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HARRISBURG LETTER.

Longest Legislative Session Under the New Constitution.

NO ADJOURNMENT BEFORE JULY.

Lack of Leadership in the House Has Led to Delay Action in That Body—The Modified Reform Bill to Be Pushed Through.

(Special Correspondence.) Harrisburg, June 1.—All Nations agree that this will be the longest session of the legislature since the adoption of the new constitution. There has been much talk about final adjournment, but the work of the house is so haphazardly delayed by adjournments and recesses that it will not be possible to finish the amending branch until the beginning of July. Governor Hastings says he will be extremely surprised if the legislature finishes its work before the middle of that month. For a month at least the senate has been in session a few hours each week, waiting on the house to catch up, but the lower branch seems determined to remain far in the rear. Of course, the burning of the old capital is given as an excuse for the present condition of legislative business, but those who are on the ground know that the destruction of the old state house has not been the real cause of the delay. There has been a disposition almost from the beginning of the session to jolly itself, and those who want to work are being swayed thoroughly disgusted with the way things are going.

One trouble during this session has been the absolute lack of leadership in the house. It has been a very difficult body to handle, even in the legislative sense. There are many petty leaders, and any man who assumes to direct the course of procedure in any measure is sure to be set upon by his colleagues. Some members seem to think that it is the height of statesmanship to do something that some other member does not want done. The national differences in the Republican party at the organization of the legislature have contributed in some measure to the slow progress of legislation.

All the bills introduced by the Republican state convention are going through in a modified form, and will probably be approved by the governor. They provide against interference in primary elections by municipal employees, against arbitrary assessments of officeholders and for the payment of the poll tax by the individual voter, or in his order. The civil service bill is still pending in the house committee. The Stewart bill providing for the payment of interest on state funds deposited in banks throughout the commonwealth has been hanging fire in the senate committee for some time. It has been amended and will probably run the gauntlet of the senate this week in its revised form. It provides for 2 per cent on all deposits in banks other than the five active depositories in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, which will be required to pay 1 per cent on daily balances. These five depositories, under the amended bill, will be appointed by the state treasurer, subject to the approval of the board of accounts.

There has been considerable interest in the selection of the president pro tem of the senate at the close of the present session. This officer is always selected at the preceding session, in order to provide against any contingency that may arise in the government of the state, as for instance the death or resignation of the governor and the consequent promotion of the lieutenant governor, ex-officio presiding officer of the senate. It is now practically agreed that Senator Walton, of the Fayette-Green district, shall succeed Senator McCarrill in the president's chair.

Some attempts were made last week to array the legislature against the governor on veto messages. He has been using the veto as pretty freely in recent sessions authorizing the printing of voluminous reports of special commissions and committees at a great expense to the state, and this action on his part is understood to mean that he will treat certain appropriation bills in which the gentlemen opposed to him are interested in a similar manner. These are now endeavoring to show that the governor is inconsistent in vetoing certain expense bills and approving certain others. They point out that as president of the board of public buildings and grounds he approved a bill of over \$200,000 for fitting up Grace church and other temporary quarters for the legislature and state officials. They denounce this bill as extravagantly extravagant, and declare that as the governor assumed responsibility for transforming the church into a legislative chamber he must also assume responsibility for the expenditures complained of. Members of the board of public buildings and grounds explain that the large amount of money spent in the refitting of the church and the other quarters made necessary by the dispersal of the great mob, plus a responsible profit for the fencers from whom the purchases were made.

Proposed Tax on Osmargentine. Those charged with the duty of raising revenue for the commonwealth have discovered that they have undertaken a big job. They have made one suggestion after another, only to be met with opposition, and it looks now as if it will be necessary to reach some sort of a compromise on revenue measures and cut down the appropriations to suit the situation. Governor Hastings declared a day or two ago that he would sign such bills as were proper that are a part of the revenues, and that not a cent of appropriation would be approved by him beyond that limit. This means that it will be futile for the legislature to pass a lot of appropriations bills, with the expectation that the governor will sign them. It has been suggested that appropriation bills be put through and the state treasurer be made to assume the responsibility for refusing to pay the money. State Treasurer Hayward has not had an easy row to hoe during his term. It is now proposed to place a tax on osmargentine in order to raise revenue. This will involve the licensing of

dealers and practically localizing the sale of gum throughout the state. It seems impossible to stop its sale under any restrictive law.

