Democratic Watchman.

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FRECKLES

By

Gene Stratton-Porter

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[Continued from last week.]

SYNOPSIS.

Freckles, a homeless boy, is hired by Boss McLean to guard the expensive timber in the Limberlost from timber thieves.

Freckles does his work faithfully, makes friends with the birds and yearns to know more about nature. He lives with Mr. and Mrs. Duncan.

He resolves to get books and educate himself. He becomes interested in a huge pair of vultures and calls his bird friends his "chickens."

Some of the trees he is guarding are worth $1,000 each. Freckles' books arrive. He receives a call from Wessner.

Wessner attempts to bribe Freckles to betray his trust, and Freckles whips him. McLean overhears them and witnesses the fight.

Freckles' honesty saves a precious tree. He finds the nest of the vultures and is visited by a beautiful young girl.

She calls Freckles McLean's son. Freckles calls her "the angel" and helps the Bird Woman in taking photographs. McLean promises to adopt Freckles.

Freckles and the angel become very friendly. Assisted by the Bird Woman, they drive Wessner and Black Jack, timber thieves, from the Limberlost.

McLean fears more trouble, but Freckles insists upon being the sole guard of the timber. Freckles calls upon the angel's father.

CHAPTER XI.

THE MAN OF AFFAIRS.

"WHY don't you take it yourself?" questioned the man of affairs.

Freckles' clear gray eyes met those of the angel's father squarely, and he said, "If you were in my place would you take it to her yourself?"

"No, I would not," said that gentleman quickly.

"Then why ask why I did not?" came Freckles' lamblike query.

"Bless me!" said the angel's father. He stared at the package, then at the lifted chin of the boy and then at the package again and muttered, "Excuse me."

Freckles bowed.

"It would be favoring me greatly if you would deliver the hat and the message. Good morning, sir," and he turned away.

"One minute," said the angel's father. "Suppose I give you permission to return this hat in person and make your own acknowledgments."

Freckles stood one moment thinking intently, and then he lifted those eyes of unswerving truth and asked: "Why should you, sir? You are kind indade to mention it, and it's thanking you I am for your good intintions, but my wanting to go or your being willing to have me ain't proving that your daughter would be wanting me or care to bother with me."

The angel's father looked keenly into the face of this extraordinary young man, and he found it to his liking.

"There's one other thing I meant to say," said Freckles. "Every day I see something and at times a lot of things that I think the Bird Woman would be wanting pictures of badly if she knew. You might be speaking of it to her, and if she'd want me to I can send her word when I find things she wouldn't likely get elsewhere."

"If that's the case," said the angel's father, "and you feel under obligations for her assistance the other day you can discharge them in that way. She is spending all her time in the fields and woods searching for subjects. By all means let her know if you find subjects you think she could use, and we will do anything we can for you if you will give her what help you can and see that she is as safe as possible."

"It's hungry for human beings I get," said Freckles, "and it's like heaven to me to have them come. When it comes to protecting them I'd risk me life, to be sure, but even that mightn't do any good in some cases. There's a good many dangers to be reckoned with in the swamp, sir."

There was no way in which Freckles could know it, but by following his best instincts and being what he conceived a gentleman should be he surprised the man of affairs into thinking of him and seeing his face over his books many times that morning. He stepped to the curb to mount his wheel and heard a voice that thrilled through and through him, calling: "Freckles! Oh, Freckles!"

The angel separated herself from a group of girls and came hurrying up to him. She was in snowy white—a quaint little frock with a marvel of soft lace about her throat and wrists. Through the sheer sleeves of it her beautiful, rounded arms showed distinctly, and it was cut just to the base of her perfect neck. On her head was a pure white creation of fancy braid with folds on folds of tulle, soft and silken as cobwebs, lining the brim, and a great mass of white roses clustered against the gold of her hair crept about the crown and fell in a riot to her shoulders at the back. There were gleams of gold with settings of blue on her fingers, and altogether she was the daintiest, sweetest sight he had ever seen.

"Oh, Freckles!" she cried. "I was wondering about you the other day. Is there any trouble? Are you just starting back to the Limberlost?"

