

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Pennsylvania Lawmakers Accomplishing But Little Work.

VERY EXPENSIVE LEGISLATION.

Only Eleven Bills Have Reached the Governor, and These Have Cost the Taxpayers \$19,100 Each—The Various Revenue Measures Proposed (Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, March 21.—It has cost the state \$19,100 each, or a total of \$210,000, for eleven bills that have passed both houses and gone to the governor. That has been the cost of the session of the senate and house up to last Thursday night. Of the 1,012 bills that have been introduced in both houses the senators put in 320, of which only 231 have come out of committee, and the representatives presented 692, of which the committees have reported only 385.

The house has passed finally only 27 of its own bills and but four of the senate's. The senate has rushed through final passage 119 of its own bills, but has finally disposed of only seven house bills. On March 18, 1897, only 218 of the 703 bills that had been introduced in the house were out of committee, but that legislative term lasted two months and ten days later than April 20, which is now fixed for final adjournment.

Representative Allen, of Philadelphia, has amendments to offer to the bill to pay constables of that city \$1,200 a year. The bill will come up for third reading on Tuesday. The Allen amendments would make the salary \$800, require all constables' fees to be turned into the city treasury and limit the number of constables to one in each ward.

A notable parliamentary feature of last week was Speaker Farr's placing in the chair for an hour the 365 pound gentleman from the Second ward of Philadelphia, John F. Slater. He gravely pounded the desk and looked warningly at Mr. Fox, who thereupon began helping members to write a great variety of amendments to the bill under consideration.

When dozens of members were up at one time shouting for recognition by the speaker, "Fud" thundered with the gavel and declared that until there should be order he would permit "no business to be transferred." This did no good, and in the midst of the hubbub Patrick Cole, of Adams, strode down an aisle, gestulating violently, and in his sympathy for "Fud" trying to make the members hear him say that they were behaving like children.

Mr. Slater, instead of encouraging his aged but frisky defender, promptly declared him out of order and told him to be seated. This captured the house, and the only trouble which the temporary speaker had afterward was to keep the clerk from reading tomfoolery amendments.

The Revenue Schemes.

Chairman Hosack and his colleague on the house committee on ways and means are doing their level best to devise schemes for the raising of additional revenue for the commonwealth. The committee will be ready to report its recommendations this week, and the revenue measures will then have to be put through at high pressure. There are seven distinct propositions. One measure provides for the division from the counties to the state treasury of the three-fourths personal property tax. This would bring into the treasury about \$2,000,000 a year for the next three years.

Another proposition is to change the method of taxing beer so that instead of brewers paying a license fee they will be taxed according to their output a certain amount per barrel. This would bring into the state's coffers according to the estimate about \$400,000 a year. Under the present law there are 23 small breweries which pay a tax of 25 cents a barrel, while there are 51 breweries of 10,000 to 20,000 capacity whose tax is but five cents a barrel. One brewery with 3,000,000 capacity pays but one and two-thirds cents a barrel tax. The idea of the proposed law is to make a uniform tax per barrel on the output.

The third plan is to impose a tax of one-third of 1 per cent on foreign corporations. There are 5,000 doing business in this state which have paid no tax at all. They have obtained their charters in other states, and it is proposed that they shall pay into the state treasury for the privilege of doing business in Pennsylvania the same amount which they would have paid as bona fide residents had their charters been granted in this state. The idea is to stop the taking out of big charters in New Jersey and other states and then locating in Pennsylvania under the easy foreign corporation provision for the filling of a certificate of office location with the secretary of the commonwealth.

A fourth proposition is to impose a tax of one-third of 1 per cent on the bonds of corporations and any increase thereof. It is estimated that such a law would produce \$500,000 a year. Under the fifth proposition, where corporations reorganize and increase their capital stock and are not operating under the act of 1874, they shall pay a bonus of the same amount. This catches capital which escapes under the act of 1897. The sixth plan proposes a tax of one mill upon manufacturing corporations, which are exempt now. This would include artificial gas companies now untaxed, and it is estimated that the treasury would be benefited to the tune of \$250,000 a year.

Mercantile Taxation.

The seventh and last plan now being considered is a system of mercantile taxation. It is proposed that a mill rate based on gross receipts shall be fixed; that the tax on the retailer shall not be greater than on the wholesaler, but the burden shall rest equally on the largest wholesaler as well as the smallest retailer. A million dollars is thought to be in sight under such a law.

The aggregate of these several bills as estimated would be \$4,000,000 a year. Governor Stone has made it so clear that he will refuse to approve any appropriations in excess of the carefully estimated revenues that the legislature is bound to get more cash.

