HARRISBURG LETTER.

Fight Between Friends and Opponents of a Greater Pittsburg.

CONGRESSIONAL APPORTIONMENT.

A Bill to be Prepared by the House Committee-Uncle George Lawrence Will Ride Home on Horseback at the End of the Present Session.

(Special Correspondence.)

HARRISBURG, April 22.—There is liable to be trouble in the house to morrow when the Flinn greater Pittsburg bills come up on second reading. The resolution fixing the special order for their consideration read that they should be taken up just after the reading of the journal, not later than 11 o'clock. The special order for the consideration of the Smith bill for the dis-tribution of school funds was fixed for 11 o'clock, and there is where the hitch comes in. The lobby of the capitol will swarm with the friends and opponents of the three annexation measures. Representative Merrick, of Tioga, the legal oracle of the grangers, has been selected to make the fight against the bills. He will be seconded by Representatives Mansfield, of Beaver, and Richey and Tillbrook, of Allegheny. Mr. Merrick has a few old scores to pay off with the boomers of a greater Pitts-burg, and this is one of the ways in which

he proposes to get even. The Pittsburg people claim that their bills must be considered until disposed of, and the Smith bill friends insist that when 11 o'clock arrives the consideration of the Flinn bills must be stayed until the school fund bill is disposed of.

A decision on this point made in the house in 1861 by Speaker Elisha W. Davis, that has never been disputed, says: "The speaker decided that the house, having by a two thirds vote determined that it would, at a certain specified hour, upon a partieular day, proceed to the consideration of a certain question, and the time having arrived, the house must proceed to its consideration, and any other business before the house stands postponed until the question is disposed of by the house, either by adoption, rejection or postponement."

The Flinn bill people clearly have the decision on their side. The African in the woodpile is that the consideration of the Flinn bill may consume the entire day, and the other special orders will be shut out and cannot go on the next day's calendar

The School Appropriation Bill.

The Smith bill proposes to distribute the school appropriation by scattering onethird according to the number of teachers employed for the full term and the balance on the basis of the number of taxables. Under this plan Philadelphia would receive over \$100,000 less than its present share, and other large cities a corresponding decrease.

The members from the rural districts and small towns are pushing the bill. They argue that the cities should make concessions to the country districts, where the people lack opportunities and facili-ties to learn. In the large centers of population it is easier to gain an oducation. The Philadelphia delegation is a unit against the measure. Representatives Fow, Stewart and Hicks have given the subject much attention. They contend that it is not fair to the populous cities, whose corporations and industries pay the bulk of the state taxes, and where the citizens take pride in improving their schools, to perpetuate the miserable system of education in the country-that is, short terms and low salaries to teachers.

Chairman Niles, of the house judicial apportionment committee, has fixed to-morrow for a hearing on the memorial of J. W. M. Newlin, the Philadelphia lawludge Gord city, with holding a secret court in violation of the bill of rights. Both sides have been notified to be present. The investigation will be conducted by a sub-committee of five. Representative Kunkel, of this city, is chairman. A meeting of the house congressional apportionment committee will also be eld tomorrow evening to prepare a bill. The measure will practically be the same as that of 1893, and will give Philadelphia and Allegheny each an additional member. The house ways and means committee will meet the same evening to consider finally the new revenue bill. It is gen-erally conceded that the bill will be brought out of committee and killed on second reading. A special calendar will be made for the revenue, apportionment and appropriation bills.

the fall in executive session, and Chairman Riter hopes to be able to report it by the latter part of the week or early next week. The country members will make a determined effort to get it through, and in order to meet the charge that the bill will not produce enough revenue, it may be so smooled as to postpeno until next year the time when the provision for turning, over to the counties certain revenues is to go into effect.

Uncle George's Big Horseback Ride.

Uncle George Lawrence, as he is affectionately called by his friends, served in the legislature before a majority of his present colleagues were born, and it is a common sight to see the veteran sur-rounded by his young friends relating incidents of his early public services. When he was first elected to the house, fifty-two years ago, the transportation facilities were extremely poor, and he made the journey of 210 miles from Monongahela City, in Washington county, to Harris-burg on horseback. Many subsequent trips were made the same way by the stal-wart young legislator before the railroads superseded the old sorrel horse.

