

"RIPPER" UP FOR PASSAGE

Reported Back to the House as Committed and Goes on the Calendar for Wednesday.

ALLEGHENY PEOPLE ARE OBJECTING

Even Senator Muehlbrunner Says the Bill Will Have to Be Amended, but the Chances Are Senator Quay Will Not Allow Anything to Be Done That Will Be Liable to Rub Scranton the Wrong Way—Representative James Introduces a Labor Measure That Will Revolutionize Laws Governing Liens—New Primary Elections Bill Introduced.

Special from a Staff Correspondent.

Harrisburg, Feb. 15.—The Muehlbrunner bill was reported from the municipal affairs committee by Chairman Caldwell, this morning. As told in yesterday's report of the meeting of the committee, it was decided not to amend the bill in any particular, and when it came back to the house today it will be in the same shape as when committed.

It will come up on first reading next Wednesday night. An attempt was made to delay its progress by adjourning until a week from Monday, but the friends of the measure succeeded in preventing this. The fact that no session will be held on Friday, Washington's birthday, was used as the main argument for having a recess all of next week. The strikers, however, refused to listen to this argument, and as a consequence the legislature will come back for a session Wednesday night and Thursday.

It is almost certain that the bill will not pass in its present shape. Some amendments must be made to its phrasing to put it in legal form, and some other amendments must be made to its provisions to make it acceptable to the Allegheny and Pittsburg people, not excluding Senator Muehlbrunner himself. The concessions to Scranton, which make the treasurer and controller elective by the people, is the principle objectionable feature. Allegheny has always filled those offices by councilman election, and they want this method to be retained, allowing, however, that the recorder shall nominate, as in the case of the other heads of departments. Should this revision be made, the only officers to be filled by the people would be mayor, assessors and councilmen. Amendments to effect this and other less important revisions will be prepared by the western friends of the measure between this time and Wednesday.

Efforts to Determine Vote. Strenuous efforts have been made to get a line on the probable vote for and against the "ripper" in the house, but owing to the fact that the Quay Republicans who will not support it, and the Quay Democrats who will support it, do not propose to commit themselves until they have to, makes all estimates a matter of pure guesswork.

Speaker Marshall says the bill will assuredly pass, and that if it is amended the amendments will be made only by friends of the measure. Representative Harry Hall, who will likely lead the fight against the bill, declined to make any estimate of the bill's "ripper" strength, but expressed himself as confident it would not pass with the "ripper" clause.

If Senator Quay is on the ground by Thursday next, as he promised, the chances are the bill will be passed practically as it stands. Those of the Lackawanna delegates who will "swallow the ripper" have served notice that they must have an aid to disposition everything that Scranton has asked, which means practically all the most recent amendments. The stand taken by Congressman Conell, the defection of Senator Vaughan and the refusal of Representative Philbrick to commit himself for the "ripper" under any conditions, will make it advisable to go to extremes to placate the Lackawanna men and Senator Quay is the kind of man to see this necessity and act accordingly. To the Allegheny people he will likely say: "You are getting reform, and you must be willing to make some concessions." If, however, the Ripperites can show they are able to get along without the majority of the Lackawanna representatives, Scranton will have to be content with such concessions as are not objectionable to Allegheny.

T. J. Duffy.

TO BOOST LABOR CLAIMS.

Representative James Introduces a Bill Amending Lien Laws.

Special from a Staff Correspondent.

Harrisburg, Feb. 15.—By a bill introduced in the house of representatives today by Mr. James it is proposed to effect a revolution in the matter of preference of liens by making labor claims superior to almost all others. The act is entitled an act to provide a lien to secure the payment of money due for care and diligence and money expended in or about personal property by reason of any contract, express or implied, and for labor at agriculture, mining, manufacture and other manual employment, excepting only such labor as is now protected by laws relating to mechanics liens, liens upon ships and vessels and liens of keepers of boarding houses and livery stables. It provides that laborers and employees of any person, association of persons or corporation whether such employment be at agriculture, mining, manufacture or other manual labor shall have a

lien upon the real property or upon any estate or interest therein of their employer for their wages, which is hereby declared to be superior to the following liens taken or attaching during the existence of said labor claims; liens of attachments, liens of mortgage given or taken at the time of actual insolvency of the debtor or with a view of preferring creditors or to secure a re-examination of a superior to claims for homestead or other exemptions.

