

TAX BOARD FIXES VALUE OF COUNTY PROPERTY

ASSESSMENT TO SOAR EIGHT
MILLION DOLLARS.

Equalization Board Met Tuesday
At Court House and Received
Figures of Towns, Townships
and Cities Assessed.

At the annual meeting of the Atlantic County Board of Equalization of Taxes held Tuesday morning at the Court House, Assessors from the various towns, townships, cities and boroughs surrendered their tax duplicates, fixing the total value of taxable property in the County at \$72,220,667, an increase of \$8,967,750 more than last year.

Atlantic City property includes \$61,404,000 of this amount. Substantial increases were made in all parts of the County, at an average rate

The meeting of the Board was very brief. President John R. Fleming announced that there might be several minor changes made in the assessment of the principal County properties after \$750,000 has been assessed, and the first of October should the Board deem such action necessary, but the amounts will probably not be materially altered.

Following are the more important details of the assessment of the principal County municipalities:

	Total	Number of Acres	Value
Agriculture City—			
Land—	2,177		\$68,900
Building lot	1,063		29,422.65
Realty	2,858		10,442.50
Personal property	2,858		10,442.50
County—			
Land—	2,177		\$68,900
Building lot	1,063		29,422.65
Realty	2,858		10,442.50
Personal property	2,858		10,442.50

lots assessed, \$10,103; public school exemptions, \$254,000; public property exemptions, \$893,500; church and charitable in-lituations exemptions, \$60,550; total exemptions, \$2,063,000; increase (railroad assessment not being accounted for), \$5,300,000; number of houses in Atlantic City, 9,755.

Ventnor City—Building lots assessment, \$2,282,790; last year, \$1,808,535; increase \$494,155; building assessment, \$195,625; last year, \$113,425; increase, \$82,100. Personal property assessment, \$67,828; last year, \$34,558; increase, \$33,270. Total assessment, \$2,667,043; last year, \$2,027,015; Increase, \$640,030.

Margate City—Building lots, \$1,129,570; buildings, \$38,080; personal, \$12,850; total assessment, \$1,180,500; last year, \$1,050,000; increase, \$130,500.

Longport—Lots, \$31,023; buildings, \$431,890; personal, \$66,575; total, \$1,035,450.

Somers' Point—Lots, \$385,557; buildings, \$96,440; personal, \$24,741; total, \$516,361.

Absecon—Lots, \$122,048; buildings, \$154,140; personal, \$37,312; total, \$313,500.

159,715; personal, \$104,400; total, \$84,310.

Township Committee.
Automobilists passing over the new Downs-
own route from Philadelphia to Atlantic City
have been safe-guarded from collision with the
large oak trees growing in the centre of Main
street adjacent to the post-office by the re-
moval of the trees in question, following the
decision of the Township Committee that they

The Township is also relieved from the possibility of a heavy damage suit that might grow out of an accident caused by the trees. The street at this point can now be straightened and properly graded and the appearance of the municipality will be enhanced. As this is

street is often crowded with various kinds of vehicles and a wide avenue is a growing necessity. The action of the Township Committee was brought about after a careful investigation of the question and is to be commended as a step forward in the advancement of municipal government.

Endeavoring To Have Inlet Channel Deepened.

Congressman John J. Gardner is endeavoring to secure an appropriation from the government for the deepening of the channel into the Atlantic City Inlet and there is every indication that his efforts will be crowned with

has been urged for many years and will promote shipping along this part of the coast, besides affording a harbor of refuge for vessels overtaken by storms.

*Hamilton Township Committee meets the first Saturday evening of each month at 7.30 in Library Hall.

Electric Railroad Schedule.

SUNDAYS—Court House Station—North: 8.14, 10.22, 11.22 a. m., 1.14, 2.22, 5.14, 6.22, 7.22, 8.52, 10.22, 11.22 a. m., 1.14, 2.22, 5.14, 6.22, 7.22, 8.52, 10.22, 11.22 a. m.

