

The Centre Democrat.

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CIRCULATION, OVER 1800.

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EDITORIAL.

WHY are members of the legislature afraid of itemized bills for "car fare, telegrams, etc.?" Are these bills dishonest?

THE Valentine rolling mill, which has been idle for the last 15 months, started up this week with a full set of hands. All the republican papers will declare that this was done by McKinley, but never will admit that they shut down on the same account.

AN exchangesays a little girl who had been taught to pray for others and everything she wanted, wound up her prayer with: "And now, O God, take care for yourself, for if anything should happen to you we would only have McKinley to help us, and he ain't doing near as well as was expected."

A CONTEMPORARY asks why the United States does not raise all the sugar it needs, since the soil and climate here are favorable. That's easy. The protective duty on raw sugar is not high enough to induce anybody to endeavor to make millions out of a new infant industry while they can so much more easily be made in another. And it never will be high enough so long as the sugar trust owns congress, for with a great increase in the tariff on raw sugar would disappear the differential in favor of the refined article.

The New York World succinctly summarizes certain ominous facts concerning Hawaii in the following paragraphs:

- 1. It has the largest leper colony in the world.
2. Only 3,200 of its 109,000 inhabitants are enfranchised or have any civil rights.
3. Only men of wealth can be members of the upper house of its legislature.
4. This upper house has the making of the president, and, contrary to the usage of every civilized country, has the absolute control of the purse strings.
5. Its finances are in hopeless confusion, because the rich men who constitute the government refuse to tax themselves.
6. Ten-elevenths of its products is sugar, raised on fifty-two plantations owned by about 100 men and worked by 50,000 coolies and semi-slaves.
7. Every great power in Europe and Japan have refused flatly to even consider a proposition to annex the island.
8. The only hope of the present government is annexation to the United States, which would thereby guarantee the ruling class in the lands it has stolen and give it fresh and larger opportunities for thieving.
9. There are less than 3,000 men, women and children of American birth or ancestry.
10. There are more than 35,000 Chinese and Japanese contract laborers, the only sort of labor that can be induced to work on the plantations.
11. The islands have reached the height of their possible development. There is little room for colonists and no opportunity for them, as everything worth having has been gobbled up.
12. If the United States take the islands appropriation bills expending hundreds of millions will be rushed through congress. And all of this money will be wasted.

THE SIMPLE FACTS.

If we had a duty on tea every cent paid by the consumer under it would go into the treasury to meet the expenses of government. If we had an increased tax on beer and tobacco every cent it would go into the treasury for a like purpose.

Neither of these taxes would be divided between the treasury and any trust or any favored class. Neither would they give the party in power an excuse for demanding any contribution to a campaign fund to keep it in power. But a duty on hides will compel the people to pay rich tribute to the beef trust. A duty on raw wool will compel the people to pay a heavy bonus to the wool growers. A discriminating duty on refined sugar means the transfer of the people's money to the coffers of the sugar trust. But the present senate is not legislating for the treasury or for the people, but for the trusts, the favored classes and contributors to campaign funds. Therefore, the proposed duty on tea and the additional tax on tobacco and beer are to be abandoned while there is to be a duty on hides, a duty on wool and a scandalously discriminative duty on refined sugar. It is legislation not for the public welfare but for private benefit and corrupt political advantage that we are witnessing just now.

Bishop Lee of the third Episcopal district, of Wilberforce, Ohio, will preach in the St. Paul A. M. E. Church, on Monday evening, July 5th, after which he will be tendered a reception by the members of the church. All are cordially invited to attend.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Senator McLaurin is one of the few democrats who is willing to make a prediction as to the date of the passage of the tariff bill by the Senate, which nearly everybody expects to occur sometime during the latter part of the present or the first of next week. Speaking on the subject, Mr. McLaurin says: "I think a vote will be reached on Friday. That is hangman's day, and, as the bill will bring ruin and misery it would be appropriate to put it through on hangman's day." Some of the republican Senators expect the bill to be passed as early as Wednesday or Thursday of this week, but that is not very probable. Republicans in the House are very confident that in all important schedules, the bill as it emerges from the conference committee will closely resemble the original Dingley bill.

