, Nearly Asphyxiated Tuesday.

Almost asphyxiated with artificial gas, leaking from a faulty instantaneous heater, was Edward Neal on Tuesday evening about six o'clock in the bath room of the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Joe M. Brown, in the Knollenberg building. For three hours a physician and the Browns worked over him in an effort to restore life. He finally was restored to consciousness.

When the attending physician arrived he was not very hopeful of saving the young man's life, and he stated afterwards that the man was in the worst shape of any one affected in a similar way he had ever attended.

Mr. Brown had started to the bath room and finding the door locked called Neal. He did not reply and after a hurried investigation, saw him lying on the floor, by looking through the keyhole. After hurling himself against the door several times he broke it down. Neal had been unconscious several minutes, and it was necessary for Mr. Brown to push his tongue down in order that he might blow into his lungs. He did this sixty or seventy times before the man showed evidence of breathing. On Wednesday young Neal was resting easily and was on the road to recovery. Neal had gone into the room to take a bath. He had scarcely entered and locked the door until he became unconscious.

Just as Easy.

He—But, tell me, are you going to marry me or make a fool of me? She—Why not both, dear?

ISLAND IS SWEPT BY FIERCE STORM

One of the Canary Group Is Devastated—Italy Feels Earthquake Shocks.

(American News Service)

Madrid, Dec. 28.—The Island of Gomara, in the Canary group, has been devastated by a terrible tornado which cost 150 lives and wrecked scores of villages. The government was today asked to send relief as scores are perishing from hunger.

Gomara Island is 35 miles long and 11 miles broad and is extremely fertile in the valleys of the mountains. It produces great quantities of grainstuffs. San Sebastian, the chief city has a population of 16,000.

QUAKES ARE FELT.

Naples, Dec. 28.—Earthquake shocks followed the opening of Mt. Vesuvius crater today spread alarm among hundreds of Americans and other foreign tourists who are spending the winter in Southern Italy. The earthquake shocks were from the east to west and are thought to be a continuation of those which rocked the southwestern part of Greece twenty hours earlier.

During the night Vesuvius boomed and great jets of steam and molten lava spurted from the cup-like crater. Some of the tourists, conquering their fears, watched the strange sight al night. Great streams of lava are running down the mountain side and villagers are fleeing from their homes. Temporary shelters have been set up by the timid peasants.

Today vast clouds of smoke obscured the sky above the crater, mingled with steam. Rocks were hurled a great distance.

There are a number of villages on the slopes of the fiery mountain and some of these are practically deserted today.

HORSE NOT STOLEN; CONSTABLE HAD IT

William Chapman of south of Richmond, reported to the police this morning that a valuable horse had been stolen from his barn, last night. It was found by the police that the horse had been removed from the barn last night in the absence of the Chapmans by Officer Clay of Justice Beyerle's court, who is alleged to have a claim against Chapman. A levy had been taken on the horse. Chapman alleges that the judgment against him was a forced one and that Clay's actions are fraudulent.

A Brave Mine.

Riley—How about that gold mine you bought stock in last year? Smiley—Why, we've called it the Bulldog. It's the bravest little mine you ever heard of. Riley (puzzled)—Bravest? Smiley—Sure! There isn't a yellow streak anywhere in it!—Puck.

MANY BUILDINGS ARE NOT TAXABLE

In Four Squares on North A Street There Are Eleven in That Class.

Real estate representing over a hundred thousand dollars taxing value with the true value several times that amount by reason of the recent improvements, but not taxable because of the character of the institutions which own it, lies in four squares of North A street. The properties are those of the St. Mary's church congregation and the Young Men's Christian association between Seventh and Eighth streets; that of St. Paul's Episcopal church congregation on the northeast corner of Eighth and North A street, the Federal building on Ninth and North A, the non-rental part of the Masonic building across the street from the Federal building, the churches of the First Presbyterian and Grace M. E. congregations, on Tenth and North A streets, the church belonging to the United Presbyterians on Eleventh and North A streets, and the church property of the Hicksite Friends between Eleventh and Twelfth streets.

Perhaps there is no other city in the state where properties of an untaxable nature lie within so close proximity of each other. Were the above properties owned by taxable institutions, they would be a great source of revenue. The reason why they are exempted from taxation is the state statute providing that no institution operated for a benevolent, religious or educational purpose, shall be taxed, unless such an institution is deriving revenue therefrom, and in such case only that portion of a building which is paying a revenue, is taxable.

To the above list might be added the Morrisson-Reeves library on Sixth and North A streets, the Fifth street M. E. church and the high school building on North B, between Eighth and Ninth streets.