# HARRISBURG LETTER.

Alleged Would-be Bribers Denounce the Charges Against Them.

CALL IT GUERILLA WARFARE.

Mr. Spatz of Berks and Ex-Representative Movies Declare Themselves the Victims of Conspirators-Governor Stone and the Revenue Planners.

(Special Correspondence.) Harrisburg, March 14.-There is a wague hint in well informed political cirgles that something important in the way of breaking the deadlock in the legislature will occur before the end of the month. Meanwhile, persons just as well informed are satisfied that the session will adjourn without an election, the theory being that the events of the next two years, including a presidential campaign, will help the Beaver states-

It is understood here that as soon as the Fow bribery investigating committee makes its report there will be some arrests made on the evidence already ellefted. Some of those who have been implicated have already consulted lawyers, seeming to think that they will be called upon to make a defense. It is said that Spatz, of Berks, had an elaborate statement ready to present to the committee at its last meeting, but was advised to keep quiet for awhile.

Mr. Spatz made a statement regarding the charges at the annual banquet of the Rending Press club on Saturday evening.

"The guerilla faction of the Pennsylvania legislature, in its man hunting, character assassinating tactics, has been maligning me, among other Democrats, almost from the beginning of the session. The limit of their infamous methods was reached on Wednesday night, when I was charged by two witnesses before the bribery investigating committee with having attempted to bribe them, with \$50 each, to continue voting for Mr. Jenks for United States senator. What do my good friends think of this inconsistency? Attempting to bribe Democrats to vote for Mr. Jenks! The very thought is preposterons. Nevertheless the charge is hurled broadcast throughout the state that your representative is a briber. The investigating committee is packed with anti-Quay members, and they have ruled that an accused man be not permitted to defend himself when testimony is given against him. In other words, they sit as a grand jury and hear only evidence. let the accused suffer the consequences and stigmatize his fair name, until they see fit to have the statement contradicted. The charge of bribery against me is absolutely and unqualifiedly false, and I hope that my constituents, at home at least, will suspend judgment until I have had an opportunity to vindicate myself under oath before this investigating committee, or in the courts."

A Statement From Mr. Moyles. Ex-Representative T. M. Moyles, who is also charged with attempted bribery, made the following statement at his home in Wilkesbarre:

"The charges of attempted bribery by myself and others of certain members of the legislature are the result of studied design on the part of certain factional leaders, and have for their object one single purpose, and that is to prevent the re-election of Senator Quay. In their desperation they have gone into the sacred precincts of the legislative halls of our state legislature and succeeded, by questionable methods, in securing perjured testimony that for the time being blasts the reputation of honest, reputable and respected citizens of this commonwealth. I, for one, shall petition the legislature and ask that I be given an opportunity to vindicate my good name, not for my own sake-for I treat these accusations with the contempt they deserve-but for the sake of my friends and family. I will say that all I ask is that my friends at home, and the honest thinking citizens of this commonwealth, suspend judgment until such time as I am given an opportunity to vindicate my character from the aspersions east upon it by these unscrupulous political reform mountebanks, and I have no fear of the ultimate result."

The first result of last week's conferences between Governor Stone and the state revenue planners in the legislature is the favorable report of the Creasy general revenue bill from Chairman Hosack's ways and means committee. One amendment inserted by the committee, putting a one mill tax on the capital stock of manufacturing corporations. which are exempt from taxation, was fawored by the governor in his talk with Mr. Hosack's committee. This item would yield about \$250,000 annually.

The State Revenue Plans. Other amendments in the bill, to tax artificial gas companies, such as the United Gas Improvement company, five mills on their capital stock, doubling the present 2 per cent tax on foreign insurance company premiums, were also adopted. In addition to these provisions the bill would give all the personal property tax to the counties, notwithstanding the governor's recommendation to keep all that tax for the next two years, or about \$4,000,000, for the state, instead of only one-fourth of it, as heretofore. A fight over this in the house is probable. The Creasy bill, which is the tax conference measure of 1895 somewhat changed, increases from five mills to two per cent the tax on the incomes of foreign building and loan associations doing business in this state.

