

People Must Get What Democratic Legislators Ask.

(Continued from page 2.)

\$425,000 state constabulary. One-eighth of our revenues that we are getting from the corporations. If we keep on awhile longer it will take the entire revenues of the state to maintain the National Guard.

"Charity Department" Blocked.

Mr. Creasy himself was surprised by his success in knocking dead the bill, which the machine failed to make a law.

"creating the department of state charitable institutions, providing for the appointment of a commissioner, who shall be the head thereof, defining his duties, fixing his compensation, designating the number and salaries of his assistants and making an appropriation therefor."

Mr. Creasy said of the measure when it was before the house:

"Just a few days ago I talked with one of the leading members on the other side of the house, who said he thought it was about time to stop this increasing salary business and this creating of new departments. Here we are creating a department that will cost at least between \$36,000 and \$40,000 a year. I don't think we ought to create a new department, with unlimited power to a few men, and I am satisfied the work this commission is to do will be no more than what is being done in the state today, and I cannot see, if we want to do something, why we cannot do it by a cheaper method than this."

How They Fought the "Rippers."

Mr. Creasy, Mr. Harman and other Democratic representatives spoke vigorously against the Philadelphia "ripper" bills. Seeing that they could not defeat them, they strove to amend them so as to have the directors elected by the people instead of by the machine controlled city councils, as the bills provided. But all in vain. That struggle alone sufficed to show the necessity for an arousing of the people of the state so as to elect a trustworthy majority to the next legislature.

Representative Flynn said during the discussion on one of those "ripper" bills:

"Every member of this house who votes 'aye' on the final passage of this bill lends himself indirectly to all the evils which have been charged against the Philadelphia machine."

Kind of Men to Check Corporations.

Mr. Creasy, in a clash with Thomas W. Cooper over the bill

"to authorize foreign corporations lawfully engaged in the manufacture or production of articles of trade or commerce in Pennsylvania to own land in this commonwealth."

Further showed what a sharp eye was kept upon corporate encroachments by Columbia county's representative, now the fusion nominee for auditor general. Mr. Creasy said:

"I would like to call the attention of the gentleman from Delaware to one of the veto messages of the governor at the last session where something similar was in, in which he says: 'This bill proposes to give to certain corporations incorporated in other states substantially the same powers which they would have had if they had been incorporated in this state. They may erect buildings and maintain buildings, et cetera, and then he says: 'Ever since the passage of the act of 1874 it has been the custom among some of the residents of this state to evade the provisions of the act by securing incorporation in other states where the requirements are less strict and where it may not be necessary to pay any proportion of the capital into the treasury in cash.'"

"The corporation laws of Pennsylvania, I believe, are in advance of the corporation laws of many other states, and if these corporations want to do business in Pennsylvania we have a department here where they can get their charters by paying for them, but the object of these corporations in getting charters outside of the state is in order that they may evade some of the restrictions which the state of Pennsylvania places on them, and for this reason and the reason given by the governor of the state in his veto message, I believe this bill should be voted down."

"We want these corporations to come to this state and get their charters. Under our law they will pay one-third of their capitalization. Under this measure they can go to another state and get a charter, perhaps for \$40 or \$50, and come here, and if they buy land they pay no taxes on it, but will enjoy the same privileges that our corporations do when they pay one-third of one percent of their capitalization."

Men of the type of the Democrats

who thus strove to check the law-defying corporation magnates are such as will be wanted in the legislature upon which the people will rely for enactment of just and comprehensive corporation laws.

Grim and Dewalt Appeal.

In the senate, during the last regular session in the winter and spring of 1905, there were many notable efforts by the Democratic members to bring about action upon reform measures or to draw public attention to "evils worthy of buckens." Senator Webster Grim, of Bucks county, after offering a resolution to force a report from the committee which had charge of his senatorial apportionment bill, said:

"I desire to reiterate what I said the other day in offering this resolution, that it don't mean any discourtesy to the committee in presenting it. This bill has been before the committee for several weeks, and there has been no action taken upon it, and if it is to

be passed during this session favorable action should be taken upon it today, because, as I understand, this is the last day.

