

## HARRISBURG LETTER.

The Question of Additional Revenue Agitates the Lawmakers.

## SCHEMES FOR NEW TAXATION.

A Proposal For a State Tax on Beer, Even If Constitutional, May Be Voted by the Governor If Passed—A Philadelphia Plan For New Judges

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, Feb. 14.—The principal legislative event of last week was the action of the house in postponing the McCarroll jury bill until Feb. 21. The vote on postponement was 93 to 92. Seventeen Democrats voted against the motion to postpone and five Quakers voted for it. Every member was present and voting, with the exception of Harry Manning, who lies in his grave in Cumberland county, and Clinton Rogers Woodruff, of Philadelphia, who was absent without being paired. The unusual extent to which legislation is held back by the senatorial deadlock is likely to result soon in a rush and crush to save favorite bills from defeat threatened by the early final adjournment on April 20. The danger to all such bills except appropriations will be largely increased when altered house rules shall give the right of way to the appropriation bills. These circumstances probably will evoke from some faction a proposition to fix a later date for final adjournment.

The change cannot be made, however, without a two-thirds vote of each house. It is a little to early to foresee how the parties and factions may be lined up on this question. Ordinarily the Democratic members might wish a plague on both Republican houses, and seeing nothing for Democratic gain in pulling Republican chestnuts out of the fire might stand as a unit against changing the date unless it should be impossible to dispose of the state's indispensable business by that time.

When the necessary work shall be done the Democrats may see a party advantage in refusing to help members of either Republican faction to push their special schemes through. If the senatorial outcome or prospect shall not mollify present feelings between the Republican factions, the anti-Quaker Republicans will be no less eager than the Democrats to kill pet projects of their enemies. The Democrats will aim to put all the blame upon the Republican side for any neglect of the state's interests, and each Republican faction will try to bring popular censure upon the other for the delinquencies of the legislature.

## Worried Over Treasury Deficiency.

With the senatorial question unsettled no legislative leader predicts the particular element from which a proposed fixing of a date later than April 20 may emanate, or what degree of success it may have. All legislators feel sure that trouble is brewing over these questions, however, if for no other reason than that found in the treasury deficiency of two millions or more, and in the necessity pointed out by Governor Stone and others for increasing the state's revenue.

Continued Republican factional fighting in Philadelphia is regarded as a certain consequence of whatever may be the result of the senatorial struggle. Senator Martin's close friends say, however, that he has had enough of the city feuds and proposes to content himself as a mere looker-on.

An illustration that might seem ridiculous if not connected with a solemn duty to a dead associate, is given of the extremes to which many legislators are disposed, in consequence of the exposures of former legislative scandals, to save for the state at the spigot while loss at the bung hole is threatened by numerous questionable bills. It transpires that no claim is to be made upon that state for the expenses of the committee who represented the legislature at the funeral of the late Henry Manning. Two members of the committee, after themselves contributing, performed the hat passing act and collected from legislators about \$50 to cover their personal outlays.

Unnumbered large buildings notwithstanding required to have fire escapes must get them if two bills introduced by Ebenezer Adams, of Philadelphia, shall be enacted. They are on the second reading calendar of the house. Under the present law the buildings that must have, in addition to outside stairways, a chain ten feet long and rope an inch thick reaching to the ground and attached to a bolt through the wall inside of at least one window in each room of every floor higher than the second, are hotels, factories, tenements, schools, hospitals, halls and amusement places. Where a floor is but one room, or a room has more than three windows, there must be means of escape in proportion.

## The Adams Fire Escape Bills.

One of the Adams bills adds to this list any other building more than two stories high, in which 20 or more persons are or may be employed in any sort of work, every lodging house or other building in which rooms or floors are let to five or more families and "every large boarding house or boarding school." The other Adams bill adds to the buildings that must have, under present law, the outside open iron stairways, "every boarding house or boarding school three or more stories high." Another new provision is that all the buildings mentioned in the present law and in this bill that are capable of accommodating more than 500 and less than 1,000 persons as operatives, guests or inmates, shall have three such stairways, or as many more as the constituted authorities may deem necessary. Fire proof office buildings are excepted in the Adams bill, as by present law.