Post-Office Hours.
The mails close at the post-office as follows:
North—8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m., South—8.00 a.m.,
11.0 and 6.10 p.m.
Mail is collected from the mail box at the

August Tides at Atlantic City Inlet.				
	High		Low	
	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.
Saturday.....		2.20	8.00	8.34
Sunday.....	4.2	1.18	8.54	7.58
Monday.....	1.46	2.20	7.52	8.45
Tuesday.....	2.55	3.20	8.58	9.54

Friday	6.05	6.10	12.00
Saturday	6.55	6.58	42	50
Sunday	7.38	7.42	1.25	1.38
Monday	8.18	8.24	2.06	2.16
Tuesday	8.55	9.00	2.44	2.55
Wednesday	9.30	9.35	3.18	3.30
Thursday	10.10	10.10	3.50	4.04
Friday	10.34	10.38	4.22	4.38
Saturday	11.08	11.12	4.50	5.15
Sunday	11.48	11.50	5.20	5.57
Monday		57	6.00	6.49

Wednesday	1.38	2.32	7.48	9.00
Thursday	2.55	3.25	8.00	10.04
Friday	4.08	4.85	10.07	11.03
Saturday	5.10	5.83	11.12	11.58
Sunday	6.07	6.25		.10
Monday	6.58	7.18	.48	1.03
Tuesday	7.46	8.05	1.36	1.53

For high water at May's Landing add to
 low time two hours and fifteen minutes; low
 for outlet

THE WEATHER.
Forecast for Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey—Fair to-day and warmer, probably showers. Sunday fair.

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 30 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 85 years of age or older is projected to increase from 2 million to 4 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 90 years of age or older is projected to increase from 500,000 to 1 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 95 years of age or older is projected to increase from 100,000 to 200,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 100 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10,000 to 20,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

ATLANTIC COUNTY RECORD.

(MAY'S LANDING RECORD.)

Published Every Saturday Morning at May's Landing, N. J.

Readers of "The Record" may have their paper mailed to any address in the United States without extra charge. Address will be changed as often as desired.

Any subscriber who fails to receive "The Record" regularly can have the omission promptly corrected by entering complaint at the office.

"The Record" will be mailed to any address in the United States postage prepaid, for \$1.25 per year, strictly in advance.

Advertising rates by rate card will be furnished upon application. Address all remittances and other business communications to "The Record," May's Landing, N. J.

E. C. SHAW, Editor and Publisher.

Entered at the May's Landing, N. J., Post-office as Second-class Matter.

MAY'S LANDING, N. J., SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1909.

Speaking editorially of the baseball situation the Saturday Evening Post says: "This furor about baseball has a reverse, not to say a melancholy, side. Time was when the professional player was a city institution. Out in the country the baseball team was as strictly home-made as the silver cornet band. Now the blight of professionalism has pervaded every rural district. Greenfield cannot line up against Knobville for the crucial Fourth of July struggle without the one hiring half the Indianapolis Pinks and the other importing a battery and first baseman from the St. Louis Swatters. Even in the country professionalism has captured the diamond. But one stronghold impregnable remains. Behind the blacksmith shop, in the pure spirit of the amateur, with no selfish thought of a call to some major league or of applause or salary, but with single-hearted devotion to the sport itself, the postmaster and the justice of the peace are still pitching horseshoes. Carefully, with ripe judgment and deliberate aim, they toss the irons in friendly and honorable emulation. Their only umpire is a piece of straw to measure with."

The newspapers of the State will publish the proposed Constitutional amendments during the interim before the date of the special election, September 14, that the reading public may inform itself as to the text of the suggested changes. This, together with the interesting information sent out by the special committee of the State Bar Association and leading jurists and lawyers should be sufficient to enable every voter to decide the question fairly in his own mind. The amendments are non-partisan, which no doubt accounts for much of the lack of interest shown by the public, but they include radical changes in the judiciary system and public offices which should be of interest to every citizen. Every voter, before casting his ballot for or against the proposed amendments, should carefully read their provisions through, and be satisfied in his own mind that they are for the best interest of all the citizens of the State. The consensus of opinion seems to be decidedly in the affirmative.

