

## SCHOOL FUNDS SHORTAGE TO BE SOLVED BY BILL

Measure Deals With Borrowing Power of Taxing Units in State.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 3.—The present shortage of funds being suffered by school cities and other local taxing units because of the enactment of the prohibition law, which reduced their revenue, and for a number of other reasons, will be solved if the new tax bill to be presented to the legislature is adopted.

The bill has been printed and copies are being distributed. That part of the measure dealing with the state board of tax commissioners' control of the tax rates in cities, towns, townships and counties and the borrowing power of these taxing units is regarded as one of the important features of the proposed law.

The bill makes it explicit that there shall not be a tax rate made which will produce more revenue than was produced in 1918. The theory of the bill is that all property, real and personal shall be listed on the tax duplicate at full value and intangibles for one-fourth actual value. Thus the tax rate must decrease in proportion to the increase in assessments. The ratio between the assessment and the tax rate of 1918 must be maintained hereafter, under the bill.

### Must Certify Tax Rates.

This means that if a county has a \$1,000,000 assessment on the tax duplicate and the rate was 2 cents in 1918, the rate must be reduced to 1 cent in 1919, if the assessment of taxables in that county increased to \$2,000,000 under the new measure. The bill prescribes that all tax rates must be certified to the state board each September for approval.

If the bill is enacted, therefore, no taxing unit in the state can raise more revenue at any time in the future than it did last year. It was foreseen that occasions or emergencies may arise, and in fact already had arisen, in some taxing units, where more revenue would be needed. For that reason a provision was written into the bill whereby taxing units could appeal for a higher tax rate.

This section of the bill is based on the Public Service Commission law. It provides that if any taxing unit must raise more revenue it shall petition the state board of tax commissioners for the right to increase the tax rate. Public notice must be given to all the tax payers in that particular city, town, township or county of the filing of the petition for an increased rate. The matter would be set for hearing to determine the validity of the claim for a higher rate. Any local taxing unit may at its own option reduce its tax rate or the state board, after a hearing, can reduce the tax rate the bill provides.

### Controls Borrowing Power.

The proposed law would control the borrowing power of any locality in the same manner. That is, money could be borrowed by the taxing unit only after being granted permission by the state board after filing of a petition and a hearing.

Fred A. Sims, member of the state board, which has had charge of drafting the measure, explained that when the approval of the state board was given to a local taxing unit to borrow the bonds or certificates of indebtedness issued would be incontestable. At present litigation often results as to the validity of bonds or certificates issued by a local taxing unit. At the time the taxing unit is authorized to borrow the bill provides that the tax rate shall be adjusted to meet the payments of the principal and interest when due.

Under the constitution of the state borrowing power is limited to 2 per cent. of the gross amount of assessed valuation. For this reason many taxing units are now bonded to the limit. Under the theory of the new bill this condition would no longer exist in any part of the state because all property will be placed on the tax duplicate and the assessment will show double or triple the figures shown at present.

### PLAN MEMORIAL PARK.

(By Associated Press) MUNCIE, Ind., Jan. 3.—A movement has been started here to convert the fairgrounds of Delaware county into a memorial park in honor of men from the county who have taken part in the war. The Delaware County War Mothers and other organizations have already endorsed the plan. About 100 acres are in the fairgrounds. A suggestion also has been made that instead of converting the fairgrounds into a memorial park, a statue be erected in McCullough park.

Japan's most expert wrestlers are men who have inherited their ability from ancestors who made wrestling a profession for generations.

Dogs' teeth are the Papuans' gold, the most valuable of "coins" in their estimation.