Argument by Mr. Stubb, of Philadelphia, defeated an effort made in the house by Mr. Stahl, of Blair, to place on the calendar the negative bill to relieve clergymen and others of the requirement to certify marriages to the vital statistics authorities. Mr. Stubb, who was the only Philadelphia health officer who ever sued clergymen for de-

linquency in this matter, told the house that the bill would leave nothing but the marriage licenses as records, and these were not proof of marriages. The system of vital statistics in vogue since 1865 would be destroyed, merely to relieve persons officiating at marriages from an occasional minute's writing. The present system had saved thousands of dollars to heirs who could not have produced any other record. The vote of 93 yeas and 21 nays to put the bill on the calendar lacked seven of a sufficiency. A delegation including President A. C. Woodman, Major E. A. Hancock, C. O. String and Attorney H. B. Gill, representing the Philadelphia Commercial Exchange, before the house ways and means committee opposed the wholesale business feature of the Baldwin mercantile tax bill, which would put \$1 tax on each \$1,000 worth of retail business and 50 cents per \$1,000 on a wholesale business.

Grain Men Protest.

Mr. Woodman asked the committee to consider wholesalers' small margins of profit and the competition they had to contend against in lack of a deeper Delaware river channel. He pleaded specially for the grain and flour trade. Mr. Gill, who represented various exchanges, suggested that dealers in agricultural products pay 25 cents per \$1,000, and that there be no tax on retail or wholesale of American products for export from the United States. This bill unchanged would drive much of the grain business to New York city. Being an export business, it should get governmental encouragement, Mr. Gill said there was no tax on the shipment of grain from New York, Baltimore or Newport News.

To Chairman Hosack's queries Mr. Gill said that about 46,000 car loads, or about 70,000,000 bushels of grain were received in Philadelphia in 1897, and most of it was handled for export. The profit was less than one-half of 1 per cent, owing to the cost of inspection, leakage and other expenses. Major Hancock said that if the grain men could be treated like the iron manufacturers, who get rebate on their taxes when they export their wares, there would be a large increase in the exports of grain.

Representative Baldwin wrote an amendment that "each dealer at any exchange or board of trade shall pay a tax of five cents on each \$1,000 worth of goods sold or received, that all receipts for cereals sold for export shall be exempt from the provisions of this act." Mr. Hosack said he thought the bill would be reported in a shape to suit the grain men.

Favorably reported to the house from committee, through Mr. Voorhees, of Philadelphia, was the bill which had passed the senate finally to largely increase the force of capitol employees. The Quakers hope for its enactment, because most of Senator Martin's Philadelphia friends in the house will vote for it, as he did in the senate, and similar Martin support, with that of some up-to-date "antisl" for the capitol appointments early in the session, carried the slate safely through. The prospective appointments under the pending bill have been paroled out with the view of effecting that result.

No Money For Normal Schools.

Until additional state revenue shall be assured there can be no prospect of the passage of the bill introduced by Mr. Heidelberg, of Lancaster, appropriating \$130,000 to the 13 state normal schools. These were classed by Governor Stone and the appropriation committee, in their recent interview, with the state college and other educational institutions that could get no financial aid from his legislature under the present revenue conditions.

A resolution offered by Mr. Palm, of Crawford, for a constitutional amendment, would permit the introduction of the New York voting machine system in this state. A resolution with that object, offered by Mr. Grady in the senate, has been reported favorably to that body. The governor notified the senate that he has signed the bill authorizing the department of public works in cities of the second class to appoint park patrolmen, making them subject to the control of such department.

Mr. Hosack, of Allegheny, called up in the house the postponed judges' retirement bill, which was on the calendar for second reading, and a short discussion on the merits of the measure followed. To avoid the possible defeat of the bill Mr. Hosack had it postponed.

The Keegan bill providing for the weighing of coal at bituminous and semi-bituminous mines and for the payment of the same by weight was taken up on a special order and passed third reading after it had been amended to allow persons who have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States to hold the position of check weighman.

Support of Indigent Parents.

The supplement to the act of June 25, 1895, relating to the support of indigent parents by children, creating a liability for the support of indigent parents out of courts discretionary power to fix the amount of all allowances, after which it passed second reading.

The report of the capitol building commission was presented and a concurrent resolution adopted that 500 copies of the document be printed for the use of the members of the senate and house.

Mr. Stewart, of Philadelphia, offered a report from the committee on rules providing for sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and that the order of business be second reading bills at the evening sessions and third reading bills at the session of Wednesday morning and afternoon. The report was adopted.

