

BUSINESS LIKE LEGISLATURE

Work in the Senate and House at
Harrisburg Expediently
Transacted.

THE REGULARS IN CONTROL

Many Subjects and Diverse Interests Are Affected by Bills Now Under Consideration in Committee or on Passage in Both Houses.

(Special Correspondence.)

HARRISBURG, Feb. 12.—The last week has been one of unusual interest in legislative matters. Many new bills have been introduced in the senate and the house covering a variety of subjects, and some of them, after being referred to committee, will never again see the light of day. But there are many measures under consideration that are of general interest and which it is important to keep track of, that legislators may know the sentiment of their constituents. This is a business like legislature and with the regulars in control of both houses there is little opportunity for the insurgents to filibuster.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM.

There will come up this week for final passage in the house bills establishing a department of forestry; providing for the study of physical culture in the public schools in first, second and third class cities, if they so elect; authorizing borough councils to pay a portion of the cost and expense of grading, curbing and paving sidewalks; regulating the manufacture of flour and meal products; establishing a division of horticulture and pomology in the department of agriculture, and giving cities and boroughs power and authority to consent to the construction of water works and the entry upon the streets and highways within their limits.

CONGRESSIONAL APPORTIONMENT.

The congressional apportionment bill has been introduced and referred to a committee in the senate, which gives Philadelphia two additional congressmen, one additional to Allegheny and forms a fourth district from counties taken from two of the western districts. There will be changes in the districts before the bill is passed finally, as the whole matter will probably be referred to a committee on conference.

ACHESON'S END HAS COME.

There is one reasonable certainty and that is that Congressman Acheson, who has been working with the insurgents and Republican party wreckers, will be bowled out of a district. The present plan is to take away from his district that portion of Allegheny which gave him support from the Flinn insurgents and to form a new district to be made up of Washington, which is Acheson's home county, and Beaver and Lawrence, both strong stalwart Republican counties. A fight has already been started against Acheson's control of the Republican organization in Allegheny.

Among the bills passed finally in the house last week were the following:

Validating all elections to vote upon the question of increasing the indebtedness of municipalities; ratifying and confirming legal documents acknowledged before George R. Bothwell, of Allegheny; repealing the act of April 8, 1862, for the protection of sheep in Westmoreland and Armstrong counties, as extending to the entire country the general laws for the taxation of dogs and the protection of sheep, providing that pupils may remain at the soldiers' orphans' schools after attaining the age of 16 until the close of the school year; repealing the act of July 3, 1855, regulating the affairs of school districts and sub-school districts in second class cities and to repeal local and special laws inconsistent therewith; to protect children and making it a misdemeanor to place free or trial samples of medicines, ink, dyes, coloring or polishing compounds in any form where children can secure them.

The house committee, on counties and townships, by a vote of 19 to 1, Mr. Haworth, of Luzerne, voting in the affirmative, decided to report negatively the bill to create a separate county out of portions of Luzerne and Schuylkill counties, with Hazleton as the county seat.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY BILL.

An employers' liability bill which greatly widens the scope of the present act has been introduced in the house by Mr. Jones, of Philadelphia. It is modeled after the Massachusetts law on the same subject. It provides that any employee who may be injured while he is himself in the exercise of due care and diligence at the time, by reason of any defect of ways, works or machinery of his employer, which arose from or had not been discovered or remedied owing to the negligence of the employer or any person in his service, who had the duty of saying that the ways, works or machinery were in proper condition, or by reason of the negligence of any superintendent or any person in charge, or control of any sign, switch, locomotive, engine or train, the employee or his representative, in case of death, shall have the right of compensation and remedy against the employer as if the employee had not been employed or in the service of the employer.

MUCH ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN THE BILL TAXING FOREIGN CORPORATIONS.

Few defend it, and those in a position to know say it would cripple some of the largest corporations in Pittsburgh. This, together with several other corporation measures introduced, has been favorably reported by the committee on ways and means. The foreign corporations tax bill, it is said, will either be recommitted or killed on second reading.

REPRESENTATIVE SMYTH, OF PHILADELPHIA, DESIRES THE LAW PROVIDING FOR COMPELLED VACCINATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL REPEALED.

A bill creating in the banking department a bureau of building and loan associations has been introduced in the house of representatives by Mr. Calder, of Harrisburg. The bill creates the office of superintendent of building and loan associations, who shall be appointed by the superintendent of banking and receive a salary of \$3,000 annually. If any association shall within 30 days after having been given notice of any reduction or impairment in its assets, neglect to make good the deficiency, the commissioner shall call a meeting of the shareholders at its home office to either determine or scale the values of shares to such an extent as to fully provide for the deficiency and continue to carry on its business or go into voluntary liquidation.

