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## Pennsylvania Legislature.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, Feb. 12, 1861.

The House was called to order at 10 o'clock, A. M. The CLERK proceeded to read the Journal of yesterday, when, Mr. PIERCE moved that the further reading of the same be dispensed with. The motion was agreed to.

## THE TONNAGE TAX.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Auditor General in reference to the tonnage tax, which was read as follows:

## AUDITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Harrisburg, February 12, 1861.

To the Hon. E. W. Davis, Speaker of the House of Representatives: Sir, In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives, adopted on the 11th inst., by which the Auditor General is requested to inform the House what is the amount of arrears of tonnage tax now due and unpaid by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and why the same is not paid, I have the honor to report:

The amount of said tax due and unpaid is \$681,158.94, as follows: Balance due by company previous to July 21, 1858, \$1,211.97 Amount of said tax from July 21, 1858, to November 30, 1858, both days inclusive, as per settlement made February 21, 1859, 87,876.22 Amount of said tax from Dec. 1, 1858, to July 19, 1859, both days inclusive, as per settlement made August 25, 1859, 159,363.58 Amount of said tax from July 20, 1859, to November 30, 1859, both days inclusive, as per settlement made January 17, 1860, 104,879.18 Amount of said tax from December 1, 1859, to July 20, 1860, both days inclusive, as per settlement made September 28, 1860, 167,534.85 Amount of said tax from July 21, 1860, to November 30, 1860, both days inclusive as per settlement made December 12, 1860, 141,994.19

Total up to Dec. 1, 1860 \$681,158.94 No settlement has been made of the account of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for tonnage since December 12, 1860, as the returns are made to the Department twice in each year, one covering the time from December 1st, 1860, to July 20th; the other from July 21st to November 30th, both days inclusive. The reason why this tax has not been paid is, that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company appealed from all the above stated settlements, except those made on the 17th day of January, 1860, and the 12th of December, 1860, to the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin County. A certified copy of the account settled January 17, 1860, was placed in the hands of the Attorney General on the day after its date. A similar copy of the settlement made on the 12th of December, 1860, will this day be placed in the hands of that officer, the time allowed for appealing having expired.

Very respectfully,

THOS. E. COCHRAN,

Auditor General.

On motion of Mr. BARNESLEY, the above report was ordered to be printed in the Legislative Record.

## THE PRIVATE CALENDAR.

Agreeably to order The House proceeded to consider bills on the Private Calendar, when the following were passed and laid aside for a second reading:

No. 142. An Act to incorporate the Fishing Creek Improvement Company.

No. 143. An Act to incorporate the American Submarine and Salvage Company.

Mr. WILDEY moved to amend by striking out the word "two" in the eighth line, and inserting "four."

The amendment was agreed to. Sen. 15. An Act supplementary to an Act to incorporate the borough of Birmingham, in the county of Allegheny.

No. 148. An Act to incorporate the West Sunbury Academy, in Butler County.

No. 149. An Act incorporating the Pittston Hose Company, number one, in the county of Luzerne.

Mr. WILSON. I understand the purport of this bill, it is to exempt firemen from military duty. Certainly the House will not deem it proper that firemen, the most efficient body of men in the country, should be thus exempted. I trust this bill will lie over.

The SPEAKER. Does the gentleman object to the bill?

Mr. WILSON. I do, on that ground—not from any other objection.

No. 149. An Act to incorporate the Philadelphia Turngemeinde, (Turner's society).

No. 150. Supplement to an Act to incorporate the Hilldale cemetery company, in Allegheny County.

No. 154. An Act to amend the charter of the Presbyterian Church of Frankford, approved the 9th day of April, A. D. 1808.

No. 156. A further supplement to the Act to incorporate the Harrisburg Female Seminary, passed the eighteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

No. 157. An Act providing for copying the drafts and other papers in the county Surveyor's Office of Schuylkill County.

No. 158. An Act to change the name of Samuel M. Laughlin.

No. 159. An Act relative to road views for damages in Northumberland County.

# Pennsylvania Telegraph.

"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS—NEUTRAL IN NONE."

VOL. XIV.

HARRISBURG, PA. WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 13, 1861.

NO. 35.

The amendment was agreed to. No. 171. An Act to authorize the sale of the Walnut Hill school property, in the late township of Byberry, twenty-third ward, Philadelphia.

No. 172. An Act to authorize the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Bloody Run, in Bedford County, to convey certain real estate.

Sen. 80. An Act to authorize the Trustees of the Society of Friends, in Richland Township, Bucks County, to sell certain real estate.

No. 174. A supplement to an Act relative to the estate of John Chase, a negro man, passed 18th April, A. D. 1864.

No. 175. An Act authorizing William Hall, of Blakely Township, Luzerne County, to sell certain real estate.

M. PUGHE moved to amend by striking out in the tenth line the word "two" and inserting "three."

The amendment was agreed to. No. 176. An Act to authorize Edward Vail and Morgan Campbell, of the Society of Friends, in Fayette County, to sell and convey certain lots of ground.

