

THE LEGISLATURE.

The Mercantile Tax Law Will Not be Repealed—Election Bills all Referred to Commission.

The Mercantile Tax Law, according to the best information at hand will not be repealed, although a bill to that effect was introduced by Representative Kiese, of Lycoming county. It was contended that fifty per cent. of these taxes was used up for fees of collection and advertising, but Auditor General Young made a statement showing that only a trifle over ten per cent. was required for all expenses of collecting, advertising, suits, etc. The net sum paid into the state treasury from mercantile taxes in 1908 was \$1,337,527 41.

REFORMING ELECTION LAWS.

A half-dozen bills aimed to reform the election laws appeared. No changes will be made in the present laws, and revision will be referred to a commission already authorized. One of the most important bills was that presented by Mr. Dearden, which in effect abolishes the party square and establishes the pure Australian ballot. It makes it necessary to vote for each candidate by making a mark in front of his name. The candidates will be grouped under party names. Other bills on election matters came from Mr. Milliron, Venango. They provide that a voter must declare his party upon registration, and also provide for reforms in registration in third-class cities.

PENSION BILLS TO FALL.

The pensioning of soldiers by the State is opposed by the legislative leaders, and at this stage of the session it can be safely predicted that the several bills will fall of passage. Speaker Cox said that after the hospitals and charitable institutions had been cared for the pensioning of the soldiers would be taken up. He indicated in a most careful interview that the present income would not permit of the vast amount demanded for the soldiers. Unless the revenues are increased about \$2,000,000 a year the soldiers' pension bill cannot be passed.

TO PAY TEACHERS' SALARIES.

A bill to compel the State to pay the salaries of all school teachers except those of Philadelphia, was presented in the House by Mr. Reynolds, of Lawrence. It carries an appropriation of \$28,000,000. The money is to be paid quarterly beginning June 4, 1909. Philadelphia is exempted because it supports its schools by appropriations made by the City Councils from money collected by a general levy.

BILLS INTRODUCED IN SENATE.

Mr. Shields, Wyoming, fixing the length of the term of borough treasurers and street commissioners, where they are elected by the people, at three years; authorizing municipal corporations to lay out, establish or re-establish grades of streets and alleys and to construct bridges, piers and abutments and sewers and drains in a street or alley or through or on or over private property.

BILLS INTRODUCED IN HOUSE.

Mr. Foster, Venango, creating a road law for second class townships. Mr. Owens, Luzerne, that when owners of mineral rights fail to begin development for twenty-one years the title shall merge with that of the surface right. Mr. Smith, Allegheny, requiring the date of canning to be stamped on the bottom of cans containing canned goods; exempting pianos from execution for rent; requiring value of trading stamps in mills to be printed, and prescribing regulations for use; prohibiting gift enterprises, under \$500 fine.

HOUSE BILLS SENT TO SENATE.

To authorize writs of estrepement in trespass cases. Permitting the Department of Forestry to supply trees to those who care for them. Appropriating \$90,000 to pay bills for fighting foot and mouth disease. The Senate Judiciary Committee has reported out the Snyder bill to advance the price of marriage licenses from fifty cents to one dollar. He originally wanted to charge two dollars.

Waltz Convicted.

Fred Waltz, formerly of Bellefonte, was convicted of manslaughter in the Youngstown, Ohio, courts. His sentence was eighteen months in the penitentiary. The deed was committed in a bar room, while Waltz was in a drunken condition.

Hooven Mercantile Co., Dividend No. 73.

The directors of The Hooven Mercantile Company have declared the regular quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent. on the preferred stock and 1 per cent. on the common stock payable on March 1st to the stockholders of record February 15th. Checks will be mailed.

In Lancaster county and the eastern part of the state some very mysterious murders are being solved, but not without effort, while up here in old Centre no steps worthy of mention have been taken to bring to light one of the most cowardly murders ever perpetrated.

Stivers and Musers.

The following facts are taken from the records of the State of Pennsylvania by Ethan Allen Weaver, for many years secretary of the society of the Sons of the Revolution, Philadelphia, and show that Col. S. L. Stiver, founder and superintendent of the Bunker Hill Military Academy, and P. O. Stiver, editor of the Freeport (Illinois) Bulletin, well known to the Reporter readers, as well as the others of that family, together with many of the Musers in Centre county, are descendants of revolutionary soldiers. The facts are these, and will be of interest to many of the Reporter readers:

I. Michael Stiver, private in Captain James Murray's company, 10th battalion, Col. Robert Elder commanding, Lancaster Militia, muster roll dated April 12, 1781.

