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Pennsylvania Telegraph

"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS—NEUTRAL IN NONE."

VOL. XIV.

HARRISBURG, PA., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 1, 1861.

NO. 49.

Pennsylvania Legislature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1861.

The House was called to order at 10 o'clock, A. M., by the SPEAKER, and opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. MAZUR.

The Clerk read the Journal of yesterday. The Clerk of the Senate being introduced presented an extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

Resolved, That, if the House of Representatives concur, the Clerks of the Senate and House be directed to prepare and have printed for the use of the Legislature twenty thousand copies of the proceedings of the celebration of Washington's birthday at Harrisburg, and Washington's Farewell Address, the addresses to and replies of President Lincoln, and the orders of the day.

The resolution was twice read and adopted. Mr. COLLINS moved that the House reconsider the vote on the resolution providing for the printing of 15,000 copies of Washington's Farewell Address, the Oration of Mr. Palmer, and addresses of the President elect and of Messrs. Palmer and Davis, passed by the House yesterday.

The motion was agreed to; and the question recurring on the resolution. Mr. SELTZER moved that the further consideration of the same be postponed indefinitely. The motion was agreed to.

THE COMMONWEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY OF HARRISBURG. Mr. BALL moved to reconsider the vote on the final passage of Senate Bill No. 1107, entitled "a supplement to the Act incorporating the Commonwealth Insurance Company of Harrisburg."

Mr. COWAN. I would like to hear some reason for this. Mr. BALL. This bill came in from the Senate yesterday, and, being on the Speaker's table, was immediately taken up and passed. It was a manuscript bill, which had not been referred to the Judiciary Committee, as it should have been.

I just entered the hall as it was under consideration; and of course I knew nothing about it. I must say I know very little about it now, but accident and the kindness of a friend have pointed out to me the fact that the bill does, it is to be feared, prejudice the interests of the constituents represented by my honored colleague (Mr. TALKER) and myself; and the inquiry to ascertain whether this were the fact has discovered to me the other fact, as I fear, it prejudices the interests of the constituents of all the members upon this floor, if in their counties, (as I have no doubt there are in the majority of them,) there be agents of this insurance company. In order to ascertain this fact and to prevent harm being done to my constituents or to any other citizens of this Commonwealth, I have thought it proper to move a reconsideration of this question, so that we may have time to examine the bill. If it prove all right, I will withdraw my objections; but I desire to have the bill brought back to the possession of the House and referred to the Judiciary Committee for examination.

The motion of Mr. BALL to reconsider, was agreed to.

Mr. BALL submitted the following resolution, which was twice read and adopted:

Resolved, if the Senate concur, That the Governor be requested to return Senate bill No. 1107 relative to the Commonwealth Insurance company of Harrisburg.

Mr. BALL. I thank the Chair and this House for the courtesy just now extended to me in the consideration of this question.

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 second reading:

No. 200. A supplement to an Act to establish high and low water lines in Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio rivers, in the vicinity of Pittsburgh.

Sen. 156. Supplement to the Act to incorporate the Marietta and Mount Joy turnpike road company, approved the 2d day of April, 1860.

No. 292. An Act to incorporate the Maxatawney cemetery company, in the county of Berks.

No. 298. An Act to incorporate the Sonora improvement company.

Mr. ABBOTT moved to amend by adding to the end of the second section, "to have and use a common seal, the same to alter and amend at pleasure."

The amendment was agreed to.

No. 297. An Act to incorporate the Olney iron company.

No. 298. An Act to establish a public ferry on the Allegheny river, at the village of Tidout, in the county of Warren.

No. 299. An Act to incorporate the Rescove hook and ladder company of the twenty-third ward, in the city of Philadelphia.

No. 800. An Act to establish a boundary line between Westmoreland and Fayette counties, lying between the Youghiogheny and Monongahela rivers.

No. 808. An Act to incorporate the Towanda coal and iron company.

No. 89. An Act relating to the fees of justices and constables of Cumberland county.

No. 121. An Act to change the place of holding the elections in Perry township, Snyder county.

No. 126. An Act to change the place of residence of Cyrus J. Anderson.