The old man has frequently expressed a desire to ride once more over the old route, and as he has an idea that this will be his last term at Harrisburg he bas determined to gratify the longing at the close of the session and return to his home in the old way. A number of the members have arranged to present their venerable colleague with a horse and trappings, and a delegation of them will accompany him on the journey. The route after leaving Harris-burg will be along the old state road, through Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Bedford, Somerset and Westmoreland countles to the waters of the Monongahela. Arrangements will be made to give the veteran statesman hearty receptions in some of the principal towns along the route

The oil excitement has struck the mem-bers of the legislature, and they go to Representative Al Smiley for pointers, and what he doesn't know about oil is not worth knowing. He laid the first pipe line ever laid, and has made and lost several fortunes. While on his way to Har-risburg from his home last Monday he stepped into the Exchange in Pittsburg. After he had taken his bearings he in-structed a friendly broker to buy he a little oil. Thirty minutes later Al was ready to leave, and told the broker to sell. The latter got his commission, and as the Clarlon county statesman left the Ex change he shoved \$150 into his pocket with a smilling remark: "That's my week's ex-penses, anyhow." Smilley is still in oil, but that was merely a little sample of pick-ing up \$150 in half an hour's time on noth-

Northampton's Health Representative.

Dr. T. C. Zulich, a son of Representative C. B. Zulich, of Northampton, has been selected to represent the state board of health in that county. Very few bills of any importance have

so far passed both branches of the legislature, and there are still about one thou-sand bills to be considered, among them being all the appropriation, the revenue

and apportionment bills. The senate is plodding along in the same easy going manner that has characterized its proceedings since the opening of the session. Its calendar is about cleared and if necessary the senators could go home for good the close of the week. The senate has the happy faculty of working without a quorum. This was done last Thursday. The senate appropriation committee will be ready to report a large amount of bills the last of the week. The sub-committee have about completed a tour of the various state charitable and penal institutions asking aid.

Saved from Life Imprisonment.

HARRISBURG, April 19 .- The board of pardons at last night's meeting recommended pardons for three murderers-Joseph Buecher of Philadelphia, John Bradford of Allegheny and Samuel Walker of Allegheny. Buecher killed Dennis Crow-ley in Philadelphia five years ago. Crowley had been intimate with Buecher's wife, and then taunted the wronged husband. On the trial Buecher was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to death, but this sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. The other two were serving long sentences for manslaughter. Pardon was also recommened for Thomas H. Booz, of Berks county, aggravated assault and battery. Murderer Weerling, of Allegheny, was refused a pardon. The case of Murderer McDonald, of Crawford, was held under advisement, as was that of Hugh F. Dempsey.

WASHINGTON.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, April 21, 1895. President Cleveland's Andrew Jackson firmness in standing by his nnan cial views is admired alike by those who agree with those views and those who oppose them. There are timid democrats who say that an expression against the free coinage of silver was not polite, in view of the knowledge that many democrats favor it. Perhaps it wasn't, but Mr. Cleveland has never been a politic man. There is one of the reasons why he has never got along with the trimmers in the democratic party. His tariff reform message of 1887 was not a politic document, but it resulted in uniting the democratic party and in making tariff reformer synonymous with democrat, and is to day regarded by every democrat as one of the best things he ever did. Democrats ad mire courage, and no democrat will think less of Mr. Cleveland for having the courage to stand up for what he believes to be right, regardless of whether it be popular or unpopular with the party at large. He invites a contest within the ranks of the party, and is confident that when all the arguments which can be presented on both sides have been heard that an overwhelming majority of the party will endorse his views. He may be wrong. Other democrats have been wrong ; but when he asks that the democrats come together and discuss this question in all its bearings before committing the party he is not un-reasonable. A campaign of education is never one sided. Let every democrat hear what both sides have to say in coming discussions of the silver question, weigh the arguments as he would the evidence if he were sitting on a jury, and then decide which will be best for the country. Up to this time most of the talking has been done by one side. Secretary Morton is always interest

ed in everything connected with the food supply of the people ; hence it is not surprising that he should be de-voting his time and the power of the Department of Agriculture to heading off the extortion of the beef trust. If he had his way, and President Cleveland and the other members of the cabinet agree with him, the tariff of 20 per cent. ad valorum on foreign cattle would at once be abolished, but only Congress can do that. As the next best thing Secre-tary Morton has amended the rules of his department so as to admit Mexican cattle, after they have been inspected by our officials. Speaking of the result of this move Dr. Salmon, chief of the Bureau of Animal Indus-try of the Department of Agriculture, said : "It is guesswork to make an estimate of how many cattle will be brought from Mexico. There is no census of cattle in North Mexico. We have no figures to go by. Nor have we any accurate news as to what proportion of the cattle there are ready for slaughter. But what is



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Will Criticize Treasurer Jackson.

A resolution will be offered in the house this evening by Mr. Bliss, of Delaware, asking for a more definite answer from State Treasurer Jackson as to the probable amount of revenue which could be derived during the next two years from a tax of sixteen cents a barrel on malt liquors brewed in the State. In reply to a resolution to this effect, Colonel Jackson sent a communication to the house last Friday in which he stated that he was not in possession of the data necessary to make such an estimate. Mr. Bliss is angry, and intends to rake the state treasurer in the resolution. He says Colonel Jackson could easily have obtained the information about the beer tax had he desired to be accommodating.

