

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6, 1891.

The crowning shame of the republican administration occurred, if my information be correct, and I have every reason for believing that it is, Saturday afternoon, when J. Gould accompanied by his son George called at the White House and delivered his orders to Mr. Harrison, together with his ultimatum as to what he would do if they were not obeyed. From there he went to the Post Office department and gave Johnnie Wanamaker a much worse shaking up than that given by "Teddy" Roosevelt some months ago. Mr. Wanamaker would have liked very much to have kicked Gould out of his private office, but there were reasons, aside from Gould's "pull" with Mr. Harrison, why he dared not offend the "little wizard" of Wall street, who had in his inside pocket some papers with the Wanamaker autograph thereon.

Gould told Mr. Harrison that unless his demands were met he might as well abandon all hope of a vindication in the shape of a re-nomination, and from the smile Gould wore when he clambered into his private car, en route for St. Louis, Mr. Harrison must have promised him something. What does Gould want? The same thing he always wants, his only deity—money. Ever since June 1889 the Western Union Telegraph Company has been carrying the Government's telegrams without rendering a bill therefor, because Mr. Gould refused to accept the compensation set for the work by Mr. Wanamaker. Want number one, is to be paid for this work at his own instead of Wanamaker's price. Want number two, is to secure a liberal slice of the postal subsidy fund for his Pacific Mail line, which it seems he had heard was to be left out in the cold in the grand divide. Want number three, is the increase of the amounts paid to all of his recently acquired Western railroads for carrying the mails. Modest isn't he? I shall watch carefully to see how many of these wants are supplied by Mr. Harrison's administration.

Another scandal has been talked around town about the new contract for supplying the Post Office Department with postal cards. By the way, the new cards, which are to be furnished in two sizes and colors, are to have a design that would reflect no credit upon a cross-road printer upon the address side, in the upper right hand corner of which is to be a portrait of General Grant. The new contract has been ostensibly awarded to Al. Daggett, the Brooklyn politician, notwithstanding the trouble the department has had with him during the last two years under a similar contract, but the real contractor is George E. Lemon the king of the pension lobby, who has carried Daggett through all his troubles with Wanamaker. Some say that Lemon is to furnish the postal cards for nothing, the price going to certain parties who are not to examine too closely into some of the business methods of the pension king.

Mr. Blaine is rollicking in the glory he has obtained by calling the bluff of the Italian Government, but for some reason he refuses to give out a copy of the last dispatch he received from Rudini, the Italian prime minister, and all the information we have had about the dispatch, said to be a straight back-down on the part of the Italian Government, has come by press-cable from Rome. It is said that one reason why this dispatch is withheld from the public by Mr. Blaine is that it raised a question of veracity between Baron Fava, the recalled Italian minister and Mr. Blaine, and makes it very plain that one or the other of them has been handling the truth very carelessly. Baron Fava is still here but he refuses to be seen, and Mr. Blaine says the dispatch will not be made public until after his reply has been prepared and sent. Meanwhile the public are well satisfied to know that all danger of serious complication with Italy has passed.

The one hundredth anniversary of the Patent system of the United States is to be celebrated here this week, and great preparations are being made for three days of enjoyment, both intellectual and physical. Most of the prominent inventors of the country are expected to take part in a program of entertainment in some capacity, and their presence alone will attract a large crowd.

Mr. Harrison expects to start on

his Pacific slope trip next week, if the eminent Canadians, now being steered around Washington by Sir Julian Pauncefote, who have come here to talk reciprocity with Mr. Blaine in order to ascertain that gentlemen's position, if he has one on the question of reciprocity with Canada, do not raise some new international complication. Nobody seems to want to go with Mr. Harrison, not even his wife and children.

LEGISLATION.

The following proceedings were had in the House and Senate last Monday night:

THE HOUSE.

In the House last Monday night bills were introduced by Stewart, Allegheny, making an appropriation to pay the expense of the committee to investigate the charges made against the mine examiners; by Ellwood, Westmoreland, providing for the taxation of land and the property thereon independent of each other; also one enabling the superintendent of public instruction to pay to school districts in certain cases their proper share of the State appropriation to common schools.

A great deal of time was consumed in the consideration of the bill, on second reading, to establish a state board of undertakers and local boards under them. It was being considered when the house adjourned.

THE SENATE.

The senate was called to order by Lieutenant Governor Watres: prayer by Chaplain Baker.

Petitions were presented for the passage of the employers' liability bill; constitutional convention; from the Rescue hook and ladder company, of Mechanicsburg, in favor of the bill creating a firemen's relief association; against the revenue bill; for the passage of the common sense road law.

Bills were read in place as follows: By Mr. Crawford, supplement to the bill of February 17, 1820, against horse racing, exempting horses used in races given by regularly organized trotting associations from the operations of the bill.

