

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1914.

A BILL for the repeal of the "local option law" has been reported favorably to the House.

The committee appointed to investigate the attempt to levy black mail on the banks of the State, has reported that William H. Dimmick, late a member of the House, Lewis B. Richtmyer and J. M. Kreiter are clearly proven guilty of attempting to extort money from the banks.

We observe in the published report of the Legislative proceedings, that a bill appropriating one million of dollars towards the Centennial project has passed the Senate by a vote of 24 to 7. We have not yet seen the argument adduced in favor of this bill, but we fail to comprehend how, under the new Constitution, an appropriation of this kind can be made.

The apportionment bill dividing the State into fifty Senatorial districts as required by the new Constitution, has been reported to the Senate. By this bill the old Senatorial district of Somerset, Bedford and Blair is restored, and numbered the Thirty-sixth. If it passes in this shape, we will have a Senator to elect in November next.

The Judicial salary bill, as it passed the House, fixes the salaries of the Supreme Court Judges at \$7,000; District Judges, and the Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Harrisburg at \$5,000; County Judges at \$4,000; Judges of separate Orphans' Courts at \$3,500, and Associate Judges at \$3,000 per day, but not less than \$300 per annum.

JUDGE SAFFORD, of Hillsboro, O., has decided that the praying women are a nuisance. The Judge in granting the application for an injunction to prevent a band of singing and praying women from interfering with the business of a drugist, after stating that there was no objection to singing and praying when they were conducted so as not to disturb private rights or public tranquility, added: "When such worship is made the pretext of breaking up a man's lawful trade; of interfering with the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of his own property; of bringing him into public ridicule and disgrace; of defaming his calling and character, and this without intermission for six consecutive weeks in the storms and colds of winter, creating heart burnings among neighbors, defamation of private character, and an unsettled state of society—that, sir, is a nuisance."

AFTER all the shameless charges of fraud made by the McClure-Forney clique, against the Republicans of Philadelphia, that voracious tribe of imbeciles, after gathering through their subordinate a considerable sum of money, for the ostensible purpose of contesting Mayor Stokely's election, now announce that they will not make a contest for the reasons that we would require three years to try the case and an expenditure of \$25,000. Prudent, thoughtful, economical gentlemen! And how remarkable the fact, that McClure is never a candidate but a gang of graceless scoundrels take advantage of his unsuspecting nature, to cheat him out of his election. The innocent McClure will be known in history as the "great defrauded."

A BILL has passed the House at Harrisburg and been sent to the Senate for concurrence, requiring the publication of an annual statement of the receipts and expenditures of street commissioners, supervisors, overseers of the poor, and school directors of the several townships and boroughs of this Commonwealth, and to designate a day to settle, adjust, and audit township and borough accounts. This is a much needed law, as under our present system the taxpayers of the township have little or no knowledge of how the monies collected for township purposes are expended. By compelling all local officers to publish an account of their receipts and expenditures, a much more rigid system of accountability will be introduced.

A BILL providing for the collection of State and county taxes—in a manner similar to a special law now in operation in several counties of the State—has passed second reading in the House, and we trust will become a law.

The bill requires the Commissioners of each county to prepare a duplicate of all real and personal property assessed for State and County purposes, not later than the first Monday of April annually, which duplicate shall be delivered to the county Treasurer, who shall give at least thirty days notice by publication in two newspapers and by hand bills, of the times and places when and where he will receive the said taxes. All parties paying their taxes before the 1st day of September will be entitled to a deduction of five per cent, and all taxes remaining unpaid sixty days after September 1st, shall be placed in the hands of a collector or constable, whose compensation shall be ten per cent on the amount collected. The bill further provides for settlements to be made by the collectors and constables, fixes the compensation of Treasurers at two per cent upon all taxes collected, and two per cent of the act going into effect at January 1st, 1915.

Now, let a good law for the proper and uniform assessment of these taxes be passed, compelling each owner of taxable property to make a return under oath, and the volume of our receipts will be largely increased, while the taxes of the small property holders will be greatly reduced.

