HARRISBURG LETTER.

Legislators Fighting Against the School Book Trust.

INSAME ASYLUM INVESTIGATION

The Laquiry Will be Conducted by Senator Gobin and Representative Cochrane, Decreased Revenues Will Affect Charitable Institutions-Disorderly Visitors.

(Special Correspondence.)

HABBISBURG, Feb. 11.-The members of the house from the country districts are after the school book trust with a sharp A bill has been introduced by Mr. Douthett, of Butler, providing for the purchase of extbooks at publisher's prices. which is designed to force the trust out of business in Pennsylvania. The bill was presented a week ago and is still in the committee on education. Mr. Douthett declares that certain members are trying to throttle it, but this is denied by Chairman Farr, who promises it shall be taken up and disposed of at the next meeting.

If the bill is negatived a resolution will

be offered by the member from Butler to place it on the calendar. He is also con-sidering whether it would not be a good pian to offer a resolution for a legislative committee to ascertain the cost of books furnished school boards in the state by the trust. It is claimed that there is great inequality is the prices; that some cities pay twice as much as others. Representative Lytle, the Republican leader of the house, Chairman Moore, of the agricul-tural committee, and Mr. Martin, of Lawrence, than whom there are no more active members, have assured Mr. Douthett of their sympathy with him, and state that if he does not want to take the responsibily of making the investigation they will gladly relieve him by offering the resolu-

The Marshall bill providing for the concollidation of competing pipe line companies will be taken up on third reading in the house to-morrow. After the measure had been read the second time it was recommitted to committe in order to give its opponents an opportunity to be heard. On Wednesday a delegation of oil producers from Butler county, headed by ex-Senator James W. Lee, of Pittsburg, were heard by the committee in opposition to the bill. Addresses were made by Mr. Addresses were made by Mr. Lee, Clarence Walker, O. M. Russell, Colonel W. A. Clark, Amos Steelsmith and J. J. Firdicker. At the close of the argument the committee went into executive session, and by a unanimous vote agreed to report the bill. When it comes up in the house an earnest fight will be made against it under the leadership of Representative Moore, of Butler, a young lawyer of ability, and an affective worker for the producers' interest ..

The Insane Asylum Investigation Ordered. The governor has approved the joint resolution providing for an investigation of the management of the state insane hospitals at Wernersville and Norristown. committees on the part of the house will be announced tomorrow by Speaker Walton. Representative Cochrane, of Arm-strong, will be selected to conduct the investigation at Wernersville and Senator Gobin, of Lebanon, at Norristown. The governor has not yet acted upon the concurrent resolution offered by Representative Focht, of Union, for a committee to investigate the state charitable and penal institutions to ascertain how many of their inmates are aliens. The patriotic orders are back of the movement.

There does not exist very friendly relations between the governor and the senate. Private Secretary Beitler has been commissioned to submit lists of notaries public and other minor appointments in districts to the senators, with the understanding that if any are objectioninstances the governor has ignored senatorial objections and declined to with-This was true in the draw the names. case of Thomas Caffrey, of Pittsburg, and Frank J. Campbell, of Coatesville, whose appointments as notaries public were made against the protests of the senators from the districts interested. Senator White has "hung up" the nomination of Dr. H. S. McConnell, of New Brighton, and unless it is recalled he will be knocked Senator Penrose, of Philadelphia, the leader of the friends of Senator Quay in the senate, has put himself in position to have rejected the nominations of any person from that city objectionable to

Governor Hastings has approved the Gobin bill providing for the reorganization of the state banking department, and will send to the senate during the week the nomination of Chairman Gilkeson, of the state Republican committee, to be commissioner of banking. The nomination will be promptly confirmed. Celonel Gilkeson will enter upon the duties next Monday. He has selected ex-State Treasurer Morrison for chief of the bureau in charge of the foreign building and loan intions. The governor has also signed the bill providing for an additional law judge in Westmoreland county. asure for another law judge in Washington county has passed the house and is on the senate calendar for second reading to-morrow. There is no objection to it, so that it will reach the governor before the plose of the week