On Ballot Reform.

Representative Van Dyke, Quayite, of Westmoreland county, introduced the bill prepared by the committee on ballot reform of Pittsburg, and drafted by George D. Guthrie, of the chamber of commerce, which provides that primary elections shall be conducted by the regular election officers on the same ballot as a general election, the candidates to register with the county commissioners and separate ballots for the several parties to be prepared at the expense of the county or municipality, as the case may be.

Railway Platform Bill.

Last week Mr. James set about the task of preparing a bill to compel street railway companies to enclose the platforms of their cars, that the motormen and conductors might be protected from hardships in inclement weather. To his surprise, if not chagrin, today Mr. Davis of Fayette county, introduced a bill drafted along the identical lines that were being followed by Mr. James.

It requires all railway companies, conveying passengers by any power other than locomotives, to provide the platforms of their cars, during the months of November, December, January, February and March, with enclosure of wood, iron, glass or other suitable material, sufficient to protect the employees from the inclemency of the weather.

A company will, after the passage of the act, subject itself to a fine of from \$50 to \$100 for every day any car, in the season prescribed, shall be operated on the public streets or highways, cars known as trailers being alone exempt. The district attorney is empowered and directed to institute prosecutions for violations of the law, when the same are brought to his notice.

Mr. Calder's Bill.

To the stack of bills already presented imposing restrictive regulations and taxes on foreign mutual loan and building associations, the bill introduced today by Mr. Calder, of Dauphin county, making such institutions subject to a license tax of \$100 a year. Nearly all these bills come to the legislature in printed form and the foras in every instance are identical, indicating that the assault is an organized one.

The McClain bill amending the general corporation act of 1874 is again before the house. It provides that an act shall be so amended as to authorize the formation of corporations for any lawful purpose, not otherwise specifically provided for by the general law, excluding the distilling and manufacture of intoxicating liquors, and providing that not more than one kind of business shall be conducted under one charter, and that business must be set forth in the charter.

At the last session this bill passed and was signed by the governor. Before it went out of the executive's control, however, it was discovered that some one had surreptitiously changed the provisions relating to "including" in the clause referring to distilleries, and the governor withdrew his approval.

Prompted by the action of a judge in the trial of a corporation case recently defeated in a civil action, a juror, when the plaintiff complained that the juror was an employe of the defendant company, "Farmer" Cressy, of Columbia, presented a bill "to disqualify officers, stockholders, agents and employes of corporations, plaintiffs or defendants in a civil action, or persons sustaining such relations toward affiliated companies, from sitting as jurors in the trial of such cases." A mandate is attached directing that the court shall sustain a challenge made on this ground.

Insurance Measure.

Mr. Caldwell, of Philadelphia, is responsible for a measure requiring insurance companies to publish an itemized statement of their assets, with the value of each item, in the two papers of largest circulation in the cities where their headquarters are located.

Three measures that will have a hard time of it in the endeavor to escape the freak morgue were among today's new bills.

THE OLEO WAR.

Twenty-Five Informations Made Against Dealers at Pittsburg.

Pittsburg, Feb. 15.—Twenty-five informations were made against dealers today by the Pure Food Commissioner James Terry on the charge of violating the state dairy and food laws in selling oleomargarine. The suits have been entered before Alderman John Callif. The names of the defendants will not be made public until the appearing for a hearing.

BREAD RIOTS IN BUDAPEST.

Several Thousand Persons Out of Work March Through Streets.

Budapest, Feb. 15.—Several thousand persons out of work marched through the principal streets here today carrying notices such as "Bread is our right" and singing the Marseillaise. They also had smashing the windows of restaurants and stores.

"Joists" Raided at Wichita.

Wichita, Kansas, Feb. 15.—A special from Peck, a small place fourteen miles south, says the men and women raided two "joists" and ordered the proprietors out. Being refused they completely smashed the buildings. The stock of liquor was carried to the railway station and ordered shipped to Wichita.

On Governor's Staff.

Harrisburg, Feb. 15.—General orders were issued today by the board of directors of the State Guard of Pennsylvania announcing the appointment of Colonel W. Fred Reynolds, of Bellefonte, as an aide on Governor Stone's staff, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Colonel George A. Huber, of Philadelphia.

