

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Our State Lawmakers Making Haste Very Slowly.

WORK FOR A STEERING COMMITTEE

The Governor and Speaker Walton Decide on That Mode of Procedure—The Visit of Senator Quay and Its Probable Effect on Legislative Work.

(Special Correspondence.)

HARRISBURG, March 4.—The legislature is making progress slowly. Neither body did anything of importance the past week, and if this lack of energy continues the final adjournment will not come before the middle of the summer. In the senate a few bills passed the final stage, the most important being the Marshall pipe line repeal bill and the measure creating a department of agriculture. In the house the entire week was given up to useless debate and petty wrangles over trifles. The Farr compulsory education bill and bills decreasing the salaries of district attorneys and changing the poor system of the state so as to prevent counties not having poorhouses from "farming out" their poor to neighboring counties passed second reading after much debate. The need of a wise, clear headed and honest leader in the house is more apparent daily, and unless something is done very soon there will be trouble.

Governor Hastings realizes this and has decided that the only hope of accomplishing anything is to have a steering committee to direct its affairs. The governor had a conference last week with Speaker Walton, at which the situation was carefully discussed, and it was decided that such a committee was absolutely indispensable, and Mr. Walton will appoint the committee during the week. A resolution will be considered this evening that the legislature adjourn sine die on April 23. It was offered by Mr. Niles, of Tioga, a member of the rules committee, but there isn't the least doubt but that it will be overwhelmingly defeated. If the calendars are to be cleared of the bills now on them the legislature cannot possibly get away before the first week in June.

The New Revenue Bill.

The house ways and means committee is giving three hearings a week on the new revenue bill drafted by the state tax conference. The manufacturers and domestic building and loan associations are opposed to the proposition, and it looks now as if it will never pass second reading. It would be great relief to the agriculture classes if it were to become a law, and at the same time a burden to the manufacturers. The bill transfers to the counties the whole of the proceeds of the personal property tax, of which the counties now get only three-fourths, and the tax upon vehicles, all mercantile licenses, peddlers' licenses, taxes upon the fees and emoluments of county officers, and upon original writs. It transfers to the boroughs and townships the taxes upon horses and cattle more than 4 years old, the license fees of billiard rooms, pool rooms and theaters.

The effect of the revenues will be that about \$1,450,000 will be diverted from the state to counties and minor divisions. This deficit in the revenues will be met by an increase in the taxes from corporations in 1896, when the bill goes into effect, of \$750,000. The increase in the taxation of banks will be about \$50,000 by the taking away of the option. The tax on building and loan associations will be \$100,000; on manufacturing and other corporations, \$250,000; and from various other taxes \$100,000 more, leaving an actual deficit of only about \$30,000. It is estimated that the increase in the number of corporations, and in their value resulting in increased taxes will more than wipe out this deficit.

The house general judiciary committee is wrestling with a civil reform bill, which was introduced by Mr. Moore, of Chester, by request of the State Civil Service Reform association. The measure is patterned after the United States law, and puts all state and many county employes under civil service rules. A commission of three is provided to make the necessary examinations.

Secretary Lee, of the state board of health, was in the city last week lobbying for the bill allowing the board discretion as to the use to be made of the money to be appropriated to it. As the law now stands the money is appropriated for specific purposes, and no matter how urgent the need the board is unable to use a surplus in one branch of its work to make good a deficiency in another. The amount of the appropriation will be embodied in a bill which will be introduced in the house and has not yet been decided upon. It has been agreed, however, that the salary of the secretary shall be raised from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Five thousand was asked for, but the amount was cut down to \$3,000. Pennsylvania's appropriation to the board the past two years for all purposes was \$6,000. Massachusetts appropriates \$19,000; New York, \$30,000; New Jersey, \$16,000; Maryland, \$13,000; and Alabama, Illinois and Minnesota, \$9,000.

May Veto the "Bird Hook" Bill.

