

The Centre Democrat.

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EDITORIAL.

DR. SWALLOW very sharply resents the intimation of leading republicans that he "is a little off." He claims that argument won't go with all persons.

A COUNTY Surveyor and Jury Commissioner are the only offices to be filled this year in our county. It will be a cool season for the political heeled.

THE Democratic Primary Election will be held on Saturday afternoon, throughout the county and the county convention on the following Tuesday. Keep this in mind.

THE enormous bill of about \$60,000 for refurbishing Grace church, at Harrisburg, for the use of the legislature is simply an enormous item of expense. Republican leaders will approve it.

NOTHING alarming has developed in the Turkish and Grecian difficulty during the past week. The amount of indemnity that the Turk should receive from his conquered foe is being considered by the other powers, and it involves many perplexing situations among the other nations. Each is jealous, for fear some advantage may accrue from the result.

THESE dull times when little money is in circulation and many industries are languishing, the people have a right to expect the most rigid economy from public servants. The direct opposite seems to be the disposition at the state and national capitols. On every side there seems to be a concerted move for invading the treasury and appropriating public funds in a manner that is alarming to conservative people.

ON Decoration day our streets were often lined with drunken men, whose appearance was vile and conduct disgraceful. Men will get drunk and no law will prevent it, but as long as they are permitted to traverse our public thoroughfares and insult people with their foul obscene language that long the abuse will continue. If every drunken man who appears on our streets were promptly arrested and severely fined, these disgraceful scenes would, in a large measure, be abated. There should be no leniency in this direction.

RECENTLY Mr. Chapman, a wealthy broker of New York city, was sent to prison for 30 days in Washington D. C., for refusing to divulge the names of senators who had speculated in sugar stocks, while legislation affecting the value of same, was under their consideration. This was a case of contempt of the government's authority. Since Chapman has been in prison his accommodations have been exceptional. He dines on delicacies sent from the best hotels. His prison cell is furnished in a luxurious manner and he is supplied with all the conveniences imaginable and other inmates are directed to play the part of servants in waiting upon this gilt edged aristocrat from Wall street. Other prisoners are denied the privilege of seeing friends or receiving anything in shape of meals and are actually compelled to eat their meals from old tin plates by the use of their fingers. Such favoritism in American prison conduct is a disgrace. Inside prison walls, criminals should be upon an equality. That would be justice. Now it is a farce--when wealth and aristocracy are caught in the meshes of the law.

WANAMAKER'S TESTIMONY.

"I confess that five years of listening to a steady stream of people passing through this office, with their tales of woe, sorrow and starvation, have worn upon me, and I confess also that I am alarmed by the increase in the numbers of that procession the last few months, so many have used up their hard earned saving. My very soul cries out when I meet this daily procession here and then see the tariff bill practically ground in the senate and no sign of any intention to take up the currency questions, which to the minds of many people are the largest half of the problems which the last administration after four years of bungling handed over to the Republican party for solution"--John Wanamaker.

The importance of this utterance consists in the fact that Mr. Wanamaker is a good witness to the prevalence of conditions which show an urgent need of reform. The kind of reform which he asks for, however, will not help matters much.

Many Thanks.

Some unknown friend, very kindly placed five votes in our Scholarship contest for the benefit of the editor. We greatly appreciate this kindly favor and are sorry, that under present conditions, the donor could not well accept his own gift. It would be a pleasure indeed, and no doubt a benefit, to spend a term in Dr. Eldon's Normal, at Lock Haven. Again we render many thanks to our unknown friend and assure him that if he makes himself known nothing within the town will be too good for him. It is our time to treat.

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Longest Legislative Session Under the New Constitution.

NO ADJOURNMENT BEFORE JULY.

