

IN THE PENNA. LEGISLATURE

Our Representative, J. W. Kepler, Writes an Interesting Letter.

THE IMPORTANT MEASURES

Outlined and Discussed for our Readers—Some Obnoxious Legislation Introduced—Usual Extravagance Prevails.

As the wheels of the law-making body of the Commonwealth revolve, it is well, at times, to look back to ascertain how fully and efficiently the rights and interests of the governed are subserved. Of the proposed Legislation much can be said; it consists of measures of the most vital importance, but as to laws already passed as little as possible, perhaps, should be said.

Chief among the measures awaiting a turn in the forum of the mills of the law, are: state appropriation to public roads, labor arbitrations, senatorial and legislative apportionment, regulating the practice in the juvenile courts of the Commonwealth, and reform in election law, both general and primary.

Of the laws already passed and referred to the senate for its action, probably the most important was the bill increasing the salary of judges. It was strenuously argued on the floor, during the discussion of the measure, that it was unconstitutional because it increased the salary of judges after their appointment or election and for the additional reason that it abolished the salary of the judges holding special courts created by the Acts of the General Assembly of 1871 and 1887, thus requiring them to hold these courts without compensation. It has been held from time to time that inasmuch as the constitution reads "that the judges shall receive an adequate compensation for their services" that the taking away of the salary without abolishing the courts altogether is such a flagrant trespass upon the plain provisions of the constitution as will render it void. The measure was ably discussed pro and con by some of the leading members of the Legislature, a majority of whom evidently believed it fitting and well to pass the question up to the judges themselves for a legal interpretation of the question as it passed by a large majority of the members present.

There are two measures now before the Legislature providing for the improvement of public roads, one was presented by Senator Sprowl, the other by Senator Roberts. Each of them provides for a Public Road Commission whose duty it shall be to survey and lay out all road improvement, handle the money of the people for this service and draw a large and unreasonable salary; their principal duties under these bills are to see how much of the funds of the Commonwealth they can get away with, having a regard not so much for the interests of the people whom they represent as for their own individual and selfish motives.

Labor arbitration comes in for its share of the time and attention of the law makers. A bill creating a bureau of labor for the purpose of adjusting real and contemplated disputes or grievances of their various constituents has been presented and is now on the calendar in the house. The oratory of its sponsors has not yet elevated the members to an understanding of its provisions, suffice it to say, should it become a law it may and it may not accomplish its desired purpose save in one everlasting truism: it is bound to reach one desired purpose and that is the expenditure of at least twenty-five thousand dollars in annual salaries and expenses—quite expensive experiment.

A legislative and senatorial apportionment has been requested by his Excellency the Governor. Not alone does the chief magistrate call for this much promised reform but the constitution, that everlasting monument to and protector of the common people, calls for it in undeniable language. It reads: "The General Assembly at its first session, after the adoption of this constitution, and immediately after each United States Decennial Census, shall apportion the state into senatorial and representative districts." This constitution was adopted in 1874, a decennial census has been taken in each of the following years: 1880, 1890 and 1900. The last senatorial apportionment was made agreeably to the provisions of the constitution in 1874 immediately after its adoption, but from that time to the present the plain mandate of the constitution has been disobeyed and re-apportionment, while it is before the committee bearing its name, is sleeping, and will there continue to sleep until the end of time or until the king of kings, Quay of national fame, sees fit to bring forth the "Resurrection Day."

Probably the most thoroughly discussed question yet before the house was the bill commonly known as the "School Teachers' Salary Bill." The champions of the measure were replete with oratorical display of the wrongs and miseries of the teachers throughout the Commonwealth, but not one word did they advance showing themselves within the provisions of the constitution, that bulwark too of protection of the rights of the people. This bill in plain words says: "although the constitution guarantees to the local school boards full control of the affairs of its schools, and although these boards consist of gentlemen worthy of the confidence of the qualified election of their respective districts, yet we will by this law take away so much of the right of self control as permits you to say what or how much shall serve as the consideration of your contracts; in other words, the people, through its representatives, the school directors, may control their own school affairs excepting the right to contract for the teaching for pupils. It says to the young man starting at the lowest round of the ladder of teacher's art: you may contract young man for what you please, you may buy horses, cattle and sheep, but when you come to contract for the sale of your talents as teacher, you cannot enter into a contract where the consideration is less than thirty-five dollars. The constitution of our state says "no law shall be passed impairing the right to contract or to impair the obligation of contracts." Although this law may and probably is meritorious upon its face, yet, no difference how benevolent its purposes, the danger involved in the legislative branch of our government trespassing upon the very creature of its existence, the constitution cannot be too fully enlarged upon. When the constitution and its privileges can no longer be maintained then it is that civilized government falls and the law of might prevails over right. Let the teachers of the youth of our land be paid; yes, handsomely paid for moulding the fertile mind of the infant for a successful and patriotic life, but in the pursuance of the purpose no greater wrong can be contemplated than by ignoring the plain principles of the fundamental law of the land.