"I came to bring your hat," said Freckles. "You forgot it in the rush the other day. I have just left it with your father and a message trying to express the gratitude of me for how you and the Bird Woman were for helping me out."

The angel nodded gravely, and Freckles saw in a flash that he had done the proper thing in going to her father. Then she was saying that she could scarcely wait for the time to come for the next picture of the Little Chickens series. "I want to hear the rest of that song, and I hadn't even begun seeing your room yet," she complained. "I wonder if I couldn't bring my banjo and some of the songs I like best. I'll play and you'll sing."

Freckles felt that if he lifted his eyes the adoration in them would frighten her.

"I was afraid your experience the other day would scare you so that you'd never be coming again," he found himself saying.

The angel laughed gayly.

"Did I look scared?" she questioned.

"No," said Freckles; "you did not."

"Oh, I just enjoyed that," she cried. "Those hateful, stealing old things! I had a big notion to pink one of them, but I thought maybe some way it would be best for you that I shouldn't. They needed it. That didn't scare me, and, as for the Bird Woman, she's accustomed to finding snakes, tramps, cross dogs, sheep, cattle and goodness knows what. You can't frighten her when she's after a picture. Did they come back?"

"No," said Freckles. "The gang got there a little after noon and took out the tree, but I must tell you and you must tell the Bird Woman that there's no doubt but they will be coming back, and they will have to make it before long now, for it's soon the gang will be there to work on the swamp."

"Oh, what a shame!" cried the angel. "They'll clear out roads, cut down the beautiful trees and tear up everything. They'll drive away the birds and spoil the cathedral. When they have done their worst all these mills about here will follow in and take out the cheap timber. Then the landowners will dig a few ditches, build some fires, and in two summers more the Limberlost will be in corn and potatoes."

"You like it, too," said Freckles.

"Yes," said the angel; "I love it. Your room is a little piece right out of the heart of fairyland, and the cathedral is God's work, not yours. You only found it and opened the door after he had it completed. Come get a cool drink before you start back. It won't take but a minute, and you can ride fast enough to make up for it."

Freckles looked into the beautiful face of the angel in sheer wonderment. Did she truly mean it? Would she walk down that street with him, crippled, homely, in mean clothing?

"I railly must be off," said Freckles earnestly, "but I'm thanking you more than you'll ever know for your kindness. I'll just be drinking bowls of icy things all me way home in the thoughts of it."

Down came the angel's foot. Her eyes flashed. "There's no sense in that," she said. "How do you think you would have felt when you knew I was warm and thirsty and you went and brought me a drink and I wouldn't take it because—because goodness knows why!"

She deliberately slipped her hand under his arm—the right arm that ended in an empty sleeve.

"You are coming," she said firmly.

Freckles' head swam.

"Please don't, angel," he said softly. "You don't understand. If your father came on to me on the street in my station and dress with you on me arm he'd have every right to be caning me before the people, and not a finger would I lift to stay him."

The angel's eyes snapped. "If you think my father cares about my doing anything that is right and kind and that makes me happy to do, why, then you completely failed in reading my father, and I'll ask him and just show you."

She dropped Freckles' arm and turned toward the entrance to the building. "Why, look there!" she exclaimed.

Her father stood at a window, watching the scene with eyes that comprehended quite as thoroughly as if he had heard every word. The angel made a despairing gesture toward Freckles. The man of affairs answered her with a look of infinite tenderness. He nodded his head, and the veriest dolt could have read the words his lips formed, "Take him along!"

A sudden trembling seized Freckles.

The angel turned on him with triumphing eyes. She was highly strung and not accustomed to being thwarted. "Did you see that?" she demanded. "Now are you satisfied? Will you come?" Freckles went.

On every hand she was kept busy giving and receiving the cheeriest greetings. She walked into the parlors exactly as if she owned them. A long row of people stared with varying degrees of insolence and curiosity as Freckles had felt they would. He glanced at the angel. Now would she see?

"On my soul!" he muttered under his breath. "They don't aven touch her!"

She turned the full battery of her eyes on the attendant.