The bill would return to the counties the mercantile and other license fees and those of public offices. Mr. Creasy says that these, with the personal property tax, would relieve local taxation by over \$1,300,000 a year. The framers of the bill state that the net increase under the proposed act, from taxing railroad and other corporation bonds alone, will be over \$1,500,000; increase from banks, \$150,000; from trust companies, \$75,000, and from other concerns speci-

\$75,000, and from other concerns specified, \$200,000, a net increase of between \$2,000,000 and \$2,500,000 annually.

Representative Fow is the first legislator to get two of his bills to the government. ernor—the Pennsylvania canal and di-vorce measures—and the first Philadel-phian to get anything to the executive.

Governor Stone signed Fow's bill by which masters are empowered to take testimony in divorce proceedings, there-by relieving judges of this work. This will have the effect of doing away with divorce trials in open court. The governor also signed Senator Ma-

gee's resolution requesting that Senator A. L. Hawkins, new commanding the Tenth Pennsylvania regiment, at Manila, be promoted to the rank of brigadier

A New Election Measure.

A bill now on third rending in the senate would make a radical change in the filing of nomination certificates. The present law, in a general way, empowers a court to declare a nomination certificate or paper void if "not filed by parties entitled to file the same." The Vaughan bill adds to this a requirement that nomination certificates shall have been made in accordance with the party

organization rules. Another third reading bill in the sen-ate, from Mr. Brown, of Philadelphia, changes Delaware river pilotage regulafions. Among the changes would be the repeal of the increase of 10 per cent now allowed to a pilot speaking an in-bound vessel east of Five Fathom Bank lightship, or north of Hereford inlet lighthouse, or south of Fenwick's Island lighthouse; also repeal of the exemption of inbond vessels from taking pilots when not spoken or offered the service outside of a straight line between Cape Henlopen light and Cape May light.

On the same reading with these sen-nte bills is one frem Mr. Grady, of Philadelphia, prohibiting foreign trust compunies from becoming the trustee in any mortgage issued by a corporation of this state, or surety upon any bond, mardian of any resident, executor or administrator of any estate, or otherwise exercising the functions of a trust company in Pennsylvania until they shall have deposited with the banking com-reissioner not less than \$100,000 each, as surety for payment of their obliga-

A Proposed New School Tax.

Mr. Hoskins, of Eric, in the house presented a bill providing that for the fiscal years beginning the first Monday of June, 1890-1900, there shall be levied on the roal estate of the commonwealth a tax of two mills on the dollar, to be paid into the state treasury on or before the first day of December of each of the years mentioned. The money derived from this tax shall be distributed to the school districts pro rata for the number of teachers regularly employed for full annual term of not less than seven and one-half months in schools where the enrollment is not less than 15 pupils, and the number in regular average attendance it not less than 13. No district shall share in the distribution of this money that does not raise a local school tax of not less than two mills on the

Mr. Hasson, of Venango, introduced a bill appropriating \$15,000 for the erection of a bronze statue of Governor Curtin, on the capitol grounds, in this city, the design to be solicited by a commission composed of Governor Stone, Colonel A. K. McClure of Philadelphia, Benjamin F. Meyer of Harrisburg, Col-onel E. A. Irvin of Clearfield, J. R. Ross Thompson of Eric and Robert Henderson of Carlisle.

By the vote of 103 yeas and 42 mays the ballot reform bill, introduced in the house of Representatives of Mr Kentor, of Philadelphia, passed on sec-ond reading last week. This is not a complete ballot act, as is Senator Martin's, but it provides absolute secrecy in voting. Under the proposed law no voter shall have a helper unless he is physically incapaciated or unable to read. His helper must first declare, under oath, subscribed to, that he will not attempt to influence the voter, but will give him the help he desires, and that he will not discuss the contents of the ballot, except in a legal proceeding.