NEW BANKING MEASURE.

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DESTROYED THE SUPPLY.

Mrs. Goodson—I think it's a perfect shame that the Indians set fire to the Indians the way they did.

Miss Du Prey—Indeed it is. Just think what lovely furs they used to sell for a few glass beads!—New York Week-

tions to issue full paid and prepaid stock and validate such stock heretofore issued.

Mr. Jones introduced a bill supplying a proceeding in replevin and applying the affidavit of defense law to it.

A bill creating a department of mines was presented by Mr. Philibin of Lackawanna. It provides for a chief, whose salary shall be \$4,000 a year, and two assistants, one of whom shall be a mining engineer.

A BATCH OF NEW BILLS.

Among other bills introduced in the house are the following:

To prohibit the sale of adulterated milk in second-class cities; appropriating \$20,000 to St. Francis' hospital, Pittsburg.

Extending the provision of the act of June 8, 1893, so as to limit the duration of the lien upon real estate of the debts of decedents.

Appropriating \$35,000 to the state-state commission of the Pan-American exposition.

Validating private sales of real estate of decedents.

Amending the act of April 28, 1899, to provide that whenever the prison board named in the act deems it expedient they may have work performed on the streets of boroughs where a prisoner has been imprisoned on condition that there be paid into the county treasury 35 cents a day for each and every prisoner's work.

Exempting churches and places of religious worship from taxation for street paving.

Amending the act regulating boroughs, to levy and collect annually for general borough purposes any tax not exceeding one per cent, on the dollar, on the valuation assessed for county purposes as now is or will be provided by law.

CITIZENS ARE AROUSED.

Now that Flinn's neighbors have undertaken to deprive him of the political power which has been his main source of revenue for years Flinn is seen in a new light by the people of Pittsburg.

The bill has been introduced at Harrisburg a bill granting new charters to Pittsburg, Allegheny City and Scranton.

To satisfy the demands of citizens of Pittsburg, who wish an opportunity to elect a mayor without interference or dictation from the 6,000 shareholders and employees of contractors in the Flinn combine, a provision has been introduced in this new charter bill which is known as the "ripper."

This bill provides that the governor shall appoint the first mayor under the new charter, who shall hold office for about a year, before the mayor to be elected by the people shall be chosen. This arrangement will prevent the present Pittsburg ring from having absolute control of the nomination and election of the first charter mayor or for the full term.

TO OVERTHROW FLINN RULE

Business Men of Pittsburg Demand Help From the Legislature.

THE REFORM SHAM EXPOSED

Leading Citizens Tell of the Burdens That Have Fallen Upon Them as the Result of Machine Domination and Ask Passage of the "Ripper"

Bill.

(Special Correspondence.)

Philadelphia, Feb. 12.—Led by the chamber of commerce and the board of trade of the East Side, citizens of Pittsburg are now engaged in a determined struggle to relieve the government of that city of control by the political machine of which Senator William Flinn is the acknowledged boss. Senator Flinn, as leader of the insurgent movement in state politics, recently suffered defeat in the bitter struggle to prevent the re-election of Col. M. S. Quay to the United States senate. In his campaign against the leaders of the Republican organization Flinn made loud and frequent professions of reform, and he and his agents went about the state posing as representatives of all that was good and pure in politics.

"We not only want the fundamental law changed," said former Postmaster J. B. Larkin, "but we appeal to you to change the people who execute the law. The taxable valuation of real estate in Pittsburg has increased from \$87,000,000 in 1886 to \$300,000,000 in 1891. The 'organisation' was only in its infancy in 1886, and for eight years increased the valuations gradually, but under the charter now in force it has inflated the real estate values to \$152,000,000, the increase in 12 years being 211 per cent, although the increase in population was only about 100 per cent. The total warrants issued in the 12 years was \$79,258,402. From 1884 to 1891 warrants were ordered drawn to the amount of \$32,348,000. The bonded debt has been increased \$2,211,675."

"The people want an easier to restore the government to them. This would not be revolutionary. The organization names every official a month before vacancies occur. The kind of government it is is a fact that you cannot tell quickly unless the people of bearing in mind the fact that when the organization desires to remove get rid of any feature or member of the government it acts instantly and without bearing trial or sentence."

QUAY FOR REFORM.

Advocates of reform in Pittsburg have appealed to Col. M. S. Quay and other Republican leaders in the state to help them secure the desired "ripper" legislation. Last week Col. Quay sent a telegram from Florida to Attorney General Elkin, in which he said:

"I am much improved in health and will go north within the next ten days."