"I want to mix a drink for my friend," she said. "He has a long, hot ride before him, and I don't want him started off with one of those old palate teasing sweetnesses that you mix just on purpose to drive a man back in ten minutes. I want a clear, cool, sparkling drink that has a tang of acid in it."

The angel compounded the drink and carried the brimming glass to Freckles. He said in the mellowest of all the mellow tones of his voice, "I'll be drinking it to the Swamp Angel."

And as he had said to her that first day the angel now cautioned him, "Be drinking slowly."

As the screen door swung behind them one of the men at the counter asked of the attendant, "Now, what did that mean?"

"Exactly what you saw," replied he rather curtly. "We're accustomed to it in here. Hardly a day passes this hot weather but she's picking up some poor, god forsaken mortal and bringing him in. Then she comes behind the counter herself and fixes up a drink to suit the occasion."

"Mighty queer specimen she had this time," volunteered another. "Wonder who he is?"

"I think," said a third, "that he's McLean's Limberlost guard, and I suspect she's gone to the swamp with the Bird Woman for pictures and knows him that way."

Out on the street the angel walked beside Freckles to the first crossing, and there she stopped.

"Did you insist on fixing that drink because you knew how intoxicating 'twould be?" asked Freckles.

There was subtlety in the compliment, and the angel laughed gleefully.

"Next time maybe you won't take so much coaxing," she said.

"I wouldn't this if I had known your father and been understanding you better. Do you really think the Bird Woman will be coming again?"

The angel jeered. "Wild horses couldn't drag her away," she cried. "She will have hard work to wait the week out. I shouldn't be in the least surprised to see her start any hour."

Freckles couldn't bear the suspense; it had to come.

"And you?" he questioned, but he dared not lift his eyes.

"Wild horses me, too," she laughed, "couldn't keep me away either! Now, goodby."

Freckles was half way to the Limberlost when he dismounted. He could ride no farther, because he could not see the road. He sat down under a tree and, leaning against it, burst into a storm of sobs that shook, twisted and rent him. If they would remind him of his position, speak condescendingly or notice his hand he could bear it, but this—it would surely kill him! His hot, pulsing Irish blood could not bear it. What did they mean? Why did they do it? Were they like that to every one? Was it pity?

It could not be, for he knew that the Bird Woman and the angel's father must know that he was not really McLean's son, and it did not matter to them in the least. In spite of accident and poverty, they evidently expected him to do something worth while in the world. That must be his remedy. He must go to work on his education. He must get away. He must find and do the great thing of which the angel talked. For the first time his thoughts turned anxiously toward the city and the beginning of his studies. McLean and the Duncans spoke of him as "the boy," but he was a man. He must face life bravely and act a man's part. The angel was a mere child. He must not allow her to torture him past bearing with her frank comradeship that meant to him high heaven, earth's richness and all that lay between and just nothing to her.

There was an ominous growl of thunder, and Freckles snatched up his wheel and raced for the swamp. He was worried to find his boots lying at the cabin door. The children playing on the wood pile told him that mither said they were so heavy she couldn't walk in them and she had come back and taken them off. Thoroughly frightened, he stopped only long enough to slip them on himself and then sped with all his strength for the Limberlost. To the west the long, black, hard beaten trail lay clear, but far up the east side, straight across the path, he could see what was certainly a limp brown figure.

Face down, Sarah Duncan lay across the trail. When Freckles turned her over his blood chilled at the look of horror frozen on her face. There was a low humming, and something spatted against him. Glancing about, Freckles shivered in terror, for there was a swarm of wild bees settled on a scrub thorn only a few yards away. The air was thick with excited, unsettled bees making ready to lead further in search of a suitable location. Then he thought he understood, and with a prayer of thankfulness in his heart that she had escaped even so narrowly he caught her up and hurried down the trail until they were well out of danger.

[Continued next week.]

By Mutual Concession.

"So you've named the baby at last," remarked the caller.

"Yes," said the young professor. "My wife insisted on 'Clarence,' and I was equally determined on 'Pythagoras,' so we compromised, and his full name is Clarence Pythagoras McGoozle. Sounds rather striking, don't you think?"

A Sad Awakening.