Atlantic County property has increased more than eight millions of dollars in value since last year, a fact evident from the official figures of the Board of Tax Equalization which were computed last Tuesday and will not be materially changed by slight revisions. The figures emphasize the fact that property is returning and the value of land throughout the County increasing. The average increase for the entire County over last year's assessment is thirteen per cent. Railroad property is assessed this year which accounts for part of the change, but eliminating this factor the other taxable property has increased in value at least ten per cent. The total valuation of taxable property, \$72,829,067, does not represent the real value of County property as the latter is nowhere assessed at its full value. It is, however, an indication of the general resources of the residents and property owners of Atlantic County comparing favorably with other counties far exceeding this in population.

Public sentiment approves the action of the Township Committee in causing the removal of several oak trees on Main Street that had become a menace to travel. It is to be regretted that such action was necessary to safeguard automobilists and drivers of other vehicles but the highway abounds in such a large number of trees that the absence of these few, after a short interval, will not be noticed. The people of May's Landing regard the magnificent old oaks and maples along the avenues of the municipality with justifiable pride and no unwarranted injury thereto would be permitted but in this instance public safety demanded immediate action. Heretofore travel has been light and the trees occasional less danger, though always a menace. Now that travel has become heavier the removal of the oaks was necessary in order to protect drivers and safeguard the Township exchequer against the possibility of a heavy suit for damages.

After more than thirty years of long, faithful and efficient service in public school work Mel R. Morse Tuesday evening tendered his resignation as president and member of the Board of Education of Hamilton Township. His retirement is a distinct loss to the educational interests of the entire Township. Mr. Morse labored long and earnestly to advance the public school system of Hamilton Township and his absence from the councils of the Board of Education will be felt in more ways than one.

Crashes between automobiles, street cars and vehicles in Atlantic City are numerous, indicating lax enforcement of street laws or unusual carelessness on the part of motorists, chauffeurs and drivers. In several instances pedestrians have suffered. The authorities should punish those who are responsible for such accidents by imposing the full penalty of the law to warn others to use more caution. Atlantic City avenues are not so congested with traffic that collisions cannot be avoided.

The education of women along all lines of intellectual labor plays a leading part in modern educational systems. What a contrast to ancient times, when Aristotle, one of the strongest intellectual men of the pagan world, said: "Both a woman and a slave may be good; though perhaps of these the one is less good and the other wholly bad." Bishop Spalding spoke truly when he said: "If we are to have a race of enlightened, noble and brave men, we must give to woman the best education it is possible for her to receive." A nation that neglects to educate its daughters, leaves half its population in ignorance and impairs its greatness. Co-education is becoming successful in America to a greater degree than elsewhere and the foreigner may well exclaim: "What women you Americans have!"

It is the general complaint of the average Jersey farmer that whenever he has a good crop of any particular vegetable or fruit, every other farmer has the same luck. The farmer who gets ahead in these days seems to be the one who can produce a good crop when others fail, through proper fertilization, irrigation and warfare on the horrid insects that so often reap the harvest before it is ready for market. It used to be so that a farmer could plant his seed, fertilize it with barnyard litter, cultivate it and reap his harvest; but now scientific methods play an important part from the very first with the successful tiller of the soil. The "man with the hoe" to be prosperous these times must call to his aid scientific lore, chemical nutriment for his land and insecticides by the score.

The manufacture of denatured alcohol is not so popular among the farmers as those who sought the passage of the law permitting its production and sale anticipated. Just why the farmers do not take to the idea is not apparent; but it is a fact that several inspectors appointed to superintend its manufacture in the agricultural districts have been discharged from further duty by the government. Denatured alcohol can be made from unused vegetables and other waste farm product at a low cost, low enough to make it a cheap fuel, light and motive power. Perhaps the farmers have not awakened to the opportunity or it may be that the theory does not work out well in practice. However, the industry does not seem to prosper.

Every day we read accounts of accidental drownings, where a knowledge of the useful art of keeping one's self afloat in water would have saved life. No parent should allow his children, male or female, to grow up unable to swim if opportunity is at hand to learn, for there are times in almost everyone's life when ability to swim means safety to self and others. It is not only a useful knowledge but a delightful and recreative art as well, one with which all should be familiar.

