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LEGISLATURE REVIEWED

A Summary of Important Legislation.

INCREASE OF EXPENDITURES

Many New Offices Created and Salaries Raised—A Reign of Extravagance—Bills Vetted—Appropriations Passed.

The last session of the Legislature completed its work about a week ago. Herewith is compiled a brief summary of the important events of the session. Many bills were passed that are of little importance while others are extremely so, and their main features already pointed out.

The session of the legislature which closed last Thursday was the shortest since 1877, when the date of final adjournment was March 23. The number of bills passed this year and sent to the governor was 621. Of these 163 have been approved, thirty-two vetoed, twenty-nine recalled for amendment and three were joint resolutions, leaving 396 in the governor's hands for his approval or disapproval within the next thirty days.

Most of the measures awaiting executive action are appropriation bills. Many of these will no doubt be reduced. Chairman Bliss, of the house appropriations committee, has estimated the revenue of the state during the next two years at \$35,000,000, and his committee disposed of \$33,000,000 in the bill it approved. The state treasurer and the auditor general, who believe in keeping large balances in the state depositories, disagree with Mr. Bliss's estimate and say the revenue will be much lower. It is probable that Governor Pennypacker will take the estimate of the state officials and pare down the appropriation bills in his hands to enable them to pile up the balances which now aggregate over \$10,000,000.

THE SINS OF OMISSION.
Aside from the libel bill, which was passed to protect politicians from criticism, the legislature of 1903 will be censured for its sins of omission rather than for its sins of commission. Its failure to pass apportionment bill, though commanded by the constitution to do so, and enact personal registration and primary election laws will be regarded as serious blots on its record and a reflection on the republican party, which controlled both houses by large majorities. But the leaders believe the people are indifferent to these omissions. Though there was over 150,000 majority cast in favor of the passage of laws requiring personal registration of voters in cities, the bill with that object in view was smothered in the elections committee of the house. The same fate befel the primary elections measure.

A ballot law was passed which provides for a ballot about one-third of the size of the ballot used under the Baker law, and it makes it easy for independent voting by permitting crosses to be counted after a cross has been made in the party square and all candidates for an office are grouped in the same column. It is little improvement on the present system in form of ballot, while personal registration, reform in primaries and election laws were deliberately smothered to encourage election frauds in our large cities.

A PRECEDENT SET.
The legislature this year has set a precedent in substituting one bill for another that will no doubt, be taken advantage of by future legislatures when it is desired to hasten crooked legislation. This act was taken on the Salus-Grady libel bill. It was the intention of the framers of the constitution to prevent the passage of any bill in less than six days, by requiring that "every bill shall be read at length on three different days in each house."

It has been the practice for twenty-nine years to respect the provision in the constitution, and it would have remained inviolate had not the republican leaders, in their eagerness to pass the libel bill in one week, urged its infraction, to keep the members from submitting to home influences over Sunday. Hereafter it will be possible for a bill to be passed in three days, as it can be introduced in both houses at the same time, and passed finally on substitution.

The Sprout good roads bill was probably the most important measure passed by the legislature. For twenty years the rural sections of the state have been clamoring at each session of the legislature for assistance to improve the highways of the commonwealth, without material success until this year. The Sprout bill appropriates \$6,500,000 to be expended in six years on country roads. This is said to be the largest appropriation ever made by any state for road improvement. As the counties and town-

ships must contribute one third the expense for road building, at least \$9,000,000 will have been spent on the highways of the state before 1910.

No bill probably excited more interest in the country districts than the Snyder bill fixing the minimum salary of school teachers at \$35 a month. This was bitterly opposed by legislators from rural sections, which claimed to be too poor to pay the salary fixed in the bill. As some teachers were paid as low as \$16 a month for seven months in the year the indignation of the members whose districts were not affected by the change was aroused, and the bill was passed and signed by the governor.

LEGISLATION FOR MINERS.
The governor has already signed the bill establishing a department of mines, to take the place of the bureau of mines. The most important mine bills to be acted on are one prohibiting the employment of any miner under 21 years of age in or around an anthracite mine for more than eight hours a day; another fixing a ton of 2240 pounds a basis from which to calculate the earnings of miners, and the former bill amending the act providing for the election of mine inspectors.