A dreamer of dreams woke up one day
And what do you think he found?
A bundle of bills that he could not pay
And collectors snooping around.

Not an Inheritance.

"Is that your little boy?"

"Yes. That's my Tommy."

"I should have known him anywhere. He has his father's family nose."

"Nothin' of the kind, ma'am. It was Jimmy Stadgers, nex' door, that gave 'im that lump.'

Had Noticed It.

Mr. Richfello—Isn't Miss De Mure pretty when she blushes?

Miss Beauti—Yes. I noticed it the other day. It was the first time I ever saw her face color."

"Indeed! What was she blushing over?"

"Over a plate of hot soup."

Medical.

A Stitch in Time

BELLEFONTE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT NEGLECT THEIR KIDNEYS.

No kidney ailment is unimportant. Don't overlook the slightest backache or urinary irregularity. Nature may be warning you of approaching dropsy, or fatal Bright's disease. Kidney disease is seldom fatal if treated in time but neglect paves the way for serious kidney troubles. Don't neglect a lame or aching back another day. Don't ignore dizzy spells, irregular or discolored urine, headaches, weariness or depression. Begin treating the kidneys with the reliable, time-tried remedy, Doan's Kidney Pills. For 75 years Doan's have been curing sick kidneys and curing permanently. Endorsed by Bellefonte people.

Mrs. James Corl, 361 E. Bishop St., Bellefonte, Pa., says: "A member of my family used Doan's Kidney Pills in 1907, procuring them from Green's Pharmacy Co. and a complete cure of kidney complaint was effected. At that time we publicly endorsed Doan's Kidney Pills and as there has been no recurrence of the trouble, we again give the remedy a word of praise. You are welcome to publish this statement for the benefit of other kidney sufferers."

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Medical.

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Miss Minerva Reminger, Upper Bern, Pa., writes: "For several years I had nervous prostration, and was utterly wretched. I lived on bread and beef tea because my stomach would not retain anything else. I took many remedies, but obtained no relief until I took Hood's Sarsaparilla, when I began to gain at once. I am now cured."

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Constitutional Amendments

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION SUBMITTED TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH FOR THEIR APPROVAL OR REJECTION, BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH IN PURSUANCE OF ARTICLE XVIII OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Number One.

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to article nine, section four of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the State to issue bonds to the amount of fifty millions of dollars for the improvement of the highways of the Commonwealth.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be, and the same is hereby, proposed, in accordance with the eighteenth article thereof:—

That section four of article nine, which reads as follows:

"Section 4. No debt shall be created by or on behalf of the State, except to supply casual deficiencies of revenue, repel invasion, suppress insurrection, defend the State in war, or to pay existing debt; and the debt created to supply deficiency in revenue shall never exceed, in the aggregate at any one time, one million of dollars," be amended so as to read as follows:

Section 4. No debt shall be created by or on behalf of the State, except to supply casual deficiencies of revenue, repel invasion, suppress insurrection, defend the State in war, or to pay existing debt; and the debt created to supply deficiencies in revenue shall never exceed, in the aggregate at any one time, one million of dollars. Provided, however, That the General Assembly, irrespective of any debt, may authorize the State to issue bonds to the amount of fifty millions of dollars for the purpose of improving and rebuilding the highways of the Commonwealth.

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 1.

ROBERT McAFEE,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Two.

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to section seven, article three of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, so as to permit special legislation regulating labor.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof.

Amendment to Article Three, Section Seven.

Section 2. Amend section seven, article three of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

"Section 7. The General Assembly shall not pass any local or special law authorizing the creation, extension, or impairing of liens:

"Regulating the affairs of counties, cities, townships, wards, boroughs, or school districts:

"Changing the names of persons or places:

"Changing the venue in civil or criminal cases:

"Authorizing the laying out, opening, altering or maintaining roads, highways, streets or alleys:

"Relating to ferries or bridges, or incorporating ferry or bridge companies, except for the erection of bridges crossing streams which form boundaries between this and any other State:

"Vacating roads, town plats, streets or alleys:

"Relating to cemeteries, graveyards, or public grounds not of the State:

"Authorizing the adoption or legitimation of children:

"Locating or changing county-seats, erecting new counties, or changing county lines:

"Incorporating cities, towns, or villages, or changing their charters:

"For the opening and conducting of elections, or fixing or changing the place of voting:

"Granting divorces:

"Erecting new townships or boroughs, changing township lines, borough limits or school districts:

"Creating offices, or prescribing the powers and duties of officers in counties, cities, boroughs, townships, election or school districts:

"Changing the law of descent or succession:

"Regulating the practice or jurisdiction of, or changing the rules of evidence in, any judicial proceeding or inquiry before courts, aldermen, justices of the peace, sheriffs, commissioners, arbitrators, auditors, masters in chancery, or other tribunals, or providing or changing methods for the collection of debts, or the enforcing of judgments, or prescribing the effect of judicial sales of real estate:

"Regulating the fees, or extending the powers and duties of aldermen, justices of the peace, magistrates or constables:

"Regulating the management of public schools, the building or repairing of school houses and the raising of money for such purposes:

"Fixing the rate of interest:

"Affecting the estates of minors or persons under disability, except after due notice to all parties in interest, to be recited in the special enactment;

"Remitting fines, penalties and forfeitures, or refunding moneys legally paid into the treasury:

"Exempting property from taxation:

"Regulating labor, trade, mining or manufacturing:

"Creating corporations, or amending, renewing or extending the charters thereof:

"Granting to any corporation, association or individual any special or exclusive privilege or immunity, or to any corporation, association or individual the right to lay down a railroad track:

"Nor shall the General Assembly indirectly enact such special or local law by the partial repeal of a general law; but laws repealing local or special acts may be passed:

"Nor shall any law be passed granting powers and privileges in any case where the granting of such powers and privileges shall have been provided for by general law, nor where the courts have jurisdiction to grant the same or give the relief asked for,"—so as to read as follows:—

Section. 7. The General Assembly shall not pass any local or special law authorizing the creation, extension or impairing of liens:

Regulating the affairs of counties, cities, townships, wards, boroughs, or school districts:

Changing the names of persons or places:

Changing the venue in civil or criminal cases:

Authorizing the laying out, opening, altering, or maintaining roads, highways, streets or alleys:

Relating to ferries or bridges, or incorporating ferry or bridge companies, except for the erection of bridges crossing streams which form boundaries between this and any other State:

Vacating roads, town plats, streets or alleys:

Relating to cemeteries, graveyards, or public grounds not of the State:

Authorizing the adoption or legitimation of children:

Locating or changing county-seats, erecting new counties or changing county lines:

Incorporating cities, towns or villages, by changing their charters:

For the opening and conducting of elections, or fixing or changing the place of voting:

Granting divorces:

Erecting new townships or boroughs, changing township lines, borough limits or school districts:

Creating offices, or prescribing the powers and duties of officers in counties, cities, boroughs, townships, election or school districts:

Changing the law of descent or succession:

Regulating the practice or jurisdiction of, or changing the rules of evidence in, any judicial proceeding or inquiry before courts, aldermen, justices of the peace, sheriffs, commissioners, arbitrators, auditors, masters in chancery or other tribunals, or providing or changing methods for the collection of debts, or the enforcing of judgments, or prescribing the effect of judicial sales of real estate:

Regulating the fees, or extending the powers and duties of aldermen, justices of the peace, magistrates or constables:

Regulating the management of public schools, the building or repairing of school houses and the raising of money for such purposes:

Fixing the rate of interest:

Affecting the estates of minors or persons under disability, except after due notice to all parties in interest, to be recited in the special enactment:

Remitting fines, penalties and forfeitures, or refunding moneys legally paid into the treasury:

Exempting property from taxation:

Regulating labor, trade, mining or manufacturing; but the Legislature may regulate and fix the wages or salaries, the hours of work or labor, and make provision for the protection, welfare and safety of persons employed by the State, or by any county, city, borough, town, township, school district, village, or other civil division of the State or by any contractor or sub-contractor performing work, labor or services for the State, or for any county, city, borough, town, township, school district, village or other civil division thereof:

Creating corporations, or amending, renewing or extending the charters thereof:

Granting to any corporation, association or individual any special or exclusive privilege or immunity, or to any corporation, association, or individual the right to lay down a railroad track:

Nor shall the General Assembly indirectly enact such special or local law by the partial repeal of a general law; but laws repealing local or special acts may be passed:

Nor shall any law be passed granting powers or privileges in any case where the granting of such powers and privileges shall have been provided for by general law, nor where the courts have jurisdiction to grant the same or give the relief asked for.

