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THE STUYVESANT CO., 8 West 40th St., New York

PROBE BILL SHIFT BALKED BY HOUSE

Attempt to Amend Sproul Measure Thwarted by Large Majority

CERTAIN OF PASSAGE

Original Plan to Investigate Governor Will Be Adopted by Assembly

HARRISBURG, Feb. 13.—With the Vire-Brumbaugh members of the House voting with the Penrose forces in favor of the Sproul resolution to investigate Governor Brumbaugh and the departments of the State Government, as it came from the Senate, all efforts to amend the measure failed in the lower branch of the Legislature today.

Representative Wilson G. Sargis, of Berks, offered the same amendment that was offered by Senator Washburn, of York, in the Senate.

Speaker Baldwin ruled that the amendment was unconstitutional and out of order, and on the vote on his ruling, the House stood 143 to 44 to sustain him.

Seven of the thirty-seven Democratic members of the House voted to sustain Baldwin. A second effort to amend the probe measure was then made by Representative Charles Walters, of Franklin. His amendment would have made the proposed commission report to the Legislature not later than May 1 next, instead of June 1, as the resolution now reads.

AMENDMENTS LOSE

A debate that was as hot as the one over the Sargis amendments ensued, with Representative George W. Williams, of Tioga, seconding the Walters amendment, and Representative Frederick Beyer, of Philadelphia, opposing it. The second amendment was voted down, 113 to 82.

Every member from Philadelphia voted against both amendments.

The Sproul resolution was made a special order for 11:30 o'clock, upon motion of Representative Cox, Philadelphia, seconded by Representative Beyer. Cox was the Vire-Brumbaugh candidate for Speaker and Beyer is the Penrose floor leader.

The measure was on the calendar for second reading, and any efforts to amend it had to be made today.

As soon as the resolution was called Representative Sargis, the Democratic floor leader, introduced the so-called Washburn amendment.

Sargis said that he "wanted to call the bluff of the two Republican factions."

WANTS FULL PROBE

"If they want an investigation, let both sides be investigated," he said. "I believe that the time has come when the people of Pennsylvania want to know if talk of an investigation is all a bluff. I call the bluff right now, and if we want an investigation let us pass the amendment I have introduced."

"The Governor has virtually served notice on us that he will not sign the Sproul resolution in its present form, and I don't think we could pass it over this morning."

When Representative Sargis had concluded, Beyer raised the same point of order that was raised by Senator Sproul in the upper branch last week, declaring that the proposed amendment was unconstitutional, as it proposed to delegate legislative functions to a commission not composed of members of the Legislature.

Representative Goodwin, Venango, also argued that "this Legislature cannot transfer its powers to any other body."

CALLED INQUISTION

Representative Luckis, York, argued that the proposed commission was an inquisitorial and not a legislative body.

Speaker Baldwin then decided that the amendment was out of order, just as Lieutenant Governor McClain had decided a week ago. Sargis then appealed from the decision of the chair.

The vote on the second amendment that was offered, the Walters amendment, is regarded as the test vote in the House on the probe and insures the final passage of the investigation measure by the House.

"INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT" DENOUNCED BY PENROSE

Joins Gallinger in Resenting Being Left Out in Revenue Bill Conference

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Senator Gallinger, the Republican leader; Senator Boies Penrose, of Pennsylvania, and Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, expressed their indignation in the Senate today at "invisible Government methods" of the Democratic majority of the Finance Committee in framing the revenue bill.

The bill was reported favorably today by Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, chairman of the committee.

Senator Penrose immediately gave notice that a minority would submit a dissenting report.

"The minority was not invited to the hearings on the bill and I am not sure that we would have been admitted," said Penrose. "We were allowed but two minutes to see the outside of the measure. I am not complaining—I am getting sort of caloused to such procedure."

Penrose also denounced the Democratic caucus "held in secret on the Sabbath."

"Well, if I want to get any lesson in morality I won't go to the Senator from Pennsylvania," retorted Senator Simmons.

LOCKS UP BANK HEADS AND MAKES \$30,000 HAUL

Masked Robber Holds Up Two Officials of Louisiana Institution for Rich Loot

WINNEBORO, La., Feb. 13.—A masked robber held up the Franklin State Bank last night and forced Vice President Peterwick and Judge S. B. Holstein to open the vault and pass out sacks full of money. The robber locked the vault door and escaped. It is reported that at least \$30,000 was stolen, although bank officials declined to make any statement.

SUGAR FROM BOSTON EASES FAMINE HERE

Shipload Already Rushed Relieves Stringency Materially. More on the Way

Return of the sugar market to normal is indicated today in statements issued by the Philadelphia Board of Trade, and investigation of conditions.

Prediction that normal conditions would prevail within a week was made by a representative of H. S. Forer and Son, sugar brokers, who said that boatloads of sugar shipped here from Boston would relieve the situation.