May's Landing will be two hundred years of age in June, 1910, and the majority of the people of the municipality have decreed that the most important feature in celebration of this most auspicious event is to be a \$12,000 expenditure for a frame addition to a frame public school building that was erected one year after the war. "Ye gods!"

STATE PRESS COMMENT.

On September 14th a special election on the constitution amendment will be held. Apparently but little interest is being taken in the important subject of reorganizing the courts, changing the makeup of the Board of Pardons, abolishing the compensation of members of the Legislature, separating the judicial from the executive functions, and providing for the election of Assemblymen by districts instead of by counties. Undoubtedly the terms of the Governor, Senators, Assemblymen and several county officers may be lengthened by a year.

All of these propositions have been endorsed by the last two legislatures, some of them have been approved. The industry amendment has the support of the leading members of the New Jersey bar, including most of the judges of the courts—some of whom may be displaced if the amendment is adopted. It is in the interest of simplicity, economy and efficiency.

Scarcely appears, there is but little opposition being openly made, and a large majority of the public mind is in favor of it, due to the fact that the amendment is all one way, and because of the indisposition of the voters to consider the subject during the vacation season, but it is important that there shall be a large vote in order that the will of the people may be expressed."—*London Evening Times*.

"The House of Good Fortune has a thousand doors and one hundred and fifty windows of them are open. The one entrance door is a ways locked, and the bell is out of order. The folks inside are to be seen peering out from the door. They are not receiving company and are not hospitable to strangers.

"To obtain admission, after you have knocked at the door, you must have a letter key that will fit the lock. The letter key may be had, if you know how and where to look. The old locksmith 'Dick Robinson,' having a key in some one's hand and then, and the country time expected windfall, throws a key into the crowd occasionally.

"However, on Enterprise street, near the corner of Newmarket road, a locksmith has a shop under the sign of Business Hustle. This locksmith 'bakes' keys for the House of Good Fortune. They are not cheap, but any one who has a key made by him will find it useful. The order has to be placed sometime in advance of the delivery of the key, and it's a first come, first served. The locksmith's name is 'Pamphlet'."—*London Evening News*.

"The condition which a number of philanthropic women seek to cure by providing a home for abandoned dogs and cats in Atlantic City is not a joking matter by any means.

"There is just as much cruelty in turning out a house hold pet to starve, because 'he' or 'she' are unable to do the work of a dog and cat, as there is in taking away with them the 'Q' or 'R' dog they brought home for the Summer vacation, as in overfeeding or beating an overworked horse.

"The real offenders are the thoughtless persons who desert their pets. There is a species of humanity that should be penalized if any practical way can be found to reach them. There is none now and the lot of the poor, starving animals is indeed unfortunate.

"If a band of charitable women are willing to provide a home for the derelicts they should be substantially encouraged and not laughed at for their pains."—*Atlantic City Evening Times*.

"A spectacle well calculated to quicken in the breast of every spectator the spirit of home pride was presented on Saturday last by the gallant Third Regiment, N. G. S. J., marching from its army to the railroad terminal en route to the State camp at Sea Girt.

"The admiring crowds, with which the regiment was greeted on its march through the city, streets were duplicated as with waving arms and true military bearing it strode into the camp at Sea Girt, the spectators, military and civilian alike, spontaneously recognizing the exceptional soldierly ensemble that distinguishes the command.

"Civic pride in a community is a quality not only laudable but advantageous. Camden citizens have many substantial grounds to warrant the maintenance of such a spirit, and by no means the least of these is the fact that their city is the home port of the Third Regiment, National Guard of New Jersey."—*Camden Post-Telegram*.

"Fishing has been unusually good, Schuylersburg. The menhaden steamers have not been operating close to the coast and this is an explanation given by seamen as to the reason for the better fishing. The same report comes from all along the coast. The demonstration that fishing is better when menhaden steamers are not in use close to shore, should convince the skeptical ones that the boats used by the steamers had the effect as claimed by anglers, that the fish were scared away. The State should pass a law to prohibit the steamers from coming close to shore again, as the resort industry is of more value to the State than menhaden fishing, and while menhaden fishing may represent thousands, the resort represent millions."—*Atlantic City Review*.