"For some reason this bill, together with the bills for personal registration, civil service reform and the bill with reference to our election laws, is still slumbering in this committee. These are all important matters and I think the senate should act upon them, either by this committee reporting them, or in the discharge of the committee and returning the bill to the senate. As the constitution requires that the state be divided into senatorial districts every 10 years, I think that we are derelict in our duty if we do not make some effort to pass some fair apportionment."

Mr. Grim was sustained by Senator Arthur G. Dewalt, of Lehigh, who said:

"There is no more important subject with which the senate and house has to deal than the control and supervision of the action of the different committees serving in either house or senate. I call your attention to the fact that the governor in his last message to the general assembly told us that the constitution directs that immediately after each decennial United States census the general assembly shall apportion the state into senatorial and representative districts. Not only is the mandate of the constitution disobeyed, but the existing condition of affairs is unjust and works great injury to a portion of the citizens of our commonwealth. They are entitled to this apportionment and it should be given them."

The governor says in his message that 'not only is the mandate of the constitution disobeyed, but the existing condition of affairs is unjust to Allegheny and other counties who have not the representation to which they are entitled. With the passing of each decade and the shifting of population the unfairness of the present apportionment is increased.'"

"No wonder the people of this state have cried out in stentorian tones for the last 20 years that they demanded a senatorial apportionment bill. No wonder the governor has said I not only request it but I desire you to enforce it when speaking of the constitution and its various provisions. The cry has gone out not only through Allegheny county, not only through Lackawanna county, but it has come from every quarter of the state, except, perhaps, from Philadelphia, and I say at this time that we pursue the recommendation proposed by the gentleman who occupies the governor's chair. This resolution is only asking this committee to perform its duties and send this bill out from it."

Great Fight For Honest Elections.

Equally ineffectual were the appeals made by Senators Grim and Dewalt, among other Democratic members, to get the personal registration bill out of the senate committee. Upon a resolution which he offered to discharge the elections committee from its "consideration" of that bill Mr. Grim said:

"This bill was introduced nearly two months ago. Therefore, the committee has had ample time to report their action to the senate. They have not done so, and it is apparent that they do not intend to report it. As a member of that committee and as the one who introduced the bill, I have asked the chairman more than once to call the committee together and consider the bill. The chairman has treated me with entire courtesy, but he has not called the meeting, and so far as I know the committee has never held a meeting. Yes, more, Mr. President, so far as I know, and I have at all times been ready to perform my duty, the committee has never been organized. More than two months have elapsed since we have gotten down to hard work. We have been considering hundreds of bills upon the floor of the senate. We have even fixed the date for final adjournment. We have even passed a resolution against the introduction of any new bills unless by unanimous consent. All this suggests to me that the period of the work of this session is rapidly drawing to a close, and that unless this bill is passed no other similar bill can be passed, and yet in the face of the overwhelming demand from every part of this commonwealth for a law that will prevent fraudulent voting and repeating in our cities, in the face of the verdict of 165,000 majority for the constitutional amendment, in the face of a practically unanimous press which subjects the wishes of the people of this commonwealth, this committee is apparently giving no heed to these demands. To our shame will it be said that we have neglected the most important subject before the people of this commonwealth."

"The Democratic party in this state is pledged to personal registration, to a fair election law, and to the enactment of a civil service law, but gentlemen, we are not alone in this demand. You make the importance of the movement if you do not realize that there are thousands of voters in your own ranks who are just as insistent in their demands as the Democrats or any reformers of any party. Therefore, Mr. President, this is not a party demand only. It does not savor of partisanship. Many people of your own party are as honest for a fair registration law as are any other citizens, but they are too small in numbers to effectively insist upon action, while the party at large reaps the benefit of the illegal vote polled or counted in our large cities."

"The newspapers of Philadelphia have lately been giving much unnecessary space to the recital of the immoral conditions of certain portions of that city, and the reported connection between certain police officers and the 'dens of vice.' These charges are not made by Democratic newspapers only."

New Senate Was Under Orders.

"They may or may not be true, but this one thing is admitted upon all sides that there are registered from these dens of vice large numbers of persons who are not entitled to vote, but who do vote at the instance and by the connivance of the ward organizations. This fact the gentleman representing the city of Philadelphia in this senate will not deny. Neither will they defend it, in making the statement I am not saying that other large cities are better, but I do say that as the other cities now have personal registration that they have reduced the illegal voting to a minimum,

and the same can be done in Philadelphia. Under our system of government all men, whether conducting a business involving millions of dollars or inmates of our charitable institutions, are alike before the law upon election day. The ballot of the president of the Pennsylvania railroad counts no more than the votes of miserable vultures who infest the dens of vice and thrive upon the offal of human society. How terrible, therefore, to contemplate that these same miserable wretches, many of whom scarcely

read or write our language, and are unacquainted with our principles of government, can poll probably a half dozen votes the same day and thus put it into the hands of the leaders of wards or divisions to defeat the registered will of the people."