There was no legislation attempted that would in any manner affect the bituminous coal fields, nor was there any by which the Federation of Labor could gain any advantages. The same may be said of the railway trainmen. Thus the laboring classes and unions have been gold-bricked again, as it was prophesied they would be.

The Sherman bill to prevent saloon keepers from serving any lunch, except crackers and cheese, under a penalty of \$100 or ten days in jail, had a rocky road, but finally reached the governor's desk.

"PINCH" BILLS INTRODUCED.
The usual number of "pinch" bills were introduced this session, and of course, never reached the governor—that is, except one, which was promptly signed, and is now a law. The bill of this character that is now in force prohibits the selling of cigarettes or cigarette paper to any person under 21 years of age. The tobacco trust wanted this bill killed, but failed to "put up" in time to stop it.

In extraordinary expenditures, as a whole, the Legislature of 1903 beats the record, having kept up close to the limit of the unprecedented growth of the State's revenues.

NEW OFFICES THAT COST.
The one subject of new offices and increased salaries is enough to demonstrate that the Republican Machine managers cannot in coming campaigns boast of financial economy in this Legislature.

Three new departments—Fisheries, Mines and Highways—are established, the Governor having signed the bills for them. In other departments additional deputies, bureaus and many clerks are provided for.

The position of Commissioner of Fisheries, with \$3000 salary, is new and so is the provision of \$1800 for his clerk and stenographer. The late Mine Bureau, with Roderick as a \$3000 chief and one clerk, develops into a Department, with Chief Roderick getting \$4000, a \$1600 assistant, two \$1400 clerks, a \$1000 stenographer and a \$900 messenger.

The Highway Department, to which there has been comparatively little objection since the House amended it, is the outcome of the Sprout Good Roads bill. It will cost about \$8000 annually for salaries in the Harrisburg office, including \$3500 for the State Highway Commissioner. Of the \$5,750,000 to be spent for good roads in the next six years, \$500,000 will be used in each of the ensuing two years.

ONE GRAND LUMP FOR JUDGES.
First came the bill introduced by Representative Ziba T. Moore, of Philadelphia, to increase the salary of every judge in the state from \$1,000 to \$2,000 each. Although this measure involved an additional expenditure of \$207,000 a year it passed both houses and was signed by the governor. It goes into effect January 1, 1904.

Then came the judges' retirement bills—the first to pay full salary to any judge for the rest of his term who should be compelled to retire on account of physical or mental disability, and to pay full salary to a judge who had served thirty consecutive years on the bench and had reached the age of 70 years. The first of these bills was overwhelmingly defeated in the house, and the second passed with only a few votes to spare.

In the Forestry Department a \$2500 deputy and a \$1500 clerk are added. The Factory Inspector's Department gets 12 additional deputies each with \$1200 salary and traveling expenses; an additional clerk and two increased clerical salaries.

In the Agricultural Department the chief clerk's salary is raised from \$1600 to \$1800, and proportional increases are made in the pay of the stenographer and messenger.

(Continued on page 4.)

AN IMPORTANT DECISION

Rendered in the Famous Northern Securities Merger.

A BLOW TO CORPORATIONS

Formed to Monopolize Railroads or Manufacturing Industries Known as Trusts—Morgan Surprised—Wall Street in a Flurry.

Probably one of the most important court decisions rendered in many years, and which is of greater significance to the public than is realized, was that restraining the capitalists of this country from buying up competing railroads, thus preventing competition. For some time capitalists, and the Morgan corporations, have been defying all laws and authorities, believing that public officials and courts would never dare to question their course or impede their career, no matter what wrongs the public suffered thereby.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals sitting at St. Paul recently handed down a decision which affords reassuring evidence as to the power of the Government to enact and enforce laws in restraint of harmful combinations. The decision was in the case of the Government vs. the Northern Securities company. This company was formed for the purpose of controlling the stock of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railway companies. It was attacked by Attorney-General Knox as in violation of the Anti-Trust law of 1890, which forbids combinations in restraint of trade. In asking the courts to dissolve the merger he maintained that the combination had the power to control rates, eliminate competition, and therefore to restrain trade within the meaning of the act. The decision fully sustains the position of the Attorney General.

