THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1907

HARRISBURG LETTER. Special Correspondence.

Harrisburg, Pa., May 13, 1907. The General Appropriation bill ab sorbed the bulk of legislative attention last week and well it might for it is fearfully and wonderfully made. The General Appropriation bill is that which provides for the expenses of the Legislative, Judicial and Executive Departments of the government. Every Senator and Representative is concerned in it for the reason that its passage is essential to secure his salary and supplies. Besides most men are interested in the schools and charitable and penal institutions and the provisions for their maintenance are contained in that bill.

As Josh Billings once said, "comparisons are odorous" but I have taken the trouble to compare some of the items in the bill of this year with those of other years in order to discover, if possible, the causes for the constant inerease in taxation. In this way I have learned that the entire cost of the Excentive Department in 1893, which was at the close of Pattison's administration as shown in the General Appro priation bill of that | year amounted to \$50,200 while the appropriation this vear aggregates \$59,000. There have partment in the interim and no increase of salaries, but the expenses have been increased in some way to the extent of \$8,800. That is a mere trifle, however.

while this year they amounted to \$111,000, a difference of \$46,000. The money expressed in the clause of the is \$8,500 and if the political revolution of 1905 had been postponed until now 000 judiciously expended will achieve the chances are that the increase would important results in politics and it is have been much greater. The Auditor General's Department has done fairly the public pay the wages of their camwell in this respect also. In 1893 the paign workers That has always been cost amounted to \$66,800 while this year they are \$159,700. The cost of ad- this State. As Dave Lane, of Philaministering the Treasury Department delphia, once said in a speech instructin 1893 was \$38,400 which in 1905 had expanded to \$72.795.60. The appropri- respect to their duty on election day, ation this year is \$72,000 flat, a decrease each ; beneficiary of the machine must since 1905 of \$766.60. It may be remarked parenthetically that it is the only department that has been de- that extent. In the country it simply creased at all.

SOME OTHER VAST INCREASES.

The greatest increase is in the Department of Public Grounds and Buildings, but that in some others is ample to make one "sit up and take notice." in 1893 the expense of the Attorney leneral's office was \$27,000, a modest um for the important work performed n that office. Two years ago it had increased to \$36,208,34, still a reasonable igure. But the appropriation for that Department this year has been raised e the enormous total of \$116,149,99, ible for this tripling of expenses, of ourse, for the new Attorney General as hardly got the bogus mahogany shair warmed and the estimates were made on the expenses of last year.

The Department of Internal Affairs 30,200 in 1893 to \$187,000 this year, the tion. Indicial Department from \$1,185,200 in are had not been restrained by the car of the veto axe a good deal more he Legislative Department was \$410,-:00 in 1903 and is \$507,470 now. There vas no such pretentious Forestry Department in 1883 and two years ago it od and all things considered we are cetting off pretty well at that.

The Department of Mines and those of Factory Inspector, State Police and offices had his cordial support and en-Pisheries have also been created since 893, but they show the spirit of proress in the direction of expense. That of Mines, for example cost \$339,831.93 two years ago and is set down for \$370,-383.60 th s year. The cost of working the Department of Factory Inspector in 1905 was \$174,800 and this year it is 581,568, while the Department of Fisheries cost \$87,700 last year and stands torget \$144,200 this year, an increase of \$56,500. The State Highway Department is another new one and promises to be the "crowning iniquity" of the tat. In 1905 it used up \$74,800 while the appropriation this year amounts to the enormous total of \$277,800 and as a matter of fact it was trying to get fifty millions.

POLITICAL INSTRUMENTS OF MACHINE The Highway Department, the Health Department and the Department of State Police are the political instruments of the Penrose machine and there is no way to accurately measure their potentiality. The Highway Department has road builders, inspectors, engineers, and hosts of others under its control. The Health Department can control. The reaction of Popsia.

Conster even a more numerous army of Remember: The name is Dr. David Ken. Popsia. dependents through its various bu-

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aypropriations for the department is spoliation the is a knave. In either one "for the payment of the Forest event he should be campelled to make Rangers, two years, the sum of \$75, restitution. been no new offices created in that de- 000." Webster's Dictionery defines a Ranger as "one of a body of mounted troops, formerly armed with short muskets, who range over the country and often fight on foot "

> maintain a very large force. But \$75,economical for party managers to make ing the officeholders of that city with poll five votes besides his own. In the city that meant ballot box stuffing to means that each man shall prevail on Democratic friends or relatives to vote the ticket of the machine in order that he may continue on the pay roll.

> > AN EXPENSIVE LUXURY.

The Forestry Department is an expensive luxury in other directions. There is an item of \$20,000 for Foresters and \$30,000 for laborers besides \$10,-000 for surveys, \$3,000 for draughtsmen, \$6,000 for special examinations "to promote the development of forestry," and \$3,500 for traveling expenses of the commissioners. There are a lot | bill was so emasculated in the Senate | 000 for not telling what he knew about of other items of various proportions Attorney General Carson was respon-from one to ten thousand sufficient to put the aggregate up to \$181,000. But it is possible that the department will produce good results. In fact the only complaint against it is that it is profligately conducted and that fault will endure until there is a complete change as increased in cost of operation from in the politics of the State administra-

I might go on with this subject to 1893 to \$1,989,392.08 this year and if the full limit of my space but what's be machine managers of the Legisla- the use. Of course everything is expensive and during the last half dozen years of the unrestrained machine conzould have been added. The cost of trol the paramount purpose of legislation was to create new offices. Pennypacker took delight beyond measure in spending other people's money and being absolutely without moral sense or vas efficiently conducted by Dr. Roth- understanding he found infinite pleasock for \$23,000. The appropriation ure in obeying the orders of Durham his year for that department is \$181,- and Martin to supply offices for the boys who toiled not, neither did they spin but paraded the streets in fine raiment. Every movement for new couragement. It pleased the bosses and they flattered him.

