

REDETERMINE RATE

Supreme Court Asks to Mandamus State Tax Commission.

RELATIVE TO RAILROAD TAX

Michigan's Attorney-General Petitions Supreme Court to Mandamus State Tax Commission to Re-determine the Average Rate of Railroad Taxation.

LANSING, Mich., Jan. 19.—Attorney-General Jord yesterday petitioned the supreme court to mandamus the state tax commission to re-determine the average rate of taxation as applied to railroad property in Michigan. The attorney-general contends that the rate of \$14.61 applied to the property of railroad, express and car loaning companies will produce \$583,897.76 less revenue than would be raised under the rate of \$17.49 which is applied to other property in the State. The tax commissioner acting under the recently enacted Galbraith law, revised assessments through the State adding something like over \$300,000,000 to the assessed valuation of general property and about \$10,000,000 to that of railroad property before determining the separate tax rate for the railroads. It is expected that the mandamus proceedings will bring before the court the question of railroad property taxation.

DIRECTORS MEET.

BOSTON, Jan. 19.—At a meeting of the directors yesterday of the Franklin Fund, which has been accumulating for one hundred years and which now amounts to almost half a million dollars and belongs to the city. Mayor John F. Fitzgerald announced that he decided to emulate Benjamin Franklin by donating \$1000 to form a fund that is to accumulate interest for 100 years and then be used for the city in the discretion of a board of managers.

COUGHS AND COUGHING.

Nature's Method of Clearing the Air Passages—Useless Coughs.

A cough was intended by nature as a means of removing some offending substance from the air passages, and as such it is of the greatest protection. If the irritation of the mucous membrane of the larynx and bronchial tubes, caused by the presence of some strange body or of the usual mucous secretion in too great quantity, did not excite the expulsive act which we call coughing we should be in constant danger of suffocation every time we had a slight attack of bronchitis or a cold in the chest.

If a cough were occasioned only in this way it would be a most useful measure, and there would be no more need for cough mixtures than for remedies to arrest breathing, but the human machine sometimes gets out of order, like any other mechanism. The wires get crossed, and a message sent from some distant organ, like the liver, for example, may get switched over to the nerve center which regulates the complex series of movements producing cough. This center, receiving a stimulus from somewhere, responds just as if the message came from the larynx, and a cough is established. This "liver cough" does no good, and the sooner it is stopped the better.

Again, the mucous membrane of some portion of the air tubes, instead of secreting too freely, may become dry. The nerve center is warned mechanically that there is something irritating the larynx or bronchial tubes, and it starts a cough to get rid of it. This cough, too, is useless, and worse than useless, for it serves only to irritate still more the inflamed mucous membrane.

Cough may also be excited by abnormal conditions in the nose, ears or gullet or may occur as a symptom of disease of the heart, kidneys or nervous system. In such cases it is the endeavor of the physician to arrest the cough by discovery and removal of the cause, if possible, or, if this cannot be done, by the administration of cough remedies.

In cough due to dryness of the mucous membrane of the air tubes the remedies employed are those that will promote a flow of mucus to moisten the offending part. This can sometimes be accomplished without medicine, by the inhalation of the vapor rising from a pitcher of hot water to which a teaspoonful of benzoin has been added. Until the cause of a cough is known the use of powerful cough medicines, most of which contain paregoric or opium in some form, is most inadvisable.—Youth's Companion.

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