We find in the Declaration of Rights, section one, provides as follows: "all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent and inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property and reputation and of pursuing their own happiness."

Can the most ardent well-wisher of the interest of the school teacher maintain, in the face of the privileges thus guaranteed the citizen, that he or she is benefited by restraining the privilege to contract, or can a law stand which attempts to restrain the inherent and indefeasible right of acquiring and possessing property or other valuable thing because he may wish to perform the services incident to school teaching for a consideration less than thirty-five dollars per month? As this law stands, no difference as to local conditions, no difference as to the wishes of the contracting parties the contract must call for a consideration of not less than thirty-five dollars, and this too in face of the provisions of the constitution, Art. 3 sec. 7, which provides "The General Assembly shall not pass any local or special law creating offices or prescribing the powers and duties of officers in counties, cities, boroughs, townships, election or school districts."

From a constitutional standpoint this is the most vicious legislation yet proposed or passed by the machine-infected majority of the general assembly and I contemplate the action of the courts will surely be in full accord with the letter and spirit of the constitution when its constitutionality is therein tested. I am constrained, however, to say the purposes of the bill, to wit: the elevation and enhancement of the school teachers throughout the Commonwealth, is a commendable one, but the manner selected in reaching its desired purposes is entirely illegal and erroneous.

A heated discussion arose in the house, on the 3rd, over Senate Bill No. 140, providing for an increase in the number of factory inspectors, at an annual expenditure of sixteen thousand dollars. The measure was fought by representative Frank McClain, of Lancaster county, an organization republican, who publicly and emphatically called the attention of his fellow republican legislators to their ante campaign promises of economic administration of the affairs of the Commonwealth. Waiving a telegram which he said was from his boss and master M. S. Quay, he proclaimed disaster to the party of his faith, should their profligate procedure inaugurate at the beginning of the session continue. The telegram from Mr. Quay, solicited the efforts of Mr. McClain in the speedy and economic administration of the af-

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SPRING MILLS SCORCHED

Another Serious Fire Occurred Monday Morning.

C. J. FINKLE'S STORE BURNED

Post Office and Krape's Shoe Stock was in Danger—Some Large Losses—The Origin of the Fire Causes Much Speculation.

Monday morning after midnight, Spring Mills was aroused by an alarm of fire, which seemed to have originated in the back part of Finkel's store where the postoffice was kept. The fire was first discovered by merchant Rosman on the opposite side of the street who at once gave the alarm. Before enough of citizens could reach the fire it had made such headway that the buildings of C. J. Finkel's store and C. A. Krape's shoe store and post office, were doomed. All of Finkel's stock of goods was burned, but the greater part of his household effects were saved. Mr. Krape saved his stock in the shoe store and all the belongings of the post office. The origin of the fire is unknown. The citizens used herculean efforts to prevent the spread of the fire, and by their exertions a remodeled dwelling belonging to Wm. M. Allison was saved, it having taken fire.

Some two months ago a disastrous fire destroyed Rosman's store and adjoining buildings on the opposite side of the street.

The accurate insurance, as we get it from Mr. Hoover, is in total, as follows: C. J. Finkel building \$1600; stock \$4000.

C. A. Krape building, \$1000; stock \$1500; stock saved.

Since this fire there is much uneasiness in that community for fear of further conflagrations. Many different opinions are expressed in regard to its origin. Some think that certain persons, who held a grievance against Mr. Finkel, may be implicated. Other circumstances are related that point to a different clue. What these rumors amount to we do not pretend to say. Some prominent business people have employed night watchmen to guard their properties, fearing further outbreaks.

