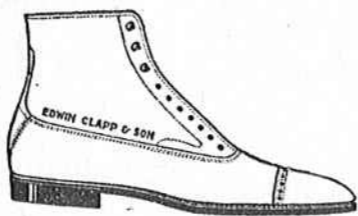




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DOG LICENSE LAW

CAUSES CONFUSION

Statewide Statute Effective Next Year.

Delinquent Tax Penalty Not Applicable—Violations Punishable by Fines.

The new statewide dog license act is an instrument of confusion and misinterpretation stands second only to the pension act, both passed by the recent general assembly.

The dog tax law, levying \$1.25 on each dog, becomes effective January 1, 1921. Acting under the presumption that this was now in force county treasurers are reported to be already procuring a supply of 1920 license tags. Information to this effect has been received at the office of Comptroller General Osborne.

Another angle of interest is that municipalities are seemingly not prohibited from laying an additional license under this act. The language of the statute is: "The (statewide) tax shall be exclusive of all other license, either municipal or otherwise."

Mr. Osborne's opinion is that the correct interpretation would be that "exclusive of" implied "in addition to" municipal or other taxes. He will ask the attorney general for a ruling on this issue. Acting under the impression that the new act prohibited the collection of municipal dog license taxes, G. Flavie Cooper city treasurer of Columbia was not expecting to collect these this year. However, if such were prohibited, the city dog taxes would be available this year, as the statute does not go into effect until January 1, 1921.

A still further argument has been raised. Failure to pay the tax is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$20. The comptroller general thinks that the dog tax would necessarily have to be paid between October 15 and December 31, 1921; otherwise the owner of the dog would be guilty of a misdemeanor instead of being liable to the usual delinquent tax penalties. The law says the dog tax shall be paid "as other taxes are paid," but makes failure to pay a misdemeanor.

The new law reads as follows:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of the state of South Carolina, That from and after the

passage of this act there shall be levied on all dogs, six months old or older, in the state of South Carolina an annual tax of \$1.25 per head.

Sec. 2. That upon the payment of said annual tax of \$1.25 by the owner of any dog in the state, the county treasurer shall issue to the said owner a receipt therefor and a metal tag marked "Dog tax" and the year for which it is issued. Each county treasurer shall keep a numerical record of every dog taxed and in addition thereto furnish to the owner of each dog such number stamped on the metal tag. Which tax shall be levied and paid to the county treasurer, as other taxes are paid; Provided, further, That this tax shall be exclusive of all other license taxes, either municipal or otherwise; Provided, That all such taxes collected hereunder shall be credited to the schools of the school district from which it is collected, to be used in support of the schools of the district; Provided, further, That said tax shall become due and payable at the same time state and county taxes become due and payable.

Sec. 3. That every owner of a dog shall be required to collar and place the aforesaid dog tax upon the said collar. Except when such dog shall be used for the purpose of hunting when such dog shall be upon a chase or hunt.

Sec. 4. Any person owning, harboring or maintaining a dog, failing or refusing to return and pay the tax aforesaid, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$5 nor more than \$20, one-half of which shall go to the person reporting said failure to pay said tax, and one-half to the public school fund in which such default occurs.

Sec. 5. That each county treasurer shall be allowed to retain 25 cents of the said tax to reimburse him for furnishing said tags and keeping the records as are required under the provisions of this act.

Sec. 6. This act shall go into effect on January 1, 1921.

NEXT BATTLE

FOUGHT IN AIR

New York, Mar. 26.—The first battle of the next war will be fought in the air, Brig. Gen. William Mitchell, chief of the division of training and operations, army air service declared in a statement here today in which he visualized a decisive aerial conflict. The battle, he added, would also be

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the last one of the war, because the losing nation would be helpless and unable to continue hostilities after its air fleet had been conquered.

The air service chief predicted that aviation will "completely drive" huge battle cruisers, battleships and other surface ships off the water in the next conflict. "A great air force can render surface craft incapable of operating and stop debarkation from ships and attacks and shore establishments," he said.

Brigadier General Mitchell in his visualization of the great air struggle of the future described vividly the part he believes giant gun bearing battle planes, bombers, rigid dirigibles, balloons and armored aircraft of various design will play in the next war.

With the beginning of war he pictures a huge fleet of dirigible balloons soaring high above the ocean and from nests on the tops of these, tiny air-planes are launched, locate the enemy fleet and return with the information. The chief air officer, working in contact with the army and navy, sends his air force against the enemy.

The American fighting planes drive from the sky the enemy pursuit and combat planes launched from the decks of enemy battle ships.

"Then comes the main attack by our air forces against the enemy fleet," says General Mitchell. "The battle-planes are in squadrons of two and four of these constitute an attack group. Circling over the enemy fleet they maintain a heavy fire, destroying personnel and anti-aircraft equipment.

"With the gun bearing planes or immediately behind them are the bombers, huge air freighters carrying projectiles weighing up to one ton and depth bombs for effect against submarines. Water torpedoes controlled by wireless from the planes crash into the sides of the hostile vessels, sinking the smaller ones and damaging the larger.

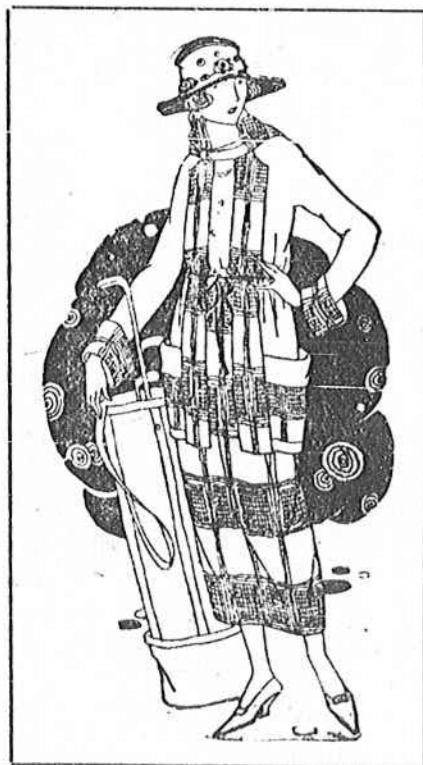
"Darkness comes and when visibility from the ships has become poor, huge rigid dirigible balloons carrying bombs of enormous weight join the attack, their projectiles crashing through the heaviest armor of the enemy ships.

"As the navy comes up to complete the work done by the aerial forces the battle is over. The enemy, driven from the air and with most of its ships either sunk or out of action, surrenders. The battle has been the first and is also the last of the war. The enemy can not land his forces.

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