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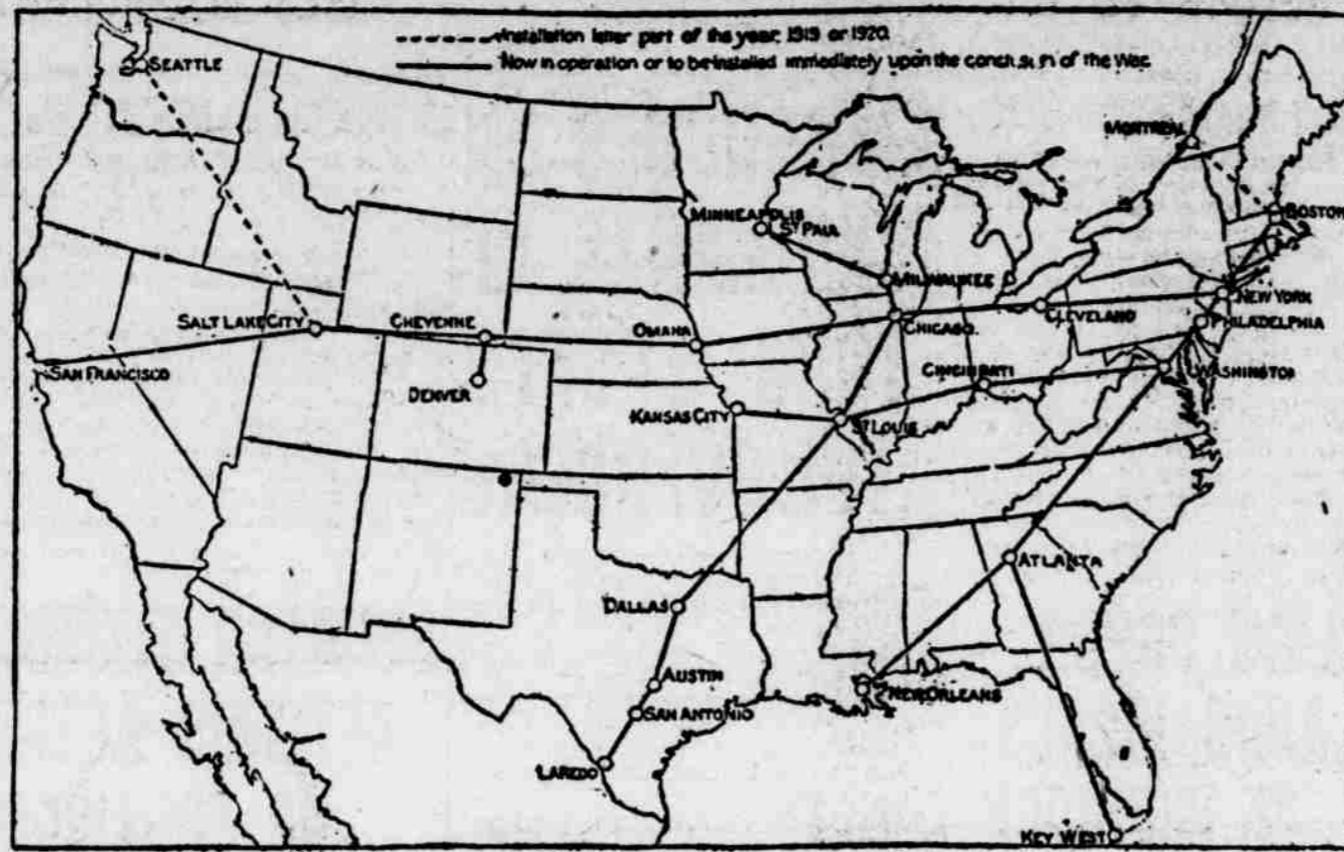
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## FAST MAIL ROUTES BY AIR TO COVER UNITED STATES



Postoffice department map showing plans for the immediate future.

The accompanying map, which is reproduced from one issued by the postoffice department, shows serial mail plans for the immediate

future. It is 225 miles from Washington to New York, via Philadelphia. It is 853 miles from New York to Chicago, and on this route the air mail cuts down the

running time by at least one-half, so that, as other units to the west are added, it is expected that mail may be sent from New York to San Francisco in forty hours.