"Sugar is coming here from Boston," said this official, "no fact, one boatload has already arrived. I am advising my customers not to buy more sugar than they need, for there is good promise that the shortage will be relieved within a week's time. I visited the plant of the McLaughlin Company today and some of the strikers returned. The Pennsylvania Sugar Refining Company has put in strike-breakers and has, I understand, an output of more than a thousand barrels a day already."

Albert T. Zink, head of the payroll department of the Pennsylvania Sugar Company, said today:

"Our day force is now running normal with 450 men, and we will start a night shift tonight. I believe that the back of the strike is broken and that before the end of the week our refinery will be running full capacity. The report is untrue that the clerks and bookkeepers of the Pennsylvania Sugar Company helped to unload a cargo of raw sugar. This may have happened at another refinery, which is an independent concern."

The strikers today denied that any of their number were returning to work. They declared it was a fight to the finish and they would not return to work until their full demands were granted, which includes an increase of five cents an hour, double pay for overtime and Sunday off.

It was reported today that Patrick Gillday, of the State Department of Labor, was in Philadelphia today to attempt to arbitrate the differences between the refiners and sugar workers. The refiners say they have raised the wages of their employees at least fifty per cent since the war began, and insist that the present demands are excessive. The strikers who went on a sympathetic strike are still refusing to unload raw sugar destined for the refiners.

Chain stores and other grocery markets throughout the city are still selling sugar for eight and one-half cents a pound; many grocers in the outlying sections are getting as high as fifteen cents a pound.

BLANKENBURG RIDICULES COUNCILMANIC PROBE

Ex-Mayor Regards Printing of Report as "Crime" in View of High Cost of Paper

Ex-Mayor Blankenburg today said the councilmanic committee which investigated the workings of the civil service in his administration committed an economical crime in printing its report, seeing that white paper costs so much.

The committee, which some call the Lexow committee, will submit its report to Councils Thursday. Principally it attacks the way Morris L. Cooke ran the Department of Public Works, and also says that the Serni law was used by Mr. Blankenburg's directors, "at least one of them," to keep officeholders in politics rather than out.

Mr. Cooke is convalescing in the South from a severe attack of pneumonia. Mr. Blankenburg himself has just recovered from the grip, and reading the report was like a tonic to him. He observed jocularly that it ought to be put on the stage as part of a minstrel show.

All through the reading of it he chuckled, stopping at times to observe that "it's taken them a year to find out these things," meaning that nothing was in the report, or "they've got their dates wrong; they say I appointed Cooke December 11, when the fact is I named him the day I took office on the fourth."

When he finished the reading and the humor of it, as it appeared to him, passed, he observed seriously:

"The whole investigation and its result are nothing but absurd. I didn't even know the committee had been created—I was in California at the time the report says it was named—but I would have liked to have been a witness before it."

"I want to say emphatically again that there was no politics in any department during my administration. Such dismissals as were made were made for cause. The civil service rules were observed to their last letter."

"The whole report isn't worthy of notice. The investigation was made for a purpose, but has absolutely failed to establish what the inquirers were after. I say again, it is entirely absurd."

Then Mr. Blankenburg made his comment that the high cost of paper ought to have prevented the printing of such a report.

AMERICAN BREAD CHEAP IN IRELAND, SAYS RAINEY

Illinois Congressman Lays High Prices Here to Bakers' and Millers' Conspiracy

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Bread made out of Minneapolis flour at \$11 a barrel is selling cheaper today in Ireland than bread made out of the same flour in the United States before the present increased prices of bread, Representative Rainey, of Illinois, today declared in a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Rainey declared there was a conspiracy by the Master Bakers' Association of the United States and the wheat millers to prevent passage of the bill repealing the tax on mixed flour, cornstarch, corn flour and what flour is a concerted effort on their part to boost the price of bread throughout the country.

Rainey says he will tell the Federal Trade Commission all details in its investigation of the conspiracy.

PENROSE LAUNCHES FIGHT IN LEGISLATURE ON SMITH RULE

HARRISBURG, Feb. 13.

SENATOR PENROSE has assumed the role of "reformer" in his program of legislation, which was announced here today. The first of his bills, most of which are aimed at the administration of Mayor Thomas B. Smith, will be introduced in the House today.

The entire Penrose legislative program, which is the most comprehensive the senior Senator has supported or advocated as yet, includes the following bills:

To equalize assessments of realty. To reduce the size of the Board of Education, giving to the Mayor of Philadelphia power to appoint the board. To make the City Solicitor of Philadelphia an appointive office. To give to the city of Philadelphia authority to do its own street cleaning. A smaller City Council of one house. To abolish the county offices and combine the city and county governments.

To take away from the Judges the power to grant liquor licenses and give this power to an excise commission. To abolish the magistrates. To eliminate the assistance to voters' clause from the general election laws.