It is worth while, however, in dis-

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alone, for example, there is a chance missing this subject from consideration for three men in every township, all of to refer to the comparative cost of the whom will be required to earn the fa- work of the Board of Public Buildings vor bestowed upon them. The State and Grounds in 1893 and now. Then Police could achieve wonders, moreov- the appropriation was \$13,600 and it er, if "things were as they used to be." seemed ample for all purposes. This found and indications pointing to a There was a strenuous effort made year it is nearly a million dollars and during the present session of the Leg- some of the items which were then erne county will make a rigid inislature to double this force and though paid by the board are now charged to vestigation to clear up the mystery at this writing it seems to have failed other departments. This shows the irretrieveably, there is nothing abso- evil effect of putting an incompetent lutely certain in this world but "death man into a place which requires ma and taxes." I notice, however, that ture judgment. Pennypacker is either there is a suspicious item in the Gener- a fool or a knave. If he didn't know al Appropriation bill under the head of enough to prevent the profligacy he is the Forestry Department. Among the a fool. If he knew and permitted the

HIGH PRESSURE LEGISLATION.

pressure speed to its end and will adjourn on Thursday of this week with Possibly the machine is to be consol- most of the measures disposed of. It that the body was afterwards cloth-For example in 1893 the expenses of ed for its disappointment in not getting began with splendid promise for reform ed and placed in the river. the State Department were \$65,800, the State Police force doubled by this and will end with little in that respect expedient. Of course the amount of achieved. If Governor Stuart had not asserted himself at critical points not increase in two years, that since 1965, appropriation bill quoted would not a single item of reform legislation would have been enacted. After watching the work closely during the four and a half months which have intervened since the beginning of the session, it is not unjust to say that so far as the heart of the majority is concerna favorite expedient of the machine of ed there is no perceptible difference between this session and the last. The only difference is assumed.

In some respects, in fact, the present Legislature is inferior to its predecessors. That is to say it has shown a spirit of narrow partisanship that has not existed in any previous legislature. For example in other legislatures it didn't matter much who introduced uon-partisan legislation if it had merit. carried to a fashionable perfection This year, however, there seems to have been adopted in the beginning an shoulders wide, and to obtain that unwritten rule that no important leg- result all smart gowns are fashioned. islation introduced by a Democrat should get through. For that reason the trolley freight and two-cent a mile rate bills introduced by Mr. Creasy were defeated and measures less meritorious presented by a Republican substituted. That was baby business.

committee that it is practically worth- the capitol graft during the campaign less and for that reason it may be permitted to pass. But Creasy's bill to and will probably not be available as make express companies bear a just a witness for further investigation. share of the burdens of taxation has The probers will get along very well been defeated. The "Farmer" is prob- without him, however. They have been ably disappointed by this result for one authorized to continue the investigaof his hobbies is equalization of taxes tion after the adjournment of the legisand this principle is particularly out- lature and will resume the public hearraged by the immunity from taxes en- ings immediately after that event. joyed by the Express companies. They do about \$40,000,000 worth of business leads have been discovered and the rein the State and pay less than one- sult of the inquiry is no longer probtenth of a mill in taxes on that amount. | lematical. Criminal prosecution is cer-They have all kinds of property in the tain to follow and prison sentences are State upon which they pay no taxes. | inevitable.

mystery that surrounds the finding of the body of Mike Wisnofski in

Deputy Coroner Sutton of Berwick, learned that Wisnofski had been in the employ of the West End Coal company at Mocanaqua, but he had mysteriously disappeared from his boarding house about a month ago. It was reported at the time of his disappearance from that place that he had gotten up in the night time and gone out of the house. He never returned but there was apparently no reason to suspect foul play and nothing was

Now that his dead body has been foul murder, the authorities of Luzand try to bring the perpetrators of the crime to justice.

When found, the body was fully clothed. A stiletto wound was found in the throat, piercing the windpipe and another was found in the abdomen. Either of these wounds would have proved fatal.

The peculiar feature in connection with them is that while the body was fully clothed, there was The Legislature is working at high the clothing. The interence is that Wisnofski was murdered while asleep or while scantily attired and

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DICTATES OF FASHION,

lace did two seasons ago. square mesh is the thing.

The expression of the figure is when the waist is small and the

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WORK OF THE GRAFT PROBERS. The Dunsmore railroad commission other day that he had been paid \$10,last fall has mysteriously disappeared During last week some very important G. D. H.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

Bulletin.

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BODY FOUND IN RIVER.

That of a Murdered Foreigner of Mocanagua.

District Attorney Salsburg, of Wilkes-Barre, has detailed two detectives to try and clear up the Willow Springs, about six miles above Bloomsburg.

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