

TO END DOUGGLING OF STATE DEPOSITS

Bill Prevents Political Favoritism and Gives Funds to Banks on Interest Bidding

HAS SUPPORT OF SPROUL

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN Harrisburg, Feb. 16.—The hilarious and profitable game of "shaking the plum tree," made famous by Matthew Stanley Quay, will soon be at an end. No more will graft-grabbing flourishes of gentlemen with predatory instincts profit on state funds and the interest thereon.

If a bill presented in the House by James A. Walker, chairman of the committee on banking, becomes a law, it will put an end to the scandals, public and private, that at intervals during the last forty years have clustered around the state treasury.

There will be no more tragedies from the mismanagement of state funds; no opportunity for officials to favor certain banks by giving them large deposits in return for their services or their contribution in discounted notes and borrowed money.

The bill was drafted by Auditor General Samuel S. Lewis. The central feature of it is the elimination of the present system of paying a flat rate of 2 per cent on state deposits to the companies or private banks.

Deposits subject to bidding. State depositors will be designated from among the banks and trust companies offering the highest rate of interest, deposits to be amply protected by security bonds.

There will be two classes of state depositors, known as active and inactive. The active banks or companies will be those carrying a checking account available from day to day. Inactive depositors will receive state funds on permanent deposit, but will be allowed to withdraw upon ten days' notice.

State depositors will be limited in number and confined exclusively to the banks, trust companies or private banks which offer the highest interest with the greatest amount of security.

The advantages of the new system will be apparent to those who desire to do the most honest administration of state funds.

Kills Political Privilege. No longer will it be possible for state officials to kite checks and have notes drawn on the strength of state deposits in certain banks, as it was in the past.

Political combinations can no longer benefit by the collection of surplus funds and above the legal rate.

The scheme of political favorites making deposits in such depositories, thus overdraining the treasury, as has been the case, will be at an end.

The ancient device of obtaining the political assistance of bankers and bank officials by throwing their notes on the side, as has been done in the past, will be at an end.

SEEK CLOTHING THIEVES

Spivak Robbery Not Due to Any Defect in Alarm System. Police are still looking for thieves who entered the tailor shop of L. J. Spivak, 506 Walnut street, the night of February 2, and stole a quantity of clothing.

The thieves punched a hole through the wall to one side of the door, thus entering without coming into contact with the electric wiring of a burglar alarm. It was at first erroneously reported that the device had failed to sound or that the men had disconnected it.

Mr. Spivak says that if he had had the wires extended through the walls of his shop, the thieves could not have gained entrance without causing an alarm.

NEW UTILITY BODY UP TO EDWARDS

Jersey Governor May Appoint Board of Three Under Act Just Passed. The Senate Walkworth bill for a new board of three, to be appointed by the governor, passed the House last night.

It is expected the bill will be delivered to the governor today. When the decision of the Court of Errors and Appeals, ousting the old Republican utility commissioners, became known to the Legislature, the Walkworth bill, which had been held in the Senate custody, was rushed to the Assembly for a vote.

Passive representatives led the only formidable opposition to it. Majority leader Rowland had secured sufficient pledges in a short Republican conference to insure passage of the bill.

Natalist Raised to \$12,000. Favorable action on the measure indicates the Republican policy to renege on the utility board from politics. Although the appointment of the three new commissioners is left with the governor, the Republican Senate, which must confirm nominations, will be the deciding factor.

Under the bill the annual salary of a commissioner is increased from \$7,500 to \$12,000. The board members cannot be removed from office, under the Walkworth bill, except by impeachment.

A new board will find many trouble spots awaiting solution. Trust companies have ten cents' rates attached to the bill at the State House and various other utilities have proposed security issues.

Following passage of the Van Ness prohibition enforcement act, the Anti-Saloon League offered a companion measure prescribing regulation to govern transportation of beverages to be used for medicinal, religious and ceremonial purposes.

The measure would extend the powers of the board of pharmacy and give it supervision over issuance of permits for the sale of liquor and use of liquor for purposes legally recognized by the Volstead act.

Drys Must Fight in Senate. Prohibitionists, although successful in getting the enforcement act through in the Assembly, do not discount the fight they must make in the Senate to put the measure through that legislative branch.

Retention of the original section for summary arraignment of "bootleggers" in the Van Ness bill will be the storm center which the liberals in the Senate will make their fight. The bill as adopted by the House included a provision for prosecution of bootleggers of the eighteenth amendment without trial by jury.

