

VARES ADVOCATE BOARD OF POLICE

Favor Commission of Three to Have Supreme Control

HOUSE GETS BILL TODAY

Divorce From Politics Stated as Object of Measure Changing Old Order

A bill creating a board of police and fire commissioners of three members was introduced in the State Legislature today by Representative John R. K. Scott, the Vares floor leader. The measure, which was drawn by Colonel Sheldon Potter and Edwin O. Lewis, provides for the appointment of one commissioner each by the Governor, the Board of Judges and City Councils. The bill will be supplemented by another device to take the policemen and firemen out of politics, City Solicitor Connelly, sponsor for the latter bill, declares that it provides prohibition of penalties which furnish plenty of "bread."

This bill was to have been introduced this morning also, but necessary changes in the title delayed its presentation. It is expected the changes would be made before the end of the day. The old order of things in the police and fire bureaus is looked to go out of existence on July 1 if the bills become law, and the Director of Public Safety will become subordinate to the new commission. He would retain, however, a post of executive officer to carry out the mandates of the new board in both bureaus.

To Keep Police Out of Politics

The commissioners shall be compelled to see that the laws requiring police and firemen to keep out of politics are enforced, and they may institute complaints against any of their subordinates. The city is to provide the offices for the new commission, which also is empowered to obtain a solicitor at a salary of \$1000. The solicitor shall also be counsel for the commission and appear for the board whenever the occasion requires.

The commission shall have the power to employ a chief examiner and other employees necessary to the selection of police and firemen. The board also may subpoena witnesses and make annual reports to the Governor and the Mayor of business transacted. In the exempt class of employees under the commission's own civil service are the secretary of the Director of Public Safety and those employees the commission feels should not be included within a certain scope defined in the bill.

For misdemeanor in office the bill provides for a fine of not more than \$1000 or imprisonment for two years. All police and firemen holding office by July 1 shall remain undisturbed in their positions.

Under the Connelly bill, a policeman or fireman is prevented from being a delegate to any political convention, to attend meetings of any political committee, to take part in the management of any political campaign, or to solicit or influence any other policeman or fireman for political purposes.

Campaign Contributions Barred The measure also makes it a misdemeanor for any policeman or fireman to pay or solicit a campaign contribution, and the person who tries to collect one or solicit it from either policeman or fireman is also held to have violated the law.

In presenting the bills they had drawn to the Republican City Committee, Messrs. Potter and Lewis reviewed the manner in which they had arrived at their determination to frame such a measure as they have devised. In conclusion they say:

"Our conclusion was that as the police power is a sovereign power, belonging to the state, and only exercisable by a municipality when conferred upon it by the state, that the state has an interest in the policing of the city of Philadelphia, and therefore that a member of the board should be appointed by the executive of the state; that the Councils, being the direct representatives of the people, and not under the control of the administration, should be invested, in the interest of home rule, with the appointment of a member of the board, and that the courts by their acts of the board may be reviewed should also make an appointment to the board.

"Another important feature of the bill is that not only the Director of Public Safety or the police department has the right to prefer charges against policemen and firemen, but citizens have the same right, and the board itself has the right to initiate proceedings. Thus should the Department of Public Safety be supplanted with respect to any breach of discipline, there will still be a remedy in the hands of the board and in the hands of the citizens. There will be the power, too, to enforce the punishment prescribed and the assistance of the courts, both for the purpose of procuring the evidence in any proceedings against a policeman or a fireman, and any review of the proceedings of the board is provided for. The subpoena of the board must be obeyed, otherwise the courts have cognizance of the contempt.

"We have given patient study to the problem in hand; the present acts of Assembly which relate to it or affect it,

and we feel we have so distributed power as to make compromise most improbable. If not absolutely impossible."

Senator Vares, in a statement, said: "This bill was drawn by ex-Director of Public Safety Colonel Sheldon Potter and Edwin O. Lewis, both distinguished lawyers and of long experience in municipal affairs. Their work on this bill was at the request of the Republican Central Campaign Committee in consequence of a resolution offered some nine months ago by Harry A. Mackey. It provides for the establishment of a Board of Police and Fire Commissioners, consisting of three members, one to be appointed by the Governor of the state, one by the Board of Judges and the third to be elected by a majority of all members of City Councils.

"These commissioners will have all the powers of a civil service board, conduct examinations of all candidates for either of these two departments, pass upon their qualifications and prepare a suitable list from which all appointments must be made.

"They will also have entire control of members of this department, in so far as the powers of discharge or reinstatement goes. It will be their duty to enforce the law and not only discharge employees who violate any of the laws of the state, but also to prosecute such infractions of the law as the courts.