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 2.

ROBERT McAFEE,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Three.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION.

Proposing an amendment to section three of article eight of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (if the Senate concur), That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof:—

Section 2. Amend section three of article eight, which reads as follows: "All judges elected by the electors of the State at large may be elected at either a general or municipal election, as circumstances may require. All the elections for judges of the courts for the several judicial districts, and for county, city, ward, borough, and township officers, for regular terms of service, shall be held on the municipal election day; namely, the Tuesday next following the first Monday of November in each odd-numbered year, but the General Assembly may by law fix a different day, two-thirds of all the members of each House consenting thereto: Provided, That such elections shall always be held in an odd-numbered year," so as to read:

Section 3. All judges elected by the electors of the State at large may be elected at either a general or municipal election, as circumstances may require. All elections for judges of the courts for the several judicial districts, and for county, city, ward, borough, and township officers, for regular terms of service, shall be held on the municipal election day; namely, the Tuesday next following the first Monday of November in each odd-numbered year, but the General Assembly may by law fix a different day, two-thirds of all the members of each House consenting thereto: Provided, That such elections shall be held in an odd-numbered year: Provided further, That all judges for the courts of the several judicial districts holding office at the present time, whose terms of office may end in an odd-numbered year, shall continue to hold their offices until the first Monday of January in the next succeeding even-numbered year.

A true copy of Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

ROBERT McAFEE,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Four.

A JOINT RESOLUTION.

Proposing an amendment to section one of article nine of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, relating to taxation.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof:—

Section 2. Amend section one of article nine of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:

"All taxes shall be uniform, upon the same class of subjects, within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax, and shall be levied and collected under general laws; but the General Assembly may, by general laws, exempt from taxation public property used for public purposes, actual places of religious worship, places of burial not used or held for private or corporate profit, and institutions of purely public charity," so as to read as follows:

All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of subjects, within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax, and shall be levied and collected under general laws, and the subjects of taxation may be classified for the purpose of laying graded or progressive taxes; but the General Assembly may, by general laws, exempt from taxation public property used for public purposes, actual places of religious worship, places of burial not used or held for private or corporate profit, and institutions of purely public charity.

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 4.

ROBERT McAFEE,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Five.

A JOINT RESOLUTION.

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania, in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof:—

Article IX.

Section 15. No obligations which have been heretofore issued, or which may hereafter be issued, by any county or municipality, other than Philadelphia, to provide for the construction or acquisition of waterworks, subways, underground railways or street railways, or the appurtenances thereof, shall be considered as a debt of a municipality, within the meaning of section eight of article nine of the Constitution of Pennsylvania or of this amendment, if the net revenue derived from said property for a period of five years, either before or after the acquisition thereof, or, where the same is constructed by the county or municipality, after the completion thereof, shall have been sufficient to pay interest and sinking-fund charges during said period upon said obligations, or if the said obligations shall be secured by liens upon the respective properties, and shall impose no municipal liability. Where municipalities or counties shall issue obligations to provide for the construction of property, as herein provided, said municipalities or counties may also issue obligations to provide for the interest and sinking-fund charges accruing thereon until said properties shall have been completed and in operation for a period of one year; and said municipalities and counties shall not be required to levy a tax to pay said interest and sinking-fund charges, as required by section ten of article nine of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, until after said properties shall have been operated by said counties or municipalities during said period of one year. Any of the said municipalities or counties may incur indebtedness in excess of seven per centum, and not exceeding ten per centum, of the assessed valuation of the taxable property therein, if said increase of indebtedness shall have been assented to by three-fifths of the electors voting at a public election, in such manner as shall be provided by law.

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 5.

ROBERT McAFEE,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

57-31-13t