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Surplus, \$20,000

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LEGAL REFORM IN NEW JERSEY.

Not Political, but For the Welfare of All.

HOW STATE WILL PROFIT.

Judge Charles C. Black of the Circuit Court makes it clear that the Commonwealth will be a distinct gainer by the change—a greater amount of business can be transacted without increase of judges.

Judge Charles C. Black of the circuit court, who was the Democratic candidate for governor of the state in 1904, has made the following clear and forcible statement of the advantages to the people which will be brought about by the adoption of the pending court amendments:

I have been asked to give a concise statement of the proposed constitutional amendments affecting the judicial system of the state, to be voted upon by the people on Sept. 14 next. As these proposed amendments are not a political issue, such a statement can be made for publication without violating that unwritten and good old time honored principle observed in New Jersey, that judges should refrain from participating in the turmoil of political discussion.

What the Judicial Amendments Propose. They propose that "the judicial power shall be vested in a court for the trial of impeachments, a supreme court, county courts, and such other courts inferior to the supreme court as may be established by law, which inferior courts the legislature may alter or abolish as the public good shall require."

The supreme court shall be organized in three divisions—namely, the appeals division, presided over by a presiding justice, styled a "chief justice," and the chancery division, presided over by a presiding justice, who shall be styled the "chancellor."

The appeals division shall consist of the chief justice and six other justices to be assigned by the governor. The remaining justices shall be assigned by the supreme court to the law or chancery division, as the business of the court may require.

The appellate division shall have and exercise the appellate jurisdiction and such original jurisdiction as may be incident to the complete determination of any cause on review.

The law division shall exercise the jurisdiction heretofore possessed by the supreme court and the circuit courts in accordance with rules of practice and procedure prescribed by statute in the absence of statute by the supreme court.

The chancery division shall exercise the jurisdiction heretofore possessed by the court of chancery and the chancellor in accordance with rules of practice and procedure prescribed by statute or in the absence of statute by the supreme court, but the justices of this division shall be under such control and supervision by the chancellor as shall be provided by the supreme court.

The supreme court may provide by rule for the transfer of any cause or issues from the law division to the chancery division, or from the chancery division to the law division of the supreme court, or from the county courts to the law division or the chancery division of the supreme court, and for the giving of complete legal and equitable relief in any cause in the court or division where it may be pending.

The chancellor and the chief justice of the supreme court and the vice chancellors and the associate justices of the supreme court in office when these amendments take effect shall be justices of the supreme court until the expiration of their respective terms.

To those familiar with the judicial system of the state it is clear that if these amendments are adopted by the people they will abolish a long list of existing courts—viz., court of errors and appeals, the supreme court, the prerogative court, the court of chancery, the circuit court, the common pleas court, the court of oyer and terminer and the quarter sessions—and substitute in their places a supreme court composed of three divisions, with appellate, common law and chancery jurisdiction, the same as now exists in the several courts abolished, and county courts.

A common law suit for a debt to be tried by a jury, then now may be brought either in the supreme court, tried at the county seat, with a jury or in the county court. The procedure shall be in accordance with the rules of practice and procedure prescribed by statute as now or, in the absence of statute, by the supreme court—a most important provision for the prompt and effective disposition of litigation because the court itself is the best qualified expert body to regulate the more formal procedure of a lawsuit, developed by actual experience as observed in the trial of cases. This is modeled after the present English system.

What Will the State Gain? First.—The reasonable certainty as to jurisdiction by the court of the proposed litigation, which now is confused and uncertain in a considerable class of litigated cases, sometimes requiring a protracted litigation to ascertain whether the litigant is in the right court before the real controversy over the subject matter of a lawsuit is actually commenced.

Second.—A greater elasticity and flexibility in the formal procedure. The unwary and inexperienced cannot be so easily checked. The court itself will have the power to prescribe the practice and procedure in the absence of statute.

Third.—Greater simplicity.