SHIPPING BILL IS DISCUSSED

Senator Teller Arouses Impassioned Speeches by His Opposition to the Measure.

SENATOR HANNA'S TALK

He Emphatically Denounces the Methods Employed by the Senator from Colorado to Defeat the Measure and Resents the Insinuations as to His Honesty—Mr. Perkins, of California, Delivers an Eloquent and Forceful Speech.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Washington, Feb. 15.—That the opposition to the shipping bill in the senate will not permit a vote to be taken on the measure at the present session was made clear during the closing hours of today's session. For several days it has been evident that it would be difficult to gain unanimous consent to take a vote on the measure, but not until late today was the frank assertion made that a vote could not be had.

At the conclusion of several hours consideration of the bill, Mr. Teller of Colorado, announced his purpose to prevent a vote at this session. In an impassioned speech he declared that he would not consent to any agreement to vote, and that it must be evident to the advocates of the bill that no vote could be had.

The statement by the Colorado senator elicited a sharp response from Mr. Aldrich, of Rhode Island, who insisted that, despite the declaration of Mr. Teller, the business of the senate would go on with in accordance with the wishes of the majority.

Mr. Teller's statement also drew the fire of Mr. Chandler, of New Hampshire, who stated that the position of the opposition was preposterous. Mr. Hanna, of Ohio, replied to Mr. Teller in a forceful speech, in the course of which he became impassioned in his denunciation of the methods employed by the opposition to defeat the measure.

The advocates of the bill, however, were honestly endeavoring to advance the best interests of the country, and he resented the insinuations against their honesty of purpose.

Prior to these remarks Mr. Perkins, of California, delivered an eloquent and forceful speech upon the bill, which attracted much attention. He supported the bill, particularly the idea of giving subsidies to American vessels, but pointed out what he believed to be defects in the pending measure. He attacked especially the provisions for the admission of foreign-built ships.

Earlier in the day the agricultural appropriation bill passed after being under discussion for nearly four days. There is considerable pressure upon the friends of the subsidy bill to draw it, but so far they have declined to yield, taking the position, as they did in the steering committee, that it was more desirable to have the bill defeated by Democratic antagonism than to have it voluntarily withdrawn.

In the House.

Under the leadership of Mr. Cannon, chairman of the appropriations committee, a long filibuster consumed the time of the house today. Mr. Cannon desired the house to proceed with the sundry civil appropriation bill, but was caught napping by the Democrats, who desired to devote the day to the consideration of private claims. It was the last day under the rules which could be devoted to claims, and Mr. Cannon was outwitted, but he kept up the fight all day, forcing roll-calls for three hours and later filibustering in committee on the subject of withdrawing by making the point of no quorum against two small bills favorably acted upon in committee. The net result was that the whole day was wasted.

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INVENTORY FIRES.

Conflagrations at Chicago Are Suspicious in Character.

SIXTY MEN IMPRISONED

Terrible Results Follow an Explosion at Victoria, Canada.

MINE SHAFT IS WRECKED

Explosion of Gas Ignites the Mine and Destroys the Shaft—Sixty Men in the Mine at the Time of the Explosion, and Not One Has Escaped. A Rescue Party Hard at Work—A Hopeless Task.

TRAGEDY IN PITTSBURG.

Three Men Killed and Others Wounded While Thawing Dynamite.

TROLLEY ACCIDENT AT PITTSBURG

Car Jumps the Tracks and Is Totally Wrecked—Twenty Passengers Injured.

THE ENVOYS INSIST ON PUNISHMENT

Their Decision Regarding the Guilty at Pekin Has Been Declared Irrevocable—Fu Siang's Sentence.

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Services Over the Remains Held in the Serbian Orthodox Church.

MAURICE THOMPSON DEAD.

Negro Hanged.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Forecast for Saturday and Sunday: Eastern Pennsylvania: Fair Saturday and Sunday; fresh west wind; fair days; permitted to clear. The crisis is regarded as postponed if not ended.

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In an Interview in the Pall Mall Magazine He Asks for Some One to Interfere.

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But Says That the Hands of the Boers Were Forced—The Ex-President Bitterly Disappointed with His Reception in Europe—Grateful for Bouquets but Cares Nothing for Them—He Only Wants a Fair Hearing—The Situation at Cape Town—Lord Methuen Gathering Them In.

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