U. Evangelical Appointments.

The United Evangelical Conference was in session in Baltimore last week. The following are some of the appointments announced for this section:

- Lock Haven—J. F. Danlap.
Lock Haven Circuit—W. A. Wallis.
Jersey Shore—C. S. Sones.
Columbia—J. R. Schrist.
Sugar Valley—A. S. Baumgardner.
Belleville—W. H. Brown.
Nittany—J. M. Price.
Howard—D. A. Artman.
Milesburg—W. K. Shultz.
York—H. A. Benfer.
S. P. Remer is presiding elder of the Williamsport district and E. Crumling presiding elder of the Centre district.

New Branch of L. & T. Railroad.

Work has begun on a new branch of the L. & T. R. R., which will lead to the sand deposits of the B. F. Patton farm and the limestone on the Thomas K. Henderson farm, both in Warriorsmark township. The new branch will be one mile in length and will connect with the L. & T. about one-half mile east of Warriorsmark. R. T. Hutchison, of Warriorsmark, is the contractor.

Conference Appointments.

The East Pennsylvania conference of the Evangelical association at its session at Reading last week before adjournment announced appointments for the ensuing conference year. Among the appointments were the following: Williamsport, J. W. Boyer; Sugar Valley, J. H. Willauer; Penns valley, O. L. Buck; New Columbia and Lock Haven, J. G. Martis.

To End Mixed Marriages.

Representative Kepler, Monday evening introduced a bill prohibiting the marriage of a person of either sex of pure Caucasian descent with a person of negro or Ethiopian descent; pure or mixed and declaring void all such marriages contracted after January 1, 1904."

Mr. Kepler claims to have "eminent legal authority" that the proposed law would be constitutional.

Miss Gertrude E. Meyers and John F. Wagner were married at Boalsburg Wednesday noon at the home of the bride's parents, which was beautifully arranged for the occasion with choice flowers and palms. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Meyers, highly respected citizens in that vicinity. Mr. Wagner holds a responsible position with the Penna. Railroad Company, and is located in Altoona where they will make their future home.

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ON THE ROAD TO ROYALTY, EH?

And now the President's spokesmen advocate a doubling of his salary, making it \$100,000 giving as a reason that he can not entertain in the style to which the foreign princelings, who come to the White House, are accustomed in the rotten royal courts of Europe. Well, the founders of the Republic never intended that any President should ape after the snobs and snips of the royal families of Europe, but maintain a true American republican simplicity, such as Washington, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, and the other presidents, maintained. Roosevelt is proud of being a "rough rider," and as such he should have all the spunk to ride rough over all foreign snobbery and glitter. What need he, our President, care if the Herzog of Bumpernickel, or the Countess of Leberwurst, or the Graf von Zwieback, or the Princess of Schweigglassier, come over here, and why should Roosevelt want to put on royal airs in the republican White House on account of these? Will he not also drop his "h's," when the British snobs and snips call at the White House and offer them a lunch of 'am and hogs, take 'em to his stables and show 'em his 'orses, and finally tell 'ow 'ard it is to run the white 'ouse on fifty thousand a year, and another little fifty thousand in hextras? We have any number of names on the list of the Centre Democrat just as good, just as intelligent, and just as well bred, and far better, than these royal snobs, and not one of them would claim royal appellings if calling on Teddy, altho' every one of these is a sovereign in the republican United States.

Yes, it's a-peeing after royalty whither we are drifting, and the President is longing for increased pay and allowance to carry it out. Shades of the revolutionary fathers!

We are well aware that raising the President's salary to \$100,000 will not benefit him in his present term, but he is sighing for the next, and the doubled salary is planned for that in case lightning strikes him for the term, March 4, 1905. See?

EXPENSIVE INSURANCE.

We may add to the following that Centre county policy holders in the Iron City were as severely salted as those below:

- Perry county Democrat: The defunct Iron City Mutual Fire Insurance company has placed claims in the hands of an attorney in the town to collect old assessments which it is said will take \$28,000 out of the pockets of the people of this county. Some of the claims against a single individual amount to as much as \$1,800 on a \$1,000 policy. The company is insolvent and it seems like an outrage and a miscarriage of justice to compel the payment of these old assessments.
J. H. Reifsnnyder, of Millheim, a policy holder, refused to pay the assessments and has carried the case to the superior court from whom a decision is pending, and will mean much to many other unfortunate policy holders in this county. The decision of the lower courts was against Mr. Reifsnnyder.

Wrong Man.