In the statement referred to above Treasurer Jackson reported as follows:

Balance in the treasury March 31, 1895, less advances made to the legislature, \$3, 284,805.59; amount due on account of appropriations for 1893, and which includes the common school appropriation balance for 1895 of \$5,500,000, \$7,870,391.40. In this total sum there are appropriations to five charitable associations, and to the soldiers' orphans' industrial schools, of which no part has been drawn from the treasury, amounting to \$103,500.

The estimate of the ordinary revenues of the state for the current year, ending Nov. 30, 1895, amount to \$9,825,100. From this is to be deducted \$369,371.50, transferred to the sinking fund, leaving an estimated revenue of \$0,455,728.50, a total for the two years ending Nov. 30, 1836, of \$18,-911.457.

In reply to the question as to the probable amount of revenue which could be derived during each of the next two years from a tax of sixteen cents per barrel on malt liquors brewed in the state, State Treasurer Jackson says he is not in possession of the data necessary to make such an estimate. Representative Fow estimates that such a tax will raise \$1,250,000

revenue annually. An effort will be made during the coming week to get the revenue bill prepared by the tax conference before the house. The ways and means committee will meet tomorrow evening for the consideration of

A Septuagenarian Suicide,

LANCASTER, Pa., April 19 .- Joseph Blotter, who, until recently, was employed by Captain Hinkle, a hotelkeeper at Wrights ville, was found dead along the York turnpike, near Wrightsville, with a bullet wound in his check and another in the abdomen. A pistol with two chambers empty was found on his person, as was also a letter in German stating that he did not wish to live any longer. He was 70 years old, and fretted over the death of Captain Hinkle.

The Full Extent of the Law.

LANCASTER, Pa., April 18.-M. L. Dellinger pleaded guilty to dissominating obscene literature among minors and to printing the same. In passing sentence, the court said to Dellinger that the pun ishment provided by the law was inadequate for the great crime committed, and he was sorry he could not impose a more severe punishment. The court then sen-tenced Dellinger to the Eastern penitentiary for three years and to pay \$100 fine.

Thieves Steal Dynamite.

LANCASTER, Pa., April 22. - Thieves broke into the powder house of Isaac Dillers' Sons and Reilly Brothers & Raub, about a mile outside the city, and stole about a hundred pounds of dynamite. The building contained five tons of dynamite and a carload of powder, and as the robbers used great force in gaining an en-trance into the building the escape from a terrible disaster was remarkable.

Faith Failed to Cure.

BETHLEREM, Pa., April 19.-Mrs. Francis Frey, aged 55, died yesterday of heart She had been a sufferer for some disease time, and two weeks ago was persuaded that prayers which were offered for her did more good than medicine. She thereupon dismissed her physicians and accopted the faith cure. She belonged to the Mennonite church.

May Solve a Murder Case,

SHENANDOAH, Pa., April 22. - John Shock and his wife were taken into cus-tody and removed to Flushing, N. Y., where they are wanted as imported witnesses in a murder case. John Watzuki and his wife were poisoned there six months ago, the latter dying. The Shecks are supposed to know something of the

the number of cattle brought in from Mexico during the last month will be heavy. Once before we let down the bars to the incoming of Mexican cattle and within a month 25,000 were brought in. Probably the number will reach 100,000 this time." From the very marked variations in the retail price of beef In different cities Secretary Morton is inclined to believe that the retailer is squeezing the consumer harder than he bimself is being squeezed by the trust. He is now making an investigation of the whole business. He said : " My belief is that a beef ring exists among the big slaughterers. The difficulty now before us is how to prevent its continuance. If anything s done the papers will have to do it. The Sherman anti-trust law will neither punish nor protect. We've gone all through it with a microscope, and it is clear that it was made to be evaded and gone around. There is nothing left but the whip of public opinion and that must be vigorously wielded by the papers."

Hon. Dorman B. Eaton, of Ohio. who claims to have drafted the civil service law, and who was the first Civil Service Commissioner, is in Washington. He paid the President a high compliment when he said : ¹ For the courage President Cleveland has shown in executing this reform, for his faithful adherence to the law, he is deserving of the highest praise. I am a republican, but on this question, as in his brave stand for a sound system of currency, Mr. Cleveland has shown himself such a true patriot that all questions of partisanship are lost sight of, and he deserves just as much credit from republicans as he does from his own fellows."

Attorney General Olney has filed a brief with the Supreme Court, against any rehearing of the income tax cases which does not include a rehearing on that portion of the tax declared to be unconstitutional by the late decision. If a rehearing is granted by the court it will hardly take place before October.

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