Governor Hastings has not yet disposed of the "bird hook" bill, which has been on his desk since last Tuesday. Those who speak by authority say he has decided to veto the measure on the ground that the public revenues are not sufficient to warrant an expenditure of \$25,000 or \$30,000 for the publication of a picture book. State Ornithologist Warren, by whom the book will be prepared, should the bill become a law, has submitted to the governor estimates of the cost, which show that it cannot be printed for less than \$25,000. The grangers are urging the governor to approve the bill.

The bill prohibiting teachers from wearing a religious garb of any kind in the public schools has been read the first time in the house, and will be considered on second reading next Wednesday, and third reading and final passage the following Tuesday. The Democrats are opposed to the proposition, and claim that if it becomes a law it will drive out of the public schools the Mennonites, Dunkards and Amish children, many of whom are taught by teachers of their own religious belief, who wear the plain frock and white head dress. The Democrats are also fighting the compulsory education bill, but they are too weak to prevent the passage of either of the bills.

Speaker Walton is being urged for city solicitor of Philadelphia to succeed Mayor-elect Warwick. Should he be successful he will have to resign from the legislature, and in that event Representative Kunkel, the brainy young leader of Dauphin county, will probably be chosen his successor. By common consent Mr. Kunkel is the best lawyer and the most forceful debater and cogent reasoner in the house. He has frequently been called

to the chair during Walton, and has displayed the tact and ability that go to make a splendid presiding officer. Mr. Kunkel was tendered the chairmanship of the general judiciary committee at the organization of the house, but he declined in favor of Representative Niles, of Tioga, to take the head of the committee on insurance. Commissioner of Banking Gilkeson has not yet announced the appointment of his deputy. There are many applicants for the place, but it is generally conceded that ex-State Treasurer Morrison can have it for the asking. He was an applicant for the commissionership. George G. Hutcheson, of Huntingdon, one of the foremost grangers in the state and a former sergeant-at-arms of the senate, is being urged for the appointment of deputy secretary of agriculture under the bill creating the department of agriculture.

A Popular Legislator.

Dr. Parrels, of Mifflin, is one of the few practicing physicians in the legislature. He is frequently called upon to prescribe for one of his colleagues who has been taken ill suddenly or meets with a slight accident, and has always responded cheerfully. He is one of the most skillful physicians in central Pennsylvania, and the proof of his popularity at home is shown by his election last November over one of the leading Republicans in a county with a normal Republican majority of 500. Dr. Parrels was elected with over 200 votes to spare. He is one of the best talkers in the house, and is rarely absent from his seat.

A bill has been introduced in the house by Representative Martin, of Mercer, to create public employment offices under the care of the bureau of industrial statistics. The bill provides that it shall be the duty of the chief of the bureau to establish a public employment office in each congressional district and employ a superintendent for each of these offices. The superintendents shall post in front of their offices the words "public employment office," and shall receive applications for labor and make a careful record of each. They may employ clerical assistants and are prohibited from receiving compensation or fees from persons seeking employment. The superintendents are required to make report every Tuesday to the commissioner of all applicants and persons securing employment through their office. A list of applicants and the character of employment desired by them is to be printed weekly by the superintendents and mailed every Saturday to each other, to be posted in the respective offices for public inspection. The superintendents shall also collect such labor statistics as the commissioner may direct. The commissioner is to receive a salary of \$2,000 annually, the superintendents \$1,500 each and the clerks not more than \$50 a month.

State Treasurer Jackson has prepared a statement, in response to the request of Representative Lawrence, of Washington, showing that the Pennsylvania state college has received since 1878 in all, from the state and national governments, \$1,232,123. The total appropriations from the state foot up \$757,120. The college received from the sale of public lands \$450,000, which was loaned to the state at 6 per cent. Under an act of congress of 1890 the college has received from the United States government \$85,000. The income from this source will soon be \$25,000 a year.