The Court decides that the stock held by the Northern Securities company was acquired by virtue of a combination in restraint of trade and commerce. Owing a majority of the stock in both railways, the Company, it is said, actually has acquired control over parallel and competing lines, and in so doing "destroyed every motive for competition between the two roads." The Court declines to accept the contention that a company cannot be deprived of the right to acquire and hold property simply because such holding may lead incidentally to restraint of trade. On the contrary, it declares that "every one is presumed to intend what is the necessary consequence of his own acts." A necessary consequence of the act of merging was that the now Company acquired the power to restrain trade and whether the power was used or not it constitutes an obstacle in the way of "free and unrestricted competition between carriers who are natural rivals for patronage."

The Court affirms that a "merger" may come within this meaning of the act of 1890 as well as any "Trust" or "combination" and asserts that the Federal Legislature has ample powers to regulate commerce, even to the extent of prohibiting private contracts. The clauses of the decision which assert that the Northern Securities company's charter—obtained in New Jersey—cannot be used to defeat the will of Congress are of especial interest as placing a limit on the possible value of the celebrated New Jersey charters.

This decision is so sweeping in character that it will probably be fought in the Supreme Court, for, as it stands, it applies to all Trusts and combinations which stifle competition and restrain trade.

The decision was a "knocker" for J. Pierpont Morgan, who had actually threatened President Roosevelt for permitting these proceedings. It came like a thunderbolt from a clear sky. Stocks in Wall street took a big tumble; trust magnates began to tremble; they saw that there was some virtue in our laws and integrity among those who interpret them. The concurrence of all the members of the court makes their decision all the stronger, and there is no likelihood that the Supreme Court will render a different finding and the result will soon be announced.

It is some satisfaction to know that Wall street is not the absolute dictator in this country, and that it is a government of the people and for the people. Trusts and combines have been feared and tolerated too long. Public sentiment grew so strong that this action became necessary and other combinations and trusts that are in restraint of trade may be dissolved by the Courts.

MAY GO AFTER COAL COMBINE.
Comment in Washington on the Court of Appeals' decree in the Northern Securities case generally expressed the belief that the decision will lead to the institution of other suits by Attorney-

General Knox. One rumor was afloat to the effect that the so-called "Anthracite Coal Trust" is to be proceeded against.

It is known that the question whether the coal combination is an unlawful one has been under discussion at the Department. Last fall, while the strike was in progress, the President asked the Department for an opinion. According to the statement made by the President at that time there was no way under the Federal Constitution by which he could interfere to end the strike. The answer was an evasion of the question, made apparently for the purpose of not confirming the report that the President had asked the Attorney-General to proceed against the coal concerns under the second section of the Sherman act as being a combination in restraint of interstate commerce.

The Northern Securities have been decided, all the material gathered last fall is now available for action against the so called Coal Trust should it be seen fit to take it.

MEETING OF COUNCIL.

The regular session of the borough council was held Monday evening. J. Thomas Mitchell representing the borough Auditors reported that they had finished auditing the borough accounts and that they found them satisfactory. However they called attention to the amount of coal used. By various tests made by experts the water works is using more coal than is necessary to pump the amount of water used. It is said 1470 tons of coal was used in one year where 910 tons was the highest amount the tests showed to be required.

The Water committee was instructed to solicit bids for furnishing coal to Water Works for period of one year and for hauling of same. Bids to be submitted to council for approval by Mr. Jenkins and carried. Mr. Underwood, one of the Auditors, recommended the removal of the lock-up to a more suitable ground on borough property. It is not on borough property now and the borough pays ground rent for it.

Burgess Walker reported collecting \$18.00 in fines and also endorsed the suggestion made by Mr. Underwood in regard to moving the lock-up which was referred to Police committee. The Street committee was instructed to receive bids for cribbing Water street from High street bridge to the Central Railroad station. Burgess Walker made a few pertinent remarks concerning the dog nuisance in this town.

The idea of putting a roof over the Water Works was discussed and referred to the Water committee. Persons who fail to pay their water will have the supply cut off.

Rev. Steck's Lecture.