A readjustment of the civil service laws. To prohibit political activity by municipal officeholders. To prohibit the solicitation of campaign funds. Representative Frederick Beyer, of Philadelphia, will introduce eight measures today as the first effort on the part of Penrose to legislate against the city administration.

The measures he will introduce will include a resolution to investigate the present Civil Service Commission of Philadelphia. The other measures are the following:

Two amendments to the State Constitution that would abolish the present magistrate system and give the Municipal Court the powers now held by the magistrates. Two bills to eliminate the assistance to voters' clause. A bill to readjust the civil service laws to take the police out of politics. Two bills to prohibit political activity by officeholders and the solicitation of campaign funds.

The bills were drawn by the Philadelphia Charter Revision Committee and the first batch of them was brought to Harrisburg by former Director of Public Safety George D. Porter.

SALOON FOES REJECT GIBBONEY AS LEADER

Thirty-fourth Ward Committee Also Refuses to Deal With Law and Order Society

D. Clarence Gibboney, head of the Law and Order Society, will no longer lead the anti-saloon fight in West Philadelphia. A request has been sent to the West Philadelphia Ministerial Association by the executive committee of the Home Protective Association of the Thirty-fourth Ward asking that Gibboney no longer be permitted to represent the association in license fights.

The ministers were asked to file future remonstrances in person and to avoid the Law and Order Society. The Home Protective Association was organized to fight the saloon which Judges Barratt and Davis allowed to be transferred to Sixth and Lansdowne avenue. The executive committee is composed of from two to four members from each of the fourteen churches in the ward.

The West Philadelphia ministers in several remonstrances against the proposed saloon transfers in that section of the city have been represented by D. Clarence Gibboney. He represented the Thirty-fourth Ward remonstrants in their fight against Michael J. Burke's transfer of Sixth and Lansdowne avenue saloon. It is known that Gibboney was president of the building and loan association which negotiated the sale of the property occupied by the saloon.

Actions has also been taken toward appealing to the Superior Court from the decision of Judge Shoemaker, who refused to grant a preliminary injunction. More than \$200 has been raised for the fight.

Appointed to Berth on Survey Bureau Director Patesman, of the Department of Public Works, today appointed Horatio B. Mcleary, 2213 Amber street, to the position of rodman in the Bureau of Surveys, salary \$800 a year.

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

AN ATTACK BY THREE MEN on Althons Buxby, thirty years, of 3223 North Third street, with intent to rob him, according to the police of the Front and Westmoreland streets station, resulted in their arrest. They were held without bail for court by Magistrate Deane. They gave their names as Christian Wetzel, nineteen years, 153 West Tioga street; Nick Madgie, twenty-six years, of 3416 North Palethorp street; and Edward Paul, nineteen years, of 252 West Cornwell street.

BURNS ON THE FACE and head today resulted in the death of Sarah Cohen, ten years old, of Norman, N. J., at the Pennsylvania Hospital. She was playing yesterday near the kitchen of her home when her clothes were ignited.

SUICIDE BY GAS was attempted by Andrew Laxos, of Master street, above Twenty-ninth. He was revived by physicians of the German Hospital. The man had nailed upon the door to prevent it being forced, and police of the Twenty-eighth and Oxford streets station battered it down.

ROTARY CLUB OBSERVES ladies' night with a dinner-dance in the Bellevue-Stratford. Stewart J. McFarland, governor of District 3, International Association of Rotary Clubs, delivered an address on rotary. More than 500 persons were present.

GERMAN-AMERICAN CHARITY BALL will be held tonight in the Academy of Music under the auspices of the Master March of Philadelphia. The grand march will be led by Director of Public Safety Wilson and Mrs. Wilson.

HARMONY FIRE COMPANY, which boasted of a membership of 1400 in the days of the volunteer fire brigades, held a reunion in a restaurant at 1534 South street, last night. Present were: J. B. Green, Samuel McClellan, John McPherson, Richard O'Donnell, Frank McCluskey, J. T. Cunningham, William Penn Smith, John English, James C. Wilhelm, Charles Gray and John Nellins.

COAL

As we have always done, we are taking care of our regular Coal customers.

Where there is serious need, we can spare a little Coal of certain sizes to non-customers. If persons in such need will send a wagon or other vehicle to the yards named below they can obtain the sizes named in not over half-ton lots:

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ICE COMPANY

PLAN TO SMOTHER OPTION BILLS FAILS

Foes, Who Planned Quick Death, Decide to Grant Hearing

ARGUMENTS ON MARCH 21

By a Staff Correspondent

HARRISBURG, Feb. 13.—The Republican Organization leaders have changed their attitude toward the Vickersman County local option bill, and have agreed at least to hold a public hearing on the measure.