The Coming of Senator Quay.

Senator Quay is expected here tomorrow evening for a two days' visit, and during that time it will be definitely decided whether a senate committee is to be appointed to investigate the Philadelphia municipal departments or not. If the arguments of Senator Penrose, Magistrate Durham and others have any weight with Quay, the committee will be appointed. Should Senator Quay, however, decide to accept the more conservative advice of the various business interests, plans will be perfected for a vigorous fight on other lines.

Much interest is also being manifested in the prospective interview between Senator Quay and Governor Hastings, and nobody doubts but that the two will work in perfect harmony. The report from Pittsburgh of the alleged deal between the governor, Chris Magee and David Martin to turn down Quay and Cameron is ridiculed by well informed people at the capital. General Hastings was first publicly named for the Republican nomination for president in 1896 by Cyrus G. Derr, on the stage of the Academy of Music in Reading, when the Hastings spellbinders were in that city last September, and since then his friends have frequently suggested him for that honor. Governor Hastings would be more than human if, under the circumstances, he escaped the buzzing of the presidential bee; but with Senator Quay opposed to him he might as well give up all ambitions in that line at once.

Nobody understands the political situation better than Governor Hastings, and he is not knowingly going to make an enemy of Quay, who, outside of the presidential aspect, could hardly harass the governor through his control of the legislature. Not a single appointment objectionable to Senator Quay could come within a mile of confirmation by the senate.

The two days to be spent by Senator Quay in this city will be busy ones, for the Philadelphia fight is but one of many matters which will be brought before him for his decision. One of the hottest fights is being waged over the bill to create the new county out of portions of Schuylkill and Luzerne, and both sides have been endeavoring to secure the Quay influence, but that gentleman has thus far refused to commit himself one way or the other in the fight. His influence will also be sought on the judges retirement bill, which is on the second reading calendar in the house. When it seemed assured that the measure could not pass Senator Grady introduced the bill for the additional court in Philadelphia. Since then, however, there have been some changes in the house, and with a word from Quay it is believed that the bill could easily pass. WANBAUGH.

Fraudulent Naturalization Papers.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., March 4.—It has just been discovered that a large number of fraudulent naturalization papers were used in the February election. In one district over eighty of the papers were given to aliens. The name of Clerk of the Courts Leckston was forged and the seal of the county was obtained in some manner unknown to the officials. Some prominent politicians are implicated. Arrests will follow.

Arrested for Detecting.

YORK, Pa., March 4.—Detective Samuel Wallick, of this city, and Constable Droughbaugh, of Codorus township, have arrested Conrad Albright, a school teacher, and Milton Hamme and Allen Garman, all young men of Codorus township, on the charges of robbing the home of the Albright brothers, in that section, last week, and also for the shooting of Adam Albright at the time.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

When the eyes are tired and weak, if they are bathed in slightly saline water they will soon become soothed. To keep layer cakes from sticking put paper in the pan, grease it, then sprinkle of flour. The paper then peels off readily. To color leather a blood red, brush the leather with a solution of sulphate of ammonia and apply the dye. Use either aniline red or extract of alkanet root. Work rapidly to prevent the dye penetrating the leather. Cracks in ivory may be filled with chalk made into a putty with mullage or white glue. Magnesia and zinc-white also make a good putty for ivory cracks. Use as little mullage or glue as possible in the putty. To make an ink that will copy with-out the use of press, brush or water, dissolve an aniline color in water and add a little glycerine. It is well to dissolve the color in alcohol first. About 10 per cent. of glycerine should be sufficient. A simple way of removing rust from finely polished steel without injury to the surface consists in cleaning the article with a mixture of ten parts putty-powder, eight of ammonia and twenty-five of alcohol, and then rubbing with soft blotting paper. A very good waterproof blacking is composed of the following ingredients: Two ounces of beeswax, two ounces of tallow, two ounces of spermaceti, one tablespoonful of lampblack. Mix all well together and stir well. Apply warm with a brush and when cold polish like ordinary blacking. Broken ends of candles will do for the spermaceti. It is a great mistake to make a large tea biscuit. Properly speaking, a tea biscuit should not be more than two inches in diameter and proportionately thick when baked. This gives a delicate, moist, flaky, biscuit, which will be cooked through before the outside crust has become hard or over brown. Never read in bed or when lying upon the sofa. Sit with your back to the light as much as possible. Attend to your digestion. Do not work longer than two hours without closing your eyes and resting them for five minutes. If your eyes are weak, bathe them in water to which a little salt and a little brandy have been added. To prevent oil-cloth, patent leather and similar materials from sticking together when rolled, purchase a few sheets of paraffin-impregnated or otherwise prepared paper, and roll with the material. This will prevent the sticking, also the fading of the colors or gloss by keeping out air and moisture. The evaporation of the oil is likewise prevented to a great extent.