The Baldwin mercantile tax bill, as introduced, would have been a much heavier burden upon dealers, especially big ones, than the Hoch bill. The Baldwin bill at first provided that retail dealers should pay \$2 tax on an annual business of from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and "75 per cent additional" for each additional \$1,000. The ways and means committee made a change, however, and the bill now on the second reading calendar says "75 cents additional." The amended Baldwin bill calls for a considerably higher tax than the Hoch

bill would impose on retail dealers. The Hoch bill would put a one mill tax on the dollar for retail dealers and half a mill for wholesalers. For every thousand dollars above two thousand the Baldwin bill would tax wholesalers 50 cents or two-thirds of the retail tax. A retailer with an annual business of \$10,000,000 under the amended Baldwin bill only \$7,500.50. At retail \$100,000 would be taxed \$100 by the former and only \$75.50 by the latter, while a retailer doing only \$10,000 worth of business would pay under the Hoch bill \$10 and under the Baldwin bill \$8.

## Of Interest to Cyclists.

Bicyclers are interested in a bill introduced by Representative Paschall, of Warren, and reported favorably by the public roads committee, to legalize the construction and maintenance of side paths along the highways of all towns and cities, for the use of bicycles and pedestrians, the wheel people, however, to have the right of way. Upon petition from at least 25 freeholder residents of the county, who are bicycle riders, the quarter sessions court shall appoint three resident wheelmen to serve as side path commissioners, without compensation beyond necessary expenses.

Each year the term of but one commissioner is to expire, and the vacancy is to be filled by the court upon petition as before. The commissioners shall supervise the construction and maintenance of side paths. All residents owning bicycles are to be assessed by the regular tax assessors, and the county commissioners shall levy a tax of \$1 on each wheel, or as much thereof as may be recommended by the side path commissioners. The money thus raised shall constitute a side path fund. The paths are to be constructed between the roadway proper and the land abutting thereon, and not less than three nor more than six feet wide.

As beer pays the national government \$2 a barrel, half of it Spanish war tax, it is authoritatively hinted that Governor Stone would veto, even if constitutional, a bill introduced in the house by Mr. Hensack, of Allegheny, to impose a tax of half a cent a gallon on all beer, ale and porter manufactured or brewed in the state during the three years beginning June 1, 1899, to be paid semi-annually in July and January. The bill provides that the quarter sessions clerks shall keep the auditor general posted as to the brewers, and get a \$10 fee for each name and addition. The auditor general may at any time request such a certified list. Sworn reports of the number of gallons manufactured are to be made semi-annually by the brewers.

The estimated revenue from such a tax, being less than \$1,000,000, would hardly meet Governor Stone's view of what is needed to cover the treasury deficiency and warrant his approving an appropriation for a new capitol. The Hensack bill would be unconstitutional unless a way could be found to tax liquors imported from other states.

## A Plan to Increase Expenses.

Notwithstanding the gloomy revenue prospect, protests from newspapers and citizens against the bills for new courts of limited jurisdiction throughout the state and for three additional common pleas judges in Philadelphia have not halted the proposed raid upon the treasury through multiplication of public offices. Representative Adams, of Philadelphia, introduced a bill providing that at the next general election two judges shall be elected for that city to serve exclusively in the courts of oyer and terminer, general jail delivery and quarter sessions. Their salaries are to be \$5,000 a year each, and in addition to trying indictments they shall adjudicate matters relating to breaches of the peace, punish for contempt, issue writs of habeas corpus and have equal authority with the common pleas judges to make orders and decrees, and render judgments in criminal jurisdiction. The governor is to appoint the two judges to serve until next January 1.

Senator Weller, of Bedford, declares that the creation of such a court would violate section 8 of article 5 of the constitution. A bill from Representative Sexton, of Montgomery, would repeal the proviso in the general road law of 1897 that it should not take effect until \$1,000,000 should be appropriated therefor or received into the treasury for road purposes. The Sexton amendment provides that the act shall take effect on the first Monday of January, 1900. Backers of this change hope for new revenue to warrant an appropriation to make the bill operative.