The bill does away with the circle and the name of the candidate shall be printed but once on the ballot for the same office; also reduces the size of the ballot to one-sixth its present size and enables the voter to avoid risk of mistake in voting. 'There is only one way to mark a ballot according to this bill, by putting a mark opposite the name of each candidate, the candidates being in groups, within party names and appellations following them. It was drawn to remedy the defects in the ballot laws of 1891 and 1803, so as to make them conform to the Australian system

Personal Registration Bill Progressed Mr. Fow got the unexpectedly good support of 97 year and 18 nays in a standing vote which passed his personal registration bill on second reading in the

Mr. Wentz, in the senate, and his fellow Montgomery countian, Mr. Sexton, in the house, decided recently that they had waited long enough for reports from Senator Sproul's railroad committee and Representative Keyser's passenger railway committee on their bills to give eminent domain to rural trolley lines. The similar Young bill of two years ago was supported by the "Seventy-six," and this time many Democrats urged Mr. Sexton to take their signatures to a request that the house recall his bill from the committee and place it on the calendar. However, a sub-committee appointed by Mr. Keyser agreed to avoid trouble by reporting the bill.

The vote by which the bill extending the duration of the lien of the debts of decedent upon real estate to five years was defeated in the house on third read ing was reconsidered, and the bill passed

In the house Mr. Bare, of Huntingdon, introduced a bill appropriating \$940,000 for the support of the National Guard for the next two years. Mr. Fow, of Philadelphia, put in a

bill to give colored people the same rights and privileges as those of other races. Among the senate bills introduced was

one from Mr. Brown, of Philadelphia. regulating telephone charges to \$3.50 a month, and providing a penalty of \$500 for violation of the provisions of the A bill introduced in the senate last Thursday gives permission to the secre-

tary of internal affairs to grant warrants

and patents for the beds of navigable rivers or streams for mining purposes. The following gubernatorial nominations were received by the senate: Herbert Ash, Downingtown; H. B. Yohn, Lancaster, and John C. Sims, Anthony J. Sharpe and Edward S. Ward, of Philadelphia, to be notaries public; William C. Russell, to be justice of the peace for the borough of Oxford, Chester county, vice John H. Kimball, reThe Season Little Observed.

The Harrisburg Commonwealth says there is a degeneration of Lenten observance, and that in this penitential season there are almost as many social and other amusements liberally patronized as in any other part of the Winter. By way of explaining the spiritual deterioration, the Commonwealth asks: "Has not the Anglo Saxon blood, that brought with it those sterner qualities which lent strength to character, been diluted and intermingled with the blood of the lighter and more frivolous peo ple of the world, until the American has become a composite fitted best for skepticism, indifferentism, selfibness and emotionism?"

CONDITION IMPROVED .- "I was suf fering from catarrh in the head, and was in such a condition that I could hardly be about. I was advised to take Hood's Sarsaparilla and procured a bottle and it did so much good I continued its use until I was entirely cured. I reccommend Hood's Sarsaparilla to others." P. S. Palm Brad-

Hood's Pills are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

The fatherly school directors of Kane township, Schuylkill Valley, are bound that there shall be no flirting among the pretty young women teachers of their district. They have under consideration a clause to be inserted in next year's agreements by which the school ma'ams shail bind themselves not to receive marked attention from young men unless they have the consent of the president and secretary of the board. The girls must also give their word of honor that they will not marry during the school term.

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Lyman Abbott says: I have tried to interpret my own conviction that religion consists not in believing some-God, but in trying to live the divine life. Religion is simply the art of living-not even the art of right living, for living that is not right living is the beginning of death. Religion means for the merchant honesty, for the journalist truthfulness, for the soldier heroism, for the minister sincerity and candor."

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