By Mr. Meek, authorizing the use of the money raised by boroughs by the levy and collection of a gas, kerosene and water tax for the purpose of illuminating said boroughs with electric light.

By Mr. Penrose, an act to prevent deception in the manufacture and sale of articles of gilded ware. [The bill requires the proper marking of such articles of gilded ware as are not covered with genuine gold leaf or gilding.

Mr. Gobin offered a resolution providing that the reading of bills in place shall not be in order except by unanimous consent after April 10. On motion of Mr. Green, apportionment bills were accepted, and the resolution was adopted.

The first bill on the calendar was house bill No. 40, relating to the alteration and change of the par value of the shares of the capital stock in insurance companies. On the call of yeas and nays, 13 senators voted aye and 7 nay. Less than a quorum voting, the lieutenant governor ordered the sergeant-at-arms to close the doors and the clerk made a call of the senate, which showed 37 senators present.

Messrs. Osborne, Robinson and Penrose then explained the bill, and said it was a proper bill, and on another call of the yeas and nays, the vote was 33, nays 2. So the bill passed finally.

By consent, additional bills were read in place as follows:

By Mr. Porter, an act to provide for the organization of a department of education in cities of the first class, and defining the powers and duties of the same.

By Mr. Osborn, repealing the act against horse racing as far as the same provides for the forfeiture of horses used in racing.

By Mr. Hines, authorizing any soldier of the late rebellion to bring suit against any county, borough or township within this commonwealth to recover the amount of money to which he became entitled by being credited to said county, borough or township.

The bill gives any soldier who failed to receive the bounty agreed upon, right of action in assumpsit to recover the money due him, and provides that no law of limitation shall be a bar to the commencement or prosecution of the suit, but said suit must be brought within two years from the approval of this act.

AN OBNOXIOUS LAW.

A careful examination of the proposed new tax law leads to the belief that if the farmers fully understood the full import of all its provisions, they would arise as one man and demand that it shall not pass the Senate in its present shape. It has already been endorsed by the House.

This law makes the duties of the assessor so inquisitorial that he has no choice but to act as part of a prying machine, which throws open one's entire life and business to public gaze. Under its provisions every taxpayer is required to state the value of everything he owns, which must be, in the language of the act, the "exact price or value for which the same would sell at a bona fide sale, after full public

notice," that is to say give the number and value of your kitchen ware, chamber sets, beds and bedding, coal scuttles, ice cream freezers, jelly cups, hobby horses, croquet sets, refrigerators, manure forks, hair brushes, rat traps, fine tooth combs, pie plates, sloop buckets, pianos, side saddles, oil can, donkeys, pumpkins, geese, cradles, Guinea fowls, flower pots, soup tureens, horses, sheep, swine, bulls, milk pans, eggs, eyeglasses, reapers, sleighs, etc., etc.

The value of the property you own, and the amount of money you owe are to be published, so that your friends and enemies may know your exact financial standing. If it happen that your debts are nearly equal to the value of your property, your credit is gone entirely until you can show that your financial condition has improved. The poor man will then have to pay cash for what he buys, while the wealthy who do not need it can have abundant credit. The commercial reports now looked upon with disfavor by many, because they apparently pry into the private business affairs of men, would be exceedingly popular in comparison. They are largely guesswork, while the assessor's reports would be the statement of each individual as to his property and debts. Such a bill ought not to pass, and if it does no one will have greater cause to regret it than the farmers.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Special Correspondence of THE COLUMBIAN.

HARRISBURG, April 8, 1891.

After its rest and vacation of ten days, the Legislature has gotten together again, and now seems anxious to get down to solid work. The Senate did very little, however, on Monday night, while the House spent nearly two hours in the discussion of a bill to tax undertakers, which was championed by Mr. Fow, of Philadelphia. He made some good points and witty sallies in reply to interrogatories, of Wherry of Cumberland, Lytle of Huntingdon, Johnson of Cameron, Mullen of Bedford, and Quigley and Donahue of Philadelphia. At all times his voice, which is on the fog horn order, could be heard above the noise and confusion incident to the bear garden of Pennsylvania. Finally a motion was made to indefinitely postpone the bill, and upon this Fow talked against time until the hour of adjournment, and thus prevented a vote being reached. It was a lively debate all through, and although Fow seemingly got the best of his opponents, it is hardly likely the measure will pass.

THE SEMI-MONTHLY PAY BILL.