By Senator Brown, of Philadelphia, a bill was introduced requiring every insurance company and association excepting mutual assessments in Pennsylvania, to publish once a week for two consecutive weeks in the month of November in each year an itemized list and statement of the assets owned by such company.

In the senate Mr. Carrell presented a resolution providing for the appointment of a legislative committee of five to assist in making arrangements for the unveiling of the Hartman monument in Harrisburg on May 12. The resolution provides that an invitation be extended to the president and others to take part in the ceremonies.

## Refused to Invite Bryan.

As soon as the resolution was read Mr. Washburn moved that "William J. Bryan, of Nebraska, be also invited to attend the unveiling of the monument."

"Is the motion seconded?" asked Lieutenant Governor Gobin, who occupied the chair.

Mr. Washburn looked to his fellow Democratic members to second the motion, but none responded. Therefore the resolution passed without an invitation having been extended to Mr. Bryan.

Charges for the transportation of newspapers by chartered carrying companies within the state are regulated by a bill put in by Representative Voorhees. It provides that the rate shall not exceed 3 cents for each 25 pounds for a distance not to exceed 100 miles, and for each additional 50 miles or fraction thereof the additional charge shall not exceed 2 1/2 cents for each 25 pounds.

Judge R. W. Archibald, of Scranton, has been endorsed by the Snyder county bar for the appointment to succeed the late Justice Williams on the supreme court bench. The petition signed by the bar and the court officers has been presented to Governor Stone.

WILKINS.

## CONTINUOUS VICTORIES

The Downfall of Iloilo Weakens The Rebellion.

## THE DEPARTMENT'S IDEA.

The Rebels Set Fire to Iloilo Before They Left It—Flames Extinguished by Our Sailors—Swiss Consul's Residence Burned—Not an American Hurt.

Manila, Feb. 15.—Particulars of the capture of Iloilo by the United States forces under Brigadier General Miller, have been received here.

On the morning of Friday, February 10, General Miller sent an ultimatum to the commander of the rebels on the shore, notifying him that it was his intention to take Iloilo by force if necessary. Non-combatants were warned to leave the town within twenty-four hours. The rebels were also warned that they must make no further belligerent preparations.

The gunboat Petrel was then moved to a position close inshore and near the rebel fort, while the cruiser Boston took up her station at the other end of the town.

Friday passed quietly. During the day many refugees left the town of Iloilo, the majority of whom were taken on board foreign ships lying in the harbor. Searchlights from the United States warships illuminated the town and its defenses all night. The rebels, so far as the lookouts on the ships could discover, remained quiescent throughout the night.

At 8 o'clock on the morning of Saturday, February 11, the gunboat Petrel signalled to the cruiser Boston that the rebels were working in their trenches. In return the Petrel was ordered to fire warning shots on the town from her three-pounders. That was done, and the rebels replied with a harmless fusillade. The Boston and the Petrel then bombarded the rebels' trenches, which were cleared of their occupants in a short space of time.

Soon after the bombardment had begun flames broke out simultaneously in various parts of the town. Thereupon, forty-eight marines, acting as infantry and artillery, were landed from the cruiser Boston, and a company was sent ashore from the gunboat Petrel. Those detachments marched into the town of Iloilo, and hoisting the Stars and Stripes over the fort, took possession of the place in the name of the United States.

The capture of the town and its defenses having been accomplished, the marines and soldiers who had been sent ashore proceeded to the task of saving the American, English and German consulates from destruction by the fire which was raging among the frail and inflammable buildings of the town. The Swiss consul's residence, which was in the same row as the consulates named, was burned. The entire Chinese and native sections of the town were destroyed, but foreign mercantile property escaped with slight damage.

There was some desultory firing by the enemy on the outskirts of Iloilo, but not a single American was injured.

