

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., September 20, 1912.

Conservation Association to Protect State Resources

BIG CAMPAIGN IS STARTED

Prominent Engineer Will Make Addresses in Various Parts of Pennsylvania to Educate People as to Value of Water That Now Causes Floods.

Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 19.—The first comprehensive attempt to place the control of floods upon a sensible, business like basis is now being made by the Water Conservation Association of Pennsylvania, an organization recently formed for the purpose of solving the flood problem, for giving the state better control over its water resources and for giving a real money value to the rivers and streams in Pennsylvania.

The organization is made up of various persons throughout the state interested in conservation, in water supply and water power. The president is Morris Knowles, an engineer of Pittsburgh who had much to do with the preparation of the report of the Flood Commission of that city which shows how the flood problem can be effectively solved in Pennsylvania. A. B. Farquhar of York, president of the Pennsylvania branch of the National Conservation Association, is a member of the executive committee of the new organization and takes a prominent part in its deliberations. The other members of the executive committee are C. La Rue Munson, of Williamsport; W. S. Kuhn, John B. Eichenauer and George S. Davison, of Pittsburgh; and J. E. Aldred, of New York. W. B. Bennett, a Harrisburg engineer, is secretary.

The Flood Commission of Pittsburgh was one of the leaders in formulating the plans for the Water Conservation Association. This Commission contemplates the erection of a number of dams for the purpose of storing water during the flood season and releasing it during the summer months to supplement the low-water flow. Its comprehensive report shows that there are enormous possibilities for water control on the watersheds of the rivers flowing past Pittsburgh and the conditions applying to these streams are applicable in all parts of the state. It shows further that under wise state control water power can be developed in conjunction with storage dams for flood prevention and navigation, and that if all three objects are combined in one project a great saving will result.

Investigation shows that the laws of Pennsylvania at the present time are inadequate to cope with the question of water resources in the state. These matters are in charge of the Water Supply Commission, the powers of which are very limited, and it was for the purpose of having its powers made adequate that the Flood Commission is aiding the water power and water supply committees in the state that are willing to assist in broadening the powers of the Water Supply Commission, if such body is authorized by the next legislature.

The purpose of the new association is to have proper remedial legislation enacted. In order that the people of the state will have full knowledge of the possibilities of water control a statewide educational campaign is in progress. President Knowles is making addresses in various parts of the state to fully acquaint the people with all the details.

River Regulation in Pennsylvania.

River district conservation work has been preached so many years as the correct solution of many hydraulic and sanitary engineering problems that the slightest approach to it in any part of this country is worth mentioning. The idea that the conditions in each river basin were local and should be treated independently of those in other basins first received public approval in England, where the increasing pollution of rivers made it necessary to exercise some sort of control over the use of each stream from its source to its mouth. Something of the same sort is now to be seen in the Emacher district in Germany, in the sanitary control of the streams of Massachusetts by the Board of Health of that state, and in some other places. It is not often, however, that any attempt is made to control the river districts upon other grounds than that of sanitation. This is not surprising, perhaps, in view of the trifling use made of small water powers in this country and the disuse of most streams for navigable purposes. It appears, however, that the plans of the Pittsburgh Flood Commission are meeting with encouraging co-operation from parties interested in power development. In Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia water power developments are being considered with a view to their joint development by their promoters and the flood commission. The idea is to so design the reservoirs on the headwaters of some of the streams that their maximum serviceability for both flood prevention and power production shall be obtained, the expense of the works to be borne jointly in some equitable ratio.—Engineering Record.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Autumn Chills

Caused by the wet and changeable weather, are especially dangerous this year, because of the debilitating effects of an uncommonly trying summer. In their grip, the whole system suffers—CATARRH is produced or aggravated, the stomach and liver are deranged, indigestion and constipation occur, there are the chills of malaria, twinges of neuralgia and rheumatism, and liability to blood diseases like the grip, diphtheria, typhoid, scarlet fever, etc. It is important to take a reliable blood medicine now to nourish and enrich the blood, cure or prevent autumn diseases and protect the general health. The best is HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA which makes rich, red, warm blood, benefiting the whole system. In usual liquid form or chocolate tablets known as Sarsatablts, 100 doses \$1.

Excursions.

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Tours to Thousand Islands, July 18, August 15 and 29; Maritime Provinces, July 24; Montreal, July 31; Adirondacks, July 31; Muskoka Lakes, August 1; Quebec, August 7; Yellowstone Park, August 10; Great Lakes, September 12.

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 XVII OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Number One.

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, to 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 deficiency 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.

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:

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;”

Constitutional Amendments

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 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;—so as to read as follows:—

Section 1. 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 of the Constitution of the State at large, to be elected at either a general or municipal election, as circumstances may require, by the 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 of Representatives, provided, That such elections shall always be held in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof.

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 town justices, 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 of Representatives, provided, That all judges of the several judicial districts holding office at the present time, 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 levying 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, sewers, underground railways or street railways, or for the construction of bridges, 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, such municipalities or counties may issue obligations to provide for the interest and sinking fund charges accruing thereon until said property 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 property 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.

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N. B. SPANGLER—Attorney-at-Law, Practices in all the Courts. Consultation in English or German. Office in Crider's Exchange Bellefonte, Pa. 49-2.

H. S. TAYLOR—Attorney and Counselor at Law. Office, Garman House block, Bellefonte, Pa. All kinds of legal business attended to promptly. Consultation in English or German. 49-4

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