

THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

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HARRISBURG LETTER.

Special Correspondence.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 19, 1907. Upon the reassembling of the Legislature after the Spring election recess there will be "something doing." That is to say there will be a bill introduced to tax artificial gas plants, and it will be supported with such vigor and backed by such reasons as will compel even the Standard Oil company to "sit up and take notice." As a matter of fact the Standard Oil company is practically responsible for the proposed legislation. It has been ascertained that that corporation contributed more than half a million dollars to the corruption fund of the campaign of last fall and some fellows of an inquiring disposition concluded to find out why Mr. Rockefeller's conspiracy had so much interest in Pennsylvania politics. They believe that they have solved the problem.

Electric light companies pay three different kinds of taxes to the State. That is they pay a tax on capital stock, on bonds and on gross earnings and the aggregate of their payments is a large sum. Their only competitors are artificial gas companies, owned in this State mainly by the Standard Oil company, which pay no taxes at all. The injustice of this has been pointed out frequently but it has not been urged seriously. It is estimated that taxing the gas companies precisely as the electric light companies are taxed would produce a revenue of at least \$750,000 a year. The question will be put up to the Legislature in the near future in a way that will admit of no dodging. The express companies may be asked to contribute to the revenue of the State also.

TWO BAD ONES CRIPPLED.

It's a safe bet that two of the bad bills referred to in my letter of last week have been put to sleep finally and forever. They are the auxiliary forest reserve bill and the measure requiring hunters to take out license at an expense of a dollar each. This bill had a funny experience. It is the pet measure of the State Game Commission and it is confidently stated that its passage would have been good for \$250,000 a year to that bureau. Small wonder the Commission cherished it fondly and was willing to yield to every other point in order to make that graft secure. But the expectation of those concerned will be disappointed. The measure is in committee and will remain there until the end of the session, unless the license provision is eliminated.

An attempt was made to force it through by the old tactics, the other day, but it failed. A meeting of the Committee on Fish and Game was called to consider the bill but when it was held only a few members were present and most of those were opposed to the measure. The Chairman appeared entirely willing to let the measure go over but Representative Dersham, of Union county, had a suspicion of an "African in the woodpile." Accordingly he moved that the bill be not reported until a meeting of the committee, at which there was ample opportunity for the discussion of it, be held. The motion was unanimously adopted and the opponents of the bills felt entirely safe. They were surprised, therefore, to find it on the calendar for first reading on Monday evening.

THEY HAD TO SHOW DERSHAM.

Mr. Dersham at once went to be Chairman, Hiram J. Sedwick, of Armstrong county, for information. That gentleman said that he Secretary of the Game Commission was exceedingly anxious to have the measure expedited and that instead of calling a meeting of the committee he had gone around and seen a few of the members who were willing to have the bill reported out and that he and the Secretary did the rest. Mr. Dersham demanded that a motion to recommit be made. The Chairman protested but was notified that unless such a motion came promptly from the chairman on reaching the bill it would be made from the other side accompanied by a detailed statement of the facts. The result was the recommitment and such a crippling of the measure in popular opinion that it will not recover.

The Auxiliary Forest Reserve bill is also back in the committee with little or no chance of getting out. It had been reported out in the face of a vigorous protest and met with such an opposition that its own friends moved to recommit and have since offered to make any concession which its opponents demand. But they don't want concessions. They prefer to have a

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swipe at it in its present form and are ready to fire all kinds of broadsides at it if they get a chance. The indications now are, however, that it will not be reported out at all but will die of neglect in the pigeon hole.

RAILROADS FIGHTING REFORMS.

The Railroad Committee of the House had an interesting meeting on Monday afternoon of last week during which distinguished lawyers representing the Pennsylvania and Reading railroads made elaborate arguments against all the pending railroad measures. The main point of attack was Dunsmore's railroad commission bill but the two cent a mile passenger rate bill was also broadly and bitterly denounced. Former Attorney General W. U. Hensel made the principal argument and held that the State has no legal right to create a railroad commission or to fix a rate. President Baer of the Reading road, expressed the same views in a letter addressed to the Senators and Representatives in the Legislature in which he also asserts the bald proposition that promises made before the election are not binding afterward. As Mr. Baer is a church member and professes to favor political morals of the highest standard that statement excited both surprise and regret.

Neither the letter of Mr. Baer nor the argument of Mr. Hensel had any influence on the minds of the legislators, however. The commission bill is still in committee but the two cent passenger rate bill passed Second reading on the evening of the day the arguments were presented and passed the House finally on Thursday. It isn't much of a bill but it was needed by the Contractors' combine for use in the closing hours of the Mayoralty campaign in Philadelphia. Representative Blakeslee, of Carbon county, told them about it just before the final vote was taken. He declared that the bill gives the passenger no guarantee of good service for the two cents charged and that box cars can be forced on the travelling public under the provisions of the bill. The Democrats wanted to pass a good measure, he continued, one which would hold the corporations to a full measure of responsibility. But political exigencies required expediency and the bill will probably be killed in the Senate.