THURSDAY last was a field day in the House for crabbie economists and slystering politicians, each of whom in turn took a stab at the newspaper publishers of the State, with those who aid but few of them would have ever seen Harrisburg, the subject matter of discussion, if the blatherskiting of these embryo statesmen can be dignified by that term, was the Constitutional advertising bill, with which those honorable gentlemen have been impudently wrestling for some weeks. Vehement in their protestations of honesty and economy, they seized upon and used a few extortionate bills, among the numbers presented, as a scape-goat for the gas of their consuming integrity. Hence they reviled the newspapers indiscriminately, instead of making provisions to pay the just bills of the mass, and providing for the auditing and pruning down of the few unjust ones. However, we didn't expect the new Constitution to act as a general food eradicator, and therefore are not disappointed.

THEY are laughing consequentially in Philadelphia over the mishap of a certain Mr. Dunlap, who was nominated for Common Council in the Thirtieth ward of that city prior to the late election, at the same time Mrs. Woolper and Mrs. Paist were nominated for School Directors. The ward was Republican, and there was no question raised as to the fairness with which these nominations were made. But, as the election progressed, Mr. Dunlap got it into his head that the nomination of the women was unpopular, and that their remaining upon the Republican ticket would injure him, and probably defeat him. He therefore got the Ward Committee to throw the women off the ticket and nominate two men in their place. The women made fight, insisted on retaining their places on the ticket, and gathered friends around them for active work; and the result was the women were elected, and Mr. Dunlap was defeated. The very thing he thought necessary to save him killed him.

NOTWITHSTANDING the course of Hon. John Scott in the Senate of the United States has been so creditable to the State, and in such perfect accordance with the views and interests of the large mass of his constituents, while his marked ability as a thinker and debater have won him a national reputation, certain journals, and notably Forney's Press, have been misrepresenting his views and attempting to destroy his reputation—evidently with a view of preventing his reelection—by systematic, downright misstatements and falsehood. Doubtless, despising his calculations, and desiring to make his personal affairs the subject of remark in the Senate, Mr. Scott has hitherto quietly and contemptuously ignored the calumnies published about his personal views and public declarations. But his friends in different parts of the State, less philosophic than he, insisted that he should no longer silently submit to such gross misrepresentation, and accordingly, as we find in the Congressional Record of the 28th ult., Mr. Scott rose to a personal explanation, during which he pointed out the frequent and flagrant misrepresentations of the Press, and showed from the Record that its reporters knowingly, wilfully, and maliciously lied upon and misstated his views.

We are sorry that we cannot give herewith the full text of Mr. Scott's remarks, but we append the concluding pungent paragraph: "Now, Mr. President, with the proprietor of the paper (the Press) which first gave currency to this falsehood, and with the instrument he uses to furnish such materials for his columns, I can have no controversy. I have referred to instances of misrepresentation which have been, perhaps, intended to affect me both personally and in my public character, but not for the purpose of entering into any personal controversy. I depart, in this instance, from the rule of my life, to live down slander instead of noticing it, because my constituents have demanded it of me as a public duty. It is only in response to their demand that I rise for the purpose of saying to this constituency, who thus consider it my duty to notice this unauthorized fabrication of my opinions on a public question, that neither my opinion upon public questions, nor my conduct in the Senate upon any question is likely to be either correctly or fairly reported in the dispatches of a paper represented here, with the knowledge of its proprietor, by one who, whom speaking of me, has been more frequently an eavesdropper and a listener than an impartial journalist."

A NEW license bill, under the title of an "Act regulating the sale of vinous and spirituous liquors" has been reported to the House. We find in the Pittsburgh Gazette the following synopsis of it.

The bill authorizes license to be granted by the commissioners of the different cities, towns, and counties to persons of good moral character. Application must be made "both by those now selling, and by those who design to sell in future, before June 1, 1874, and annually thereafter. The application must give a description of the premises to be occupied, must pay three dollars for the same, and shall thereupon receive a "certificate of location." This certificate must be presented to the Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions, together with a bond of \$1,000 "with two securities," for the faithful observance of the law, the bond, after the approval by the city or county commissioners, to be filed. The District Attorney shall enter up this bond in case of any violation of law. The clerk of the Court may charge three dollars, of which one is for the District

Attorney, and shall issue a certificate of "filling the bond, which shall be presented to the city or county treasurer, who may charge two dollars and the amount of license hereafter fixed," and shall issue a certificate of license. License may be issued at pro rata for parts of a year to new houses. License fees shall be charged according to the sales, viz.: When the yearly sales shall be over ten thousand dollars the license shall be two hundred dollars; when more than five thousand dollars, and less than ten thousand dollars, the license shall be fifty dollars. Violation of this law shall be a misdemeanor, and the act shall not apply to druggists, apothecaries or grocers.