"The Hero—Recognized and Unrecognized" is the subject of the lecture to be delivered in the Court House, May 5, at 8 pm., by this well known and distinguished platform orator. This is what the "Old War Governor" said about it: "Having the satisfaction of intimate and agreeable social relations with Chas. T. Steck, I am glad to speak of him as a highly cultured and accomplished gentleman. I have heard him lecture, and was charmed with his musical voice, grace of manner and splendid elocution. His lecture on the 'The Hero—Recognized and Unrecognized,' is one of the most instructive, original, clear in statement, and logical in conclusions that I have ever heard. I wish every American had the opportunity to hear it."

Lost \$50.

A man living near Osceola, sat down one evening not long since with his wife, to count his money, in all about \$50. Ere long the wife retired and the husband, worn out with his day's work, fell asleep where he sat. When he awoke instead of going to bed he threw himself on a lounge in an adjoining room to sleep until morning, forgetting that the money was still lying on the table. His first thought next morning was of it, but the window stood open and the money was gone. The next time that man counts money, it will be with the window shades drawn down.

A Little Mistake.

To show how easily typographical errors occur and how a little letter can make a decided change in the meaning we copy the following item from the last issue of the Gazette:
"George D. Glosser, late of Walker, is now located at Wilkinsburg, Pa., and though he has not yet started, he expects soon to establish himself in the mercantile business in which he is sure to succeed as his honesty, industry and thrift (they meant to say *thrift*) will warrant success."

The judiciary fight in Clearfield is at its height and Judge Gordon is encountering much opposition for re-election.

GOV. GOBEL'S ASSASSINATION

A Complete Confession of an Infamous Crime.

A VICIOUS POLITICAL PLOT

The Murderer Promised Ample Protection and a Pardon—A Dark Blot in Kentucky's History—Fugitive from Justice.

Republican papers, and others in authority within party lines, are manifesting such extreme solicitude to hide or pervert the facts as brought out in court in relation to the assassination of Governor Goebel. In Frankfort a mountain desperado, one "Jim" Howard, is on trial for the murder. One Cecil on the witness stand tells the story. Caleb Powers, who was secretary of state, and Governor W. S. Taylor arranged for the murder of Goebel. Taylor offered \$2,500 for the killing of Goebel, the money being in the hands of the Republican State committee and subject to Taylor's disposal, and in addition Taylor as governor offered a pardon for the murderer. Other witnesses testified that Howard admitted he had killed Goebel, in the conferences of the Kentucky Republicans, and boasted that he and his friends would be protected from arrest.

The horrible story of Cecil, who turned State's evidence, makes the case clear: Cecil told of the conversations had with Taylor and Powers on the evening of the day before the fatal shot was fired, and held in the executive offices, in which they told him of the necessity for the commission of the crime the next day to prevent the loss to them of their offices, and that the sum of \$2,500, left over from the Republican State campaign fund of the year 1899, was in Taylor's hands, and that he (Taylor) was ready to pay it to the man who could be secured to fire the shot that would remove Goebel. He said that they assured him that the assassin, in addition to getting this blood money, would receive a free and full pardon signed by Taylor as governor, and would be given protection until he could get back to his mountain home, in which it would be impossible to arrest him.

"Governor" Taylor appears to have been the principal in the conspiracy for murder. He engaged Howard, with the Republican committee's money in his hands, to assassinate Goebel; had the pardon prepared and delivered, and all arrangements for escape. And this man, with the blood of Goebel scattered over him, was the honored guest of Republican governors, and received an ovation of cheering on entering the Republican National convention at Philadelphia. Just as the Republican party has been laboring to protect Taylor as a fugitive from justice as a red-handed murderer, does that party shoulder responsibility as the inciter, promoter and defender of one of the foulest and most treacherous crimes in American history.

These are facts that good republicans all good citizens condemn.

LOLITA CAN WALK NOW.

Lolita Armour is no longer a cripple. Dr. Adolph Lorenz, the Vienna surgeon, took the plaster cast off the little girl's hip at her home in Chicago on last Thursday and told her to move across the room. With a cry of joy the child found herself able to walk without assistance.

This is the case in which the famous surgeon reset a dislocated hip joint without use of surgery. He was paid a princely sum for the operation and then treated many poor children similarly afflicted. This new method created a great sensation among the medical fraternity and is considered one of the remarkable achievements of the times.

