

STATE CAPITAL GOSSIP.

HARRISBURG, April 10, 1891. Forest county this week was prominent in the Senate and in nearly every daily newspaper in the State. It happened this way: A few days before Governor Beaver's time expired Dr. Stonecipher resigned the Coronership of Forest county. There was but one applicant for the position and the name of that applicant was placed before Governor Beaver and the appointment promptly made. About this time Beaver had also appointed a State Superintendent of Education, and others. By request of Democratic Senators as a mark of courtesy to incoming Governor Pattison, these appointments were laid over in the Senate until after the inauguration of the latter. On January 29th Governor Pattison's cabinet and Beaver's appointees, including the Coroner of Forest county were confirmed by the Senate. Two months went by, and then the editor of the Forest National, through Mr. Heusel, had Governor Pattison appoint another gentleman, (the commission of Beaver's appointee not having been issued) this gentleman was also a Republican, and nobody kicking, the Senate, in a moment of forgetfulness, confirmed the second appointment, and the commission was issued. Soon after the question was written to the member for Forest, how this thing happened, and the member soon found out, and so did the Republican Senators. Time went by until last Thursday, when the Democrats wanted three appointees of Governor Pattison's confirmed. The Republican Senators, (awakened by the Forest county incident), replied that the commissions of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and of State Librarian, appointed by Governor Beaver and confirmed by the Senate two months ago, had not been issued, and that the Democrats had not kept faith with the Republicans. The Democratic Senators squirmed, and said they thought the commissions would issue all right, and then the Republicans brought up the Forest county Coronership, and said that showed what the Democratic administration had done and could do again, and they emphatically declined to confirm any more important appointments until the commissions for Governor Beaver's appointments were issued. So these worthy Democrats are out in the cold waiting for the administration to come to time. The jolly editor of the National Democrat has been ill for some time, and it seems to have afforded him a great deal of amusement in his sickness, to think how he circumvented the member for Forest and got the laugh on the Republicans. That's all right, glad he had his fun to shorten his weary hours; but let us look into this funny business. The jolly editor was a strong Wallace man and when Governor Pattison was nominated report says he packed his little grip and swore by the holy poker, or something else, that the Republicans had nominated Pattison and now they could elect him, he was going hunting to Michigan. He went, anyhow he stayed away until near the close of the campaign and it was cold comfort candidate Pattison got from him. Now, seeing that his move in the Coroner business has served the very laudable purpose of waking up the Republican Senators to the fact that one of Governor Beaver's appointees was knocked out and the commissions of three others, not yet issued, it would strike an unprejudiced mind that the Republicans ought to smile, and rise up and say, "thank you, ah, thank you." Then again, when one remembers the strong Wallace feeling of the editor, and all that followed, and also when one remembers that in seeking to knock out so sick, Beaver's appointee, ye editor ignored, absolutely ignored, the few hundreds of worthy Democratic gentlemen in Forest county, who would have made excellent Coroners, to do what? This, to have appointed a gentleman (and the word is used sincerely and advisedly) who was an ultra Republican, a strong adherent and friend of Senator Delamater, so strong that he rode with him in his special car on his election trip, and worked hard for Delamater's election. To the appointment of this strong Republican gentleman, the Republicans could not object and certainly did not. Now, then, taking all this into account, the Wallace position, the cold comfort for Pattison in the election, the ignoring of those of his own political faith, and the securing of the appointment of a strong Republican and adherent of Delamater and the winking up of the Senate, is not the trick or joke played, not on the Republicans, but on His Excellency, Robert E. Pattison, Governor of this Commonwealth? Ah! how we smile! From a Democratic standpoint it don't

now look so very, very funny, does it? And now, that the light has been thrown on this little affair, and the Republican laugh echoes over the bills of Forest county, let some one gently draw the curtain and close the shutters lest the noise disturb the patient. There has been no final legislation this week of much interest to Forest county, but a great deal of work has been done in both Senate and House. Next week three sessions a day will be held and so continue until the session is ended. This morning a large number of appropriation bills were got through the committee and will give hard work to members from this on. The apportionment bills are not yet out of committee, that is the Republican bills, which of course are the only ones that will be passed. However Judicially your member has assurances that Forest will be left where it is. The Legislative bills will also pass; the Senatorial and Congressional will cause much anguish of heart and more political figuring. An effort will be made to put them through, though the feeling is that the Republican bills will get a veto. The ballot reform bill will probably pass and ought to pass though there is some opposition being worked up against it. The Granger tax bill is not out of committee. A brief history of that bill is a necessity. The tax commission was composed of nine members. Five made a majority report, four a minority report. Experts say the minority report was the best, however the Republican party was pledged on tax revision and the Grangers adopted the majority report and it so came to the House. A large number of copies of the bills were sent out as soon as printed, but few objections either by newspapers, letters or remonstrances appeared. But few opponents of the bill appeared before the Ways and Means committee while many advocates appeared in its favor. The members, and especially the country members, were deluged with letters and petitions praying for and instructing them to do all in their power to pass the bill. The rain of letters and petitions were simply a holy terror, the demand was imperative, the instructions definite. Many of the members knew that while the principle aimed at in the bill was good, yet its construction, its requirements and its burdens were something fearful to contemplate. What was to be done? Only one of two things: obey instructions or take the bit in their teeth and defeat it. To do the latter with the feeble opposition and in the face of possible instructions, was political suicide; for mark you, it's harder to satisfy people that you did right in disregarding instructions than it is to satisfy them by following instructions and letting them see it afterwards. So the House, knowing that there was ample time for the people to once more express themselves before it passed the Senate, put it through the House. No sooner was this done, than the newspapers of the State, that up to that time had taken but little notice, and had but little advice to give, began to "lam" it to the House. It was a terrible bill, a fearful thing, a damnable affair, etc., etc. Constituents wrote in anger and came down to the Capital in wrath. "Why in Joppy did you vote for such a bill as that," was the question, and the calm answer was and is: "Your name is on the petition; I am here not as Tom Jones, but your representative, I obeyed your instructions and those of my constituents, you are now sorry for it, and so am I." That's the history, but we all know that it will be amended in the Senate, sent back to the House and we will get at it again, and now that the people understand what they did not before Senators will have a good deal more latitude than the House had.

THE Farmers' Alliance Legislatures have been and gone and done—nothing. It has been a case of great fear and no fruit. The farmer is just where he was before, dependent on protection for the best market he has or any farmer has ever had.—Phila. Press.

THE immigration bill passed by the last Congress, which went into effect April 1, meets the general demand, since the New Orleans massacre, that unfit immigrants be turned back. Criminals, paupers, and the diseased, immigrants aided by employers, drawn by advertisements, under contract, or without means of support, are all excluded by the terms of this stringent and sweeping act passed by a Republican House which every Democratic newspaper is abusing.

THE retirement of U. S. Senator Edmunds from the Senate, Tuesday of last week, was a surprise to the country, and a disappointment to the people of the United States generally, who have come to look upon him as one of the brainiest and safest men in the world. Senator Edmunds is in his 64th year, and has been a member of the Senate continuously for a quarter of a century. In his letter to the Governor of Vermont tendering his resignation he says the "considerations

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are entirely personal," and added: "This action has been for some time in contemplation and is finally decided on and communicated to you at this time in order that there may be ample time to hear and consider the views of the people of our State in respect to the selection of my successor."

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