The appraisers of mercantile taxes shall make a return annually of all distillers, brewers, companies and wholesale dealers, and all such persons shall pay annually as follows: Those whose sales exceed \$50,000 shall pay \$100; those between \$100,000 and \$200,000 shall pay \$150, and those over \$200,000 shall pay \$200. The distillers, brewers compounders and wholesale dealers shall not sell in quantities under five gallons, unless bottled and delivered in quantities not less than one dozen. This act shall not apply to importers.

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That old Kentucky should make it a necessity of educating her colored children may in part arise from the fear of the passage of Senator Sumner's mixed school provision of Civil Rights, and a desire to meet it squarely; but that any number of sane educationists in Ohio should propose to emasculate their system of public school education by taking away its head, and with it necessarily the chief brain power, is an anomaly in American experience. The great defect of the system here in our District is this very deficiency which is about to be in part supplied by a normal school. The permanent stimulus of a High School into which white and colored grades are sifted is potent in its beneficial effect all the way up to the primary school, and should never be dispensed with in a State or municipal organization.

The true relative positions of the Democratic and Republican parties in Ohio on the subject of the constitutional right to aid interstate commerce by Federal control of lines of transportation and internal improvements concerning the same. Mr. Arthur, of Kentucky, denied the right of Congress to interfere as proposed in the House Transportation Bill. Mr. Harburt, of Illinois, claimed that it was a proper extension of a well known and thoroughly understood power of the Government; that the great railroads and canals were as great channels of commerce as the great rivers, and therefore subject to the power governing commerce. Mr. Crary, of Iowa, Chairman of the Committee on Railroads and Canals, on Tuesday last, also expressed the views of the Republican party with great force and fulness on this important subject, so "that the wayfaring man, tho' a fool, cannot err therein."

The centennial question is now fairly up before the Senate, and it is lamentable to observe that the States far removed from the designated place of holding the same generally ignore it, while the real interests of Philadelphia unobtrusively plead for the removal of the date, and special pleading. The International Centennial Exposition ought to be taken in hand by Congress, and a patriotic enthusiasm should inspire the action of Congress on the subject without regard to locality.

LIFE. OUR NEW YORK LETTER. NEW YORK, MARCH 9, 1874. FEMALE BARRERS. Two women, at least, have secured their rights, and have now at the bar of the Supreme Court. Two very pretty young girls, aged respectively 18 and 20, had a papa who was rich, and who lived in grand style on Fifth avenue. Papa got into the hands of the Philistines last autumn, and busted. The girls were penniless, and, in the meantime, the father had been fashionably educated, and they felt their poor father's distress keenly. The old gentleman's trouble so weighed upon his mind that he sickened and took to his bed, and got into a bad way generally. The house in which he lived was fortunately in his wife's name, so they could not be turned out of doors, but as the old gentleman had sunk every dollar he had in the world, the question of bread and butter became an eminent one.

One morning the old gentleman's barber came around to shave him, and Ella, the eldest girl, said she could do it. She took her father's implements and shaved him as nicely and neatly as any tonsorial artist could do it, and dressed his hair and trimmed his whiskers, and propped him up in bed as comfortably as you please. An idea struck Mary the younger.

"Ella if you can shave papa, you can shave any other man."

"True," said Ella.

"If you can shave a man I can shave a man."

"True once more. But what has this to do with us?"

"Ella, do you want to starve?"

"No my child."

"Papa can't get out, mamma is selling off the plate to get what we eat each day. Let us stop all this by starting a barber-shop."

Ella saw the point. "The two girls rigged up a barber-shop in the room which their father had left behind him, and they wouldn't get dismissed, because he wouldn't get, and they shaved him for practice, and dressed his hair, and trimmed his whiskers every day. To accommodate them he brought his friends in, and in a week's time the girls were as well known and existing workmen, or rather work-women."