II. Michael Stiver, private in Capt. Christopher Kucher's company, 1st battalion Philadelphia Associators, from a list dated December, 1776.

III. Michael Stiver, private in Capt. Israel Cooper's company, 1st battalion, and in Col. William Bradford's battalion, Philadelphia Militia, dated September, 1778.

The following is a list of Mosers who were in the Revolutionary Army, taken from the published records of Pennsylvania. The name was originally Moser but was spelled sometimes Moser, Mosser and Musser. The Mosers of Penna Valley and farther east in the state were all descended from the Mosers of eastern Pennsylvania. Christiana Moser, the great-grandmother of S. L. Stiver, was the wife of Matthias Beuch and the daughter of Philip Moser who was the son of Burkhardt Moser, Sr., who died in 1807. Philip Moser was buried at Penn Hall, Centre county. Christiana Moser was born October, 1771, and died March 11, 1838. She was buried at Aaronburg. The Mosers enumerated below as Revolutionary soldiers were all related to Christiana Moser in some way.

Capt. Jacob Moser, 6th Penna. regt., Continental line, Col. Richard Hump-ton, commissioned as captain, Feb. 15, 1776.

II. Capt. Jacob Moser was exchanged December, 1776, for Captain Gambler of the 47th British regiment.

III. Lieut. Michael Moser was in Capt. Jacob Weston's company, Lieut. Col. Michael Lindemuth commanding, the Berks county militia, 1780.

IV. Valentine Moser in Captain Frantz's company, 4th bat., Lieut. Col. Lindemuth commanding, Berks county militia, 1781.

V. Henry Moser, sergeant in German regt., Continental line, July 10, 1776, (died in Philad., Feb. 21, 1825, as Revolutionary pensioner.)

VI. Christian Moser, second bombardier in Capt. Benjamin Loxley's company of Philad. artillery, Col. Samuel Mifflin commanding, July, 1776.

VII. Samuel Moser, private 3rd regt., Col. Thomas Craig commanding, Penna. Continental line, 1783.

VIII. Christian Moser, private in Capt. Benjamin Fishburn's company, Col. William Butler commanding, Penna. Continental line, 1777. (He was living in Montgomery county, Pa., 1834, aged 78.)

IX. Henry Moser, private in Capt. Nicholas Kern's company, 1st bat. of Northampton county Associators, forming part of the "Flying Camp," August 6, 1766.

XI. The following were paid in depreciated currency as soldiers of the Revolution, according to the canceled certificates on record: Andrew, George, Jacob, John and Paul Moser; Paul, Tobias and Samuel Moser; Daniel, Philip and Tobias Moser; and the following received pay as Revolutionary soldiers but without date or rank, except as Rangers of the Frontier: Daniel, Jacob, Philip and Tobias Moser. Two of these were ensigns.

Wanted 50 Men and Women.

J. D. Murray, the enterprising druggist, is advertising today for fifty men and women to take advantage of the special half-price offer he is making on Dr. Howard's celebrated specific for the cure of constipation and dyspepsia, and get a fifty-cent package at half-price, 25 cents.

So positive is he of the remarkable power of this specific to cure these diseases, as well as sick headaches and liver troubles, that he agrees to refund the money to any customer whom this medicine does not quickly relieve and cure.

With Dr. Howard's specific at hand, you can eat what you want and have no fear of ill consequences. It strengthens the stomach, gives perfect digestion, regulates the bowels, creates an appetite, and makes life worth the living.

This is an unusual opportunity to obtain 60 doses of the best medicine ever made for half its regular price, with the personal guarantee of a well business man to refund the money if it does not give satisfaction.

Mr. Murray has been able to secure only a limited supply of the specific, so great is the demand, and you should not delay taking advantage of the liberal offer he is making.

Pennsylvania game commissioners recommend that the hunting season be reduced to the month of November for all game except wild water fowl and shore birds.

The Uses of Adversity.

"Grogan," said the head of the department store, eying him sharply, "you've quit drinking, haven't you?" "Yes, sor," answered the red headed, Hibernian who worked in the packing department. "I haven't taken a drink ay anything stronger th'n lead tay fr three months."

"I am glad to hear it, Grogan. I'll make it an object to you to stay quit. But how did you break yourself of the habit?"

"Be hiltin' me thumb nail wid a hammer whin I was packin' a box o' goods."

"I don't see how that could cure you."