Secretary Sherman doesn't know what Mr. McKinley's Cuban policy is to be. He is so informed a close personal friend. It has leaked out since Gen. Woodford, the new Minister to Spain, has been in Washington that he isn't in any particular hurry about getting to Madrid, and that he has no idea that he will actually open negotiations with Spain in the Ruiz case, which is to be made the stepping stone to the introduction of the McKinley policy towards Cuba, before the fall. He will probably start late in July, but it is not certain that he will go either by the most direct or the most speedy route.

Czar Reed has made out his list of committee assignments and unless some of his kindergartens, otherwise known as the U. S. House of Representatives, do something to offend him between now and then, he will announce them after the House has adopted a resolution setting the date for adjournment of the session.

Mr. McKinley and Boss Hanna have concluded to abandon the idea of trying to get Congress to authorize the appointment of a currency commission at this session.

Some of the applicants for consular appointments are beginning to regard themselves as being against a bunco game that is being run by Mr. McKinley, and they are kicking as much as they dare to as long as they allow themselves to cherish hopes of getting a government berth. These men say that every time they go to the White House to try to push along their application, they are told that Mr. McKinley isn't ready to take up the appointment of consuls, and yet they see the nominations of consuls sent to the Senate almost every day, and some of them have been young fellows whose only claims for recognition were the pocket books of their fathers, or the social "pull" of their mothers. It is not strange that this state of affairs should cause kicking.

EMPLOYERS OF ALIENS.

The new law taxing alien labor in Pennsylvania will go into effect July 1st, and employers, whether individuals, associations, partnerships or corporations, should understand the fact that they will be liable for a tax of three cents per day for every unnaturalized alien they employ in any department of labor.

Employers are especially authorized to deduct this tax from the wages of their employees, and they are made directly responsible to the county for the payment of such tax. If any employers shall disregard the law, they will not only be required to pay the tax, but they will be subject to punishment for misdemeanor by the imposition of a fine of not less than \$200 and not exceeding \$1,000 for each offense. The County Commissioners of each county are required to furnish proper blanks to be used by employers in making sworn returns.

There will doubtless be many efforts made to deceive employers by unnaturalized aliens asserting that they are naturalized, but the law will not excuse employers for being imposed upon in that way. The responsibility imposed upon employers by the law gives them the clear right to demand satisfactory evidence of naturalization when any foreigner claims to be a naturalized citizen. They have the same legal right to demand the evidence of naturalization that a sworn election officer would have when a man of questioned citizenship asked the right to deposit his vote.

This law applies to all classes of employers whether they employ one man or ten thousand, and all should appreciate the fact that it will be scrupulously enforced. The workmen of every community are greatly interested in the strict enforcement of the law, and they will be vigilant to the last degree to have the tax collected for every day's labor performed by an unnaturalized alien. This is not a law made for the galleries; it is a law that appeals to the workmen of every section of the State, and they have it in their power to compel strict obedience to it by every employer.—Times.

Cereal Coffee Drinkers Beware!

If you have been deceived and tried one of the cheap bran substitutes now on the market, claiming to be the original and to have great food value, and you got a pound of poorly roasted bran for your 25c and a poor, weak, sickish drink (what can you expect from bran), don't be discouraged but try Grain-O. It is made from solid grain, nicely browned and 2 pounds for 25c. Grain-O takes the place of coffee at 1/4 the price. Get a package of your grocer to-day.

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Legislators Cannot Adjourn Thursday, As Agreed Upon.

MAY FINISH UP BY SATURDAY.

Meantime There Will Be Some Lively Discussions Over the Exorbitant Bills Presented by Members of Various Investigating Committees.

(Special Correspondence.) Harrisburg, June 29.—Thursday next is the date fixed for the final adjournment of the legislature, but the condition of the calendars of both senate and house is such that it will be impossible to get away before next Saturday, if then. All the efforts of the leaders of the two branches of the legislature have been directed toward final adjournment, because they realize that every day adds to the danger of the party in power. Not only the minority, but a very considerable number of Republicans are making it unpleasant for the organization. There is danger of a revolt in the Republican ranks, and not a few thoughtful men predict that a split in the Republican party will follow the controversies in the legislature.