CREASY HAD SOME FUN.

Representative Creasy had some fun with the majority while the trolley freight bill was under consideration the other day. His bill on that subject was turned down because it was his bill and the Homsher measure taken because he is a Republican. When the measure was on second reading, therefore, Creasy pointed out the difference between the two bills and made the Homsher bill look so cheap that its friends moved to recommit it for the purpose of adding the salient features of the Creasy bill. Of course it will still be the Homsher bill after the repairs are made but fair minded men in and out of the Legislature will understand that Mr. Creasy and his

Kidney Disease Kills.

Thousands Never Suspect That They Have It.

It is now generally admitted that diseases of the kidneys and bladder constitute the greatest source of disease. Cure these and we remove the cause of nearly all ailments of the Liver, Blood, Stomach and Bowels. But the approach of Kidney Disease is so slow and gradual that the first symptoms may not be noticed. Here are some of the most common symptoms of this dangerous disease: Discolored or dark urine, sometimes excessive and of pale color. Unusual desire to urinate, especially at night. "Brick Dust" deposits, sometimes containing albumen and blood. Swelling around eyes, ankles and abdomen. Drowsiness and a constant tired feeling. Pain, hot and dry skin. Pain in the back, headache, cramps in the legs. Bowels constipated, digestion impaired. Rheumatic pains in the joints and muscles. If you have any of the above symptoms your kidneys need immediate attention, and Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy should be taken at once. Do you know what will happen if you neglect these symptoms? Bright's Disease, most terrible, is nearly always the outcome. Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy has cured thousands of kidney disease, and we have the positive proof. It will cure you. Send to Dr. David Kennedy's Sons, Rondout, N. Y., for a free sample bottle and medical booklet. Large bottles \$1.00, at all druggists.

Democratic colleagues are responsible for every meritorious feature of it. If the Republicans had had their way a worthless measure which could have served no practical purpose would have been enacted and the platform pledge would have proved "a promise to the ear to be broken to the hope."

As a matter of fact the minority in the Legislature is cutting a good deal of a figure this year. Two years ago there were only fifteen in the bunch and a few of them were trained parliamentary fighters. John G. Harman, of Columbia, was a host in himself, however, and with his colleague, Mr. Creasy, put up some pretty stiff fights. Mr. Harman is greatly missed in the present session but the force has been augmented in numbers from fifteen to forty-nine and Flynn of Elk, Sipes of Fulton, Troxell of Lycoming, Enright of Northampton, and Noll of Center, always faithful and efficient are strengthened by Blakeslee of Carbon, Minehart of Franklin, Dempsey of Lackawanna, Price of Monroe, Snyder of Perry, Dersham of Union and other new members who have already revealed aptitude for the work. When the body reassembles next week there will be music in the air.

INVESTIGATION MOVES SLOWLY.

The investigation of the "Palace of Graft" has made no progress thus far. The committee held an informal session early last week at which the counsel were introduced to the members but nothing further was done. Subsequently the counsel conferred together for the best part of a day, but of course kept to themselves the subject of their conversation. Meantime the Governor has not indicated whether he will allow Treasurer Berry personal counsel or not though it is the obvious purpose of the other side to pillory Berry if possible. But counsel or no counsel Mr. Berry is ready for the fray and when the encounter comes he will get his share of fun out of it.

G. D. H.

GRIEF KILLS COL. CARMODY.

Senator Platt's Son-in-Law, Deceased by Scandal, Succumbs.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 21.—Francis J. Camody, son-in-law of Senator Platt, died to-day at the home of his mother in this city of nervous breakdown, the result of grief. He had been ill here for the last eighteen weeks. He was twenty-seven years old.

The cause of his death was, it is reported here among his friends, brought about by the dissensions in the Platt-Carmody families. He married Miss Snow, daughter of the Senator's second wife, and through his father-in-law's influence became Assistant United States District Attorney in New York.



W. J. Oliver and Anson Bangs the men who put in the lowest bid for the construction of the Panama Canal. Their financial responsibility is being the subject of an investigation by the Panama Commission.

SPORTING NEWS.

Representatives of automobile organizations have gathered at Albany to oppose the Stevenson bill to tax seats in motor vehicles.

Miss Freda Meyer, an English lawn tennis expert, was beaten by Miss Louise Hammond on the Seventh regiment courts.

Henry S. Terhune's boat X. L. N. C. won the championship pennant of the South Shrewsbury Ice Yacht Club.

Census figures of automobile manufacturing show a remarkable growth in the industry.

Sixteen automobiles have been entered to date for the proposed American tour of Europe.

CASTORIA. The Best You Have Ever Bought. Beware of cheap imitations.

JAP EXCLUSION DECREED

Amended Immigration Law Goes to the President.