"Well, Mither Barker, it was this way. If I'd been sober, d'ye moind, I'd niver have done it, but I wasn't. Whin I whacked me thumb instead av the nail I was thryin' to drive it made a black spot at the root av me thumb nail. I, says to meself: 'Grogan, I'll punish ye fr that. Ye shan't have a drink ay anyther beer 'r whusky until that black spot has gone.'"

"Well, sor, it was two months before it had growed out to the end o' me thumb an' I cud cut it off, an' be that time I'd lost all me appetite fr beer an' whusky."

"Thin I says to meself: 'Grogan, I'll reward ye fr that. Ye're a sober man now, an' ye'll stay sober.' That's the whole story, sor."—Youth's Companion.

The Russian Joke Teller.

Story telling and jesting have always been counted the favorite amusements of semibarbaric people. To the first we owe the "Arabian Nights" and to the second the clowns, who were formerly the appendage of all great houses. In Russia the paid Joker still flourishes, and the people pay so much an hour to listen to his jokes and witticisms. He provides himself with two or three hundred tickets, and, mounting a sort of rostrum, he announces that he is going to regale his audience with choice tidbits of mirth provoking lore. He begins selling tickets at a penny each, and when he has sold enough to warrant his beginning he turns himself loose, and the audience remains spell-bound by his humorous stories for an hour or two. A recent traveler who saw a number of these Jokers in St. Petersburg says, "I listened to them several times, and, although I could not understand one word the Joker said, I was sure from the way the audience greeted his stories with roars of laughter that the jokes were above the average."

Adam, Eve and Some Apples.

How many apples did Adam and Eve eat?

Some say Eve 8 and Adam 2, a total of 10. Others say Eve 8 and Adam 8 also; total, 16. But if Eve 8 and Adam 82, the total will be 90. Now, if Eve 81 and Adam 812 the total would be 893. Then if Eve 81st and Adam 812 the total would be 1,623. Or, again, Eve 814 Adam, Adam 81242 oblige Eve, total 82,056. Though we admit Eve 814 Adam, Adam, if he 8181242 keep Eve company; total, 8,182,056. All wrong, Eve, when she 81812 many and probably felt sorry for it, and Adam, in order to relieve her grief, 812; therefore Adam if he 8181242405 Eve's depressed spirit; hence both ate 81,896,864 apples.—Kansas City Independent.

Marriage Customs in Savage Africa.

The charge which is sometimes brought against white men of "marrying for money" cannot be used against their sex in Africa, for there it is the other way about, husbands having to purchase their wives. When a man has a wife bestowed upon him as an act of charity he feels that she is not properly his own, and she, if she will, can treat him with contempt. This custom of wife purchase, although it is to be decried as tending to lower marriage to the level of a commercial contract, is an incentive to young men to work. Lazy youths cannot compete with energetic ones in the matrimonial market, as they are despised by the young women and rejected by their parents as being unworthy of their daughters.—Wide World Magazine.

Sea Roses.

The sea rose is a leathery looking creature which attaches itself to a stone at the bottom of the sea in its infancy and ultimately attains a size about three inches in length and an inch and a half in breadth. When quiet and feeding under water its top opens and blossoms into the semblance of a large pink rose, with petals fully an inch long, a really handsome object. As soon as it is disturbed, however, it shuts itself resolutely into its leathery pod.

Southern Spoon Corn Bread.

Four two cupfuls boiling water over a cupful cornmeal; cook five minutes, stirring continually; add a tablespoonful butter, two eggs well beaten, a cupful milk, a teaspoonful salt; beat thoroughly, pour into a well greased baking dish and bake thirty-five minutes in hot oven. Serve from the dish in which it is baked.—What to Eat.

Overburdened With Memory.

"Your son tells me that he is going to take lessons to cultivate his memory." "I hope not," answered Farmer Corn-tassel. "He can remember every fool tune that was ever whistled."—Washington Star.

Quite Light.

Marie—I think Chollie is a delightful dancer. He's so light on his feet! Lillian—When you're better acquainted with Chollie you'll discover that he's light at both ends!—Town and Country.

An acre in Middlesex is worth a principlity in Utopia.—Macaulay.

Centre Reporter, \$1.00 per year.

The Hat and the Title.

There is in our English definition of "gentleman" a little bit of "a man who wears a silk hat and if he has no other title he is called an Esq." added to his name when letters are addressed to him.