Must Rush Apportionment Measures. The state administration insists on the speedy passage of all the apportionment easures introduced by Republicans. The legislative apportionment committee has report the bill introduced by Chairman Culbertson. It is identical with that offered two years ago by the Republi-sans, and will be put through the house by a party vote, and then sent to a conference committee to be shaped to meet the views of the governor. Senator Quay is urging a complete change in the congressional districts. He is anxious to have all those wiped out which have been made doubtfully Republican by the conferres system. Under the new apportionment Allegheny will get four instead of three congressmen, and Philadelphia six in-stead of five. The Randall district, which until last fall always elected a Democrat, will be changed. The legislative appor-tionment drafted by Mr. Culbertson gives Allegheny four new members, and Philadelphia, Carbon and Jefferson each an additional member. Somerset, Bedford, Lawrence, Schuylkill, Clarion, Crawford, Chester and Huntingdon each lose one. There is no change in the representation

from the other counties.

Senator Baker, the author of the present ballot system, will endeavor to correct its defects. He has collected copies of the proposed changes and all suggestions that have been offered, together with the rec-ommendations of the Ballot Reform association, and will combine them into one

bill, for which a special order will be asked in both bodies. As to the constitutionality of the act in regard to voting upon ques tions of municipal indebtedness the title will be amended so as to cover this defect. The senator will also endeavor to amend the twenty-sixth section by requiring every voter who declares that he has a disability and requires assistance to make his state ment under oath upon printed form, as now required by residence and on ago. He cheerfully courts criticism of the law, and is open to any suggestions that may

be made that would increase its efficiency.

The charitable and penal institutions of Pennsylvania will suffer considerably by the large decrease in the state revenues Auditor General Gregg and State Treasurer Jackson estimate that the receipts of the next two years, on account of the hard times, will not aggregate more than \$19,000,000, which is \$2,000,000 less than that of the previous two years. The general appropriation bill, which includes eleven millions for the public schools, the expenses of the executive, departmental and legislative branches of the state government, the state judiciary and the salaries of the county superintendents of schools will foot up in round numbers about \$16, 000,000. This leaves only \$3,000,000 for the national guard, penitentiaries, house of refuge, Huntingdon reformatory, state normal schools, state boards of health and agriculture and all other state institutions, of which there are over 125 sus tained wholly or in part by the state. The state board of charities estimates that it will cost a million dollars the next two years for the care and treatment of the

Heavy Appropriations Asked For. The state normal schools ask for \$1,100. 000. The National Guard will require \$700,000, the soldiers' orphans' schools \$350,000 for maintenance, the soldiers' and sallors' home at Eric \$35°, 0. A bill has been passed appropriating \$13,000 to complete the buildings and put in condition the grounds at the industrial school, at Scotland, F-anklin county, and will ask for an additi nal appropriation of \$175,000 to build sixteen double nottages to accommodate 1,000 children. If the appropration is granted the commissioner will transfer the pupils to Scotland from the schools at Chester Springs, Uniontown and Harford, and close these institutions. If a compulsory education bill becomes a law the school appropration will have to be increased to \$12,000,000.

The legislature has established the custom of giving to the retiring governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of internal affairs and other state officials the desks and chairs used by them during their offi-cial term. Some of these desks are valued

Representative French, of Washington, has introduced a bill requiring public school teachers to open their schools by reading the scriptures from five to fifteen minutes every morning. He says every-body is responsible for this measure but himself, although the patriotic societies are urging its passage. "I did it on the broad principles of Christianity," said Mr. French. "I believe that it is right. There is too much of a tendency to disre-gard the scriptures in school life. I do not prescribe what the teachers shall read. They can select a passage in the New Tes-tament to satisfy the Christians or a chapter from the Old Testament to satisfy the Jew. They can read from the St. James version so that Protestants may not be offended or from the Donay version so that the scruples of our Catholic friends may

Speaker Walton has found it necessary almost daily to call upon Sergeant-at-Arms Shoener to preserve order among the visitors and lobbyists, who crowd in the hall of the house and gossip and talk, to the annoyance of the members and the speaker. The rules committee will take this matter up at the next meeting, and it is likely that a rule will be adopted that no outsider should be permitted on the floor of the house unless introduced by a member who will vouch for his conduct. As it is, all the doors are open and anybody can enter without question.