Senator Grady offered a concurrent resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of nine—three from the senate, three from the house and three to be named by the governor—next session for the repeal of existing laws and for additional legislation upon the subject of insurance. It provided that the committee, which was to incur an expense, should report at the next session of the legislature. This resolution went through the senate all right, but when it got into the house it went down until such a whirlwind of opposition that its author wonders still why he ever introduced it. It was charged on the floor of the house that this resolution was offered for the purpose of obstructing the investigation of the insurance scandal.

Senator Grady's bill requiring the state treasurer to pay the chairman of any joint legislative investigating committee the money necessary for the payment of witnesses and the actual expenses of the committee and officers, was killed by the house. It was argued that this measure would open the doors to all sorts of reckless expenditures.

The Governor on Organized Labor. Governor Hastings received a large delegation of representatives of organized labor at the executive department, who called to urge upon him the approval of the Water bill, permitting employees of corporations to join and join labor unions. This bill caused no end of discussion during its passage in the legislature, and at one time its defeat in the senate seemed almost certain, but the laboring element in the amending branch this session is strong, and there were certain political influences at work in the interests of the bill which made its passage possible. Governor Hastings told the delegates who called upon him that if he found the bill good for the laboring people and for the best interests of the commonwealth he would have no hesitancy in signing it, but if he found that it was going to work an injury, and if it would not be beneficial to the workmen, he would not hesitate to veto it. He recalled the fact that he had favored organized labor in his inaugural address, and said to the 30 men in his presence that he believed labor should be organized, just as capital should, because through organization much good might be accomplished. The Hamilton road bill has not yet reached the governor. In the senate the provision that the bill should not become operative until an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the improvement of roads was passed was amended by striking out \$1,000,000 and inserting \$500,000. In this form the bill passed the senate and now goes back to the house for concurrence.

From day to day the supporters of what is known as the "Ripper" bill, a measure designed to amend the present city administration of Pittsburgh, announce that the bill will be called up and passed, but it is not called up, and those who ought to know say that its passage is out of the question.

An important bill for third class cities has just been approved by the governor. It provides for leaving school and school building taxes on the city valuation in cities of the third class where the school district comprises the same territory as the city. This will give the school districts a much larger amount of money, inasmuch as heretofore the school taxes had been levied on the county assessments.

Two Legislative Investigations. Two legislative investigations are in progress which threaten unwholesome disclosures. One is probing the charges that \$20,000 was demanded to defeat the bill prohibiting the insurance of children, and the other is attempting to bring to light the truth or falsity of the charge that steamship dealers in Pittsburgh paid an agent of the department of agriculture large sums of money for protection. Both these committees will be ready to report something definite before the close of the session.

Attorney General McCarrill has decided that neither the legislature or the attorney has any power to settle the disputed question of title between the present owners of land in Oil City on the one side and the Comptroller, Indians or the other. He says that the courts are the proper tribunals to settle the claim of the Indians to the site of Oil City.

There is a probability of revolt on the part of the senate against any final adjournment resolution emanating in the house. The senators say that for several years it has been the habit of the house to hold up the senate bills until the last minute, and then permit them to lie upon the calendars. They want to know this year that their bills will be considered before they consent to final adjournment.

There was an interesting fight in the senate over the bill appropriating \$50,000 to pay the expenses of the senate committee which investigated the municipal affairs of Philadelphia. Senators Kauffman and Flynn opposed the bill on the ground of extravagance, and contended that the legislature was under no obligation to pay these expenses. Senator Grady defended the committee, saying that not one cent had been expended unnecessarily. Senator McCarrill also made a speech in support of the bill. The bill passed finally by a vote of 23 to 11. When it comes to the house there is almost sure to be a long debate, as the fractional lines in the larger body are more distinctly drawn than in the senate. Governor Hastings has approved the bill providing for forest reservation and the protection of timber land. No legislation has ever done so much to advance forestry reform as the present. The game bill prepared by the State Sportsmen's association has passed the legislature and has been approved by the governor. It is said to be one of the best measures for the protection of game in the United States. One of the pleasant incidents of last week was the reception tendered Major General John Rutter Brooke, U. S. A., by Governor Hastings at the executive mansion. General Brooke is one of the most distinguished Pennsylvania soldiers of the late war, and since the end of that struggle has done gallant service for his country on the frontier. During the reception in his honor he met many old comrades who had served with him in the Forty-third Pennsylvania.