Lack of Leadership in the House Has Tended to Delay Action in That Body--The Modified Reform Bills to Be Pushed Through.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, June 1.--All factions agree that this will be the longest session of the legislature since the adoption of the new constitution. There has been much talk about final adjournment, but the work of the house is so hopelessly delayed by adjournments and recesses on every imaginable pretext that it will not be possible now to dissolve the lawmaking branch until the beginning of July. Governor Hastings says he will be agreeably surprised if the legislature finishes its work before the middle of that month.

For a month at least the senate has been in session a few hours each week, waiting on the house to catch up, but the lower branch seems determined to remain far in the rear. Of course, the burning of the old capitol is given as an excuse for the present condition of legislative business, but those who are on the ground know that the destruction of the old state house has not been the real cause of the delay. There has been a disposition almost from the beginning of the session to dilly dally, and those who want to work are becoming thoroughly disgusted with the way things are going.

One trouble during this session has been the absolute lack of leadership in the house. It has been a very difficult body to handle, even in the legitimate sense. There are many petty jealousies, and any man who assumes to dictate the course of procedure on any measure is sure to be sat upon by his colleagues. Some members seem to think that it is the height of statesmanship to do something that some other member does not want done. The factional differences in the Republican party at the organization of the legislature have contributed in some measure to the slow progress of legislation.

All the bills introduced by the Republican state convention are going through in a modified form, and will probably be approved by the governor. They provide against interference in primary elections by municipal employees, against arbitrary assessments of officeholders and for the payment of the poll tax by the individual voter, or on his order. The civil service bill is still pending in the house committee.

The Stewart bill providing for the payment of interest on state funds deposited in banks throughout the commonwealth has been hanging fire in the senate committee for some time. It has been amended and will probably run the gauntlet of the senate this week in its revised form. It provides for 2 per cent. on all deposits in banks other than the five active depositories in Philadelphia, Pittsburg and Harrisburg, which will be required to pay 1 per cent. on daily balances. These five depositories, under the amended bill, will be appointed by the state treasurer, subject to the approval of the board of accounts.

Walton For President of the Senate.

There has been considerable interest in the selection of the president pro tem of the senate at the close of the present session. This officer is always selected at the preceding session, in order to provide against any contingency that may arise in the government of the state, as for instance the death or resignation of the governor and the consequent promotion of the lieutenant governor, ex-officio presiding officer of the senate. It is now practically agreed that Senator Walton, of the Fayette-Green district, shall succeed Senator McCarrell in the president's chair.

Some attempts were made last week to array the legislature against the aristocrat from Wall street. Other prisoners are denied the privilege of seeing friends or receiving anything in shape of meals and are actually compelled to eat their meals from old tin plates by the use of their fingers. Such favoritism in American prison conduct is a disgrace. Inside prison walls, criminals should be upon an equality. That would be justice. Now it is a farce--when wealth and aristocracy are caught in the meshes of the law.

There was an interesting fight in the senate over the bill appropriating \$65,968.96 to pay the expenses of the senate committee which investigated the municipal affairs of Philadelphia. Senators Kauffman and Flynn opposed the bill on the ground of extravagance, and contended that the legislature was under no obligation to pay these expenses. Senator Grady defended the committee, saying that not one cent had been expended unnecessarily. Senator McCarrell also made a speech in support of the bill. The bill passed finally by a vote of 28 to 11. When it comes to the house there is almost sure to be a long debate, as the factional lines in the larger body are more distinctly drawn than in the senate.

Governor Hastings has approved the bills providing for forest reservation and the protection of timber land. No legislature has ever done so much to advance forestry reform as the present.

The game bill prepared by the State Sportsmen's association has passed the legislature and has been approved by the governor. It is said to be one of the best measures for the protection of game in the United States.

One of the pleasant incidents of last week was the reception tendered Major General John Rutter Brooke, U. S. A., by Governor Hastings at the executive mansion. General Brooke is one of the most distinguished Pennsylvania soldiers of the late war, and since the end of that struggle has done gallant service for his country on the frontier. During the reception in his honor he met many old comrades who had served with him in the Forty-third Pennsylvania.

