

**STATE TAX BOARD
AUTOCRACY O. K'D
BY THE HOUSE**

(Continued From Page One.)

ties, in the state of Indiana, together with all assessments contained in, or resulting from, any such equalization orders as may be made by said board of tax commissioners, be, and the same is hereby, legalized and validated."

The legalizing end of the bill was the big thing that the administration forces hoped to put over, as it saves the face of the Goodrich administration and makes him the very increases which the state systems of each local void.

This makes all assessment orders of the state tax board stand as legal orders, and there will be no change in taxpayers' assessments on over-assessed property unless the taxpayers, within sixty days of the passage of this act, file with the ex-officio members of the county board of review in the counties where their property is located, petitions asking for re-assessments.

The bill as passed and amended provides that the ex-officio members of the county board of review, who are the county auditor, treasurer, and assessor, have the right to find on proper showing that the property has been over-assessed.

"When that is done the ex-officio members of the board of review shall then certify the finding and statement of the true cash value of the property to the state tax board for final examination.

**ENTER PROPERTY
AT TRUE VALUE.**

Then following this examination by the state tax board, the property by the over-assessed petitions shall be entered upon the tax duplicate at its true cash value as fixed by the ex-officio members of the county board of review.

The county auditor is then directed to issue a warrant upon the proper treasurer for the repayment to any such tax unit of any assessment which may be introduced under the provisions of the act, of any such excess taxes such taxpayer may have paid prior to such correction, whether such excess was paid under protest or not.

The bill as passed by the house gives any taxpayer the right to make a temporary loan, to extend not more than one year, for the purpose of meeting any deficit caused by the treasurer returning excess taxes.

The proper taxing officials also have the power after the assessed valuation of a taxing unit has been decreased by either court order or otherwise, to increase the levies for the year 1920 and state levies, in such percentage as will produce, nearly as possible, the same amount of revenue for all purposes as would have been produced by the original local levies.

The bill as passed by the house carries the power in the board's discretion to increase any time within six months after the taking effect of the bill, any or all state levies heretofore fixed by the state board of tax commissioners throughout the state for the year 1919 as the needs of the state may require, but no levy for any state or local purpose shall exceed the statutory limit now provided by law for such levies.

The act also makes it the duty of all taxing officials within the state to comply with this law.

**ACCUSED OF DODGING
BILL'S REAL PURPOSE.**

After a sharp fight which arose over the amending section of the bill, proposed by Representative William S. McMaster of Marion county, representatives of Marion county were accused of trying to submit the amendment in order that the city of Indianapolis could dodge the real purpose of the bill.

The amendment proposed by Representative McMaster, added to Section 1, the provision that "any assessments of this section which have the effect to and shall not be construed to legalize or validate that part of any horizontal increase in assessment which may be in excess of the true cash value of the property assessed, or to legalize or validate any assessment of horizontal increase which has been adjudged or decreed by any court invalid."

This amendment was overwhelmingly lost.

Representative J. Leonard Aby of Dearborn and Ohio counties was one of the members of the house who condemned the alleged closed door tactics employed by the administration and declared that "Gov. Goodrich had the key to the door, and would not let them out until they reached an agreement."

He declared that he would never vote for a bill which had been "steam-rollered" through the house as was the bill for legalizing the horizontal tax increase bills.

**HILL AIMS BLOW
AT COAL SITUATION**

Branding the present coal situation in Indiana as "intolerable," Representative John M. Ransom, Hartford City, has prepared a bill which will introduce in the house today, providing that the department of supervision of public offices shall have the power to take necessary steps to obtain relief for the people of the state from the intolerable coal situation.

The proposed bill of Representative Ransom gives the department of inspection the power to obtain information to determine if a conspiracy or collusion exists between any parties to keep down production so as to increase the price of coal.

In the prosecution of its work, the department of inspection and supervision of public offices shall have authority to investigate the cost of producing coal, the cost of transportation to the several distributing points in the state, and the prices paid by wholesalers, jobbers, and dealers; and to collect any other information which in the opinion may be necessary or pertinent to submit to the department of supervision of public offices, administer oaths and compel the production of books, papers and records to fix the price of coal.

NOX PRICE

On the basis of the information thus obtained, the department of inspection and supervision of public offices shall have authority to determine the fair and reasonable prices of coal at the mine and as charged to the consumer.

