

**Cameron County Press.**  
ESTABLISHED BY C. B. GOULD.

**HENRY H. MULLIN,**  
Editor and Manager.

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**KEEPING HANDS OFF**

Senator Penrose Said to Be Letting State Legislature Alone.

**BODY IS REALLY UNBOSSSED**

Railroads and Monopolistic Corporations Worrying Because of Drastic Measures Introduced — Politicians Will Play Safe Game.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, Pa.—Just what is to come of all the legislation affecting the railroads and other corporations that has been brought before the general assembly this session is puzzling alike to corporations and legislators. It is a safe guess, however, that the railroad people are doing the most worrying about it.

The fact is generally conceded that at the next presidential election the corporations, trusts, and monopolies of one kind and another will be the principal issue before the people. And it is also quite as certain that the party which makes the best presentation of this issue before the people will fare the best when the votes are counted.

This, at least, is the way some of the lawmakers here are sizing up the situation just now. And that is what is causing the corporations to worry a bit. There is no doubt that a great deal of the legislation that has been introduced is of the fake order and it will remain in committee, but there is much that is all right.

Now, when it comes to the test, many members of the legislature will be placed in the position of having to vote for measures that are directly opposed to their own personal interests or take the chances of political annihilation.

**Tom Cooper in Distress.**

"Tom" Cooper, the erstwhile "red headed and hopeful," and the self-styled "walking delegate for the Pennsylvania railroad," was given a rude shock the other day as chairman of the railroad committee of the house. He protested vigorously against the Riley resolution for the creation of a commission and an appropriation of \$100,000 for a re-survey by the state of the 12,000 miles of railways in Pennsylvania. By a vote of three to one the bill was reported favorably. The old war horse lamented that it was the first time in 27 years he had been turned down by his committee.

Some of the members, fearing that Cooper would endeavor to smother anything affecting the railroads that might come to his committee, made request that bills presented by them affecting the railroads should be referred to the corporations committee. However, with the experience of the Riley bill as a guide, members of the house need fear no trouble of that kind if their bills are sent to the railroad committee.

**Legislature Unbossed.**

The fact is becoming more apparent every day that this legislature is unbossed. United States Senator Boies Penrose, who was supposed to run things politically in the state, is keeping hands off, figuratively and literally. He will not even be in Harrisburg during the session and has no one here representing him, so far as can be ascertained.

The fact is, Senator Penrose is too wise a politician to interfere. He knows that it would be of no use to do so and then it might kindle afresh a spirit of political anarchy or that which very closely approaches it. Penrose knows when to let the bear's tail alone.

Marvin of Pike county came to the legislature as a Republican representative and is the first Republican elected from that county of rocks and Democrats in 99 years. He brought with him a bill providing for a new

method of distribution of the tax on foreign railroad companies doing business in the state of Pennsylvania. The present tax is on real estate and is distributed in proportion to the value of the real estate of the companies in the various counties in which it is located. Marvin's bill makes the distribution on a basis of the mileage in the counties through which the railroads run.

**Good Thing for Pike.**

Now this would be a very good thing for Pike county but a very bad thing for such counties as Philadelphia and Allegheny where the railroads have large real estate holdings but comparatively small mileage. The bill would affect such railroads as the B. & O., Jersey Central, Delaware & Lackawanna, Delaware & Hudson, Erie and Wabash. The measure was allowed to come out of committee and get into the house with a favorable recommendation for the purpose, it is alleged, of jollying along the Republicans of Pike county so that in future they might send another Republican representative to Harrisburg. But the political prophets say the bill will never become a law.

The capitol investigation has at last been started. What it is going to amount to remains to be seen. It is not safe to make predictions but one thing certain is that it is going to hurt someone before it is wound up.

If nothing is uncovered after the probe has been thrust into matters the cry of "whitewash" is certain to be raised and the members of the commission will be the sufferers as a consequence. If developments show any crooked work to have been done in the erection and furnishing of the capitol building the penitentiary will do the rest. And the people who have been guilty of grafting will pay dearly for all they got out of it.