## Cable from Dewey.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—The navy department has received the following cablegram:

Secretary Navy, Washington: Petrel just arrived from Iloilo. That place taken by our force Saturday and now occupied. No prisoners. No casualties on our side. Insurgent loss not known, but believed to be slight. They attempted to burn the town, but foreign property generally saved by our force. DEWEY.

## Skirmish Near Manila.

Manila, Feb. 15.—The insurgents at Pateros, ten miles southeast of Manila, surrendered on Wednesday, but the place was not occupied by our troops. Since their surrender the Filipinos have flown flags of truce indicating their submission, but yesterday afternoon they opened fire upon some detached troops of the First California Infantry stationed nearby north of the town. The Californians replied with hot fire, driving the rebels out of the town.

They moved to the south, where they made a stand, and an engagement followed, continuing until dark. The Californians in the meantime were reinforced by companies from the First Washington and First Idaho Infantry, and the Utah Light Artillery. The former Spanish river gunboat, Laguna de Bay, is now on her way to shell the enemy's rear.

It is supposed that the insurgents who evacuated the town upon its surrender have been secretly gathering at Pateros under cover of flags of truce for several days with the object of making the attack which they made yesterday afternoon.

## Filipinos Want Peace.

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 15.—General Riego de Dios and M. Rivera, the Filipinos who arrived last week from Manila, intending to join their associates in Washington, have decided to leave for Montreal.

M. Rivera expresses himself astounded at the kind treatment he received here. The envoys will endeavor to persuade Aguinaldo to return to Washington and join with his associates in pleading for an honorable peace.

## London Hears from Iloilo.

London, Feb. 15.—A dispatch received at Lloyd's from Manila reports that there was serious fighting at Iloilo on Saturday, February 11, and that much property was destroyed.

The insurgents were driven out of the town. The correspondent expresses the opinion that there is not likely to be any further trouble. Foreign property, the dispatch says, is safe.

## To Make Dewey Admiral.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The Senate passed the bill reviving the grade of Admiral of the Navy. The text of the bill is as follows: "The President is hereby authorized to appoint, by selection and promotion, an Admiral of the Navy, who shall not be placed upon the retired list except upon his own application; and whenever such office shall be vacated by death or otherwise, the office shall cease to exist."

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A little girl sat gazing fixedly at the new bonnet of one of her mother's visitors until the caller smilingly asked: "Do you like it, my dear?"

The child innocently replied: "Yes, I do. Mamma and aunt Milly said it was a perfect fright, but it doesn't frighten me a bit."—*Tid Bits.*

THOROUGHLY SATISFIED—"I suffered from neuralgia and pains in my side, and seeing Hood's Sarsaparilla advertised as a good medicine I procured six bottles. The first bottle gave me relief. I continued taking the medicine and am satisfied with the good results. It has cured me." Mrs. T. Wandell, 33 Second Ave., Corry, Pa.

HOOD'S PILLS cure nausea, headache.

THE HEART MUST NOT BE TRIFLED WITH.—Where there are symptoms of heart weakness, there should be Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart, it's a magical remedy, gives relief in thirty minutes, and there are thousands who testify that it cures permanently. Mrs. W. T. Rundel, of Dundalk, Ont., says: "I was for years unable to attend to my household duties. I used Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart, the result was wonderful, the pain left me immediately after the first dose, and a few bottles cured."—16.

Sold by C. A. Kleim.

"Why," said Soiled Spooner to Weary Wanderers, "why did you tell that guy you wuz lookin' fur work? I may be a hobo, but I allers did hate a liar."

"I am lookin' fur work," replied Weary Wanderers, with dignity. "I don't want it to see me first."—Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegram.

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A REMEDY FOR THE GRIPPE.—A remedy recommended for patients afflicted with the gripe is Kemp's Balsam, which is especially adapted to diseases of the throat and lungs. Do not wait for the first symptoms of the disease, but get a bottle to day and keep it on hand for use the moment it is needed. It neglected the gripe has a tendency to bring on pneumonia. The Balsam prevents this by keeping the cough loose. All druggists sell the Balsam.

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