The department of inspection and supervision of public offices may in its discretion provide for the publication of such facts and data relative to the cost of production of coal as may seem desirable to promote the public welfare.

The department of inspection and supervision of public offices may in its discretion provide for the publication of such facts and data relative to the cost of production of coal as may seem desirable to promote the public welfare.

If the information shall disclose the existence of collusion, design and calculated to restrict the supply of coal to reward the disseminators or to reward the official, such evidence shall be used at the disposal of the attorney general who shall proceed to institute it against such offender or offenders under the proper laws of this state.

The department of inspection and supervision of public offices shall have authority to prosecute in any way with the federal authorities in accomplishing the results contemplated in this act.

ENALTY ATTACHED

No measure.

Any person, firm or corporation who shall fail or refuse to comply with any of the provisions of this act, or shall obstruct any member of the department of inspection and supervision of public offices fixing the price of coal or requiring the production of papers, books or records, or shall obstruct any member of the department of inspection and supervision of public offices in the discharge of his work shall be deemed an offender and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not exceeding \$1,000.

Representative Bonham said he has talked over his bill with Gov. Goodrich and that his bill is different from the administration bill.

The proposed administration bill to be introduced calls for the appointment of a commission to investigate coal prices, conditions and the like.

That commission would be appointed by the governor.

**BUDGET ALMOST AT
TWO MILLION MARK**

An exhausted state treasury probably will result from the action of the senate and the house of representatives making gigantic inroads into the financial resources of the state.

The senate brought the total of the Goodrich institutional deficiency appropriations bill up to \$1,729,434.02, and the bill has gone to conference committee of both houses.

The senate, with a lavish hand and the clever combination of necessary appropriations with non-essential ones, increased the appropriations passed by the house by a total of \$639,470.16.

As the action of the senate was unanimous on the part of those present in making these wholesale additions, very little reduction is expected at the hands of the house.

"I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

"Be it resolved by the house of representatives, that the attorney general be requested to appear before the house or any committee to be designated or appointed by the house, at such time as may be arranged by the speaker, to present such facts and information as may be necessary to enable the general assembly to determine intelligently what legislation is necessary to relieve the people of the state of this undesirable situation."

The motion was adopted.

Speaker Eschbach, following the adjournment of the house yesterday afternoon, said that he had not decided definitely as to the appointment of the committee of the whole of the conference.

While Attorney General Stansbury did not make any statement as to the possible legislation which may follow, it is understood that he has been giving considerable thought to the subject since the convening of the special session.

He said he was working in connection with members of his staff on several alternative measures which may be presented in case opposition to the bill for the state-owned mine prove too strong to permit its passage.

"We have appropriated close on to \$2,000,000, as I understand it, and I de-

termine the temporary borrowing of funds from the special fund of the Indianapolis school corporation.

Representative Masters, amending Indianapolis park department act to establish establishment of building lines and to control character of business or use of property near parks or parkways.

concerning the temporary borrowing of funds from the special fund of the Indianapolis school corporation.

Continuing, the senator said: "Some of these items for institutions housing the wards of the state are absolutely essential and should be passed, but mixed up with them are a number of items of which I do not approve but I do not want to stand in the way of the essential appropriations, such as those for benevolent institutions."

"At the last session I wanted to have these appropriations made large enough and if that had been done we would not have been called here in special session.

"This is the most expensive administration ever known in the history of the state and now we are called back to appropriate nearly two millions more."

Representative Elmer (Goodrich) has made speeches over the state about the extravagance of the democratic administration, emphatically declared Elmer.

**\$500,000 FOR
HIGHWAY COMMISSION.**

Among the items added to the deficiency bill by the senate was an item of \$500,000 "re-appropriating" that amount for the use of the state highway commission in building roads.

At one time Senator Ratts referred to this as "told you so," as "those guys" and this resulted in a remark from Lieut. Gov. Bush that such

"re-appropriating" but has the same effect as the original appropriation.

"To control the way 'they' only refers to one or two senators," remarked the presiding officer of the senate as the senators laughed at the joke.

Senator Ratts maintained that the problems faced in the institutional deficiency bill were the results of "after war conditions."

"The other senators present did not explain their vote, but all those present did not voting in favor of the passage of the bill as amended."

The senate sat as a committee of the whole, with Senator H. E. Negley of Indianapolis presiding for half of the deliberation, and then Senator Aaron Wilson took the chair for the remainder of the consideration of the bill as a committee consideration.

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