## U. S. CONTRACTORS URGE ACTION ON WAR CONTRACTS

(By Associated Press)

CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 3.—Government contractors and sub-contractors from many states met here today to take concerted action to obtain relief by congress through necessary legislation to legalize informal war contracts aggregating more than \$1,500,000, which were cancelled by the government after the signing of the armistice.

The informal contracts include instances where manufacturers started to produce war materials under government instructions by telephone, telegraph and letters. The signing of the armistice ended the government's need for the material and disbursing officers announced they were without authority to legalize the orders. Controller of the Treasury Warwick ruled the manufacturers have no claim against the government under present conditions.

Some of the contractors were about ready to deliver products when cancellations were made. Others had large stocks of partially completed material on hand.

Under a ruling of the claims board and the district ordnance offices the government will deal only with prime contractors. Some of them contend they cannot liquidate the claims of their sub-contractors unless they can be sure that the government will settle with them, immediately.

A measure designed to legalize the informal instructions is pending in congress.

## CARDINAL ATTENDS PEACE SERVICES



Cardinal Amette.

The picture shows Cardinal Amette, archbishop of Paris, entering the Cathedral of Notre Dame, where the Te Deum was sung in honor of peace. The archbishop constantly cheered and consoled Paris folk during the war and his counsel kept them hopeful in the darkest hours.

## Charge Discrimination Against Philadelphia

(By Associated Press)

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Jan. 3.—Government investigation of alleged discrimination against Philadelphia as a port for shipment of overseas supplies and for disembarkation of troops is urged in a report adopted by the local board of trade and submitted to George S. Webster, director of the department of wharves, docks and ferries.

Philadelphia and Boston alone, of all the principal ports in the country, have not been represented on the shipping control committee of the United States Shipping Board, notwithstanding that such representation has been earnestly urged," said the report, "and neither of these ports has received what it believes to be its proper allotment of government overseas freight."

## ON LOOKOUT FOR FORGED U. S. CHECKS

A telegram was received Friday morning by Chief of Police Gorman from the United States Secret Service agent at Indianapolis, asking that fraudulent government checks be watched for. The telegram read as follows:

"Look out for government checks numbered from ten eighty one to eleven hundred with numbers two naught eight naught seven on each lower right. Filled out in different amounts. Blank checks abstracted from disbursing office. Please notify banks and business houses where they might be presented."

T. E. HALLS,  
U. S. Secret Service."

Mr. Gorman had the telegram shown at all the banks and merchant houses Friday morning. He said that every few days word comes in to the police about a fraudulent check being passed.

As recently as forty years ago the Japanese soldiers wore grotesque masks in order to terrify the enemy.



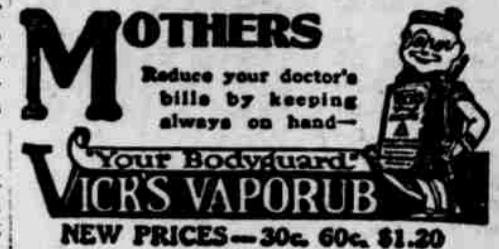
## War Tax Causes Record Output of Cent Pieces

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The small change required to pay war tax on many retail articles caused the government mints to produce 307,614,000 one cent pieces in 1918, a record output, according to a report today by Raymond T. Baker, director of the mint. A total of 538,160,000 coins were minted, more than ever before in the nation's history, but owing to the large proportion of pennies the value of the output was \$31,745,000 lower than in 1917. The number of nickels minted was 45,234,000; dimes, 68,654,000; quarters, 32,692,000, and half dollars, 20,769,000. Neither silver dollars nor gold was minted.

An oil well being driven in West Virginia has been drilled to a depth of 7,363 feet, and is now the deepest in the world.

## CITY EDITORS TO MEET.

(By Associated Press) INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 3.—Work of arranging the program for the fifth annual meeting of the Indiana City Editors' association is progressing rapidly in the hands of Hassel Sullivan, of Indianapolis. The meeting will be held Jan. 18 and 19. In the absence of the president of the organization, Kenneth Sullivan, now a soldier in Europe, Charles T. Jewett, former president, of the Terre Haute Star, has sent notices of the meeting to the members.