To Improve the House Acoustics.

The board of public buildings and grounds has ordered draperies from Trimby, Hunt & Co., of Philadelphia, for the windows of the hall of the house. It is believed the draperies, with the wires strung overhead in different parts of the room, will improve its acoustic properties Representative Fow, of Philadelphia, believes the state should own and operate its own electric light and heating plant, and has offered a resolution for a commit tee to investigate the subject. The exist ing contract for light, which is furnished by a local concern, amounted to \$12,000, 000, while the contract for this year is \$17,000,000. For heating, under the old contract, the cost was \$5,000; now it is

The house has passed the bill introduced by Mr. Fow a bolishing the kissing of the Bible by witnesses, and substituting instead the laying of the hand on the open book. The debate on this question recalls an interesting incident about certain legislators. "I was never more surprised in my life," said a newspaper correspondent yesterday, "when I went to take a drink with Representative B. in his room. As you know, he likes a good drink, a funny story and a quiet game of poker or fan tan. Imagine my astonishment when he took the bottle from the wardrobe and sat it down on the dressing case beside a well thumbed Bible. I learned since that he has made it a practice to read a chapter in

the Bible every night for years." Manufacturers all over the state are kicking on the new revenue bill drafted by the state tax conference. They declare it will drive them out of business if it becomes a law or force them to remove to other states where the corporations are not taxed as heavily as in Pennsylvania. The Manufacturers' club, of Philadelphia, has filed a protest against the bill and asked for a hearing before the house ways and means committee before it is acted upon finally. The grangers want the bill to pass. WANBAUGH.

Father and Son Burned to Death PITTSBURG, Feb. 6.-Frederick D. Miller and his 6 year-old son were burned to death at their house on Second avenue. Fire was discovered in the kitchen at midrice was discovered in the kitchen at mid-night. Miller, his wife, children and a hired man ran to the front of the building. On the way Mrs. Miller lost the boy, and her husband returned to find him. Mrs. Miller, one child and the man escaped by jumping into blankets from the second story windows. After the fire Miller and the boy were found lying on the floor of the bedroom dead.

Again in Shape for Travel.

READING, Pa., Feb. 11 .- Most of the railroads centering here are again in good shape for public travel. The Philadelphia shape for public traves.

and Reading main line trains, passenger,
and fraight are running. The Pennooal and freight, are running. The Penn-sylvania is open between Pottsville and Philadelphia, as are also the Lebanon Valley and Reading and Columbia. AN INCIDENT OF TRAVEL

Introducing a Voluble Darky and an Em-

barrassed Traveler.
"On a limited train from Philadelphia recently," told a man at a dinner, "the heat in the smoking car became intolerable. Everybody suffered and fumed until somebody discovered that all the ventilators were shut. Then the porter was called and ordered to open them. As he was complying a man who looked like a commercial traveller voiced the indignation we all felt at the fellow's carelessness, quotes the New York Times.

"'What r'ye mean,' he said, 'keep-ing us boxed here in this furnace? You ought to have opened these ven-tilators long ago. We'll have pneu-monia after such a Turkish bath.'

Whereupon the porter turned upon

"I want you to understan', sah, you'se no right to tell me what I ought to do, sah, I knows my business, sah, an' don' need no s'ggestions from any-body, sah. I may lose my job for sas-sin' you, sah, but I can't help it, sah.'