Among the bills passed on second reading was the measure to designate the lawful rate of interest for the loan or use of money at 5 per cent. The bill to limit the state appropriations to school districts the preceding year for school purposes also passed second reading.

Mr. Spatz made a vain effort to put on the calendar his negative bill to give a bounty of \$100 each, or \$1,800,000, to the 18,000 Pennsylvanians who enlisted for the war with Spain.

Governor Stone sent to the senate last week the nomination of John H. Weiss, of Harrisburg, to be judge of Dauphin county, vice McPherson, resigned. The senate went into executive session at once, and confirmed the nomination by a vote of 37 to 0.

Governor Stone is requested to name Monday, May 1, of the present year, as "Dewey day," and designate it as a legal holiday, by a concurrent resolution adopted by the legislature.

Governor Stone on Saturday issued an Arbor day proclamation, setting aside Friday, April 7, and Friday, April 28, to be observed.

Head of a Family of 162 Persons.

To be the head of a family of 162 persons is a record seldom falling to the lot of man. But such is the case of John Chandler, who resides in Allen county, Ky.

This gentleman is the father of twenty-nine children, twenty-one of whom are now living and have families. These twenty-one children have an average of five children to each family, thus making Mr. Chandler the grandfather of 105 persons. But this is not the full extent of his offspring, for he has 35 great grandchildren. So it will be seen that Mr. Chandler stands pater families of 162—an achievement rarely equalled. It certainly is not paralleled when the fact is considered that the members of this large family are all living.

YOU SHOULD KNOW.—What Hood's Sarsaparilla has power to do for those who have impure and impoverished blood. It makes the blood rich and pure, and cures scrofula, salt rheum, dyspepsia, catarrh, rheumatism, nervousness. If you are troubled with any ailment caused or promoted by impure blood take Hood's Sarsaparilla at once.

OBSERVATIONS.

People who are wont to picture editorial writers as sitting at a roll top desk in an elegantly appointed office, with a handsomely mounted gold pen which is ever and anon dipped into a crystal inkstand, while the writer shapes the brilliant sentence in mind before transferring them to paper, would doubtless be surprised to look into the average editorial sanctum. Some of the most brilliant utterances that ever found their way into modern print, were scribbled with a lead pencil upon a penny tablet, in an office so dingy that it would scarcely give inspiration to a bat.

COULDN'T ESTIMATE ITS VALUE!—Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart never fails. It relieves in 30 minutes, it cures. It is a beacon-light to lead you back to health. W. H. Musselman, of G. A. R. Weisport, Pa., says: "Two bottles of Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart entirely cured me of palpitation and smothering spells. Its value cannot be estimated. I feel like a new man."—41.

Sold by C. A. Kleim.

When you instruct your children about the resources of the United States, do not forget to tell them that the coal fields are just three times more valuable to the country than the gold fields. The product of the anthracite fields alone exceeds in value the output of the gold mines of this country, Canada and Alaska, which last year amounted to over \$50,000,000. East of the Rocky mountains there are 182,000 square miles of coal lands and the yearly output is nearly 200,000,000 tons.

A REMEDY for Nasal Catarrh which is dying and exciting to the diseased membrane should not be used. What is needed is that which is cleansing, soothing, protecting and healing. Such a remedy is Ely's Cream Balm. To test it a trial size for 10c or the large for 50 cents is mailed by Ely Brothers 56 Warren Street, N. Y. Druggists keep it. The Balm when placed into the nostrils, spreads over the membrane and is absorbed. A cold in the head vanishes quickly.

Tillie—"Have you any War souvenirs?"

Millie—"Oh, yes. See this curious collar George brought. He said he captured it from a Spanish captain at the risk of his life."

"What! The wretch! Why, I sent him that when he was in Tampa!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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"Oh, yes," said Eve, in recounting to the neighbor the Garden of Eden fire. "We only escaped with the clothes we had on."—Indianapolis Journal.

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Sold by C. A. Kleim.

No sovereign of the United Kingdom was ever crowned in Ireland, but there have been double coronations of English monarchs. Henry 11 was crowned at Westminster and at Worcester; Henry 111 at Gloucester and Westminster, and Henry VI at Paris and Westminster.

NOT A QUARTER.—But just 10c, and 40 doses in a vial of Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills. No pain, pleasure in every dose—little, but awfully good. Cure Sick Headache, Constipation, Biliousness, Nausea, Sallowiness.—44. Sold by C. A. Kleim.

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BLOOMSBURG MARKETS.

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