Then they sold the horses and carriages, and taking the proceeds fitted up a modest, but very neat shop in Union Square and went at it. The first customers they had were young clerks, who were in the habit of coming to the office, and there is a general derangement, so that the average New Yorker hasn't any idea where he stands. Even goods in a store have no fixed value, for behold you, a man's next door neighbor may be in a position that compels him to raise money to meet his bills, and he must sell his goods to the demoralization of the market for days. Oh my benevolent friends, you don't know how well you are off. The man who has a farm of 160 acres of fat land, paid for and well stocked, is in as good a shape as a man in the world can be. Such a man doesn't know what trouble is.

Think of a man worth a million of dollars of dry goods in his store, on which he owes \$600,000. Now the man is worth \$400,000. But he can't sell his goods—nobody is buying anything and his paper is maturing. "Worse" it worsens, what would you do that would be wise? "Marry a man like you," replied Mary, dabbling her shaving brush in his mouth.

which would be, if adopted, to destroy the high school grade of the common school in Ohio.

With this order for action in Ohio, the Bureau has information of the passage by the Legislature of Kentucky of a bill providing for the education of colored children in that State.

That old Kentucky should make it a necessity of educating her colored children may in part arise from the fear of the passage of Senator Sumner's mixed school provision of Civil Rights, and a desire to meet it squarely; but that any number of sane educationists in Ohio should propose to emasculate their system of public school education by taking away its head, and with it necessarily the chief brain power, is an anomaly in American experience.

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THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT. In its western form has not struck us here yet, but nevertheless, there is great activity among the temperance and religious people. Organizations are being perfected in every ward to make head against the monster, and the work that has been done has not been fruitless. The reformers here have not remonstrated against the rum-seller, but they have confined their efforts to the saloon. They are establishing reading rooms, and pleasant resorts as substitutes for the saloon, and tea and coffee as substitutes for rum. And although they have but commenced, they have won thousands from their ruin, and in one neighborhood have nearly closed for want of custom. Is not this a pretty good way?

DISTRESS. The distress among the sick unemployed people in New York at this time is terrible. Much has been done by the charitable to relieve it, but not one dollar has been given where ten should be. Young James Gordon Bennett, of the Herald, established soup houses to the extent of \$30,000, and others have done the same thing, which is good as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. There is a great deal of public soup houses can, generally, get on without it, for they are able to do something. But the worst cases are known only in the houses where they live. Many prefer starvation to beggary, and shrink from allowing their distress to be made public.

Mr. Christy presented a petition of 1,300 ladies of Allegheny county, asking for the passage of a Prohibitory Liquor law.

Mr. Young, a petition of 1,700 voters of Allegheny of the same import, and Mr. Wright reported Cressler's Social Evil bill with an affirmative recommendation. The House refused to print the bill before it was reported, hence the speedy action.

Mr. Newmyer, from the general Judiciary Committee, reported the bill relating to transfers of bank stocks and loans of this Commonwealth by married women. This bill allows them to transfer securities the same as unmarried women.

Mr. Christy from the committee on Federal Relations, reported with amendments the joint resolution respecting the President's conveyance of court-martials to here Fitz John Porter's case.

Mr. Christy introduced a bill relative to compulsory arbitrations. Its provisions are intended to remedy the evil which now exists of the defense extending the rule of reference for the purpose of delay when he has no defense to the action.

HARRISBURG, MARCH 2.—The bill regulating the manner of increasing the indebtedness of cities passed the Senate finally.

Various petitions and remonstrances relating to the proposed reformation of the Senate were in session but a short time.

The House passed about twenty bills up to second reading, but none finally.

HARRISBURG, MARCH 3.—In the Senate Mr. Gray introduced a motion for the adjournment of the session.

Mr. Rutan.—The legislative apportionment bill, giving Allegheny county four Senators and fifteen members.

In the House the following bills passed finally: The Judicial salary bill. Changes of venue. Appointment of Coal Commissioners. Collection of debts of non-residents.

provide for the election of Lieutenant Governor. And the several appropriation bills here-tofore reported.

Before completing the last however the House adjourned.

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