Courts and Common Sense. Courtship is not for the immature; the time is past for the encouragement of marriage between mere children, and we have to recognize the fact that it is men and women without experience, yet men and women, that we are called upon to aid, enhearten and bid Godspeak down the way of love. Every word spoken to them regarding courtship and matrimony should be rich with the essence of practical common sense. Romance and sentimentality are well enough in poetry and fiction; it is in reality a composite of joy, sorrow, success, disappointment, serenity, vexation; it is the average sum of human experience. Courtship is an effort to choose a mate for life. Two home-makers are considering a copartnership; the fate of unnumbered future generations is being settled. If we look straight into the countenance of nature and at the same time keep fully aware of what civilization expects, we shall feel the immense importance of what is going on yonder where the young man and his sweetheart sit apart from the crowd. A sacred contract is being negotiated, and upon the outcome of a few million contracts like that depends the whole future of the human race.—The Chautauquan.

A Winter Scene. Nobody understands the political situation better than Governor Hastings, and he is not knowingly going to make an enemy of Quay, who, outside of the presidential aspect, could hardly harass the governor through his control of the legislature. Not a single appointment objectionable to Senator Quay could come within a mile of confirmation by the senate. The two days to be spent by Senator Quay in this city will be busy ones, for the Philadelphia fight is but one of many matters which will be brought before him for his decision. One of the hottest fights is being waged over the bill to create the new county out of portions of Schuylkill and Luzerne, and both sides have been endeavoring to secure the Quay influence, but that gentleman has thus far refused to commit himself one way or the other in the fight. His influence will also be sought on the judges retirement bill, which is on the second reading calendar in the house. When it seemed assured that the measure could not pass Senator Grady introduced the bill for the additional court in Philadelphia. Since then, however, there have been some changes in the house, and with a word from Quay it is believed that the bill could easily pass. WANBAUGH.

Keep Your Chin In to be Healthy. "If my daughter were going to Europe to spend a year without her family," said a wise mother the other day, "and I were to give her a brief rule as a guide to health, it would be this, keep your chin in." This seemed unintelligible until she elaborated it and showed the effects of such an observance. She said: "To keep the chin in means to keep it well drawn back horizontally. That causes what physical culturists call a lifted chest or a live chest. A lifted chest insures deep and full breathing, and hence pure blood and perfect circulation. Perfect circulation is the greatest safeguard against contagion, and it prevents chilliness, the forerunner of colds. A lifted chest also throws the whole body into a graceful poise. The abdomen recedes, the thumbs fall into place by the side, the weight of the body falls upon the ball of the foot instead of the heel, and the shoulder blades flatten. These effects are produced when standing or walking. There are also effects in sitting. A lifted chest then insures a straight backbone with the end of spine against the back of chair, instead of a curved spine, which many women assume while sitting. The habit of retaining a lifted chest is easily formed, provided the clothing is reasonably loose."—Prairie Farmer.

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