There was a lengthy discussion in the House yesterday over the Semi-Monthly Pay Bill, which came up on final passage. The measure was opposed by Mr. Lytle, Huntingdon, on general principles, and by Messrs. Roper, of Lehigh, and Skinner, of Fulton, because, in their judgment, it would prove troublesome to the farmers. Mr. Davis, of Schuylkill, spoke in favor of the bill, as did also Mr. Jones of Allegheny, who said if he had his way about it he would put the capitalists in jail who refused to recognize its provisions. Mr. Christie, of Northumberland, offered an amendment permitting employers and employees to enter into a contract as to pay day. Mr. Farrell, of Clearfield, vigorously opposed the amendment, saying that its effect would be to benefit the corporations and not, the agriculturalists. The amendment was not agreed to, and the bill was then passed—yeas 118, nays 51.

THE ANTI CONSPIRACY BILL.

The bill to relieve clerks, workingmen and other employees from certain prosecutions for conspiracy also came up in the House yesterday on final passage. Mr. Jones of Allegheny, who had it in charge, spoke in its favor, declaring that its provisions would not protect workingmen who refused to permit others to work. It passed—yeas 109, nays 6. What the fate of this the Semi-Monthly Pay Bill will be in the Senate remains to be seen. Both will meet with strong opposition in that body.

AGAINST A BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

Protests were presented by a number of Senators yesterday against the passage of the act to establish a State Board of Medical Examiners. In conversation yesterday with one of the most prominent members of and finest speakers in the House, he remarked that he was opposed to the creation of any more State Boards for this, that and the other thing. Said he: "They are only intended to provide soft berths for some favorites, and I don't know of a single one that is of any real benefit to the people of the State. Take for instance the State Board of Charities. It is run principally by a lot of Philadelphians, so that ladada Cadwaller Biddle can draw his \$3,000 a year and traveling expenses, of what earthly use is this Board any way? I think it is time to call a halt, and instead of establishing any more Boards the Legislature should lop off the heads of most of those now in existence." That member's head is level and some day or other the Board of Charities and kindred institutions will receive the worst kind of an exorcism at his hands. Speed the day when this and other filching institutions on the treasury shall no longer have a being within the limits of Pennsylvania.

THEY WANT A NEW CAPITOL.

There are some newspapers and quite a number of people who do not agree with the Capital Building Commission for the erection of a new State Library and the improvement of the old Capitol. They want a new capitol out and out. It is not likely their desire will be gratified, nor should it be. With the erection of the new State Library, and the abandonment of the present quarters used for that purpose, which can then be utilized for the purposes of the Legislature, and the improvement and renovation of the old capitol building, there will be room enough and to spare for many years to come. There is no prettier or better organized capitol building in the country than that of Pennsylvania. There is only one inference to be drawn as to the conduct of the advocates of a new capitol. That is, they desire to get their hands into the State Treasury, and there would be lots of fellows living off the fat of the land for years to come. No, the tax-payers of this tax-ridden and over-burdened Commonwealth are content with the present commodious and substantial buildings, and there will many suns rise and set, many moons wax and wane, and many stars twinkle and disappear before the present historic State buildings will be razed to the ground.

WHEN WILL IT ADJOURN?

Some people say the Legislature will adjourn about the 10th of May, others again predict not before the 1st of June. There is a vast deal of work yet to do—for instance: The bill for the calling of a constitutional convention on the question of ballot reform; the Apportionment bills, in which are included the Congressional, Legislative and Judicial; the bill for the equalization of taxation, and the General Appropriation bill. Under the Constitution of 1873, there can never be more than fifty Senators, and there has been no change in the Senatorial districts since 1874. There are those who think that the time has come for a rearranging of these districts; that during the past seventeen years many things have occurred which make a rearrangement desirable. But it is questionable whether they will be rearranged, and it is even questionable whether there will be any apportionment. The Republicans in the Legislature are not anxious for it. At all events, it looks now as if the roses of June will be in bloom when the day of final adjournment takes place.

COLUMBIA.

According to the corrected returns from the Rhode Island election Governor Davis the democratic candidate has a plurality of 1,313. Last year he lacked 1,025 of having a majority over all and this year 939. The state is so districted as to insure a majority of republicans in the senate and legislature, and as the Constitution requires that a governor must have a majority over all, and failing in this, the governor is chosen by the legislature, a republican governor will be chosen who will be over 3,500 in the minority.

Pending the result of an inquiry by the Department of Justice into the nationality and life of the men lynched at New Orleans, Secretary Blaine has no further communication to make concerning the trouble with Italy. It is reported in Berlin that the German government has offered its services as arbitrator. Antonio Scarpello, a Toronto Italian, professes to have received an offer from 500 of his countrymen at Portland, Me., to march on New Orleans, and says that if Italy does not take up the affair the Mafia will.

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Body Brussels in over fifty different-patterns all new styles borders to match, price \$1.25 per yard.

Velvet Carpets at \$1.00 and \$1.25 with or without borders to match, an especial good value for the money.

Rag Carpets 33; 43; and 48 cents.

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54 " " 60; 65; and 70 " " "

72 " " \$1.00; per yard.

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