Since the opening of the session last January the Seventy-six, or anti-Quay Republicans, have been accumulating trouble for the faction in power. These men have consistently pursued a course of opposition to the plans of the leaders in the senate and house, and wherever possible they have made it unpleasant for the Quay men. While in the minority, they have maintained their organization so well as to demoralize the faction which organized the legislature. Not a point was lost throughout the session. Anything that would add to the unhappiness of the other side was promptly taken advantage of, and the situation has developed a singular state of facts. Instead of the Quay men running the legislature in these latter days, they are in reality following the Seventy-sixers. Many things have contributed to this peculiar condition, the leading factor being the utter absence of leadership on the part of the Quay organization.

Opposition to the Reform Measures. Owing to the opposition of many Republicans to the ultra reform measures that were looked upon as the party bills it was difficult for the Quay leaders to force them to final passage without material amendment. These amendments have given the Seventy-six an opportunity to hold up the Quay men as insincere and hypocritical. Of course, the Democratic minority was willing to help along in this work, and the result has been disastrous for the leaders in the legislature. At this stage of the proceedings it is almost impossible for the leaders to map out any plan looking to united action on any measure.

The Seventy-six have also added to the discomfort of their opponents by pointing out and emphasizing the extravagance of the various investigating committees, whose bills of expense have been the scandal of the present legislature. If the legislature does not get away this week it will be largely because many members of that body will not permit these bills to get through without a stubborn fight. Already the opposition has developed.

Some of the bills introduced have opened the eyes of the older members to the danger of permitting the extravagant legislators to make up the expense account of investigating committees. Many of these bills will be thoroughly ventilated on the floor of the house, where the principal battle will take place this week. Thousands of dollars are involved in these extravagant measures, and it is difficult to understand how it is possible to pad the bills in the way that it has been done. Hundreds of dollars are included for items that are claimed to be fraudulent. In one election contest the bill was several thousand dollars and a member of the committee, Mr. Rice, of Bucks county, made a statement to the house which caused a sensation. In that bill he was allowed \$42 for "car fare, telegrams, etc." and moved to strike out the item, saying that he had never had any such expenses. Other committee men had similar items of expense. So it goes all through the list of the various committees. An old legislator said to me the other day that in view of the fact that every member rides on a pass it was absurd to charge thousands of dollars for mileage on the railroad. He further intimated that unless this sort of extravagance was stopped, the Republican party would suffer at the polls.

Disgusted Over Investigation Expense. Many loyal Quay men are disgusted with the way in which the investigating committees have piled up the expense account. In the house a member of a committee which arranged for the trips of the legislature to the Grant monument ceremonies asked that the bill be sent back to committee "for investigation and proper amendment." He thought that he ought to have an opportunity, as a member of the committee, to scan the items of expense. Those who were with the legislature at New York cannot fathom the expense account for that trip. It is said that the caterer is to have \$5,000. This is a sample of the general make-up of the bills. About \$1,700 is wanted by the committee which investigated the origin of the capitol fire. When it came up in the house last Saturday Mr. Phillips, of Chester, declared that it should be wiped from the calendar without further consideration; that it was impossible for this committee to have expended any such sum of money, because it never sat outside of Harrisburg. Mr. Miller, of Somerset, the chairman of the fire investigating committee, said that there had been some mistake and asked that further consideration of the bill be postponed. This saved the measure for the time being. The story of one investigating committee is the story of all, and before the week is ended there will be some sensational scenes on the floor of the house.

Up to this time the consideration of the ordinary appropriation bills has proceeded without much discussion. But when the bill to pay the expenses of the senate committee which investigated the municipal affairs of the city of Philadelphia is reached in the house there will be music. All the opposition to the expense accounts of the other

investigating committees is merely preliminary to the big battle on the Lexow bill.

Political Reforms Unpopular.

Political reforms have not been popular with the majority in this legislature, and when the record is made up at the close of the session it will be found that the campaign promises have not been kept. Since 1895 there has been nothing talked about in certain circles but reform of one kind or another. Senator Quay appointed a committee of prominent party men to prepare bills covering his ideas of reform. These measures were considered by the state conventions and endorsed. Everything looked like a political millennium, but when the legislature finally received the bills they were found to be too radical to suit the average political mind. Changes were introduced, and now that the bills have finally been passed they are looked upon as useless from a reform standpoint.