"This act also commands this board to examine in a suitable and proper manner undertakes to levy a political assessment or to induce a violation of the law by these officials. In other words, it provides a possible and constructive piece of legislation, putting the control of police and firemen and the employees of these two bureaus into the hands of a commission that can never become political and giving to these commissioners duties to perform and power of enforcing the law that will forever remove the possibility of even a partial charge of political activity against members of the police and fire departments."

Director Wilson Favors Change "It has been in consultation with Director Wilson said, with Colonel Sheldon Potter and Edwin O. Lewis concerning the bill introduced in the Legislature by John R. K. Scott pertaining to the employees of the Bureau of Police and Fire, and I heartily endorse every provision made therein. They present a practical and workable method of entirely eliminating politics from both bureaus.

"WETS" TO WAGE FIGHT FOR BEER

Measures to Fix Status of Intoxicants Being Drafted

"DRYS" WILL FIGHT BILL

Liquor Forces Advocate Five Per Cent Alcohol in Lager, Ten Per Cent in Wine

Harrisburg, March 4.—Bills to permit the sale of beer and light wines will be introduced in the Legislature early next week by the "wet" forces. The bills probably will be sponsored by Representative William T. Ramsey, of Chester, floor leader of the "wets" in the House. It is understood the measures will provide for the sale of beer containing not more than 5 per cent alcohol and wines containing not more than 10 per cent. They are said to be modeled after the bills which New York "wets" will introduce in the Empire state Legislature.

The measures are being drafted and are said to be in such shape that they will be ready for introduction in the House next week. In drafting the bills, the Brooks high license law, the law under which liquor dealers of at least fifteen counties of the state now find themselves. No radical departures from the present law, except defining the amount of alcohol which constitutes an intoxicant, is said to be contemplated.

"Drys" Forces to Fight Bills

The "dry" forces are expected to wage a bitter fight against the proposed measures. "Drys" insist that no further legislation on the prohibition question is necessary, and that Congress must pass regulatory laws for the enforcement of nation-wide prohibition. There is considerable speculation, if the measures proposed by the "wets" should pass the Legislature, as to what action Governor Sprout would take. So far he has thrown his influence on the side of the "drys."

Dealers Have Paid Licenses

These dealers paid their license fees before the Schantz bills extending to wholesale and retail liquor dealers the privilege of paying fees in installments were signed by the Governor. The Dunn bill provides that any wholesale or retail liquor dealer, brewer, distiller, compounder or bottler who has paid the full amount of his license fee may at any time surrender such license to the clerk of the Quarter Sessions Court and the county treasurer shall thereupon refund to him a proportionate amount of such fee, based upon the unexpired portion of the year for which the license was issued. Treasurers of municipalities will also be obliged to return fees.

ASK RETURN OF 79TH

State Senate Also Petitions Congress, Asking Aid for Veterans

Harrisburg, March 4.—The Senate concurred in the House resolution petitioning the Secretary of War to return the Seventy-ninth Division, now on duty in France, to this country as soon as may be. The Senate also adopted resolutions petitioning Congress to take favorable action on the bill increasing the pensions of unaimed soldiers who served in the Civil War, and favoring the adoption by Congress of the bill thanking local and district boards and others connected with the administration of the selective draft act.

\$42,077,388.13 IS SOUGHT IN APPROPRIATION BILL

Harrisburg, March 4.—A general appropriation bill calling for \$42,077,388.13, the largest sum ever provided in an appropriation bill in the Pennsylvania Legislature, was introduced by Chairman McCaig, of the Appropriations Committee. It was sent to the committee to compile. The chief items by departments are: Office of the Governor, \$108,509.11; office of Lieutenant Governor, \$12,500; executive controller, \$14,600; State Department, \$112,350; Auditor General's Department, \$1,282,400; Department of Internal Affairs, \$179,000; Treasury Department, \$240,500; Attorney General's Department, \$251,200; Banking Department, \$251,200; Department of Public Instruction, \$93,700; Bureau of Professional Education, \$20,000; Bureau of Medical Education and Licensure, \$45,500; State Board of Education, \$57,000; 500; State Board of Education, \$57,000; schools, \$20,000,000; College and University Council, \$1000; tenatut Council of Pennsylvania, \$3000; Adjutant General's Department, \$192,800; State Armory Board, \$10,000; Insurance Department, \$216,000; State Fire Marshal's Department, \$16,800; state library, \$97,200; state museum, \$27,500; Pennsylvania Free Library Commission, \$38,400; legislative reference bureau, \$45,800; state reporter, \$3,000; Department of Public Grounds and Buildings, \$11,620,280; commissioner of sinking fund, \$1800; board of public accounts, \$7000; Board of Furlons, \$4400; Department of Agriculture, \$122,500; general maintenance, \$1,187,000; State Live Stock Sanitary Board, \$71,400; Bureau of Economic Zoology, \$262,950; Bureau of Markets, \$3,000; state and Food Bureau, \$188,800.