THE BROADWAY

An Anxious Inquiry.

For long years the people of this country have been living in the shadow of a great big interrogation point. Like the monster Sphinx which propped the prize couronnements, the poet who asked "What's so rare as a day in June?" gets his reply at last. Days are not so rare in June—there's 30 of them, but the store that equals ours in giving bargains don't exist.

HERE'S PROOF OF IT.

- BICYCLE SUNDAIES. Chain Sundaies, Treaders guards, The City, Lubricant, Foot pumps, Wrenches, Belts, Lacing cords, Lanterns, 1000 mile Cyclometers.

- NEW CHINAWARE. Mustard pots, Caps and saucers, Salt shakers, Bread and butter plates, Cream pitchers, Cat meat bowls, Egg cups, Bread plates, Dessert saucers in maroon and white blue.

- LITTLE NECESSITIES. Kid mittens, Elastic corset laces, Tape measures, Mounting pins, Black marking cotton, White marks, Gent's hose suspenders.

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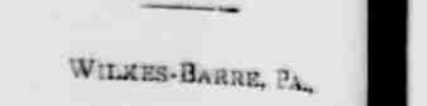


Have received a lot of new 1897 Ladies' and Gentlemen's \$75 bicycles in black and maroon, which we will sell at \$35. If you have not seen them, come have a look at them and know for yourself that you are saving from \$20 to \$30 when buying from us. These wheels are fully guaranteed. We have a few second handed bicycles in good condition for \$15. Bring in your repair work and have a good job done at a reasonable price.

Bloomsburg Cycle Co., 6-14th, Rear of Post Office

JONAS LONG'S SONS' WEEKLY CHATS.

WILKES-BARRE, PA., June 1st, 1897.



We hardly know where to begin to tell you about our Shirts, Waists, For all varieties of styles, elegance of finish and excellent materials we occupy first place. You can't exercise too much care in selecting these garments. The easy way is to depend upon those whose judgment is correct. Our experience gives us the advantage of picking the pretty waists at sight; so we've filled our shelves and counters with the cream of shirt-waist-dom. Ladies' Lawn and Percale Shirt Waists in stripes, figures and scroll patterns, with adjustable collars, latest sleeves, pretty washable colors at 39c.

Fine Lawn Shirt Waists in single colors, such as blue, pink, lavender, navy, green and tan new patterns, adjustable collars and cuffs, 32 figured to 46, at 49c.

Figured Dimity Lawn and Percale Waists with adjustable white collars and cuffs at 28c, \$1.25 and \$1.50.

Our "Special" Shirt Waists of red lawn, the popular color, with black polka dots, adjustable white collars and soft turn back cuffs, the bargain of the day, 98c.

Ladies' Black Lawn Shirt Waists, neat and dressy, can be worn with any skirt, 98c. and \$1.50.

Ladies' White Muslin Skirts with deep ruffles of embroidery and fine tucks, a reasonable garment for about cost of material, 58c.

Ladies' fine Umbrella Skirts, splendid quality muslin, finished with lawn ruffle, edged with lace embroidery, 98c. and \$1.19.

SECOND FLOOR. LEATHER BELTS.

Nothing so popular as a leather belt. Prices here are so low you may have a variety of them at trifling expense.

Grain leather belts, colors black, green, red, brown and tan, with harness buckles, 25c.

Plain calf leather belts with leather and metal buckles in colors, 25c.

White leather belts with self covered buckles, 25c.

Grain leather belts, black, brown, green and red, with harness buckles, 49c.