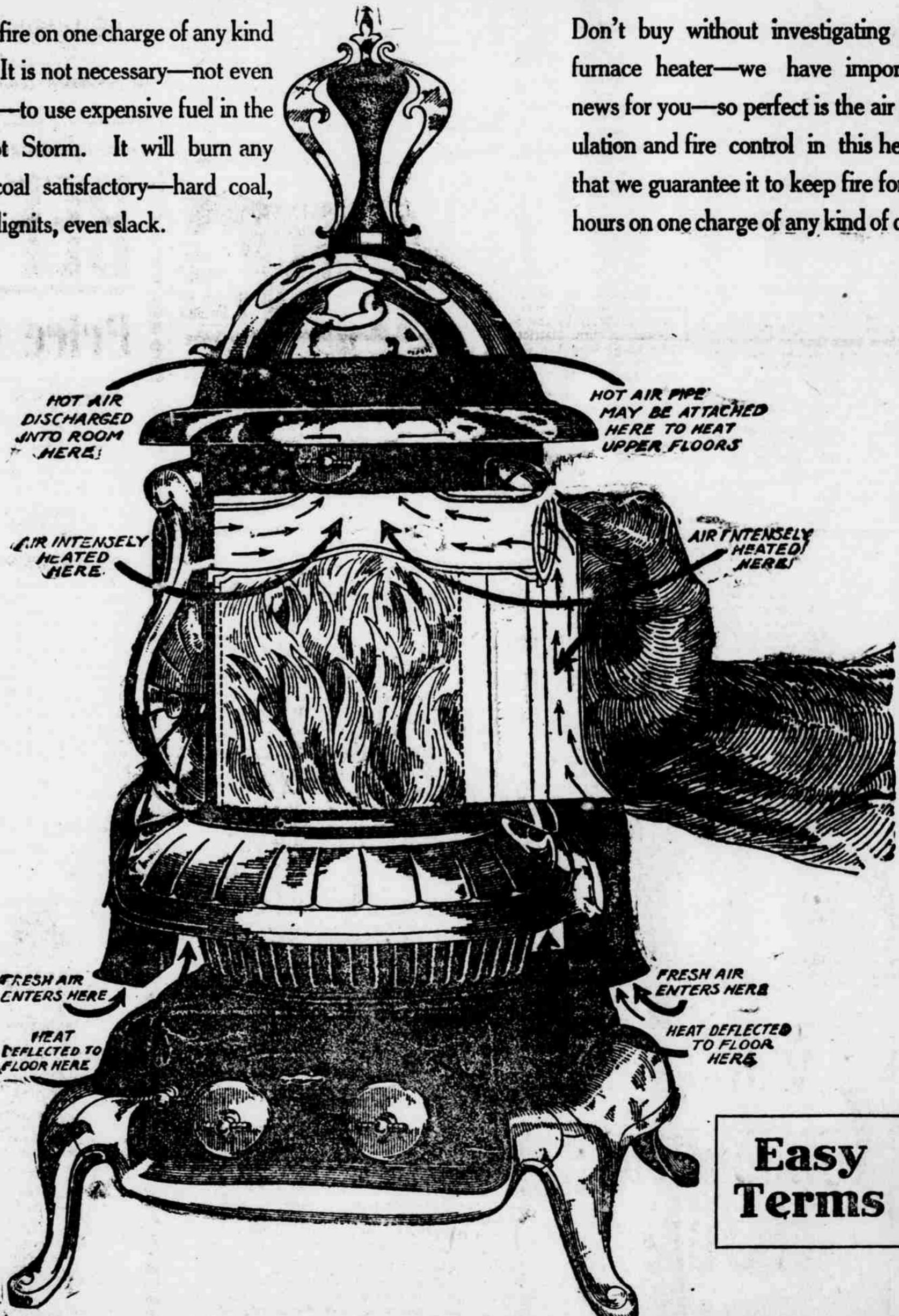
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