It is now proposed to place a tax on oleomargarine in order to raise revenue. This will involve the licensing of

dealers and practically legalizing the sale of oleo throughout the state. It seems impossible to stop its sale under any restrictive law.

Senator Grady offered a concurrent resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of nine--three from the senate, three from the house and three to be named by the governor--to draft legislation for the repeal of existing laws and for additional legislation upon the subject of insurance. It provided that the committee, which was to incur no expense, should report at the next session of the legislature. This resolution went through the senate all right, but when it got into the house it went down amid such a whirlwind of opposition that its author wonders still why he ever introduced it. It was charged on the floor of the house that this resolution was offered for the purpose of sidetracking the investigation of the insurance scandal.

Senator Saylor's bill requiring the state treasurer to pay the chairman of any joint legislative investigating committee the money necessary for the payment of witnesses and the actual expenses of the committee and officers, was killed by the house. It was argued that this measure would open the doors to all sorts of reckless expenditures.

The Governor on Organized Labor. Governor Hastings received a large delegation of representatives of organized labor at the executive department, who called to urge upon him the approval of the Weiler bill, permitting employes of corporations to form and join labor unions. This bill caused no end of discussion during its passage in the legislature, and at one time its defeat in the senate seemed almost certain, but the laboring element in the lawmaking branch this session is strong, and there were certain political influences at work in the interests of the bill which made its passage possible. Governor Hastings told the delegates who called upon him that if he found the bill good for the laboring people and for the best interests of the commonwealth he would have no hesitancy in signing it, but if he found that it was going to work an injury, and if it would not be beneficial to the workmen, he would not hesitate to veto it. He recalled the fact that he had favored organized labor in his inaugural address, and said to the 200 men in his presence that he believed labor should be organized, just as capital should, because through organization much good might be accomplished.

The Hamilton road bill has not yet reached the governor. In the senate the proviso that the bill should not become operative until an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the improvement of roads was passed was amended by striking out \$1,000,000 and inserting \$500,000. In this form the bill passed the senate and now goes back to the house for concurrence.

From day to day the supporters of what is known as the "Ripper" bill, a measure designed to uproot the present city administration of Pittsburg, announces that the bill will be called up and passed, but it is not called up, and those who ought to know say that its passage is out of the question.

An important bill for third class cities has just been approved by the governor. It provides for levying school and school building taxes on the city valuation in cities of the third class where the school district comprises the same territory as the city. This will give the school districts a much larger amount of money, inasmuch as heretofore the school taxes had been levied on the county assessments.

Two Legislative Investigations. Two legislative investigations are in progress which threaten unwholesome disclosures. One is probing the charge that \$50,000 was demanded to defeat the bill prohibiting the insurance of children, and the other is attempting to bring to light the truth or falsity of the charge that oleomargarine dealers in Pittsburg paid an agent of the department of agriculture large sums of money for protection. Both these committees will be ready to report something definite before the close of the session.

Attorney General McCormick has decided that neither the legislature or the attorney has any power to settle the disputed question of title between the present owners of land in Oil City on the one side and the Complanter Indians on the other. He says that the courts are the proper tribunals to settle the claim of the Indians to the site of Oil City.

There is a probability of revolt on the part of the senate against any final adjournment resolution emanating in the house. The senators say that for several years it has been the habit of the house to hold up the senate bills until the last minute, and then permit them to die upon the calendars. They want to know this year that their bills will be considered before they consent to final adjournment.

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COURT PROCEEDINGS.

The regular term of June Argument Court convened on Tuesday morning with a list of thirty-two cases in the Common Pleas, and fifteen cases in the Orphans Court before it.

The Court heard a number of petitions and motions presented by the different members of the bar and appointed auditors in several cases.