The man arrested at Snow Shoe last Friday by W. R. Haynes, and who was taken to Wellsboro on Saturday because he had some resemblance to Edward Myers the alleged murderer of Mrs. George Payne, of Tioga county, was not the man wanted. Mr. Payne, the husband of the murdered woman, reached Wellsboro at 5 o'clock Saturday evening. As soon as he saw the prisoner he declared he was not Myers. The prisoner was kept in the Wellsboro jail until Sunday morning, when he was released.

Expensive Corn.

Last Saturday while several men, employed about the furnace, were in Coxey's store, Bishop street, they appropriated six cans of corn by stuffing them in their blouses. After they left Mr. Coxey missed the goods from his counter, and had them arrested, the corn being on them. They were given a hearing before Justice Keichline who committed them. On Tuesday they got free by paying about \$25 in fines and expenses, to avoid going to court.

Judge Gordon Will Ranch Cattle.

An enterprise of interest to stock raisers and owners of wild land is projected for Clearfield county. It is the pasturing of cattle on a large scale. The custom has been carried on by residents of the hill districts for a number of years, but a firm has been formed that proposes to go into the business extensively. Judge Gordon, of Clearfield, some time ago purchased the Merrill farm, near Home camp, and recently secured 5,000 acres of Mountain land near by. The judge has associated with him Frank Johnson.

A reformer is generally a man who tries to convert others to his way of thinking.

OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

Devoted to Description of Townships 100 Years ago.

FERGUSON AND HALFMOON

Their Boundaries Larger Than at Present—List of Residents Shows Many Familiar Names of the Present Time.

Ferguson township was erected at January sessions, 1801, out of Patton, beginning at the line of Bald Eagle and Patton townships, near Robert Moore, so as to include his in (now, 1882, William Thompson, south of Houersville), thence by a line through the Barrens to include Centre Furnace and James Jackson's, near Half-Moon, the said line to be continued until it strikes the Huntingdon county line, thence along the line of Huntingdon and Centre counties till it strikes Tussey's Mountain, thence along the mountain to the line of Patton and Potter townships, thence along Patton, Potter, and a part of Bald Eagle to the place of beginning.

This boundary embraced the present township of Ferguson, and the west half of Harris from the end of Nittany Mountain.

- The following were residents in 1801:
Anderson, John. Lever, Adam.
Barkman, John. Lingerfelter, John.
Barr, David, Esq. McBride, James.
Barr, Robert. McCormick, George, Sr.
Barron, John. grist and sawmill.
Beal, David. McCormick, George, Jr.
Boat, David. McCormick, James.
Boreland, Andrew. McKhatton, Alexander.
Boreland, Archibald. McEwen, Jos. weaver.
Boreland, John, Sr. McPherson, Joseph.
Boreland, John, Jr. McWilliam, Alexander.
Brislin, William. McWilliams, Henry.
Brower, Jacob, weaver. Meek, David.
Corson, John. Meek, George.
Cooper, James. Meek, Robert.
Cox, Abraham. Meek, William.
Crotzer, Anthony. Miller, John, beaver dams.
Dale, Christian, grist and sawmill and tavern. Miller, John, Cherry Creek.
Dale, Henry. Mooney, Patrick.
Denny, Peter. Moore, Robert.
Everts, Elevzer. Morris, William.
Everhart, Christian. Newell, James, Miles' Furnace, saw and grist-mill.
Everhart, Samuel. Patton, Gen. John.
Fie, Henry. Patton, John, farmer.
Ferguson, Thomas, grist-mill. Patton, James.
Glenn, James, Jr. Patton, Robert.
Glenn, John, Sr. Patton, Thomas.
Glenn, John, Jr. Platt, John.
Glenn, Robert, Sr. Porter, Robert, tavern and grist mill.
Goheen, John, died in April, 1815. Potter, Robert.
Haldeman, John. Lea, John.
Harpster, Christopher. Richards, William.
Hartsack, John. Rodden, Isaac.
Hartsack, John. Stewart, Alexander.
Hastings, Sarah. Stewart, Hugh.
Hunter, Andrew. Stroup, Adam.
Hunter, Robert. White, John.
Buey, Adam. Whitehill, David, Sr.
Iddings, William. Whitehill, David, Jr., tan yard.
Jackson, James. Whitehill, James, tavern.
Kerr, James, Jr. Whitehill, Joseph.
Kerr, James, Jr. Wingeman, Matthew.
Wilson, Thomas.

- Single men:
Goheen, Joseph.
Harpster, Jacob.
McSword, Archibald.
McCormick, John.

HALF-MOON TOWNSHIP.