Fourth.—Preventing unnecessary de-

lays on appeal. One appeal only from the trial court; now there may be two in a large class of cases in which the litigants of moderate means predominate, one by writ of error of the supreme court and then a second appeal by writ of error to the court of errors and appeals. So two appeals may be had in some cases from the orphan's court.

Fifth.—A greater volume of business can be transacted by the same number of judges than is now possible. This will be true especially in the appellate court, and in those parts of the state where the trial work is congested the judges can be readily adjusted to business.

Sixth.—The sweeping away of many of the meaningless cobwebs which hang over the courts and the unnecessary formalities.

Seventh.—By those who have made the calculation it is said that it will be a saving to the state of \$35,000 per year for judges' salaries.

Eighth.—The proposed amendments will give unity and balance to the judicial system of the state, which now is top heavy, and the duty to see that the judicial work of the state is properly carried forward will be lodged in one court, and that court will have the power to have it done, and it cannot evade responsibility.

Ninth.—They have untouched the method and procedure of administering equity and common law separate and by different judges, according to the long established practice in New Jersey; also the orphan's court and the criminal courts except in name, presided over by the same judges as now, the county judge, and they leave untouched our present excellent system of district courts, giving the legislative power, as now, to establish or abolish inferior courts.

All this is but saying that the proposed judicial amendments are in the line of progress, though conservative, for a progressive, growing state for the purpose of expediting justice. The northern part of the state is gaining in population, which will bring increased litigation. The proposed amendments represent the conservative and best digested thought of the state after ten years of discussion and agitation, having received the sanction of two conservative legislatures, and they have the unqualified support of such men as Mr. Charles B. Harshbarger, who has written a book on the courts of New Jersey and whose unselfish devotion to the public good is unquestioned.

Opposition, if Any. None that has been openly stated. Undoubtedly preference will always exist for a different system from the one proposed, owing partially to a thorough and accurate knowledge of the subject and partially to that feeling that what has been good enough in the past should not be changed, but the real opposition, if any, should and will come from those litigants, aggrieved by wealth, who find in the present system of courts a ready and powerful weapon in the hands of trained and skillful lawyers to tire their less fortunate adversary by appeals, delays, uncertainty and confusion until the deserving litigant may be ready to take what is offered in settlement without much regard for the justice of his demands.

This class of opposition, if any, will not assert itself in the open, but will use the inertia and indifference of the people, aided by individual opponents and doubtless under cover of some organizations, to accomplish the defeat of the amendments.

If there is one thing more important than another for the state to provide it is that the means of obtaining justice should be prompt and expeditious, with no unnecessary delays and uncertainties. It is believed by those who have given the subject the best thought that the adoption of the proposed judicial amendments will greatly aid in this object and tend to keep New Jersey up to her ideal standards of Jersey justice.

No Picnic. A Junction City man told of a remark made by a woman at whose home a number of people took supper one night during a political campaign in Sumner county. This particular woman, though young in years, was the mother of seven children. Naturally the children were reasonably close to one size. When the "campaigners" went into the woman's house one of them noticed the bunch of children and said to the woman in a friendly way, "These all yours, or is this a picnic?" "They are all mine," she replied wearily, "and it's no picnic."—Kansas City Journal.

Tipped. "Doesn't this boat tip a great deal?" asked a timid young woman of the steward. "The vessel, ma'am," said the steward, "is trying to set a good example to the passengers."

An Attraction. Mrs. Gillet—So there is a tablet in your transcript to her memory. Did she do anything to bring people into the church? Mrs. Perry—Well, she wore a new hat every Sunday for three years.

How She Did It. "So she refused you?" "That's the impression I received." "Didn't she actually say no?" "No, she didn't. All she said was 'Tia, ha, ha!'"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Sleepy Sermons. "Some men preach," said Sydney Smith, "as if they thought sin is to be taken out of a man as Eve was taken out of Adam, by casting him into a profound slumber."

Capacity Limited. To a swell cafe I had her, and on terrapin I fed her, yet methought I noted sadness in her eye. Then as we departed and for a street car started, she let out a large and soulful sigh. When I asked her trouble, her answer knocked me double. "I got so full of turtle that I had no room for pie!"—Chicago News.