"I want my friends to stand by me and pass the charter bill, because the people interested in good government demand it." M. S. QUAY."

FLINN RULE EXPOSED.

There was an interesting session before the senate committee on municipal affairs at Harrisburg when business men, manufacturers and others testifying in behalf of the bill in support of the "ripper" bill. The only opponents of the measure were shareholders or other beneficiaries under the Flinn regime. One of the most notable speeches before this committee was made by Charles S. Crawford, a well known citizen of Pittsburgh and member of the East Side board of trade, who reviewed the delegation present to protest against the "ripper."

Among other things he said:

"The individual testimony of the Pittsburg councilman committee, although relevant, should be given no weight. A glance at the personnel of that committee will be sufficient to show to you the probable biasness of their arguments. John A. Murphy is the law partner of Representative George M. Hoosak, whose close affiliations with the insurgent leader is known by every person present. W. H. McCleary has for a long time been closely connected with the political leader and is an ex-sheriff. John Updeman presented to council last June the resolution which ousted the director of public works. John Benz has been closely connected with all legislation proposed and instigated by the insurgent boss. George S. Fleming is widely known as a close adherent to any principles advanced by the insurgent leader. W. A. Magee is brother of the Hon. C. A. Magee. And I might here add that it has been the feeling of a great many people in Pittsburg that, had it not been for the unfortunate and severe bodily illness of Hon. C. A. Magee for the past three years, the causes and complaints that have given rise to the "ripper" bill would not have had this culmination."

"Kirk Q. Bingham is the member of common council who a few years ago attempted to saddle upon the city a hillside in the Thirty-second ward for park purposes, having been turned down through the intervention of Hon. John J. Sweeney and others. Mr. Bingham within the past year has endeavored, after laying out a part of the property in lots and cutting a tie of lots from the whole, to saddle on the city the remaining portion of the property at the enormous price of \$32,000, when in reality the property was hardly sell for \$15,000."

"Kirk Q. Bingham and Mr. Splain but little can be said, except that they are known to be closely allied with insurgent movements.

PITTSBURG'S BAD GOVERNMENT.

"I have no delicacy in telling you that the government of Pittsburg is needlessly expensive and generally condemned. It is inefficient and its methods bring the worst voters to the polls and largely repel the most worthy. Our city government for the past ten years has been so administered as to be generally regarded as discreditable to an American citizen and a scandal to our republican system. Our municipal affairs have been so largely controlled by one man for his personal aggrandizement that selfishness devotion to public interests is discouraged, and very few men have the heart or courage to oppose the selfish ruler."

"Under our present form of government official maintenance is a common offense, and our people are familiar with official comeliness in the matter of the purchase of real estate for public improvements. The present administration and the controlling power lack of it have made and developed a demoralization and corruption in politics which the persistent efforts of the most unselfish patriotic citizens have not been able to hold in check; it has made the management of municipal politics and ethics a degrading business by which a class of vicious and vicious politicians prosper and last, but not least, it has developed to an alarming degree a disregard and corrupt system of hose rule."

"WHAT THE 'RIPPER' WILL DO.

"The primary object of this 'ripper' bill is that of making it possible for good men, unselfish men, men not affiliated with local politics, men not connected with city contract work to

be advanced to our municipal offices.

We know that our future experience will only be repetition of the past and present if this charter is not passed with the 'ripper' appendage.

"I have always been enthusiastically opposed to any kind of harsh treatment; I have always advocated a fair trial and fair play. I say to you, without fear of contradiction, that the present administration and the gigantic boss behind it have had more than ample time and resources to establish in our city a people's government, made for the people, and answerable to the people." And what has been the result of their prolonged trial? To what purposes have the time and resources been applied?

We have worse than a ring ridden city. The name of Pittsburg, so dear to the hearts of its citizens, is all but taken from us. Politically speaking, our city is the capital of the insurgents and boxers, and may be appropriately called Ringtown. The government is the boss' government, made by the boss, made for the boss and answerable only to the boss. The people have not been given the slightest consideration.

The wants and needs of the people have been totally disregarded, except in instances of personal gain for the boss. Every effort of the people for fairness in legislation is promptly vailed by the boss with the expression, 'I am in this for business, you from principle.' And business always prevails."

"We not only want the fundamental law changed," said former Postmaster J. B. Larkin, "but we appeal to you to change the people who execute the law.

The Nickel Plate Road will send its 19th Pan-American Exposition calendar to any one sending their address to the General Passenger Agent at Cleveland, O.

Law Rates West.

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For the benefit of settlers. For full information call on or address W. S.

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At Cleveland, O.

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