The west end Londoner of social pretensions accepts this definition in practice. Summer and winter, in rain or shine, he wears a high silk hat in the streets of London and carries it into the drawing room when he pays an afternoon call. It is only when he takes a train for the provinces or for the continent that he ventures to use more comfortable headgear. He also expects to have the distinction of "esquire" when a letter is addressed to him and is highly offended if he finds on the envelope the prefix "Mr." As a matter of fact, the number of English gentlemen who are legally entitled to the mediaeval honor of "esquire" is insignificant. It is a self-assumed title which signifies nothing that is substantial in rank or privilege.

A common use in London "esquire" simply means that the person so addressed does not choose to be associated with tradesmen and ordinary working people and that he is a "gentleman" who invariably wears a silk hat.

Mixed Metaphor.

The late Mr. Ritchie when chancellor of the exchequer once asserted that "the question of moisture in tobacco is a thorny subject and has long been a bone of contention." His immediate successor in office, Austen Chamberlain, remarked at the Liberal Union club's dinner that the harvest which the present government had sown was already coming home to roost.

Sir William Hart-Dyke has two conspicuous "howlers" to his credit—the description of James Lowther as having gone to the very top of the tree and landed a big fish and the comforting assurance that his government had got rid of the barbed wire entanglements and was now in smooth water. Among other political examples of mixed metaphor are the prediction ascribed to a labor member that if we give the house of lords rope enough they will soon fill up the cup of their iniquity and an Irish member's complaint that a certain government department is iron bound in red tape.—London Standard.

A Fable.

Once Upon a Time there was a Young Man who met Two Nice Girls, who were Constantly Together. Now, he was an Astute Young Man, and he desired to say Something Pretty and Agreeable to the Ladies, but he knew that if he paid a Compliment to One of them, No Matter which, the Other would be Hurt.

So he Thought Rapidly for a moment, and then he said: "Ah, I know Why you Two Girls are Always Together?"

"Why?" asked the Two Girls. "Because Everybody says that A Handsome Girl Always Chooses a Homely One as a Companion, So That Her Beauty may be Enhanced by the Contrast."

After Such a Remark, either Both Girls would be Angry with him or Delighted.

And what Do you think Happened? The Two Girls Blushed and said he was A Flatterer and went their way Together, each Happy for Herself and Sorry for the Other.—London Answers.

The Flag.

On June 14, 1777, the Continental congress resolved that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, and that the Union be thirteen white stars on a blue field. On Jan. 13, 1794, by an act of congress, the flag was altered to fifteen red and white stripes and fifteen stars. On April 4, 1818, congress again altered the flag by returning to the original thirteen stripes and fifteen stars, as the adding of a new stripe for each additional state would soon make the flag too large. A new star is added to the flag on July 4 following the admission of each new state.—New York American.

Force of Habit.

"The question of enlarging the church comes up tonight, John, doesn't it?"

"Yes, dear, and we expect to have a lively time. They tell me the opposition to the pastor will be strong. Where's my overcoat? Oh, yes! And now I want the tin horn and the cowbell and the big rattle."

"Mercy, John, what are you going to do?"

"Do! Why, I'm going to root for the pastor."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

An Estimate.

"Old man Titevad must be worth a billion dollars," observes the man with the ingrowing mustache.

"Nonsense!" says the man with the dejected ears. "He hasn't over a hundred thousand to his name."

"But I was estimating it at what he would be worth if a dollar was as big as he thinks it is."—Chicago Post.

A Human Bungalow.

Pilkson didn't impress you favorably, then?"

"No; he's just a bungalow."

"A what?"

"A bungalow. He hasn't any foundation."—Newark News.

A Freak.

Jubb—Why, Jimmy, you look as if you'd grown four feet since I last saw you. Jimmy—Huh! I wish I had. I'd exhibit in a dime museum as the "human quadruped" and get a pile of money, I would.

The intellect of the wise is like glass; it admits the light of heaven and reflects it.—Hare.

Read the Reporter.

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EXECUTOR'S NOTICE—LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the estate of Julia A. Ishler, late of Potter township, deceased, having been duly granted to the undersigned he would respectfully request any persons knowing themselves indebted to the estate to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the same to present them duly authenticated for settlement. JOHN H. ISHLER, Executor, Tusseyville, Pa. P. O.—Spring Mills, R. F. D. No. 3. Jan. 7, 1909.

FARM HAND WANTS WORK—The undersigned wants work on the farm by the year. Good references. WILLIAM H. STOVER, Centre Hall, Pa.

DR. SOL. M. NISSLEY, VETERINARY SURGEON.

A graduate of the University of Penn'a. Office at Palace Livery Stable, Bellefonte, Pa. Both 'phones. oct.1.08.1yr

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