Sen. 81. An Act authorizing the Directors of the poor and of the house of employment for the county of Delaware, to sell certain real estate to the School Directors of the township of Middletown, in said county.

No. 183. An Act to lay out a State road in Clarion and Venango counties.

Mr. HODGINS moved to amend by striking out the name of R. Irvin, wherever it occurs, and insert in lieu thereof the name of R. A. Drascher.

The amendment was agreed to. No. 185. Supplement to an Act appointing commissioners to lay out and open a State road in the counties of McKean and Elk, passed the 21st day of March, A. D. 1856.

No. 186. Supplement to an Act to incorporate the Marietta and Maytown Turnpike Road Company, approved April 18, 1857.

Sen. 101. A supplement to the Act incorporating the Lancaster and Ephrata Turnpike or Plank Road Company.

No. 189. An Act authorizing the qualified voters of Stony Creek Township, Somerset County, to elect one additional Supervisor.

Mr. WILDEY withdrew his objections to Senate bill No. 37, entitled "A supplement to the Act incorporating the Spinnerstown and Goshenhoppen, and the Steinburg and Millford Square Turnpike Road Company." The bill then passed, and was laid aside for a second reading.

No. 191. An Act to incorporate the Clearfield and Bennett's Branch Turnpike Road Company.

No. 192. An Act to extend the charter of the Glen Hope and New Washington Turnpike and Plank Road Company.

No. 193. An Act to appoint commissioners to lay out and open a State road in the counties of McKean, Elk, Forest and Clarion.

No. 195. A supplement to an Act to incorporate the Beaver Dam Plank Road and Turnpike Road Company, approved April 20, A. D. 1858.

SENATE BILLS OFF THE CALENDAR.

The following bills were objected off the Calendar by Mr. SMITH, (Philadelphia), No. 145. An Act to incorporate the North American Oil Company.

By Mr. TAYLOR, No. 147. A supplement to the Act incorporating the Allegheny Mountain Health Institution.

By Mr. WILSON, No. 148. An Act incorporating the Pittston Hose Company number one, in the county of Luzerne, Pennsylvania.

By Mr. TAYLOR, Sen. 49. An Act to incorporate the Ardross Oil Company.

By Mr. PRESTON, No. 155. An Act to incorporate the Eagle Cotton works.

By Mr. BUTLER, (Crawford), No. 162. An Act relative to taxation in the borough of Chambersburg.

By Mr. TAYLOR, No. 163. An Act relating to the Susquehanna and the Philadelphia and Wilkesbarre Telegraph Company.

By Mr. HILLMAN, No. 165. An Act to repeal an Act to secure a stricter accountability of certain public officers in Schuylkill County, approved the 17th day of February, A. D. 1859, so far as relates to the townships of West Penn and South Manheim, in said county of Schuylkill.

By Mr. WILDEY, No. 168. An Act relating to reference and arbitration in the city and county of Philadelphia.

By Mr. WILDEY, Sen. 52. Supplement to an Act to authorize the Governor to incorporate the Delaware county turnpike road company.

By Mr. MOORE. An Act to compel the assignees of the Bank of Pennsylvania to audit and settle their accounts.

By Mr. HILL, No. 162. A supplement to an Act to authorize the supervisors of Springfield Township to subscribe to the capital stock of the Westchester turnpike road company, to incorporate the Odd Fellows' hall association of Centre Square, and to authorize the Auditor General to settle the accounts of the witnesses in the case of the Montgomery County Bank Investigation, approved the 21st day of April, A. D. 1852.

By Mr. HILL, No. 159. A further supplement to an Act authorizing the Limerick and Colbrookdale turnpike company to extend their road, from or near Boyertown, in Berks County, to the township line of Douglass, near Jacob Bowler's mill, passed the twenty-sixth day of April, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

By Mr. WILDEY, Sen. 37. A supplement to the Act incorporating the Spinnerstown and Goshenhoppen, and the Steinburg and Millford Square Turnpike Road Company.

By Mr. TELFER, No. 194. An Act to amend the general turnpike, bridge and plank road law as to Erie County.

By Mr. MULLIN, No. 196. An Act to incorporate the Idaho Oil Company.

having reference to the county of Berks. I cannot see what motive the gentleman can have in offering the amendment.

Mr. SEITZER. There are two sides to this question. The gentleman has given one; and I will give the other. It appears that in the township of Tulpehocken there is a difficulty between two landowners. One holds the general election and the other the township election.

The man holding the township election is, it appears, a Republican, and on account of a little feud, some persons have hoped to come up here and insinuatingly get through a bill to take the election poll from him. Letters have been written to me in regard to this subject. I hope no good Republican will favor a proposition of this kind. This amendment will have the effect of leaving the election poll where it is. I hope the amendment will prevail.