Sen. 145. An Act authorizing the executor of the will of Jacob M. Root to sell certain real estate.

Sen. 112. A further supplement to an Act to incorporate the city of Philadelphia.

No. 204. An Act relating to certain military companies in the Washington county brigade.

No. 827. Joint resolution to adjourn the Legislature on the first of March, and on an adjourned session, to commence on the 12th of March, 1861.

Sen. 19. An Act to incorporate the Penn gas coal company.

No. 835. A supplement to an Act entitled "an Act to incorporate the Big Black Creek improvement company," approved April 12, A. D. 1856.

No. 837. Supplement to the Act of incorporation of the Harris free cemetery, approved February 16, 1857.

last Tuesday, were read and disposed of as stated.

No. 215. A further supplement to an Act to incorporate the Cumberland Valley Railroad company.

Laid aside for second reading.

No. 216. An Act to provide for fencing the Northern Central railway, and for the better protection of property in the county of Dauphin.

Laid aside for second reading.

No. 220. An Act extending the limits of the borough of Orwigsburg, in the county of Schuylkill.

Laid aside for second reading.

No. 221. An Act revising the charter of the municipal corporation of the city of Reading.

Mr. SMITH (Berks) moved to amend by striking out the second section, and substituting the following:

"That the said city shall be divided into wards as follows, to wit—First ward, that part thereof now constituting Spruce ward; Second ward, that part thereof now constituting the South-west ward; Third ward, that part thereof now constituting the South-east ward; Fourth ward, that part thereof now constituting North-east ward; Fifth ward, that part thereof now constituting North-west ward; and wherever a street, road or railroad is the dividing line, the centre thereof shall be the line; and that all elections in said city of Reading shall be held on the respective days fixed by Common Council, P. M., in the several wards and places now fixed by law.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SMITH (Berks) also moved to amend by striking out the third section.

Agreed to.

Mr. SMITH (Berks) offered the following amendment to the seventh section:

"Strike out the word 'city' in the tenth line, and insert, after the word 'clerk' in the same line, 'of the select council.'"

Agreed to.

Mr. RHODES moved to amend the ninth section by striking out all after the word 'wards' in the 17th line.

Agreed to.

Mr. RHODES moved to amend the tenth section by striking out all except the proviso, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 10. That the Select Council shall consist of one member from each ward, who shall have the same qualifications as are required by the Constitution of the Commonwealth for members of the Senate. The present members shall continue in office for the wards in which they reside until the expiration of their respective terms, unless sooner vacated, and the qualified voters of each ward in which the terms of members shall expire, shall annually elect on the third Friday in March, one member qualified as aforesaid, to serve for three years from the Tuesday succeeding the respective city elections. The Common Council shall consist of one member for every three hundred taxable inhabitants of each ward, and one member for every fraction of three hundred taxable inhabitants exceeding in number two hundred, who shall have the same qualifications as are required by the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and shall be elected by the qualified voters of each ward for the term of one year from the Tuesday succeeding the respective city elections; and the Common Council shall have power to regulate the number of Common Councilmen to be chosen from each ward from time to time, being governed in the discharge of that duty by the ratio of representation as prescribed aforesaid, and the number of taxable inhabitants of each ward shall be determined from the returns of the Assessors for city purposes in the preceding year.

Mr. SMITH (Berks) moved to amend by striking out all after the word 'city' in the 18th line of the 11th section, to the word 'and' in the same line.

Agreed to.

Mr. SMITH (Berks) moved to amend the 14th section by adding the following:—"And on the final passage of a bill or resolution the vote shall be taken by yeas and nays."

Agreed to.

Mr. BOYER moved to amend the 19th section by striking out the word 'city' in the 7th line and inserting after the word 'clerk,' in the same line, "of the Select Council."

Agreed to.

Also, to amend by striking out in the 10th line of the same section, the words, "in the office of the city clerk," and inserting "by the Clerk."

Mr. BOYER moved to amend by striking out the whole of the 20th section and inserting the following:—"That it shall not be necessary for any order or resolution of either branch, or to which the concurrence of both branches of the Councils may be necessary, to be presented to the Mayor for his approval, but the same shall be binding for all purposes. The Councils may transact business by an order or resolution; and any such order or resolution shall be filed in the archives of said city, and shall be evidence of the process therein contained."

