

THE COLUMBIAN.  
BLOOMSBURG, PA.

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1907

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Special Correspondence.

Harrisburg, Pa., May 20, 1907. The closing incidents of the legislative session made one fact clear. There must be a change in the legislative methods. This is not the dream of an idealist. It is a palpable and practical truth. The Legislature which has just finished its work was not bad. In fact it was better than any of its recent predecessors. But it enacted legislation in violation of the constitution and of the rules of the body itself. More than that the methods employed involved the violation of the oaths of the Senators and Representatives who permitted the proceedings. It was a pollution of the fountain of law and order.

During the last two days of the session bills were passed through both chambers, upon a roll call vote, when there was less than a quorum present. The constitution requires that every bill shall be read at length three times on three separate days and be voted for by a majority of all the members elected on final passage. It is a safe statement that no bill was read at length at any stage in either House during the recent session. In the Senate even the titles were not read on first reading or final passage. That this violation of the constitution was permitted is most alarming.

The measures enacted during the closing hours were involved in confusion, moreover. By design or accident hundreds of bills are left until the last few days and then are rushed through at a rate of speed which makes understanding absolutely impossible. Men vote on bills about which they have no knowledge. Sometimes the most vicious measures are voted for by men who positively abhor bad legislation and who only discover their error after it is too late, for the courts have ruled that it is impossible to go behind the records and the records are always right. The machine clerks see to that.

THE REMEDY IS OBVIOUS.

The excuse for this condition of affairs is that it is unavoidable. That is not true, however. In the early part of the session time is wasted. Take the session which has just closed, for example. It opened on the first day of January and immediately adjourned until the 14th. The ostensible reason for this long recess was that so much time was required for the formation of the committees. That is a mistake. The committees could be formed in three days and if fitness for the work influenced the choice of committeemen rather than political exigencies much more efficient bodies would be created in the lesser time.

Another grave fault lies in the committee work. After the committees are formed stated times for meetings ought to be provided in the rules. Under the existing system there is no fixed time for the meeting of any committee. Notice of meetings are written on the blackboard at the caprice of the chairman. Sometimes a day's notice is given and at another time fifteen minutes is deemed sufficient. When the machine managers want a bad bill reported out they arrange for a meeting of the committee and probably fifteen minutes before the time fixed write the notice on the blackboard. The result is that only those who are in the deal know of the meeting and they report the bill out.

During the session just closed this agency for evil was worked to the limit. Some committees were never called until within a few weeks of the close of the session and all bills which came from them were necessarily crowded into that overflowing deluge of legislation which was clogged and jostled at the end. Other committees practiced even more reprehensible methods. Take the Game and Fish Committee of the House, for example. It surreptitiously reported the bill imposing a dollar license tax on gunners a day but for the vigilance and courage of Representative Dersham, of Union county, that inquiry might have been perpetrated as a result.

Later the same committee took advantage of the absence of the opponents of the same bill and had it reported out at a meeting which had been called clandestinely, on a few minutes' notice, on the blackboard.

CAUSE OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

One of the main reasons given for the creation of the constitution of 1873 was that the legislative methods of the time immediately preceding were inimical. Bills were called up, the titles read and the vote ordered, it was said. Nobody was able to get an understanding of the pending legislation and husbands were divorced from their wives by laws enacted under misleading titles. Because of this iniquity the framers of the new constitution set themselves to provide a remedy. It was expressed in the provisions of Article 3. "No bill, except general appropriation bills, shall be passed containing more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title," is one clause and another reads, "every bill shall be

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read at length on three different days in each House; all amendments made thereto shall be printed for the use of the members before the final vote is taken on the bill, and no bill shall become a law, unless on its final passage the vote be taken by yeas and nays, the names of the persons voting for and against the same be entered on the journal, and a majority of the members elected to each House be recorded thereon as voting in its favor."

These requirements were not complied with and protests against the infraction of the provision were unavailing. At the first session after the adoption of the fundamental law it was literally construed and scrupulously obeyed by the legislature. For a considerable period the conditions were met. But gradually, under the lax morals of the machine, the constitutional restrictions were lost sight of until now nobody appears to "do them reverence." The Legislature of 1872, which is an ineffaceable stain upon the record of the Commonwealth was scarcely more culpable in this respect than that which has just ended. It would be no use to try to correct the evil by legislation or even constitutional amendment. The correction must come from an aroused public conscience set against such forms of iniquity. It can only be brought about by an improvement in the public life of the commonwealth. It must be shown that a majority of the Senators and Representatives care more for conscience than party and that a protest against a palpable violation of the constitution will be treated with respect rather than ridicule.