Car Loaded With Dynamite Wrecked.

One day last week an extra Philadelphia freight train crashed into the rear of a Newberry freight train in the eastern part of Sunbury. The wreckage caught fire and much difficulty was experienced in extinguishing the flames. One of the wrecked cars contained 5,000 sticks of dynamite, and, although the car was broken into splinters and another piled on top of it, and even some of the explosive sticks broken in two, the dynamite did not explode.

Bought a Peer-Farm.

How the purchase of a farm, by Union township, this county, for the purpose of a home for the poor, affected the poor fund of that district, as well as some of those claiming aid from the township heretofore, is graphically told by our esteemed correspondent from Unionville, and the experiment would work equally as well in some other townships.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

LIGHT THE LIGHTS.

When the darkness gathers 'round you;
Light the lights;
When the gloomy feelings bound you,
Light the lights;
When the day gets damp and dreary,
And you're downcast, blue and weary,
Make an effort to be cheery;
Light the lights!
When your trusted friends deceive you,
Light the lights;
When your money matters grieve you,
Light the lights;
Don't lie still and take a lickin'
Like a poor, disabled chicken,
Shew you're still alive and kickin';
Light the lights!
When your fondest hopes desert you,
Light the lights!
Don't let gloom and darkness hurt you,
Light the lights!
Every cloud has got a linin'
What's the use of tears and whinin'
'Till the sun gets at its shinin';
Light the lights!

—Hartford Times.

I cannot sing of gentle spring
While April blizzards blow,
The clouds to-day may clear away,
To-morrow it may snow.

One rood turn down deserves another.
The girl with freckles is obliged to wear specks.
Success often depends upon knowing what not to do.

Shad fishermen are beginning to figure on the net profits.
An opportunity seldom comes back for a second trial.

You can't have a blow-out without something to blow in.

The fellow who speaks of his "luggage" is trying to put on lugs.

The man who put his trust in riches should put his riches in Trust.

It's the backing a man has that enables him to put up a good front.

The fellow who is run over by an automobile is apt to have the tired feeling.

The fellow who has nothing to say generally manages to say it at great length.

Some people never put anything by for a rainy day until they see the clouds gathering.

Most people experience considerable difficulty in living up to their college-bred children.

A young man who undoubtedly knows whereof he speaks defines the chapman as a press censor.

When the busy little bee gets his load he goes straight home—which is more than any man can do.

"The only man who can truly say that his wife is an angel," says the Cynical Bachelor, "is the widower."

AMERICAN EXTRAVAGANCE.

Economy in this country, and especially on the Pacific coast, is almost disreputable, says the San Francisco Bulletin. A man is ashamed to acknowledge that he walks to save fare or orders a light lunch to save the expense of a heavy one. One never finds Californians ordering one portion of meat at a restaurant for two persons, even when they know that one portion would be enough for both. There was a time, not long ago, when people in San Francisco disdained to accept change from a quarter of a dollar, and, especially in barrooms, the porter thrived and grew rich on the small silver, contemptuously called "chicken feed," which patrons left on the bar. To be saving in the United States a man must have moral courage. The man who refuses to pay more than a reasonable price for clothes, let us say, or for dinners, and who puts the money thus saved into a bank feels like a thief, and people talk and act as if it were a crime to save money. Only in extravagant America, however, is economy disreputable. Here as some one has written, where one man is as good as another, he must be lavish of his money; being all sovereigns, we must be all prodigal as princes. But in Europe no one respects a man the less or treats him the worse for trying to live cheaply. People practice little economies in Europe. They dare not order a big dinner when they want only a light collation. They are not afraid to travel second class or to put up at the quieter and less expensive first class hotels.

I. O. O. F. Orphanage.

Work will soon be begun on the new Odd Fellows' Orphanage near Snyder town, to accommodate 240 children in place of the present one, which accommodates but sixty-six, and which is to be turned into an aged Odd Fellows' Home. The new orphanage is to be built of brick and stone and is to cost about \$50,000. The grounds are already secured, the plans have been adopted and it is expected to complete the building within the present year. At present there are sixty-six children in the home. All are well taken care of, the best sanitary conditions are maintained, the freedom from disease is remarkable and deaths among the little ones are very few.