Mr. BOYER. I will state for the information of the House, that the petition for this change in the place of holding elections was signed by three hundred and fifteen citizens of the township, while the whole number of voters is four hundred and twenty-nine. We thus have conclusive evidence that the people of the township desire this change. Why the gentleman from Philadelphia (Mr. Seitzer) desires to connect this subject with any political question, I do not understand. Whether the man who now holds the election is a Democrat or Republican, I care not; but three-fourths of the people of the township desire this change, and I think their wishes should be regarded by this Legislature. I hope the amendment will be rejected.

The amendment was agreed to. No. 176. An Act to authorize Edward Vail and Morgan Campbell, of the Society of Friends, in Fayette County, to sell and convey certain lots of ground.

Sen. 81. An Act authorizing the Directors of the poor and of the house of employment for the county of Delaware, to sell certain real estate to the School Directors of the township of Middletown, in said county.

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By Mr. TELFER, No. 194. An Act to amend the general turnpike, bridge and plank road law as to Erie County.

By Mr. MULLIN, No. 196. An Act to incorporate the Idaho Oil Company.

By Mr. GASKILL, Sen. 89. A further supplement to an Act to incorporate the Philadelphia and Darby railroad company.

SENATE BILLS OFF THE CALENDAR.

The following bills, objected off the calendar last Tuesday, were read and disposed of as stated:

No. 89. An Act to refund certain moneys.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 88. An Act to extend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 87. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 86. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 85. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 84. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 83. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 82. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 81. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 80. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 79. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 78. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 77. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 76. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 75. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 74. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 73. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 72. An Act to amend the provisions of the Act for the protection of sheep and taxing dogs in the county of Blair, to the county of Crawford.

Passed, and laid aside for second reading.

Sen. 91. A supplement to the Act incorporating the Lancaster and Ephrata Turnpike or Plank Road Company.

Passed finally.

No. 189. An Act authorizing the qualified voters of Stony Creek Township, Somerset County, to elect one additional Supervisor.

Passed finally.

Sen. 37. A supplement to the Act incorporating the Spinnerstown and Goshenhoppen, and the Steinburg and Millford Square Turnpike Road Company.

Passed finally.

No. 191. An Act to incorporate the Clearfield and Bennett's Branch Turnpike Road Company.

Passed finally.

No. 192. An Act to extend the charter of the Glen Hope and New Washington Turnpike and Plank Road Company.

Passed finally.

No. 193. An Act to appoint commissioners to lay out and open a State road in the counties of McKean, Elk, Forest and Clarion.

Passed finally.

No. 195. A supplement to an Act to incorporate the Beaver Dam Plank Road and Turnpike Road Company, approved April 20, A. D. 1858.

Passed finally.

No. 89. An Act to refund certain moneys.

Passed finally.

No. 113. An Act fixing dogs in the county of Erie.

Mr. DOUGLASS moved to amend by including township of Elizabeth, in the county of Allegheny.

The amendment was agreed to.

And the bill as amended passed finally.

No. 124. An Act to change the place of holding the township elections in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County.

Mr. SEITZER moved to amend by striking out in the fifth line the word "township" and inserting "general."

Mr. BOYER. I hope the amendment of the gentleman from Philadelphia will not prevail. There is no person here by petition asking for any such provision; but the people of Tulpehocken Township have petitioned this Legislature to change the place of holding the township elections. Their petition is signed by three hundred and fifteen of its legal voters, out of an aggregate of four hundred and twenty-nine; so that the voice of those most interested is decidedly in favor of the change.

In regard to the political question which the gentleman from Philadelphia (Mr. Seitzer) has endeavored to introduce here, I would state that I have been informed by my colleague who resides very near this township, that this is a contest between two Republicans; the house from which the election poll is to be taken, is kept by a Republican, as is also that to which the removal is to be made. Therefore this cannot be made a party matter.

The question is whether we shall recognize the right of petition. I say that when three hundred and fifteen of the people petition the Legislature of Pennsylvania for a change in the place of holding their elections, their wish should be regarded. I hope the House will not concur in the amendment of the gentleman from Philadelphia.

Mr. SEITZER. I will ask to have read a certain article from a newspaper, by which it will be seen how names are obtained to petitions of this sort. Republicans have written to me in regard to the matter before us, and state that this petition was obtained by similar false representations.

The Clerk read as follows:

"The right of petition is doubtless a glorious privilege, but it is probably more abused than any privilege we enjoy. Within the past few weeks numerous petitions have been presented in the Legislature by our members, praying for a sub-division of the different wards of Reading into precincts. The only information that our citizens had of these precious documents was that they were signed by a mystery. One of them, we understand, for the division of one ward had four hundred signatures attached, and yet it would be difficult to find fifty persons in that ward who ever heard of its circulation. Recently a good joke was related to us of the manner in which these lengthy documents are prepared. A mammoth petition was sent to the House, and the members sitting forth the necessity existing for an increase in the number of places for holding elections in a certain ward. The Representative looked at it, showed it to his colleagues, and all were astonished at its magnitude, and at the unanimous wish of the voters it expressed. A few days after it was read,