That portion of the present township of Ferguson west of a line from a point three miles north sixty-five degrees east from the south corner of Ferguson to the present corner of Half-Moon and Patton and the larger part of the present township of Half-Moon were in Franklin and Warriors Mark townships, Huntingdon county, before 1800. Franklin was erected at March sessions, 1789, and Warriors Mark erected from Franklin at January sessions, 1798, of Huntingdon county. Warrior Mark was recognized as a township of Centre in the act of Feb. 25, 1801, annexing it and Patton to the First Election District, and directing their elections to be held in Belleville.

At April sessions of 1801 (Centre county) petitions were presented to have all that part of Warrior Mark which fell into Centre county erected into a township to be called "Half-Moon," and at August sessions the people of Patton petitioned to have Warrior Mark annexed to Patton. Upon these petitions Thomas Ferguson, Esq., James Watson, of Potter township, John Dunlop, David Craig, and Philip Benner were appointed commissioners. They not being able to agree, the court at January sessions, 1802, directed the old Mifflin county line to be continued in the course north forty-two and one-fourth degrees west, from

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FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

He is a fool who in the cup His sorrow tries to drown. You cannot keep your spirits up. By putting spirits down.

CUT IT OUT.

If you have an inclination To be savage, cross and mean, Careless in your conversation, Full of bitterness and spleen, Put aside this wicked habit; Charge upon it with a shout! Seize it—grab it! Stick it stab it! Cut it out!

UNNECESSARY.

Men are apt to fret and worry, But what's the use? When too late they always hurry, But what's the use? Just to keep business booming Men do lots of things inhuman— Even argue with a woman. But what's the use?

Spring fever germs are flourishing. Some people are too busy to be happy. The fellow who is too fresh is liable to assault.

With some people falling in is largely a matter of habit. Few people can lose their money and keep their friends. You can't say of cattle that they should be seen and not herd.

Sometimes it is his lie-abilities that in crease a man's assets. Trouble is about all some church members give the preacher.

The stuff that strengthens a man's breath weakens his intellect. Even diamonds made of paste will cause a woman to be stuck up.

Some people who like hops drink beer, and others eat frogs' legs. If we all followed the Golden Rule the lawyers would starve to death.

Take care of your friends and your enemies will take care of themselves. Women who use cosmetics don't believe the devil is as bad as he is painted.

Some girls seem to think the the more powder they use the sooner they will go off. Laundrymen should make good farmers because they too make their living out of the soil.

"Got a talking machine at home?" "Yes." "What did you pay for it?" "Nothing. Married it."

A cynic is a man whose disappointment is due to the fact that the world was made without his advice.

An exchange tells of a good-looking well-to-do-bachelor of a neighboring town who was being teased by the young women of the club for not marrying, offering to make the girl whom the club should elect his wife just to show them that he was not adverse to matrimony. Each girl went to a corner and wrote her name on a piece of paper, disguising her handwriting. There were nine members in the club, and the result showed one vote for each. The young man is still a bachelor, but the club is broken up and its members are all mad at each other.

To Prevent Roosters Crowing.

Green's Fruit Grower knows of a man living in that city who complained of his neighbors that his roosters disturbed his slumbers before the dawn of day and threatened to sue this neighbor, who was a poultry fancier. The question arose, was there any way to prevent their roosters from crowing. He could not muzzle them, nor could he bind their throats tightly without endangering their lives. Noticing that the crowing rooster raised his head and back high in the air when crowing an idea suggested itself. He made the roosting place of the poultry high up close to the roof so that it was impossible for the rooster to raise his head or back in the act of crowing. The next morning he watched the result. Long before daybreak the roosters seemed uneasy and started to crow, but in every instance the effect was a failure. It seems to be impossible for a rooster to crow without getting his head and back up in the usual manner. Poultry fanciers will please take notice.

Big Fire in Williamsport.

Fire at Williamsport on Sunday morning gutted the old Ulman's opera house building, burning out Michael Levi's Buffalo clothing house, George Loder's general store, the armory of companies C, D, G, and I, of the Twelfth regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania, and a half dozen other occupants. The total loss is estimated at \$75,000.

Hubbersburg Academy.

Commencing April 13, 1903, Prof. A. P. Weaver will open a term of select school at Hubbersburg, that shall continue ten weeks. Such pupils as wish to prepare for teaching or entrance to college will be especially cared for. An opportunity will be given to pupils of Walker township district to prepare for entrance to the High school.