Fine enameled leather belts with large or small buckles, 69c.

Monkey leather belts, lavender, green and brown, with metal buckles, 69c.

Fine morocco leather belts, black with covered buckles, 69c.

Finest quality alligator belts in natural color, \$1.25.

Best quality morocco belts with sterling silver buckles, \$1.98 and \$2.25.

INFANTS' WEAR.

We have Children's Dresses in Gingham styles, made of the best modern gingham, blue and red checks and solid colors, trimmed with fine embroidered edge and insertion, dresses in lawn, percale and gingham in all the latest styles and colors, some as low as 59c.

Long and Short Dresses of white materials, ranging in price according to quality, from 25c. to \$5.

Our Underwear for the little ones starts with the first drawers, good muslin, well made, at the pair 10c.; slight advance in price according to age of child.

Our Hats and Caps are of every known style and shape. Caps of fine mull with sherring and tucks, trimmed with lace, at 25c.

We carry everything the infant needs. Entire outfits made to order at short notice.

Jonas Long's Sons, Cor. W. Market and Public Square

THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

CANDIDATE CARDS.

FOR CHIEF OF POLICE, ALBERT HERBINE of Bloomsburg.

Subject to the rules of the Democratic Party.

FOR CHIEF OF POLICE, H. O. KLINE of Berwick.

Subject to the rules of the Democratic Party.

FOR CHIEF OF POLICE, W. W. BLACK of Harrisburg.

Subject to the rules of the Democratic Party.

FOR ASSOCIATE JUDGE, A. B. HERRING of Orangeville.

Subject to the rules of the Democratic Party.

FOR ASSOCIATE JUDGE, JAMES J. CAMPBELL of Fishing Creek.

Subject to the rules of the Democratic Party.

FOR ASSOCIATE JUDGE, DR. F. W. REIDERER of Bloomsburg.

Subject to the rules of the Democratic Party.

SALER.

Saturday, June 5th, 1897. J. B. McHenry, Sheriff, will sell valuable real estate on West street, containing two and one-third acres, suitable for other manufacturing purposes or dwellings.

Freeburg, Snyder Co., Pa. is an ideal place for parents to send their children to study music at the musical college. Term begins July 20. For catalogue address R. B. Moyer, 31-32.

When bilious or constive, eat a Cascaet, candy cathartic, cure guaranteed, 10c, 25c.

A new lot of general warranty deeds just printed and for sale at this office.

Carpet Mill bonds wanted in exchange for good real estate by J. H. MAIER, Atty.

Pipe organ for sale.

A two manual pipe organ, 29 stops, will be sold cheap, to make room for a larger instrument. Can be seen by calling on Geo. E. Elwell, Bloomsburg, Pa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

H. M. Hockman has placed in his store a very handsome soda fountain and is now dispensing soda water and ice cream soda 5c. a glass. Try it.

Mercer can supply your every want in the way of bicycles. Stop in and ask to see the Dayton.

Talking about bicycles, what's the matter with the Silver King? It was far in advance of everything last season, and this year is farther ahead than ever. Mercer will show it to you.

The finest and best ice cream, candy and fruit at H. M. Hockman's.

FOR SALE. A good slate blackboard about 20 feet by 7 feet, suitable for school, will be sold cheap. Apply to Geo. E. Elwell, Bloomsburg, Pa. if.

Mercer's stock of Wall Paper, is complete. You will show good judgment by buying of him.

We fear no competition in make. Price or fit; satisfaction guaranteed, given in every detail. Maier the technical tailor. Fine all wool suits made to measure \$3.50 upwards. Trousers \$2.50 upwards.

H. M. Hockman has stocked the Exchange Bakery with a large and fine line of the choicest and purest candy, oranges, bananas, etc.

The Royal Reading should be considered by all intending wheel purchasers. It's a beauty. Sold by Jas. H. Mercer.

FOR RENT. Third floor of Columbia Building, newly papered and painted, water, electric light and steam heat. Apply to Geo. E. Elwell, if.

HOOD'S PILLS cure Liver Ills, Biliousness, Indigestion, Headache, Easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.