"But you say that you are able to care for your own affairs in your cities. Our answer is that it is in the power of the fraudulent voters in the cities to control the affairs of this state. It is therefore of vital interest to the whole state that the elections in the cities should be made as fair and honest as it is possible for legislation to make them."

"I well know that it is about as dangerous for many of us to defy orders as it is to scale the famed Matterhorn of the Alps. That fact has become too patent in both branches of this legislature at this session."

"We do not expect you to break any orders in voting upon this motion. If your organization has decreed that there is to be no personal registration and that the vote of the people upon this question is to be disregarded, say so in your votes upon this resolution, for it must be as clear as the noon-day sun that if you vote against this resolution that it is notice to the people of this commonwealth that your organization is against personal registration. The registration bill will then be placed where it belongs, and of this action the people may take due notice."

Herbst and Dewalt Against Stone Wall

Senator Dewalt also appealed for action on the bill and was followed by Senator Edwin M. Herbst, who said:

"Where men not entitled to vote, do vote, and when votes honestly cast are not honestly counted, free government has ended and despotism rules. Honest citizens and true lovers of our state's welfare of all parties demand personal registration in our cities. They have said so emphatically by the adoption of an amendment to our constitution. Political hoboes and sharks of course do not want it. The governor of the state strongly recommends it in his message, and let me remind you, gentlemen of the majority in this body, that as a party you have promised it to the people."

"A personal registration law would do away with many of the existing evils. The opportunities for manipulation and for grosser frauds would be curtailed to a notable degree by any bill that marked even a step toward the conditions that every good citizen must want to see. The position that good citizens should take, without regard to party affiliations, in this matter is apparent. The blindest of partisans ought to appreciate no less the advantages of a change. Whether Governor Pennypacker does favor such legislation to the extent that has been intimated, his friends would like to know that he held such views. If he did hold them and secured the needed legislation he would find the number of his friends greatly increased."

"By a reign of terror at the polls organized with consummate and merciless skill, the decent citizens of our first city have been ostracized at the machine's feet. Its business interests are subject to and in many instances have become mere instruments of this centralized despotism. Legislatures and councils assemble only to sanction by statute the unscrupulous acts, desires and tyranny of the bosses. Arbitrary taxation, arbitrary franchises, arbitrary statutes to annoy and vex a people once so proud of its liberty, all due to fraudulent registration followed by fraudulent elections; 'liberty, what crimes are not committed in thy name!'"

Of course in the senate, as well as in the house, the Democrats forced everybody present to go upon record when such demands as the foregoing were made by the friends of honest government. But the machine henchmen brazenly "went the limit" in defiance of the popular will. The same machine leaders and the same henchmen are now struggling to control the next legislature.

Explosion of White Slave Bomb. Of all the bombs exploded in the McNichol-Penrose-Durham camp none caused more consternation than the following resolution offered by Senator Herbst on March 13, 1905, but of course it was voted down by the overwhelming machine majority:

"Whereas, it is charged by newspapers, civic organizations, clergymen's associations and grand juries in Philadelphia, that vice of a most revolting character is protected by the police authorities of that city; that young immigrant girls, ignorant of the language and customs of this country, are lured into dens that exist there under police cognizance and launched upon a career of shame, and that thousands of fictitious names are assessed from these resorts every year to be fraudulently voted on by repeaters on election day in return for permission to carry on this nefarious and ugly traffic, and"

"Whereas, The chief executive of that municipality refuses to dismiss policemen or their superiors who are responsible for this state of affairs, a condition that has excited an outburst of indignation from clergymen and citizens of every denomination such as have never before been witnessed in that city; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a committee of five members be appointed by the president pro tempore to investigate these charges, and if they are found correct to report at the present session of the legislature such amendments to the act of June 1, 1885, providing for the government of cities of the first class, as will in their judgment correct such evils."

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