

TAX FERRET LAW MAY BE ILLEGAL

New Statute Regarded by Some Attorneys as Unconstitutional Measure.

WOULD BE EMBARRASSING

SIX COUNTIES VITALLY INTERESTED IN THIS LAW AND IF ILLEGAL IT WOULD PUT THEM WAY UP IN AIR.

Palladium Bureau, Indianapolis, Feb. 18.

Although the house and the senate have passed the Wood senate bill legalizing certain contracts with tax ferrets, there is no certainty that the bill will be good law. Some lawyers have already declared it unconstitutional. In six counties of the state, county commissioners made contracts with tax ferrets under which the ferrets were to dig up sequestered property and place it upon the tax duplicate. The ferret under such a contract was to receive as his pay a commission of, say, 35 per cent of the taxes collected from property which he brought to light. In six counties such contracts were made before any appropriation was made by the county council to pay such commission. The supreme court decided that no such commission could be paid without a prior appropriation by the county council. The court held that the county commissioners had no right to bind the county to pay out money for any purpose whatever except on appropriation made by the council.

Six Contracts in Air.

This put six contracts up in the air, and Senator Wood, on behalf of the tax ferrets, introduced a bill in the senate to legalize these six contracts, and it was this bill that passed both houses and is now ready for the signature of the governor.

But the point has already been raised that an act that is illegal when committed can not be made legal afterward. This argument was used by Governor Hanly two years ago in vetoing the bill that sought to legalize the assessment of state banks made under an old statute that was held unconstitutional by the courts, and it has been raised in the tax ferret case. It is a nice question and it is likely that some taxpayer in one of the counties affected will start a suit to test the legality of the matter.

Politics Crops Out.

After all politics does cut some figure when it comes to taking credit for doing things in the legislature. Early in the session, a republican member of the house introduced a bill to reduce the salaries of circuit and superior court judges from \$3,500 to \$2,500. The bill was killed by a democratic committee. Soon afterward Representative McGinniss of Martinsville, a democrat, introduced a bill of the same kind. Yesterday the committee reported it out with a recommendation that it pass.

Easy to buy, easy to try, the best, wholesome, appetizing breakfast is Mrs. Austin's famous pancakes.

The English suffragists held a social meeting recently in Claxton Hall at which it was forbidden to talk politics. Anti-suffrage wax works by Miss Hamilton are described as the event of the entertainment. The ideal wife was represented as cooking sausages for her husband's supper with one hand while she darned a sock with the other; she was rocking the cradle of triplets with her foot, reading Mrs. Humphry Ward's latest novel, and besides having her hair most elaborately arranged was wearing a huge merry widow hat.

THE THEATER

THEATRICAL CALENDAR.

GENNETT.

Feb. 18.—The Royal Chef.
Feb. 19.—The Top O' Th' World.
Feb. 20.—"Fascinating Widow."
NEW PHILLIPS.

All Week—High Class Vaudeville.

"Fascinating Widow."

Six big musical specialties will be introduced in "The Fascinating Widow," C. T. Dazey's roaring farce comedy which will be presented at the Gennett theater Saturday matinee and night by Otis B. Thayer and his company. Mr. Thayer will render three new songs, everyone of which is said to be a screaming hit, while two numbers will be rendered by Miss Black, the gifted contralto who has been especially engaged for Mr. Thayer's tour this season.

"The Royal Chef."

Messrs. Stoddard and Taylor, librettists have solved a story sufficiently coherent to hold the attention and the comedy incidents and situations which follow one another quickly during the progress of the performance, compel immediate laughter. Nothing more ludicrous nor more intensely funny could be imagined than the scene in the second act where W. H. Conley "The Chef" disguised as a lady attempts to solve that mystery of the Rajah's harem.

The scene which ensues creates such continuous laughter that little of the dialogue can be heard, and the situation is carried on practically in pantomime, for that reason. This is but one of the many extremely humorous incidents with which the piece abounds. Ben Jerome has contributed a charming musical number which is scintillant with spirited, catchy refrains. Since its last presentation in this city, a great many new musical numbers have been introduced and several fresh comedy bits interpolated of all which are calculated to make the performance appeal to the multitude, which are familiar with it as previously given here. Some new members will appear in the cast, the most notable is Wm. H. Conley, a graduate of the famous Boston Castle Square Opera House company, and later identified with the Madison Square Roof productions, "E. E. Rice" "Liberty Belles" and the Savage attractions. He will be ably assisted by Miss Malatesta, a sprightly comedienne late of Richard Carle's Tenderfoot company and a cast including Mr. Herbert Carter, Walter B. Smith, Donald McKenzie, Karl Stahl, Genevieve Victoria, Wilma Norella and others of the original cast. The dancing and singing chorus is still one of the big features not the least attractive of which is the well known "Brollers." At the Gennett tonight.

"The Top O' Th' World."

The attraction at the Gennett theater Friday evening will be the sensational musical comedy success, "The Top O' Th' World." The piece has a record of a year in New York and Chicago. It comes here now with the original cast and company of seventy singers and dancers and the famous Collie Ballet; Bailey and Austin, Kathleen Clifford, Arthur Hill, George Majeroni and Alice Hageman head the cast. In fact, since the company left Chicago, where they appeared all last summer at the Studebaker theater, there has been scarcely change in the personnel of the organization.