Wade not in unknown waters.—German Proverb.

EXPLAINED BY THE GOVERNOR.

Meaning of the Proposed Constitutional Amendment.

COURT OF PARDONS CHANGE.

The Governor and Four Citizens to Handle Cases—Seven Judges For Court of Errors and Appeals in Place of Sixteen—Less Expense to the State and More Benefit Under the New Court Plan.

In an address delivered before the New Jersey Bar association in Atlantic City Governor John Franklin Fort discussed the pending amendments to the state constitution. He said:

There are five separate proposed amendments to the state constitution to be submitted to the people for their approval at a special election to be held on the 14th day of September next.

The First Amendment.

The first amendment simply abolishes that provision of the state constitution which now permits the closure of mortgages in the circuit court and common pleas. This has practically always been a dead letter. It has been the rarest of exceptions when any foreclosure has occurred in the circuit court and seldom, if ever, in the common pleas. If the court amendments be adopted to which I shall refer hereafter—the circuit and common pleas court will both be abolished. This amendment is of little concern, but the present provision of the constitution is of little concern also this amendment can furnish no just ground for opposition and should be adopted.

The Second Amendment. This makes the court of pardons, for the parole and pardon of persons convicted of crime, to consist of the governor and four citizens, to be appointed to the court by the governor, to hold their office for five years.

The present court of pardons is composed of eight—namely, the governor, chancellor and the six special judges of the court of appeals. If the court amendment, to which I shall refer hereafter, be adopted, the six special judges will be legislated out and there will be no court of pardons until this second amendment prevails. This is a good amendment, whether the court amendment be adopted or not.

The four citizens can give practically their whole time to the work. The cases asking for pardon are about 500 a year, and they need most careful examination.

I can see no reason why the second amendment should fall on any ground.

The Third Amendment.

This amendment relates solely to the courts of the state. There have been no changes in the organization of the courts of our state since the constitution of 1844. We have had good courts, and while our state was small and litigation not very large they were admirably adapted for the administration of civil and criminal justice, but conditions have now changed, and the present necessity for the practically continuous sitting of our highest court is apparent to all who are familiar with existing conditions. This need for the past five years has resulted in the removal of the justices of the supreme court from sitting in the counties in the trial of causes. This, in my view, is greatly to be regretted.

The influence of the supreme court justice upon local judicial conditions was always wholesome and of the greatest value. Any system which removes or curtails the usefulness of the supreme court justice is a mistake. Our present court of errors and appeals is a cumbersome body. It is composed of sixteen judges, which is nine more judges than that constituting the court of appeals of New York. It is eleven more than almost any of the other states and thirteen more than some. It exceeds by seven the supreme court of the United States. The mere statement of these facts is enough to demonstrate the need of a change. It is not only unnecessarily large, but because of its size it is excessively expensive. And, besides this, the large number of judges lengthens the conferences of the court and thereby makes greater delays in deciding cases.

The pending amendments make the appellate division of the supreme court—which becomes the court of last resort—consist of seven judges, the same as the state of New York, and charges those judges with the appellate work and no other. Under this system we shall have more frequent terms of the appeals court and a more expeditious determination of causes. Delays in the final determination of cases often amount to almost a denial of justice to the litigant.

Under our present system a person or corporation against whom a decision or verdict has been given in the trial court at law can sue out a writ of error and harass the successful party by two appeals on review, delaying a payment of a just claim for two years and causing much annoyance and expense. The pending amendments, if adopted, will cure all this.

The supreme court is preserved as it is with all its powers except those relating to writs of error, and the justices of this court will sit constantly in the courts of the county, dispensing justice between litigants. All inferior county courts, of which we now have so many, will be consolidated into a single court, called the "county court," with all civil and criminal jurisdiction, thus simplifying the county court system and procedure.

The scheme of court reorganization as proposed by the pending amendments represents the best thought of the leaders of the bar of the state and of the judges themselves, as well as of the thoughtful business men of

the state who have reflected upon them.

Commission Is Praised.