Deputy Attorney General Elkin, the chairman of the Republican state committee, was requested early last week to prepare the various revenue measures which were agreed upon at the Quay conference in this city. These bills took the shape of amendments to pending measures, and had for their purpose the raising of more money for the state. At the same time they were looked upon as a diplomatic way of dropping the beer bills. These beer bills have been the stumbling block in the way of the legislature for weeks. They were not wanted by prominent politicians who are interested in the manufacture of beer, and in order to get rid of them some method had to be devised that would not grate too harshly upon the public ear. So the licenses of liquor dealers were increased in certain cases, and as amendments to the bills went through the senate without much opposition. One bill placed a graded fee on brewers, increased the license fee on distillers, wholesalers and bottlers, and added \$100 to retail licenses all over the state, and \$20 to those in cities other than the first and second classes. It was estimated that this bill would add about \$1,000,000 to the receipts of the state treasury. When it came up in the house that body had no use for it, and laid it low by a vote of 55 to 92. It now goes to a conference committee, which will endeavor to make it satisfactory to both branches of the legislature.

No Cut in School Appropriations. Senator Quay and other prominent leaders favored a cut in the school appropriation to the tune of \$500,000 a year. They felt that by thus reducing the appropriation to the schools many of the private charities could be taken care of, but they reckoned without the country members. As soon as it was announced that an attempt was to be made to reduce the school fund the legislators from the rural districts were instantly aroused, and they have succeeded in securing pledges enough to defeat the proposed cut.

It appears that another effort is to be made to pass the bill authorizing the damming of the Delaware river at Trenton. It was defeated the other day by a narrow margin, but it was reconsidered and placed on the postponed calendar. It is regarded as a legislative snake, and can never get through the legislature. Already the New Jersey legislature has passed, and Governor Griggs approved, a similar bill, but as the Delaware divides the two states it is necessary for both Pennsylvania and New Jersey to pass the bill.

An exciting incident of the debate on the bill increasing licenses of liquor dealers occurred in the house Friday night. Mr. Lytle, of Huntingdon, made some effective comments on the way in which Senator Quay had come to Harrisburg and unraveled the revenue puzzle. As he put it, "he had smitten the rock with his wand and revenue gushed forth to relieve the charities of the state." Representative Voorhes, of Philadelphia, who sits across the aisle from the gentleman from Huntingdon, smiled at this allusion to Senator Quay's revenue efforts, whereupon Mr. Lytle took offense and said: "The gentleman from Philadelphia who is reading the paper need not laugh, for but a few years ago he would have concurred in this sentiment by standing up and clapping his hands." As soon as Mr. Lytle had concluded Voorhes got the floor and charged that the gentleman from Huntingdon had gone out of his way to besmirch him. Continuing he said: "He has the unfortunate habit of allowing his tongue to run away with his judgment. If it had not been for this defect the gentleman from Huntingdon would now be occupying the chair which you, Mr. Speaker, grace with such ability. As regards Senator Quay, when he is right I follow him, and when he is wrong I am against him. Mr. Quay is the political mentor of the gentleman from Huntingdon, who follows him whether he is right or wrong." Mr. Lytle said he had no intention of besmirching the gentleman from Philadelphia, and the incident closed.

Wanted Militia Appropriation Cut. Saturday Mr. McElhany, of Allegheny county, wanted to strike out \$700,000 for the National Guard, the usual appropriation, and insert \$500,000. Mr. Baldwin of Delaware, Mr. Coryell of Lycoming, who is Colonel of the Twelfth regiment, Mr. Bare of Huntingdon, who is captain of a Fifth regiment company, and Mr. Marshall, chairman of the committee on appropriations, opposed the amendment in effective speeches. Mr. McElhany declared that the National Guard enactments could be dispensed with for two years, and said that for many of the men they were nothing but a debauch and drunk. The other speakers took him to task for his remarks and Colonel Coryell said it came with bad grace from an Allegheny county member to offer such an amendment, because had it not been for the National Guard that county would now be paying millions of dollars in damages as the result of riots at Homestead.

The Hamilton road bill has been signed by the governor, but until the legislature appropriates \$1,000,000 for the improvement of the highways of the state the new law will not be operative.

The senate has defeated the libel bill in which the State Editorial Association has been interested, and at this late day it is not possible that any bill will be passed.

The Merrick bill, providing a new method of distributing the school fund, will give the districts outside the cities considerably more money.

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