

ban day" were successful events. The bureau has contracted for two talks by Frank Jewel Raymond, business expert, to be held in September.

The public welfare committee has worked out and instituted a plan of investigating solicitations, through which all the members of the Chamber will be protected from fraudulent and petty solicitations.

An armory building was felt to be needed in Hazleton, and the Chamber of Commerce aroused sufficient public sentiment in favor of such a project to secure from the State Armory Board an appropriation for the erection of such a building.

The Fourth of July celebration was undertaken by the Chamber, which raised the funds and provided for a day and evening of athletic events, band concerts, fireworks and a generally good time.

HARRY H. FREEMAN,  
Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

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### Movement for Taxation Exemption

JOHNSTOWN, PA.—With the Johnstown Chamber of Commerce leading the movement, the commercial organizations in the third-class cities of Pennsylvania are preparing for another assault upon the State Legislature in an effort to secure laws for the exemption of machinery and the gradual exemption of improvements from taxation. A hard but losing fight was made in the last legislature by the Taxation and Home Rule Committee of the Johnstown organization. The defeat was due to certain interests in the larger cities which desired a repeal of similar laws enjoyed by Pittsburgh and Scranton, the two second-class cities in the state. Had the Johnstown measures for tax exemption gone through, the "repealer" would probably have lost out; therefore a concentrated attack was made upon the third-class city bills. The soundness of the stand of the Johnstown Chamber of Commerce was demonstrated when Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh vetoed the Pittsburgh "repealer" on the ground that the present law was right in principle.

At a meeting of the League of Third-Class Cities, held in Reading last fall, Johnstown and the other commercial organizations of the state had representatives there, getting the municipal officers' organi-

zation lined up on their side of the battle. When the next legislature convenes, the third-class cities will have their lines drawn even tighter than before.

The following third-class cities were active in their support of the measures: Allentown, Altoona, Chester, Easton, Erie, Harrisburg, Hazleton, Johnstown, Meadville, Oil City, Reading, Titusville, Williamsport and York.

The machinery exemption calls for a complete absence of tax for that class of property. The plan for the graduated exemption of improvements is based on a five per cent reduction each year for ten years, so that at the end of that period all improvements will be taxed at only fifty per cent of their real value. The taxes on land will remain at par as at present.

In a booklet recently issued by the Chamber, entitled "Making Johnstown a Live City," the statement of the Taxation Committee is as follows:

Every citizen has visions of better streets, brighter lights, more efficient public safety and a school educational system upon a broader plane. These advantages all spring from the adoption of an equitable taxation system where one man does not shoulder part of another's portion of expense. When a taxpayer knows that he is paying only his just share for municipal management and public improvement, he cheerfully settles the bill. Study of and campaigns for some of the fundamentals of such an equitable system is the work into which this committee has plunged.

P. H. MAHAFFEY, Chairman.

*To encourage enterprise by untaxing progress is the "Johnstown Plan."*

J. KENNARD JOHNSON,  
Assistant Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

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### Four Referenda

PATERSON, N. J.—The Chamber of Commerce of Paterson has been testing out the referendum idea the past year as a method of learning and recording the sentiment of the members on questions of policy. Referenda were sent out on the following four questions: the establishment of a credit bureau; the establishment of a traffic bureau; merchant marine; legislative matters.

A satisfactory response was received on the first two questions, since each held a single thought, and after reading the subject matter concerning the establishment of the bureaus, each member could record his yea or nay vote without much doubt.