HEARING AT CAPITOL ON BLUE LAW REPEAL

House Use Granted for Public Discussion of Proposed Rorke Bill

MEMORIAL FOR McNICOL

Services to Be Held in State Senate Chamber Next Tuesday

Harrisburg, March 4.—Three hundred Philadelphia politicians who followed the political standard of the late Senator James P. McNichol will come here next Tuesday in a special train to attend the McNichol memorial services in the Senate Chamber at 2 o'clock. John A. Voorhees, secretary of the Republican Alliance, is here to make the final arrangements. Thomas W. Cunningham, clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions, and for many years lieutenant of Senator McNichol, is constituting political affairs of the Tenth Ward, is chairman of the committee on arrangements. The special train will leave Philadelphia as the first section of the regular Philadelphia-Buffalo express, which is scheduled to leave Broad Street Station at 8:10 a. m. and reach Harrisburg at 11:15 a. m.

No House Opposition to Wage Rise

Harrisburg, March 4.—A bill introduced by Representative James Dunn, Philadelphia, to raise the salary of William Kreider, secretary of the Philadelphia Civil Service Commission, passed the House finally without a dissenting vote. The measure would increase Secretary Kreider's salary from \$3000 to \$3500, making it equal to the salary now received by the president of the commission.

Kentucky Congressman Dead

Columbus, Miss., March 4.—(By A. P.)—Representative Harvey Holm, of the Eighth Kentucky district, died here on his farm near this city of a complication of diseases.

SHUNK BILL PASSED HOUSE

Harrisburg, March 4.—The Shunk bill, which permits the Public Service Commission to suspend increased rates put into effect by public utility corporations until after a final hearing on the subject, passed the House finally. This bill was up for final passage last Tuesday, but was put on the postponed calendar after debate.

Judge Brown Boosts Brady Bill

Harrisburg, March 4.—President Judge Charles L. Brown, of the Municipal Court, Philadelphia, is at the Capitol looking after the Brady bill to boost municipal court salaries from \$2000 to \$10,000. Two years ago the House defeated a bill to tack \$2000 additional on the salary of municipal court judges.

Representative William F. Rorke, of Philadelphia, sponsor for the bill to permit Sunday concerts and entertainments of an educational nature, declared that the bill was not aimed to destroy any religious ideas and that opportunity for hearings would be given this month. Mr. Rorke said: "There seems to be some misunderstanding as to the purpose of this act. It does not, nor was it the intention to destroy the Sabbath, nor does it permit a continental Sunday or a wide-open day. It does provide that after 7 o'clock in the evening orchestral concerts, lectures and other entertainments of an educational character be permitted. "I consider it a very wise step in modern legislation at this time of social, economical and political unrest existing. It has met with the approval of a great many citizens of stability and character who are God-fearing men and are believers in Sunday worship. I have also received letters of commendation for this measure from leaders in professional, artistic and religious life of the community. It is intended for the good of the general masses, and not for the purpose of destroying religious ideas or customs. We purpose to have everybody heard on this measure, both those in favor of the measure and its opponents, and for that purpose the committee will meet at the places to be designated in

HOUSE USE GRANTED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED RORKE BILL

Harrisburg, March 4.—Use of the House for a public hearing here on the Rorke bill, to permit Sunday concerts and movies of an educational character, has been authorized. The hearing is set for March 19 at 1:30 p. m. The Philadelphia Orchestra is scheduled to render a program prior to the hearing.

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GOOD PAINTING Pure materials, put on by skillful hands, with sympathetic regard for architectural design—that is Good Painting. Get Our Estimate JAMES S. Wilson & Son, Inc. 44 N. 7th Street

Baker Weighs K. of C. Protest Washington, March 4.—(By A. P.)—Secretary Baker has taken under consideration a protest by representatives of the Knights of Columbus against the recent decision of the committee of eleven, which supervised the work of collecting the hundred million dollar fund for the various organizations doing army welfare work, that not more than 10 per cent of the sum allotted to any organization should be used in providing "creature comforts" for the soldiers.

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