

Democratic Watchman

Belleville, Pa., September 27, 1912.

Flood Commission Supports the Water Conservationists

Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 26.—That the Flood Commission of Pittsburgh is actively interested in the plans of the Water Conservation Association of Pennsylvania was made plain in an interview yesterday with W. M. Jacoby, executive secretary of the Flood Commission. He stated that the new association hopes to solve the water problem in Pennsylvania so as to prevent floods and at the same time create a new asset to the state.

"The Flood Commission is co-operating with the Water Conservation Association," said Mr. Jacoby, "for the purpose of assisting in determining what means can be taken to conserve the water resources in Pennsylvania, prevent floods and improve operating conditions."

"In no other state are conditions so bad in respect to lack of control of the water supply, both from the standpoint of utilization and from the standpoint of preventing damage from excessive floods. Owing to the heavy precipitation over this area the rivers and streams throughout the state of Pennsylvania are subject to more extreme fluctuations than in the case elsewhere. Inasmuch as the timber has been practically all removed throughout the drainage area of the rivers in the state this great downfall of water immediately runs off, causing at times excessive floods and conditions which bring about serious damage to individual property owners and to cities and towns along the banks of streams."

"In former days the control of these streams was better than at present. Before the passing of the timber these streams in many places were provided with dams which tended to hold water and in a measure control it. Those dams have largely disappeared, with the result that in the absence of any control the waters are allowed to flow unrestrained."

"Taking a single instance, that of the Susquehanna river: Statistics show that over a period of twenty years the average damage caused by extreme high water approximates \$1,000,000 each year. The loss by reason of inefficiency of this river for navigation and power purposes is not to be covered so accurately, but doubtless represents an enormous loss."

"In the western part of the state and particularly in the Pittsburgh district the steadily increasing damage due from floods resulted in the formation of the Flood Commission. We have investigated the possibility of relief measures and are able to present plans for this section which would be applicable in all parts of the state for preventing floods, developing water power, aiding navigation and improving the quality of water for domestic consumption at a comparatively small cost compared to the enormous benefits obtained. Our commission has found that floods are continually increasing in frequency and height, and conservatively estimates that the direct losses due to flood damage at Pittsburgh alone will amount to \$40,000,000 in the next twenty years. The navigation interests in this section are co-operating in the movement with the Flood Commission."

"It is the intention of those interested in the Water Conservation Association of Pennsylvania to urge the enactment of laws at the next session of the legislature to give the state broader powers to cope with the water question. We believe that not only can the costly floods be prevented, but that the water that does so much damage can be turned into a real asset to the state."

Ear Works as Eye for Blind.

A remarkable invention has recently been made by Dr. Fournier D'Albe, a lecturer on physics at Birmingham University, England, who announces that he has perfected an instrument which he calls the optophone, by means of which the blind are enabled to use the ear as an eye.

The invention makes use of selenium, the byproduct of the manufacture of sulphuric acid from iron pyrites. Metallic selenium conducts electricity, and when exposed to light possesses the peculiar property of diminishing its resistance in direct ratio to the intensity of the light. That is to say, the greater the intensity of light falling upon metallic selenium is the less opposition the selenium offers to the passage through itself of an electrical current.

In Dr. D'Albe's invention the electrical current generated by this change in resistance is transmitted through telephone receivers fitted to the head of a blind person, who, when a light is brought near him, becomes conscious of a noise which increases in volume as the intensity of the illumination is increased and vice versa. A common arc light generates a distinct rattle while sunlight produces a loud roaring noise.

Wear to Gold Coins.

There are probably millions of dollars in gold coin circulating in the United States which are not worth their face value. This fact has been called to the attention of Lee McClung, treasurer of the United States, but the government has no desire to recall the money. The wear caused by abrasions in circulation has made the goldpieces lighter in weight.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Feared Consumption

ENTIRELY CURED. INTERESTING CASE. W. H. Burch, Bingham, Pa., writes: "I was in a terribly run-down condition, my lungs were weak and sore, and I had a dull heavy pain between the shoulders. I lost flesh very rapidly, and feared I was going into consumption. After taking four bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla I was entirely cured. I now weigh 210 pounds and never felt better."

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Tours to Thousand Islands, July 18, August 15 and 29; Maritime Provinces, July 24; Monticello, August 1; Adirondacks, July 31; Muskoka Lakes, August 1; Quebec, August 1; Yellowstone Park, August 10; Great Lakes, September 12. 57-26-14.

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.

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, to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, defend the State in war, or to pay existing debt; and the debt created by the State 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, to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, defend the State in war, or to pay existing debt; and the debt created by the State 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:—

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, towns, wards, boroughs, or school districts;—

"Changing the names of persons or places;—

"Authorizing the laying out, opening, or altering of roads, highways, streets or alleys;—

"Relating to ferries or bridges, or incorporating 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;—

Constitutional Amendments

Relating to ferries or bridges, or incorporating or changing county-seats, erecting new counties, or changing county lines;—

"Incorporating cities, towns, or villages, or changing their charters;—

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"Granting divorces;—

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"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 safety of persons employed by the State, or for any contractor or sub-contractor performing work 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;—

"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, towns, wards, boroughs, or school districts;—

"Changing the names of persons or places;—

"Authorizing the laying out, opening, or altering of roads, highways, streets or alleys;—

"Relating to ferries or bridges, or incorporating 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;—

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

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"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;—

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