Introduction and passage of a bill appropriating \$200,000 to the preliminary expenses of the soldiers' bonus commission was an example of what the Legislature can do with a situation requiring emergency action. The bill passed both houses unanimously.

It will enable the commission to employ some thirty former soldiers as clerks and to pay for necessary printing and other incidental expenses. The bonuses will be issued within a few months.

PENROSE SUPPORT BEATS SPROUL FOES

Failure of Efforts to Harass Administration Program Indicate Pact. SCHEDULE GAINING WAY. Harrisburg, Feb. 16.—Informed political opinion, which is gaining considerable currency and is being widely discussed today, is to the effect that the real reason for the failure of several recent attacks on Governor Sproul is due to an understanding which has been reached between the Governor and Senator Penrose.

Verification of this is alleged to be found in the small vote mustered by opponents of the state administration, and most particularly in the Governor's telegram to President-elect Harding, expressing the hope that the report was true that Andrew W. Mellon would be named as secretary of the treasury.

It would not surprise any one to learn that the Governor's wife to Mr. Harding followed a long-distance telephone conversation between the Governor and Senator Penrose, who wants to see Mr. Mellon named. This also would be pleasing to George H. Oliver, who is supposed to be at odds with the Governor.

All this is pointed to as explaining why the Governor and Senator Penrose, even though his term of office is on the decline, have signally failed. Of course, there is much discussion as to the terms of the understanding between the Governor and the senator.

In a general way, it is understood by many that the senator will not obstruct the Governor's bill submitting to the people the question of holding a constitutional convention. Further, that the Governor will get the additional revenues he requires; say from an increase in the inheritance taxes and possibly also from a tax on billboards. The bill providing for the latter is going through the legislative mill at this time.

The matter of getting additional revenue from a tax on coal and on manufacturing corporations is regarded as debatable, with the prospect more favorable for a tax on coal than for one on manufacturing corporations.

It is believed here in certain circles that the understanding between the Governor and Senator Penrose will be worked out in more detail in the recess which has been declared for all of next week. Senator Penrose probably will see representatives of the Governor, if not the Governor himself, in conference at Washington.

There is a lively expectation on all sides that the bill, providing for the constitutional convention will be reported out of the Senate committee and started on the road to passage in the House on the Washington birthday recess of next week.

PROGRESS OF BILLS IN STATE ASSEMBLY

Harrisburg, Feb. 16.—The bill increasing the membership of the Delaware river bridge commission by the appointment by the Governor of two additional members was favorably reported from committee last night.

The measure would make the Pennsylvania membership equal to that of New Jersey.

PASSED IN HOUSE. Relieving constables in counties of their returns and such license from making returns and such license from making returns and such license from making returns.

CONFERRING ON SECOND-CLASS SITES. Conferring on second-class sites in cases of emergency additional powers to buy and sell to residents of those cities prohibiting racing of motor vehicles.

REPEALING. Repealing the act of 1917 which authorized the sale of land to the State of Pennsylvania for the purpose of establishing a national park.

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SCHOOL BOARD BILL CALLED IN QUESTION

Critics Call Measure Providing for Election of Members Unconstitutional. FINEGAN IN FAVOR OF IT. Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 16.—Representative Philip Sterling, of Philadelphia, sponsor for the elective, unpaid school board for his home city, was suddenly confronted today with statements that his bill might be unconstitutional because of the classification provisions which make a distinction between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

"Two years ago," said Mr. Sterling, "the Supreme Court decided in two cases that placing counties in the fifth and seventh class was unconstitutional. There has never been a decision on a similar question with respect to school districts. Both of the decisions in question were based on the fact that the new county classifications were not justified because there was not a sufficient difference in population to make the separate classifications expedient or worth while."

On the other hand, there is great difference between the populations of the school districts of Philadelphia and Philadelphia and hence there is justification for the separate classification, and I am certain the courts would so hold. In fact, I don't believe the question will ever be seriously or effectively raised."

Lee Smith, chairman of the House education committee, said he approved of the Sterling bill. "If I had any doubts," he said, "I would say that membership of the board should be five rather than seven."

Henry S. Watson, secretary of the Bureau of Publication and Child Welfare, is here in the interests of the Sterling bill.

"There probably will be objections to the bill," said Mr. Watson, "but I don't think they will reach serious proportions. I believe it is the conviction of most people in Philadelphia that the city should have an elective board, and members would always be mindful that they were responsible to the voters."

Salaries Mean Politics. The tendency toward smaller boards, and the fact that I think an organization of seven members would efficiently handle affairs in Philadelphia. Experience has also shown that the best directors can be recruited when there is no salary attached to the position. The current salaries are attached to the board and the result of politics, which would undoubtedly result to the detriment of the school system.