**Nobody Wanted the Job.**

Speaker McClain, of the house, and President Pro Tem Woods, of the senate, had the time of their lives in getting representatives and senators to accept appointments on the commission. No one wanted to serve because of the criticism they would receive either from the people who suspect wrong doing, in the event that nothing is uncovered, or from those who would be charged with grafting and their friends, in case it true bill is found. Politically the appointments are considered as being well made and the integrity of the men composing the commission is unquestioned. Senators Fisher and Sisson are the Republican members of the commission representing the senate and Mr. Dewalt is the Democratic representative. The house members include Fair of Westmoreland, and Moses Shields, of Wyoming, as the Republican representatives; Deardon of Philadelphia, Lincoln party, and Ammerman of Montour as the Democratic representative.

**Investigate Cost of Living.**

There is likely to be a continuous performance of investigations of one kind and another. Despite Democratic protest they are going to try to find out what is causing the increase in the cost of living. The resolution presented by Senator Kline, of Allegheny, passed both houses and the commission will have \$3,000 to spend in trying to find out why it costs so much to live.

Harry Thompson, of Blair, wants the people to know what is going on in the legislature and has introduced a bill providing that all acts of the assembly and concurrent resolutions that are passed be printed in three newspapers in every county of the state. One of the newspapers shall represent the minority party of the state. It is provided, however, that the publication shall not be in more than two newspapers of a county should the secretary of the commonwealth desire to limit the number. It is also provided that in cities of the first class (Philadelphia) four newspapers shall be used. The rate for such publication is fixed at 40 cents for every 100 words regardless of the circulation of the paper or of where it is located in the state.

**Union Labor Gets Busy.**

The labor people are getting into action. A large number of miners and officials of the United Mine Workers of America are here in the interest of a new mining bill which was drawn up to take the place of the present mining laws. It is a voluminous document covering 68 pages of type-written matter and relates to bituminous mining. Its purpose is to make more stringent the laws for the protection of the lives and health of miners. Daniel Boden, of Allegheny, a member of the lower house, was entrusted with the responsibility of engineering the measure through the legislature.

There are about ten other bills in committees relating to labor, the principal one being to regulate child labor. Another provides for the repeal of the trespass law of 1905.

To encourage the growth of forest trees is the purpose of a bill presented in the house by Brann, of Warren. It provides for the establishment of auxiliary forest reserves. The bill provides that "in order to encourage the growing of such trees as will at the proper age be suitable for merchantable timber and sawed lumber, whether such be of natural production, or from seed sown, or trees planted out, or all combined, all surface lands may be set apart according to the provisions of this act and exclusively used for growing such trees, are hereby constituted a separate and distinct class of lands to be known as Auxiliary Forest Reserves."

**New Club a Good Thing.**

"The Legislative Club" is the name of the new organization that has been formed by the country members. That much good will result from this organization is generally believed. One of the objects of this organization is to support the good roads legislation. A great many bills for the improvement of the highways of the state have been presented, some of which are good and some that may be considered questionable but all have the same end in view—the improvement of Pennsylvania's highways. It is the intention of those prominent in the good roads movement to get together and from the bills that have been introduced get up some sort of measure that will bring the required results. The Legislative Club will take an active part in the framing of this legislation.

All the newspaper publishers of the state are to be invited to appear before the house judiciary general committee to give their views regarding the bill repealing the Salus-Grady libel law, better known as the "press muzzler." There is to be a full and free discussion of the question and the prospects are that the muzzler will be laid to rest. A great many legislators have gone on record as favoring the repeal of the law. It was passed for the purpose of "jolly" former Gov. Samuel W. Pennypacker. It served its purpose but has never done much muzzling.

BAN Q. BARTON.

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Strength and vigor are imparted by a short stay at this famous resort, and a longer sojourn renews the energy of the overworked man of business, the convalescent, and the tired devotee of society.

Special excursion tickets to Atlantic City with liberal return limits are on sale at Pennsylvania Railroad ticket offices. Full information regarding rates and train service will be furnished by Ticket Agents.

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Miss May Gould, teacher of piano forte has received a full line of the latest and most popular sheet music. All the popular airs, Popular and classical music. Prices reasonable. 44-4t.

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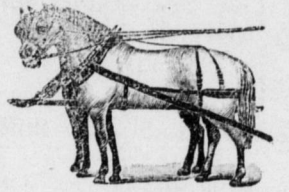
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