Upon their arrival here last night, they decided to abandon their plan to kill the bill without so much as a hearing. Wednesday, March 21, has been set as the date for the public hearing. It will be held in the hall of the House and all of the local option organizations will have opportunity to urge the passage of the bill.

The bill will probably come out of the Law and Order Committee this week, and then be recommitted until after the hearing. Representative Vickersman, who introduced the bill, said today:

"The people of Pennsylvania were in no temper to stand for the proposed railroad of the local option bill and I think they demonstrated that to the complete satisfaction of any one with smother motives with respect to this legislation. I was poured in here to members of the House. Under the circumstances it would have been an easy matter to have upset any unfair tactics resorted to by that organization. They would not support the bill on final passage could not have supported any scheme to smother it and I was assured of many more than enough votes to gain our point here. I am now advised that the hearing will be arranged to the satisfaction of that great mass of people of the State who think this bill should become a law. I believe it will be the greatest demonstration on this subject we have ever had in the State."

IRISH TO FIGHT, IF NEEDED

Hibernians Offer Services in the Event of War

Irish brigades to fight for the United States will be raised among the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in this State in the event of war, according to resolutions adopted by that organization.

The resolutions called upon all members of the order of military age to enroll, if possible, in battalions in the event of war. According to Judge Bonniwell, there are 17,000 Hibernians in Philadelphia, and of those, he said, probably 12,000 are of military age. The number of members of military age in the State has been estimated at 30,000.

Mrs. Oakley Cancels Lecture

Owing to a severe cold, Mrs. Imogen E. Oakley has found it necessary to cancel her talk on Japan before the Faculty Tea Club this afternoon. She expects to go to Baltimore on Tuesday, February 27, to speak on the noise ordinance before the Civic League.

STATE WILL TAX WAR PROFITS FOR REVENUE

Measure Will Be Used in Raising \$10,000,000 for Roads and Schools

By a Staff Correspondent

HARRISBURG, Feb. 13.—Munition plants and corporations that have been paying unusually large dividends during the last year and a half will be levied upon for an increase of \$10,000,000, which the proposed new "revenue commission" must find for the additional appropriations for roads and schools.

A majority of the members of the proposed commission, which is composed of the chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate, Ways and Means Committee of the House and the Appropriations, Roads and Education Committees of both branches, held an all-day conference yesterday and decided to tax the war munition plants in the State and the utility corporations that have been paying unusually large dividends during the European war, in order to obtain the \$10,000,000 that is needed to meet the demands.

The proposed Sprout amendment to the State Constitution, which would give the State authority to float a loan of \$50,000,000 for good roads, cannot be voted upon for at least two years, and until it is voted upon the Legislature must find revenue sufficient to meet the demands of the good roads program.

The appropriations that will be granted this session, according to present plans, include an increase of approximately \$5,000,000 annually for roads and for education.

BANKERS OPPOSE BILL TO TAX EXCESS PROFITS

Group No. 2 of Pennsylvania Association Protests Against Proposed Measure—Adopt Resolution

Vigorous opposition to the revenue bill providing for an eight per cent tax on incomes showing more than \$5000 profit, has been expressed in resolutions by 200 members of group No. 2, Pennsylvania Bankers' Association. The members represented many banking institutions in Bucks, Berks, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware and Schuylkill Counties. The resolution was adopted after a short but bitter discussion.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Charles E. Scott, Bristol, Farmers' National Bank of Bucks County; secretary and treasurer, W. H. Kohler, Mahanoy City, Union National Bank of Mahanoy City; executive committee, W. K. Terry, First National Bank of Perkasie; William F. Wilson, Harbor National Bank; E. H. Doan, National Bank of Contoingville; C. Percy Wilson, Swarthmore National Bank; and J. C. Klein, Swarthmore, Union Savings Deposit Company.

SCHUYLKILL ICE COVER AFFECTS WATER TASTE

Objectionable, Gassy Flavor in West Philadelphia Can't Be Cured Now

As long as the Schuylkill River remains solidly frozen over the water furnished West Philadelphia will have an objectionable, gassy taste. Last fall decaying vegetable substances, formed during a drought, made the water unfit for drink. Now a heavy coating of ice, by penning in the water and keeping it from cleansing contact with oxygen in the air, bids fair to accomplish the same result.

Every time the upper reaches of the Schuylkill River are frozen over the supply of water is made objectionable, and after a long freeze such as the present one the water becomes charged with gases, which although not dangerous in themselves are anything but pleasing to the taste.

Chief Charles E. Davis, of the Bureau of Water, today received numerous complaints from residents of West Philadelphia, but was unable to promise any relief until a thaw shall start the ice moving down stream. He patiently explained that the gases affecting the taste of the water, which first made their appearance three or four days ago, were occasioned by the "bottling up" of the stream by the heavy ice coat.

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