The commissioners who drafted the proposed reorganization amendments were former Justice of the Supreme Court Benet Van Syckle, than whom no judge ever had greater experience or was recognized as a man who was more loyal to the interests of the people. With him were former Governors Griggs and Murphy and Charles L. Corbin and John B. Heald, two distinguished lawyers. They canvassed the whole matter with great care to secure public sentiment both within and without the legal profession and tried to formulate a system that would be simple and meet with popular approval.

The present court of chancery is not changed except in name. The chancellor still remains, as do the vice chancellors, their title only changing. They are heretofore justices of the supreme court, assigned to the equity division, and I cannot see why they should not, under a rule of the court, while sitting in the equity division be styled vice chancellors to perpetuate exactly as it is our present chancery system.

Our chancery court and practice is good, and it is gratifying that it is not changed in effect or procedure in any way by the proposed amendments. I feel that if the people understood the advantages of these amendments as I do there would not be a vote against them.

I may be pardoned, after several years of membership in the county court, supreme court and court of appeals, if I express my personal adherence to these court amendments and urge them upon the favorable consideration of the people of the state. In addition to all I have here said, the item of expense to the state by adopting the court amendments will be reduced over \$35,000 in judicial salaries alone.

Opportunity.

In one of the old Greek cities there stood long ago a statue. Every trace of it has vanished now, but there is still in existence an epigram which gives us an excellent description of it, and as we read the words we can surely discover the lesson which those wise old Greeks meant that the statue should teach to every passerby. The epigram is in the form of a conversation between a traveler and the statue:

"What is thy name, O statue?"
"I am called Opportunity."
"Why made thee?"
"Lysippos."
"Why art thou on thy toes?"
"To show that I stay but a moment."
"Why hast thou wings on thy feet?"
"To show how quickly I pass by."
"But why is thy hair so long on thy forehead?"
"That men may seize me when they meet me."
"Why, then, is thy head so bald behind?"
"To show that when I have once passed I cannot be caught."

Dropping the Curtain. "No, Mr. Slown," said the fair possessor of the square chin, "I must respectfully decline to become your other half."

"But why?" asked the astonished young man, who had believed that he was the favored one.

"Because," replied the female extender of the frosty digit, "the man I marry must be brave and fearless. Tonight you let out the information that you have loved me for five long, weary years, but have not dared mention it until the present meeting. A man who has no more nerve than that would hide under the bed while his wife went downstairs to interview a burglar who was making a raid on the family larder. Therefore, Mr. Slown, I will work the piano for a little slow music while the curtain drops on the farewell scene. You will find your hat on the usual peg of the hall rack. Good evening!"—London Mail.

Speculative Life Insurance.

A mania for speculative insurances on the lives of public personages prevailed in England during the eighteenth century. Warren Hastings, the pretender, the rebel lords or the unfortunate Admiral Byng answered equally the purpose of speculation, and there were also regular quotations on the lives of notorious highwaymen. Sir Robert Walpole at one period of his career, when his life was endangered by popular tumults, was insured for many thousands, and when George II. fought at Dettingen 25 per cent was paid against his return. Such speculative insurances were, however, largely checked by the gambling act of 1774, which made insurable interest a necessary condition for a valid policy.—Argonaut.

No Business Good Business.

"Yes," said the quiet man, "business has been good with me this week—or bad—I don't know which you would call it. I have been busier than the company likes to have me."

"What do you mean by that? Is there an employer who does not like to have his employees work? Could I get a job there? It seems to me that such a position would suit my temperament exactly."

"The company doesn't care to have anything doing in my department. It would be glad to pay me my salary and never have me do a stroke of work."

"What an ideal job! What kind of a place is it?"
"I am an adjuster of death claims for a life insurance company."—New York Press.

Going Out. Mr. B.—There, I've let my cigar go out. Do you know that it spoils a cigar, no matter how good it is, if you allow it to go out? Mrs. B.—Yes, I know it's a good deal like a man in that respect.

An Unreported Wound. "Mr. Wapleson," said Mrs. Oldcastle, "has a heart of gold." "Dear me," replied her hostess, "that's so. I knew he'd got hurt in the army so he had to have a silver plate in his jaw, but I'd never heard about the other."—Chicago Record-Herald.

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