

## FESLER SAYS GIVE PEOPLE TAXING POWER

Stand of Republican Candidate for Governor Taken in Wabash Address.

### TELLS VIEWS OF LAW

Special to The Times.

WARASH, Ind., March 17.—Demanding that the state tax issue bonds and the power to fix tax levies be returned to the people, James W. Fesler of Indianapolis, candidate for the republican nomination for governor, expressed for the first time in a speech here last night his views on the Goodrich tax law.

Mr. Fesler also expressed opposition to the adjustments of the state tax board through the levying of horizontal increases. He expressed the sentiment repeatedly that the tax board should not assume authority where the legislature has not given authority.

In discussing his sentiment for bonds, Mr. Fesler said: "I am in favor of the provisions of the law and such changes as will place these matters entirely in the hands of the local authorities and taxpayers affected and not by a board located far from a community."

Mr. Fesler expressed the opinion that the present law has been amended many of the defects of the old law but that a year's operation has revealed the need for some important corrections.

"Supervision of assessments of some character by the state board of tax commissioners is necessary," Mr. Fesler said. "I, therefore, approve of the power vested in the state tax board, under this law, to make assessments in individual cases to be certified to that board for its action thereon."

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SUPERVISION.

It is, however, equally clear that only such supervision should be exercised by that board, or any other taxing official, as is clearly and unmistakably given by the legislature. The state tax board must not assume authority where the legislature has not given authority. Any usurpation of power by an administrative body should be vigorously and promptly checked. Public necessity does not justify a board in taking such action as it does not necessarily warrant regard to.

For many years the duty of equalizing taxes as between the several townships of a county has rested exclusively with the county board of review.

In my opinion, it is still the duty of the county board of review to equalize between the townships in each county. Whether my view of the law is correct or not, I do not believe that the state board of tax commissioners should be given any original jurisdiction in this respect. I favor an amendment to the law which still provide substantially that after the townships and local taxing units have been equalized by the county board of review, the state tax board shall have the power, if it claims that the work has not been properly performed, to examine into the matter and to equalize in such case on its own initiative, after notice and opportunity to all interested taxpayers to be heard under regulations fixed by the law itself and not pursuant to some rule adopted by the board. Likewise express provision should be made for a hearing and relief to any taxpayer whose assessment by reason of such increase is higher than the tax paid in the previous year. Such hearing should not depend on the pleasure of the taxing official, but should be a matter of right and held under such circumstances as would afford actual relief ad not a mere theoretical right to a hearing, which the time and the place provided by law make it impossible to grant.

### APPROVAL REQUIRED LIMITING TAX RATE

Section 185 of the law requires the approval of the state tax board of any tax rate exceeding 1 1/4 per cent on each \$100 or when the assessment yields greater revenue than was obtained by taxation the preceding year. Section 201 of the law requires the approval of the state tax board before any municipal, county or township shall issue bonds to build up or oppose these provisions of the law and favor such changes as will place these matters entirely in the hands of the local authorities. If safeguards are needed the sections in question could be so amended as that a certain proportion of the taxpayers could remonstrate against any tax rate or proposed bond issue, which the tax rate should not be fixed and reviewed by the state board and in the case of bond issues the same should not be made unless authorized at an election. This course would leave the entire matter to be determined by the local officials and taxpayers affected and not by a board located far from the community affected which could hardly have an adequate idea of the community's needs.

Section 171 of the present law fixes four meetings annually of the state tax board. Some uncertainty and dispute has arisen as to the rights and powers of the board at these various sessions. The law should be amended so as to make the sessions more definite.

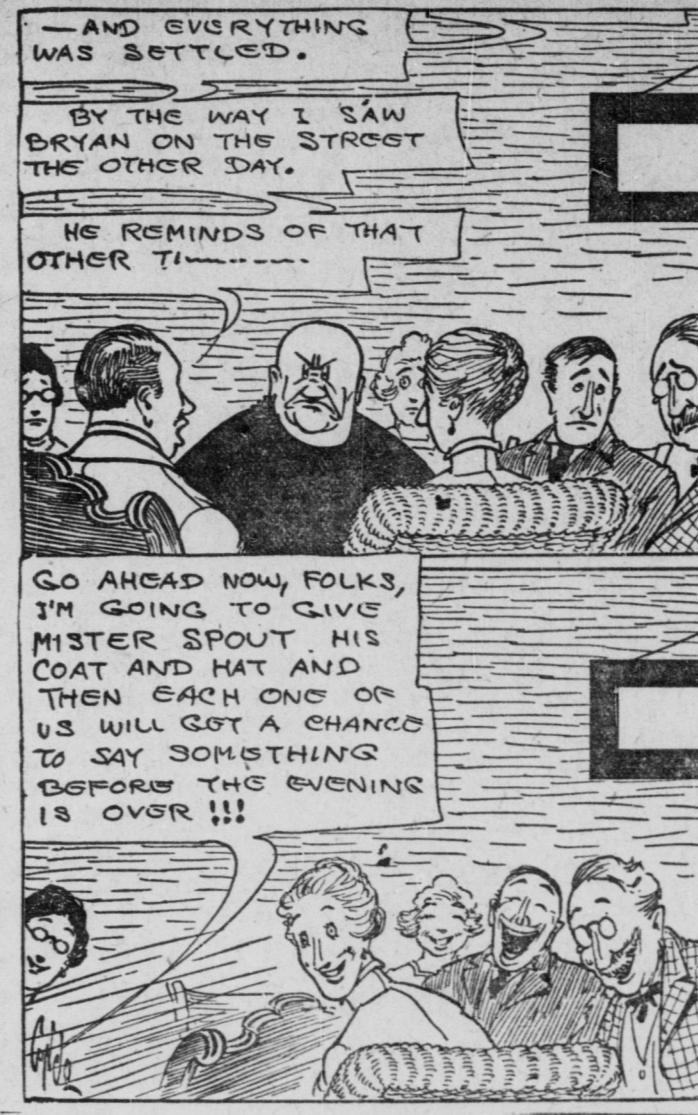
The taxpayer is entitled to know when his assessment is to be finally fixed and that it can not be changed after the time prescribed by law.