BETTER BUT STILL DISAPPOINTING.

The Legislature of 1907 was better than some of its predecessors, but it was disappointing, notwithstanding. It started out with great promise of improvement and ended in absolute failure of tangible reforms. From the beginning the majority was insincere. It would have been good if it had been obliged to. It had made preparations to legislate in the interest of reform if the Philadelphia municipal election made it necessary. But the people of Philadelphia gave the other tip. They instructed, not only their own representatives in the Legislature, but the faithful elsewhere, that the reform impulse had spent itself and there was no further reason for pretending.

And there was no further pretending either. From the moment of the reassembling after the recess for the Spring election the machine asserted itself in behalf of bad legislation. The old ringsters took command at once and the advance order was sounded. The admonitory notes from the Governor's office were somewhat disturbing but not actually alarming. The two cent a mile fare bill was hamstrung and the trolley freight bill crippled in various ways. Creasy was able to save that measure from absolute destruction by a little parliamentary sharp practice which was justifiable. The bill as it was scheduled to pass left the carrying of freight to the option of the trolley companies. Everybody knows what would have been the result of that. The steam roads would have made it an advantage to the trolley companies to refuse freight and there would have been no remedy. Creasy's amendment declared trolley railroads "common carriers" and as such they are obliged

KIDNEY TROUBLE

The importance of knowing just what to do when one has kidney disease or urinary troubles, is best answered by the following letter which was recently published in the Poughkeepsie, N. Y., News-Press: MILLERTON, Dutchess Co., N. Y. "Dr. David Kennedy, Dear Sir:—For more than eighteen months I was so badly afflicted with kidney trouble I could scarcely walk a quarter of a mile without almost fainting. I did not gain any until I began to use Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy. After using the first bottle I noticed a decided improvement which continued, and I know that

DR. DAVID KENNEDY'S FAVORITE REMEDY

saved my life, for I was in a miserable condition up to the time I began to take it—my friends thought I never would be better. My sister also has been very sick with bladder trouble for over a year, so bad that quantities of blood would come from her. She suffered at times most frightful pain, and nothing seemed to help her until she began the use of Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy. She is now using her third bottle, and is like a different person. MRS. THOMAS DYE. Write Dr. David Kennedy's Sons, Rondout, N. Y., for free sample bottle. Large bottles \$1. All druggists

to accept and transport freight.

The railroad commission bill was likewise emasculated and would have been made worthless if the Governor hadn't protested. Even as it is, the commission will have little power other than to draw salaries. It may advise the Secretary of Internal Affairs to do some things and he can do as he likes afterwards. But the commission can enforce no order or recommendation. It is practically of no use at all except as an asylum for politicians who have grown too old to provide for themselves in any other way and it will be a too expensive luxury for that reason. The pensions might have been put to better uses.

RAINBLOOD AT CLOSE OF SESSION.

The close of the session developed a surprising flow of bad blood among the Republicans. Throughout the session there have been signs of friction between the two branches and nobody would have been surprised at an outbreak at any stage of the proceedings. Speaker McClain had three or four bills which were understood to be in the interest of former Secretary of the Commonwealth William W. Greist, of Lancaster, who is said to be the chief of the Justice Elkin faction. It is only just to say that a Speaker of the House ought not to have any bill in the Legislature. His power over legislation is great and the temptation to exercise it for revenge almost too much to resist.

The Penrose machine dominated the Senate as completely as the speaker, with all his vast power, controlled the House. The Senate killed the McClain bills not because they were bad, and some of them were atrocious, but for the reason that they were McClain's bills. In resentment McClain, on the last legislative day of the session, slashed and slaughtered the Senate bills with merciless pertinacity. He wasn't very particular as to the character of the measures, either. The fact that they were Senate bills was enough. He refused to permit any of them to be considered with the result that more than sixty Senate bills, good, bad and indifferent, fell into the Legislative waste basket that day.

As a result of this resolution was introduced into the Senate by Mr. Blewitt, of Lackawanna county, on Thursday, deprecating the "unpardonable position taken by the Hon. Frank B. McClain in the closing hours of the session of the House of Representatives." The resolution was referred to committee without debate but it is nevertheless a part of the record of the session and in position which practically makes it impossible to obliterate it. At least it will remain in its present position until the next session when the committee may report it with an affirmative or negative recommendation and a motion to expunge will lie.

QUEER CAPERS OF MURPHY.