Arthur Hill, the famous animal impersonator, who created the cowardly lion in the "Wizard of Oz" and Tige in "Buster Brown," is one of the principal fun-makers. There are twenty musical numbers, the most notable being "Busy Mr. Bee," "How'd You Like to be my Bow-wow-wow" sung and danced by the kiddies, and six collie dogs, the only number of its kind in the world, and one which has been a great feature with this attraction.

The New Phillips.

The Hickman Willis company of entertainers will be the features at the New Phillips this week-end. This troupe of excellent and pleasing actors and actresses will offer a little comedy playlet that has aroused laugh after laugh over the Sun-Murray vaudville circuit this season.

The Holloways in a very neat and

clever equilibrastic act have novelties that are well worth the while watching and drew commendation at this afternoon's performance.

G. Cacum, the Italian tenor, has a pleasing voice which he uses to pleasing effect. He is known in vaudeville as the "Caruso."

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On the many million dollars' worth of building owned by the United States Government in the Panama canal zone no insurance is carried. The government has spent \$10,250,000 in buildings in the zone, which amount takes no account of the value of the buildings purchased from the French, both in the canal zone and in the republic of Panama, nor value of the property in all the buildings, including the large amount of stores. However, the canal fire department has been

CITY BILL MEETS A VIOLENT DEATH

Measure for Fifth Class Towns Was Killed Yesterday By the House.

CLAIM IT WAS DANGEROUS

BILL TO PROHIBIT THE REBATING OF PREMIUMS ON INSURANCE POLICIES WAS ALSO DONE TO DEATH.

Palladium Bureau, Indianapolis, Feb. 18.

Representative Elliott's bill for the regulation of city government in cities of the fifth class was killed. It provided that such cities may or may not maintain boards of public works and boards of public safety, that the mayor or fire chief and police chief may perform the duties of the present safety board, that mayor, city engineer and street commissioner may perform the duties of the board of public works, and making it optional with the council as to whether the city shall have a city judge. The bill was opposed by some members from fifth class cities.

Merriman of Bluffton, and McGinniss of Martinsville, spoke against the bill saying they were afraid of it. By abolishing the city treasurer Merriman said, the municipal light works in his city would be crippled. The bill failed to pass, the vote being 26 ayes to 51 noes.

Insurance Bill Killed.

A bill by Representative Stahl of Kendallville, which prohibits the practice of rebating premiums on insurance policies was killed. Representative of Tell City, said in a speech against the bill that he did not object to rebating. "If I was an insurance agent and went out to a widow's house and insured her property," he said, "and if I should wish to rebate her a part of that premium, whose business is it?"

Sweeney's masterly argument killed the bill.

A bill passed the house which provides that where school hacks are run through the country to haul children to and from school, the township trustees shall erect shelter houses. Constructed at convenient central points along the road where children may gather while waiting for the hack during bad weather.

A COUNTY UNIT BILL

Kentucky Anti-Saloon Forces Demand the Enactment Of Such Statute.

ASK A SPECIAL SESSION

Louisville, Ky., February 18.—By a unanimous rising vote the delegates to the Anti-Saloon League of Kentucky convention, assembled here, late yesterday afternoon adopted the resolution presented by Rev. M. B. Adams, pastor of the First Baptist church, of Frankfort, urging that Governor Wilson call an extra session of the Legislature to pass the county unit bill.

The Committee on Nominations made its report, recommending the election of the present officers, who are as follows: President, Rev. W. D. Brauchamp, of Louisville; Vice Presidents, Dr. E. Y. Mullins, of Louisville; Brie Goldsborough, of Georgetown; J. B. Adams, of Marion; Rev. Mr. Ryan, of Catlettsburg, and J. S. Dill, of Bowling Green.

Superintendent J. W. West recommended the passage of a law enforcement. He advocated the appointment of a commission empowered to enter any county where the law is being violated, in person or through agents, to secure evidence against the offenders. The fines imposed should go, he said, toward the maintenance of this commission.

About 75,000 fox skins are sold out of Maine every year. Very few of these sly animals are shot. Many are killed by the use of poisoned bait, while hundreds of others are killed in drives.

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INDIANA POLO LEAGUE -- COLISEUM --

New Castle vs. Richmond

Monday Eve'g, Feb. 22.

Skating Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Morning.

Afternoon and Evening.

Polo Prices --- Admission 15c; reserved seats 10 cents extra.

Pianos

OUR Piano Sale is still going on. We refer to the one we have fifty-two weeks in the year. The one where you can attend and buy a piano worth every dollar we ask you for it, and get a piano that has a guarantee back of it that protects you and one that is sure to give you satisfaction.

We have neither "paid testimonials" nor "soft soap" to offer, but we have instruments that have the merit, and ones that have always gotten the recognition that is due them.

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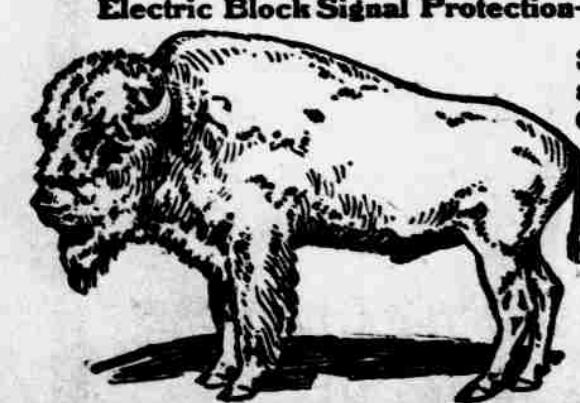


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