Dr. Thomas E. Finegan, state superintendent of education, said today that he had talked over the bill with Mr. Sterling and agreed with its general idea, he does not want it understood that he is campaigning in behalf of the measure.

"Mr. Sterling came to me and outlined his bill," said Dr. Finegan, "but I have never seen the draft. At the same time I am heartily in favor of the elective board and I am also in sympathy with the spirit of the time that tends toward smaller boards. However, I do not want it understood that I am backing either party in the measure. It is a Philadelphia question and Philadelphia should decide it."

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STATE ASKED TO REPEAL LAWS AGAINST 'SEDITION'

Civil Liberties Union Tells Governor They Restrict Free Speech. Harrisburg, Feb. 16.—Appeals were received today by the Governor, Attorney General Alter and members of the Legislature urging repeal of the state laws dealing with "syndicalism" and "sedition" enacted since 1917, on the ground that they abridge and interfere with the rights of free speech and free assembly.

The appeals were sent by the American Civil Liberties Union, 138 West Thirtieth street, New York city, a national free speech organization which has inaugurated a campaign for the abrogation of similar laws in thirty-five states.

Albert DeSilver, director of the union, asserts that all these laws aimed against radicals are "opposed to that conception of free speech which our forefathers wrote into the constitution and which has since been thoroughly established in law and practice as an American right."

"We call your attention to the fact," says the letter, "that this legislation in your state is not only opposed to our traditions and law, but that it also has evil practical effects. Chief among these is the driving of radical propaganda underground, where it cannot be met, as it can when left free in the open. Unrestricted free speech is the safety valve of democratic institutions."

Among the officers of the Civil Liberties Union are Prof. Harry F. Ward, of New York, chairman; Jeannette Rankin, of Montana, and Duncan McDonald, of Illinois, vice-chairman.

William K. Hopple Dies. He Was in Charge of Pullman Ticket Office in Broad Street Station. William K. Hopple, for almost thirty years connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad, at the Broad street office of the company, died early yesterday after a brief illness, at his home, 508 King street, Germantown.

At the time of his death and for a number of years past, Mr. Hopple had been in charge of the Pullman ticket office at Broad street station. In that capacity he met and knew men from all parts of the country.

He entered the service of the Pennsylvania Railroad on June 25, 1891, and held various responsible positions until his final promotion to be head ticket agent.

He was born in Millersburg, Pa., about fifty-five years ago, and the body will be taken to that place for interment tomorrow, following services to be held for the friends and family at an undertaking establishment, 2040 Diamond street, tonight. He was a member of several local fraternal organizations. He is survived by his wife, Sarah, and one son, George K. Hopple.

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TO EXHIBIT BERKSHIRES

Luncheon Opens Three-Day Convention of Breeders Here. A luncheon today in the Hotel Lorraine opened a convention of breeders of Berkshires that concludes on Friday. At 10 o'clock this evening the Berkshires will be allowed to enter the First Regiment Armory, Broad and Callowhill streets, where about half a hundred Berkshires from the finest herds in the country are on exhibition.

A meat cutting demonstration will be given by Prof. W. H. Tomhave, of Pennsylvania State College, and Mrs. Mrs. A. Wilson, food expert of the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER, will lecture on the preparation of pork dishes and their relative food values.

There are more as many Berkshires registered in Pennsylvania than in any other state.

TO AID SOLDIER BONUS. State Senate May Ask Congress to Pass Fordney Measure. Harrisburg, Feb. 16.—Representative Dan's resolution calling on Pennsylvania senators and representatives in Washington to urge the passage of the Fordney soldier's bonus bill by Congress is before the upper chamber for action today.

The resolution acts forth that Pennsylvania ranks second in the list of states in the number of men and women supplied to the armed forces, and that a total of 350,000 residents of this state would be entitled to benefit by the adoption of the Fordney bonus bill.

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ACT FOR STATE CEMETERY

House Passes Bill to Bury Veterans in Valley Forge Park. Harrisburg, Feb. 16.—The House passed the Dunn bill today to create a state cemetery for world war dead at Valley Forge.

Several hundred acres of land are owned by the state at Valley Forge, which has been made into a state park.

Worsted Suits made to sell for \$55, \$60 and \$65. Now in a Big Sale at One Single Price \$33.

A clear saving of \$22 to \$32 on handsome Suits that can't be duplicated next season for anything near this Sale-price of \$33!

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Separate Trousers \$5, \$6, \$7 were \$7 to \$12.

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