"I believe the time has come when some provision should be made by the legislature for special consideration of the matters affecting the public schools of the state. The members of the tax board are now so great that it is physically impossible for the board members to give such consideration to the schools as the importance and necessities of the situation require."

About one-third of Mr. Fesler's speech was given to the discussion of the tax law, in the remainder he expressed favor for increased construction of good roads, improvements in the school system and increased pay for teachers, a blue sky law, and construction of a state war memorial.

In the discussion of the latter, however, he did not mention that the American Legion, the proposed special session of the legislature at which persons interested in retaining the national headquarters of the legion are demanding an appropriation be made for the purpose of constructing such a memorial to include the legion headquarters.

## OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE



## 457,147 DWELL IN MILWAUKEE

Figures Show 83,290 Gain, or  
22.3 Per Cent.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—The census bureau today announced the following preliminary 1920 population figures:

Milwaukee, Wis.—1920 population, 457,147; 83,290 increase, 22.3 per cent increase; 1910 population, 373,897.

Oswego, N. Y.—1920 population, 23,626; 238 increase, 1.1 per cent increase; 1910 population, 22,338.

Moline, Ill.—1920 population, 30,709; 6,510 increase, 24.9 per cent increase; 1910 population, 24,199.

Charlotteville, Va.—1920 population, 10,688; 3,922 increase, 58 per cent increase; 1910 population, 6,765.

Mobile, Mo.—1920 population, 12,780; 1,509 increase, 12.1 per cent increase; 1910 population, 10,223.

Wauau, Wis.—1920 population, 18,661; 2,101 increase, 12.7 per cent increase; 1910 population, 16,560.

## Sheridan to Quit as Legion Official

Charles F. Sheridan, head of the service division of the American Legion, will retire from legion work on Friday, it is announced.

Mr. Sheridan was connected with the Legion by a lawyer in Washington before joining the legion. He first joined the legion as war risk insurance head and later became head of the service division. His home is in Syracuse, N. Y. A successor has not been selected.

## Kiddies to Contribute to War Statue Fund

School kiddies of Indiana will give to the fund for the erection of a great statue, the gift of America to France, on the battlefield of Marne.

W. L. Taylor, chairman of the Indiana committee, after conference with state school officials, planned to open the way for contributions from every part of the state. Indiana's quota of the \$250,000 national fund is \$7,500. The MacMonnies statue will be a duplicate of the Statue of Liberty.

## ANSWERS CHARGE OF CHORUS GIRL

Manager Says Eleanore Quit  
the Show at Ft. Wayne.

Billy Puri, showman, returned to Ft. Wayne, Ind., from Indianapolis today firmly impressed with the belief that chorus girls should be handled with discretion.

He also returned under a \$1,000 bond to appear in federal court on the first Monday in April to answer charges of violating the Mann act. Puri was arrested by a detective United States marshal in Ft. Wayne and is to be held in custody until a trial date is set. Puri is the manager of a musical comedy company and was arrested on a warrant signed by Eleanore Yocklin, a chorus girl.

According to Puri, Miss Yocklin signed a contract with him in his company and came from Chicago to Ft. Wayne to fulfill it but her stage ambitions ended suddenly and she started for home. Her trunks were attached for pay said to have been advanced and the arrest followed. S. Porter, a partner of Puri's, accompanied Puri to Indianapolis.

### Mastodon's Skeleton Found Near Spokane

SPOKANE, Wash., March 17.—A skeleton believed to be that of a mastodon has been unearthed at Pullman on the Snake river near here by a road construction crew. The skull of the animal is reported to be two and a half feet in width between the eye sockets, the tusks to be eight inches in diameter at the base and the teeth four to five inches across.

## ASPIRIN FIRST KNOWN IN 1900

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