Political exigencies make presiding officers cut up queer pranks at times and the session just closed was no exception to the rule in that respect. Speaker McClain was absolutely fair as a rule, and though he "did things" once or twice, in the main there is no just cause of complaint against him. But Lieutenant Governor Murphy "went the limit," whenever such service appeared to be required of him. For instance on the last day, but one, of the session he ruled that a motion to lay a motion on the table was not lay a previous motion on the table was in order for the reason that in the event that it prevailed there would be nothing tangible to lay on the table. That was the acme of absurdity.

G. D. H.

REDUCED RATES TO HARRISBURG  
Via Pennsylvania Railroad Account Republican State Convention.

The Republican State Convention will be held at Harrisburg on Thursday, June 6.

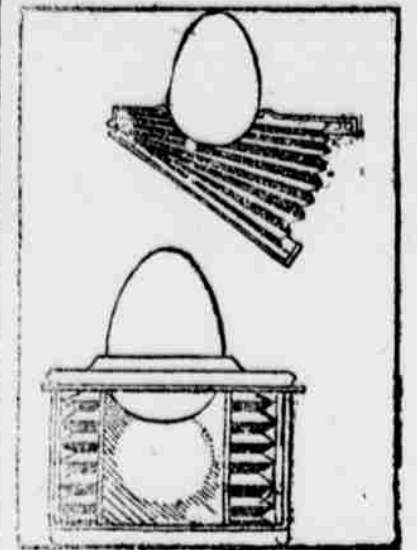
For this occasion the Pennsylvania Railroad will sell round trip tickets to Harrisburg June 1 to 6 good to return until June 15 inclusive, from all ticket stations in Pennsylvania, at reduced rates.

This will be an excellent opportunity to see the New State Capitol which has been pronounced the handsomest State building in the United States.

For the fare from your nearest station apply to the Ticket Agent. 5-23-21

PRACTICAL EGG TESTER.  
Light in Weight and Can Be Carried in Pocket.

Testing eggs by candle light has always been deemed the only safe method of determining the age and edible qualities of this product. Such inspection is necessary to determine the freshness or otherwise of the egg for commercial purposes. An egg-tester of unique design is shown in the illustration. It is so light in weight and so small in size it can be carried in the vest pocket. The top is rectangular in shape, in the center of which is a circular opening for the reception of a portion of an egg. The



bottom is hinged to the top at the center. Mounted on the bottom is a mirror, while the sides of the device are collapsible, the walls being accordion-pleated. To test an egg one end is placed in the opening at the top, the light or artificial light being concentrated on the exposed part. The lower hinged section is opened sufficiently to reflect the egg upon the mirror. If the egg is sound and fresh the reflection of the yolk will appear like a fiery ball or body, as the rays of light which penetrate the shell and light fluid break upon the yolk and continue to the lower part of the egg, thus reflecting the yolk in glossy red in the mirror. This reddish hue diminishes when the egg becomes old, and disappears entirely when the same enters into the state of decomposition, as the fluidities are no more distinct and white loses its transparency.

HOUSEHOLD SUGGESTIONS.

Cream and acids do not curdle when milk and acids will. When broiling steak try brushing it over with butter and flour to keep the juice in. When blowing out a candle hold it above you and blow. If this be done the wick will not smoulder. Do not pile left-over cooked potatoes together, as they will sour quickly; spread them out on a large dish. If sponge cake is mixed with cold water it will be yellow, but if it is mixed with boiling water it will be white. When making white cake use one-half a teaspoonful more of cream of tartar than soda, as this extra amount of the cream of tartar makes the egg whites stiffer.

About Wearing A Hat.

There is a set of rules about hats and their wearers that should be rigidly followed. If a woman has a thin face and is inclined to be sharp featured let her beware of hats that go up off her face. This kind of a hat only tends to outline her defects and she should choose a hat that is brought well forward. Her hair, too, should be loosely arranged and never drawn back in a plain fashion. Sharp or smart hats should be almost avoided and fancy edges adopted. If one has features that look good at a casual glance but will not bear inspection a hat crushed in and pulled out with many corners and angles will be her most becoming design. This tends to mystify and one finds herself unwilling to investigate—the effect is too good to unbalance. A small face should deal warily with the picture hat. It is very liable to have its saving graces drowned in the depths of the enormity and should never be attempted by any one who has not the height sufficient to carry. A well-formed face can show off most any model and it is with this sort of face in view that most designers are created.

"NATURAL AND INDUSTRIAL NIAGARA FALLS."

"Natural and Industrial Niagara Falls," an illustrated entertainment of over 150 beautifully colored stereopticon views, will be presented in Normal Auditorium, Saturday evening May 25th, 8:15. Moving pictures of falls and rapids wonderfully graphic. An interesting and instructive entertainment. General admission 15c.

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