AGE LIMIT PROVIDED

After House Agrees to Conference Report Mayor Schmitz Issues a Statement Claiming Victory for California—Have Compromised on School Question—Suit Stopped. . .

Washington, D. C., Feb. 21.—The embarrassing Japanese situation was practically adjusted, when the House of Representatives adopted the conference report on the immigration bill, which the Senate had already approved. A provision granting authority to the President to exclude Japanese and certain other alien laborers who come to the United States without passports is contained in the bill, which now goes to President Roosevelt for his signature. A treaty with Japan bringing that Government into agreement with the passport legislation will now be negotiated.

When the action of the House was made known to him Mayor Schmitz of San Francisco, who came here with the Board of Education of that city to confer with President Roosevelt and Secretary Root over the alleged discrimination against Japanese pupils of the San Francisco schools, issued a prepared statement in which it was said that the regulation excluding Japanese from the white schools will be modified in such a way that the Japanese Government will have no ground for a claim of unfair treatment. The modification of the regulation will be merely technical.

Contained in the statement issued by Mayor Schmitz is a declaration on the part of the Board of Education of its superior right over a treaty to control the public schools of San Francisco and that so far as the provisions of the treaty with the Japanese which discriminate or prevent the board from exercising its powers they are null and void. This is construed by the Californians to be an admission on the part of the Administration of the rights of California as a State, inasmuch as the President, as they explained, had read and given his approval to the statement, although he had not exactly authorized it.

It was announced at the White House that the statement made by Mayor Schmitz and the Board of Education had been read by President Roosevelt and Secretary Root, and was entirely satisfactory to them.



D. M. Delmas, lawyer of San Francisco who is conducting the defence of Harry K. Thaw in New York. Mr. Delmas, who is a criminal lawyer of great experience, boasts that no jury ever convicted a client of his.

ROPE BROKE TWICE.

Condemned Negro Finally Killed by Fall Through Gallows Trap.

Farmville, Va., Feb. 21.—Jesse Ruffin and Massie Hill, negroes, were hanged here for the murder of John Grubb, postmaster at Ruggles.

When the trap was sprung under Hill the rope parted and Hill plunged to the floor below. He did not lose consciousness, said that he was not much hurt and asked that the cords be taken from his ankles so he could walk back up the steps. The cords being removed he again took his position. The trap was sprung again, and again the rope broke. This time Hill became unconscious and died in a few minutes.

Before the execution the two confessed to more than one hundred crimes, among which were several murders.

Eight Suffering from Trichinosis.

New York, Feb. 20.—There are eight patients in Bellevue Hospital suffering from Trichinosis and the physicians fear an epidemic of this generally fatal disease. All of the patients live in the lower East Side. As the disease may be avoided by proper care in cooking pork, the Bellevue physicians wish to warn the public that the only way to prevent the disease is to cook all pork thoroughly.

\$50,000 a Year for Bryce.

London, Feb. 20.—It is said that James Bryce's salary as Ambassador to the United States will be \$50,000 a year and that he will receive an allowance of \$10,000 to meet the expense of his outfit and his installation in his residence at Washington.

GREAT SEMI-ANNUAL SURPLUS STOCK SALE. Our 2nd surplus stock sale will eclipse all previous ones, both as to price reduction and the enormous stocks of fine merchandise. NOW GOING ON. P. Hartman, SUCCESSOR TO I. W. HARTMAN & SON, BLOOMSBURG, PA.

\$1000 IN PRIZES TO BE DISTRIBUTED ABSOLUTELY FREE. Use the letters contained in the text: "WETMORE'S COCONUT." and form as many words as you can, using letters either backward or forward, but do not use any letter in same word more times than it appears in "WETMORE'S COCONUT." For example, the words wet, ate, too, etc. The person forming the greatest number of words using the letters in the text will receive \$100 in cash; for the next largest list we will give \$75; for the next \$25 cash, and for each of the next ten largest lists we will give \$10 in gold. In case two or more people tie then that prize will be divided equally between such persons. If you are good at word making you can secure a valuable prize, as the Wetmore Company intends giving many handsome, special souvenir prizes to the persons sending them a list containing over fifteen words. Write your name on list of words (num. er) and enclose the same postpaid with your name and address, and you will receive a free sample package of Wetmore's Coconut. This word contest will be carefully and conscientiously conducted, and is solely for the purpose of further advertising and introducing Wetmore's Coconut in new localities. If you are able to make a good list of words and answer promptly, you will stand an equal opportunity to secure one of the valuable prizes. We intend spending a large amount of money in the distribution of prizes in this contest and assure you that our result will be most gratifying. It costs nothing to enter the contest, but we will be pleased to have you tell us whether your groceryman handles Wetmore's Coconut or not. Write your name plainly and send list as early as possible. Address THE WETMORE COMPANY PHILADELPHIA, PA. 8-21-04.

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