The first case taken up was the Phillipsburg Water Co. vs. The Citizens Water Co., petition for injunction. This is a case in equity and is being heard by Judge Love and is a case of more than usual interest. The plaintiff Company has been supplying the citizens of Phillipsburg with water since sometime in the sixties from Cold Stream, having their dam located near the Borough of Phillipsburg. Sometime last year 1896 the defendant company was organized and charted and proposes to take water from the same source, about four miles up stream from the plaintiffs dam. The plaintiff company resists this, and is seeking to have the defendant company enjoined from taking water from this stream, alleging that this was injurious to their plant by reducing their supply of water and, in dry seasons, make it difficult for them to supply their patrons.

The counsel on both sides agreed to a postponement of the above case until Thursday, June 17th.

Hon. John Bailey president judge, of Huntingdon county, is here and will preside in several special cases.

A Buggy Smashed. On Monday afternoon Mr. Daniel Garman took Isaac Maitland, his son-in-law, out for a drive. They started down the pike towards Milesburg and had Mr. Garman's young horse in the harness. Mr. Garman held the lines and considers himself an old-time horseman who can teach the young sports how to handle the ribbons behind a spry, prancing steed. Everything went well until near the chain works, where they passed a team with a load of wood. In passing they were compelled to drive close to the edge of an embankment. The animal frightened and jumped to the side. The sudden lurch, in some way, it happened so quickly that it can't be explained, both men landed out of the buggy and the horse got away. His course down the pike was a cloud of dust. He broke the buggy quite badly, but fortunately neither of the men were hurt.

The Grain-O Law Suit. The great \$50,000 damage suit instituted by a Michigan Cereal Company against the Genesee Pure Food Company is at an end. They settled it and took it out of court for the ridiculously small sum of \$500, and, as a practical result, Grain-O is in greater demand than ever. The new plant, only just completed, is to be duplicated, so that not only the old friends of the delicious food drink, which completely takes the place of coffee, but the new friends it is making every day, can be supplied. The beverage which the children, as well as the adult, may drink with benefit, will be furnished in unlimited quantities. Suits may come and suits may go, but Grain-O goes on forever.--N. Y. Mail and Express.

ANOTHER piece of infamous treasury looting was the \$66,000 expense account of Quay's Lexow committee to investigate official corruption in Philadelphia. Of course it will be passed. Every item in it is a piece of extortion. That is how public monies are spent.

A STORY OF LONGFELLOW. Mrs. Fields Tells an Interesting Anecdote of the Author. Speaking of Longfellow, in her volume of literary reminiscences, Mrs. Jane J. Fields says: "His kindness and love of humor carried him through many a tedious interruption. He generously overlooked the fact of the subterfuges to which men and women resorted in order to get an interview, and, to help them out, made as much of their excuses as possible. Speaking one day of the persons who came to see him at Nahant, he said: 'One man, a perfect stranger, came with an omnibus full of ladies. He descended, introduced himself; then, returning to the omnibus, took out all the ladies, one, two, three, four and five, with a little girl, and brought them in. I entertained them to the best of my ability, and they staid an hour. They had scarcely gone when a forlorn woman in black came up to me on the piazza and asked for a dipper of water. 'Certainly,' I replied, and went to fetch her a glass. When I brought it, she said: 'There is another woman just by the fence who is tired and thirsty. I will carry this to her.' But she struck her head as she passed through the window and spilled the water on the piazza. 'Oh, what have I done!' she said. 'If I had a floorcloth, I would wipe it up.' 'Oh, no matter about the water,' I said, 'if you have not hurt yourself.' Then I went and brought more water for them both and sent them on their way refreshed and rejoicing.'

"It would be both an endless and unprofitable task to recall more of the curious experiences which popularity brought down upon him. There is a passage among Mr. Fields' notes, however, in which he describes an incident during Longfellow's last visit to England which should not be overlooked. Upon his arrival the queen sent a graceful message and invited him to Windsor castle, where she received him with all the honors, but he told me no foreign tribute touched him deeper than the words of an English hod carrier who came up to the carriage door at Harrow and asked permission to take the hand of the man who had written the 'Voices of the Night.'"

Stackpole.

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