"He paused a moment for breath, and the drummer, somewhat embar-rassed by the tirade, attempted to stem 'Oh! stop your talk,' he said, 'and

bring me a couple of cigars.'
"'All right, sah. What price, sah?
Nobody kin tell me what my business on this kyar is, sah; I knows it puf-fickly well, sah. Twenty-cent ones, sah? Very well, sah, I may lose my job for sassin' you, sah, but I want you to understan!, sah, you can't tell me what I ought to do, sah! That I don' low nehow, sah!

The cigars came, the drummer se-lected two, and handed the darkey a dollar bill and told him to keep the

"'Thank 'ee, sah,' pocketing the money. 'I knows my business, sah; nobody kin tell me nothin' about it, sah. I may lose my job for sassin' you, sah, but I'se got to tell you that I don' take no orders from no one in dis kyar, sah, an' I want you to understan' it, sah,' and he went off to his nook at the other end muttering his protests as long as he could be heard, while the drummer, out a fruitless sixty cents, looked helplessly after

Alarm Clock for Lovers.

A young man stood in the portice of an apartment house in Washington Park, Brooklyn, the other evening, and on the step above him stood a pretty girl. It was late, says the New York Sun, and the street was deserted. Despite the darkness it was apparent to the occasional passerby that the young man had the daintily-gloved right hand of the young woman within his own, while his left hand rested over it like a cover to keep it guarded. The young man was apparently trying to say good night and the young woman evidently could not hear him, for she was bending her head close to his, They stood in that attitude for nearly fifteen minutes, and might have been discovered in the same pose by the gray dawn of the morning had not something intervened.

That something was round and bright, and it came out of a sixth story window. It descended slowly, the moonlight shimmering on its silvery, surface and making it conspicuous. Soon it could be seen that it was on a string and was being lowered by an elderly woman. When it dangled over the portico there was a sudden bur-r-rr-r-r-ring and the young man and young woman parted like an over-strained howser. The young man seized the round and bright object which was still ringing and held its face to the electric light. The hands on the alarm clock were clasped at midnight. He raised his hat to the young woman, murmured two words in a low tone and disappeared. The alarm clock was hoisted up quickly, but the young woman was upstairs before it finally reached the open win-

The Woman to Be Avoided She was a haughty dame, and, being on a shopping expedition with a friend, happened to catch a glimpse of an acquaintance she did not wish to recognize.

"Let us go this way past the silk counter. I just saw some one I don't care to meet."

Who is she?" asked her friend, who did not see any one near them. "Oh, some horrid woman with a smirk on her face. Of course, I have only a bowing acquaintance with her. and, although her face is so familiar, I cannot remember her name."

They finished their shopping, and the two ladies found themselves at the same point where one of them had seen her disagreeable acquaintance.

"There she is again. Why, I do believe she's been there all the time," she said, pointing to the person in question.

That woman. Goodness that's yourself you see in the mirrow there."—Detroit Free Press.

Seasonable. "Don't sit so close to the fire, Johnny; the weather isn't cold," said the boy's father.

"But I ain't heating the weather; I'm warming myself," answered Johnny, never moving from his comfortable seat.

At the Fancy Ball. "Do look at that huge woman danc-ing with Uncle Bob. What is she? A "H'm! rather an Earthquakeress, I should fancy!"—London Punch.

Saving Skiff's Life. Doctor—Add \$20 to Skiff's bill.

Clerk-What for? Doctor-Skiff has heart trouble, and f the bill is smaller than he expected the shock might kill him."-Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Idealism and Realism. Hubbie-You are crowned with beauty, dear. Wifie-That's all right, Charlie, but

just the same.-Detroit Free Press. An Echo of Trilby. What is the trouble, Wadleigh, between you and Miss Hopson?"
"I called her 'Sweet Alice' and she me to Bolt.-Detroit Free

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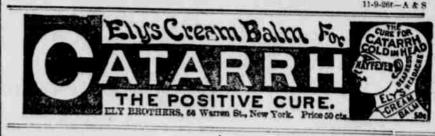
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