Agreed to.

Mr. BOYER moved to amend the twenty-first section, by striking out the word "five" in the sixth line, and inserting the word "four."

Agreed to.

Mr. BOYER moved to amend the twenty-third section, by inserting after the word "required," in the twelfth line, the following:—"The council shall fix the number of police officers, constables and watchmen, and the Mayor shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Select Council, appoint the said police officers, constables and watchmen, and in like manner all vacancies shall be filled."

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SMITH (Berks) moved to amend the twenty-fifth section by inserting the word "and" after the word "second," in the second line; also, to strike out the words "fourth and fifth," in the third and fourth lines, and insert the words "fourth and fifth," in the fourth line.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SMITH (Berks) moved to amend the twenty-eighth section by striking out, in the twenty-sixth line, the words "and the city clerk."

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SMITH (Berks) moved to amend the twenty-ninth section by striking out the word "city," in the fifteenth line; also, to insert after the word "clerk," in the fifteenth line, the words "of the Select Council."

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. BOYER moved to amend the thirty-second section by striking out the words "city clerk" in the third line; also, by striking out from the word "property," in the fourth line, to the word "and," in the fifth line.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. BOYER moved to amend the thirty-third section, by striking out, in the first line, the words "directed by the city councils."

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. BOYER moved to amend the thirty-fifth section by striking out the word "city," in the fourth line, and inserting, after the word "clerk," in the same line, "of the select council;" also, to strike out, after the word "centum," in the twelfth line, to the word "and," in the thirteenth line.

The amendment was agreed to.

Huntingdon county, to the county of Fulton. By Mr. BOYER, No. 318. An Act to incorporate the Delaware and Schuylkill Passenger Railway Company.

By Mr. RIDGWAY, No. 319. An Act to incorporate the Bethlehem railway and mining company.

By Mr. SELTZER, No. 325. A further supplement to the Act to incorporate the West Philadelphia Passenger railway company.

By Mr. HORUS, No. 328. An Act to determine the fee bill of the Prothonotaries, excepting the counties of Allegheny, Lancaster and the city of Philadelphia.

By Mr. RIDGWAY, No. 338. An Act to prohibit the importation of fish into the city of Philadelphia and ports adjacent, at improper seasons.

By Mr. HOOD, Sen. 173. An Act relative to the administration of justice in Lancaster county.

By Mr. COLLINS, Sen. 31. An Act to erect the borough of Georgetown, in the county of Beaver, into a separate election district.

Mr. BYRNE, on leave given, an Act relative to road laws in Madison township, Luzerne county, and extending the same to Abington township, in said county.

Mr. HILLMAN moved to suspend the rules, and proceed to consider the bill. The motion was agreed to; and the bill was taken up and passed finally.

Mr. HECK moved that House bill No. 358, an Act relative to the claim of Burke & Gordon, be laid aside and prepared for a second reading.

The motion was agreed to.

SECOND READING OF BILLS ON THE PRIVATE CALENDAR.

On motion of Mr. SHEPPARD, the House proceeded to the second reading and consideration of bills on the private calendar, when the following were disposed of as stated:

No. 290. A supplement to an Act to establish high and low water lines in the Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio rivers, in the vicinity of Pittsburgh.

Mr. DOUGLASS moved to amend the first section by inserting, after the word "county," in the twenty-seventh line, the following:—"That the Commissioners of the county of Allegheny shall not draw any order or warrant on the treasury or pay out any money, after the first day of April, A. D. 1861, or incur any expense under the provisions of the Act entitled 'an Act to establish high and low water lines in said county,' approved the 16th day of April, 1858."

The amendment was agreed to; and the bill, as amended, passed finally.

Sen. 156. Supplement to the Act to incorporate the Marietta and Mount Joy Turnpike road company, approved the 2d day of April, 1860.

Passed finally.

No. 292. An Act to incorporate the Maxatawney cemetery company in the county of Berks.

Passed finally.

No. 298. An Act to incorporate the Sonora improvement company.

Mr. COLLINS moved to amend by adding the following proviso: