

NEWS OF THE LEGISLATURE

ANTI-LIQUOR LAW MOVEMENT IS ON

Numerous Bills to Be Presented; Commissioner O'Neil Talks on the Outlook

The biennial appearance of the anti-liquor bills in the Legislature has started with the introduction of the Vickersman local option bill and the well-founded rumors that an anti-treating measure and another proposing an amendment to the Constitution for state-wide prohibition would shortly make their bow to the legislators...

State Insurance Commissioner J. Denny O'Neil, one of the foremost opponents of liquor in the nation, declared that the day a local option measure is made a law in Pennsylvania, forty-five counties out of the sixty-seven in the state will be dry. Speaking on the prohibition feature, he claimed that with the time that would be given to organize the state there was no doubt about the total abolition of liquor in Pennsylvania...

The Rev. F. F. Holsoppe, state superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, says that local option would send the great majority of the counties into the dry column and that some would take that step that are claimed sure for the liquor men. Attorney J. Day Brownlee, of the Anti-Saloon League, expressed the same view as Superintendent Holsoppe.

Liquor men claim to have no fear on Pennsylvania in a prohibition election. They grant that prohibition is the opposition movement, but claim Pennsylvania will be the last to "go over." They openly assert their opposition to local option, claiming it is not satisfactory and would fall in its purpose. They cite revenues and investments and many use the term "compensation" when asked about the abolition of liquor...

The Local Option Committee and Anti-Saloon League are meeting to-day in Philadelphia and out of that meeting is expected to come a harmonious combination of the two groups whose will be to fight liquor all along the line. They are a unit on getting an expression from the Republican and Democratic parties on the liquor question in their 1918 platforms...

Commissioner O'Neil says the opportunity to vote on the liquor question will make the following "dry" at the first local option election: Adams, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Crawford, Huntingdon, Jefferson, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, McKean, Mercer, Monroe, Mouton, Perry, Pike, Potter, Snyder, Somerset, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Westmoreland and Wyoming counties.

The opponents of liquor claim that one-half of the saloons are in four counties, likely Philadelphia, Allegheny, Luzerne and Schuylkill, although Lackawanna and Erie come close to Schuylkill county. Eighty per cent, according to their statistics, are in one-fourth of the counties and one-half of the counties are in one of the saloons. It likewise follows that in one-half of the counties there are less than 10 per cent. of the licensed houses.

To an outsider there does not seem to be even a rare chance for the passage of a local option law at this session unless the Vares, who are political associates of Governor M. J. Brumbaugh, turn in their twenty-four Philadelphia votes. That would pass the bill in the House and would serve to re-establish the Governor with many of his doubting "dry" friends. The Vares are said to owe this to the Governor and he may ask for the votes. But there are few who believe that he will. The fact that corporations are starting to send representatives to license court hearings is significant. A short time ago in Columbia county the "safety first" man of the American Car and Foundry Company appeared and remonstrated against all licenses in Berwick. Last year, he said, accidents had decreased 70 per cent. because there were no saloons. It evidently impressed the court, for none appeared there in 1917. The workmen's compensation law is beginning to be felt by the corporations and they are striking at what they call the original cause of accidents. And so the unceasing battle goes on.

Altoona Chamber of Commerce Favors Public Meeting for Discussion. Altoona, Pa., Jan. 30. — Initial steps toward a city manager can be taken tomorrow, when the Chamber of Commerce directors endorsed a plan submitted by a public committee recommending a special meeting at which the question of a city manager should be discussed and a definite program adopted. Legal authority has assured the committee that the city manager can be employed under the Clark act, and that the salary question can be legally met. At the mass meeting a committee on nominating will be appointed to canvass the city for men big enough to act as a municipal board of directors.

FLOOD OF BILLS REACHES HOUSE

More Pay For Guardsmen Who Served in the Mexican Border Emergency

The House of Representatives was in session for only twenty minutes last night but it received almost 100 bills and its proceedings were decidedly interesting between the retirement of Mr. Hess, Lancaster, from the House Committee chairman's post and the Spangler resolution demanding to know why a better fishway had not been constructed at the McCall's Ferry dam. The new chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Zerfass, of Lancaster, urged, as his first prayer and was introduced to the members.

Mr. Hess got into the limelight soon after the House was called to order. He announced to the House that he was not a mining expert and was unfamiliar with subterranean processes, either physical or practical. Speaker Baldwin said he would name a chairman later. Messrs. Bennett and Mehring exchanged places on the Military and Compare Bills Committees and Messrs. Sterling and Mehring exchanged seats on the Military and Judiciary Special committees.

The resolution presented by Mr. Spangler, Chairman of the Committee on Fisheries to inform the House why the owners of the McCall's Ferry dam have not installed a fishway as required by action of the Legislature, why he has not enforced the mandate of the Legislature and why he did not ask the Attorney General to proceed by quo warranto action.

Representative W. H. Dithrich, of Allegheny, presented a bill in the House providing that each enlisted man of the National Guard of Pennsylvania who served on the Mexican border shall be paid the difference between federal army pay and the rate of pay of the National Guard of this State. The bill provides that each man paid to dependent relatives and any bonus paid by the United States. An appropriation of \$1,500,000 is carried.

Mr. Spangler, Chairman of the Committee on Fisheries, introduced a bill to amend the Delaware river bridge at Philadelphia. The bill provides that the State of Pennsylvania shall be authorized to co-operate with the Delaware river bridge at Philadelphia in the construction and maintenance of the bridge. The bill provides that the State of Pennsylvania shall be authorized to co-operate with the Delaware river bridge at Philadelphia in the construction and maintenance of the bridge.

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PROBE MEASURE HOTLY DEBATED

Salus, Sproul and Vore Discuss It and Senate Refuses to Postpone It

The Sproul resolution for a probe of government in Pennsylvania was passed on second reading in the Senate last night after an attempt to postpone had been voted down and a debate as bitter as any one could expect from the present fractional row had occurred. Governor Brumbaugh sent a letter setting forth that he considered investigation, but suggested that there should be some changes in the form of the resolution, which were not made.

When the Governor's letter came in it was read and then Senator Salus moved to postpone action. He made a speech which will rank with some of the vitriolic discourses heard in the Senate chamber and was rejected by Senator Sproul. Then Senator Vore essayed to champion the Governor, devoting a good part of his remarks to roasting newspapers.

The vote on the motion to postpone was 20 yeas and 24 noes, several Democrats voting with the negative side. That the State administration got twenty votes was a surprise to many. The resolution, known as a council of war in the afternoon and decided to fight.

Governor Brumbaugh's letter was as follows: To the Honorable the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Gentlemen: My attention has been directed to the joint resolution, known as Number 1, Senate file, session of 1917, introduced by Senator Sproul, in place, January 22, 1917 and now before your honorable body for consideration.

I have no intention or desire to encroach in any way upon the prerogatives and services of the General Assembly of this State, or to disturb the peace of the State. I recognize these prerogatives and respect them, but I assume that in due time the joint resolution may reach me for my signature, and in order to save time and to accomplish as speedily as possible a proper investigation of any and all activities and acts of the Executive Department of the State Government, I beg to invite now your considerate attention to some of the questions which I submit are of consequence to the State, and which I believe should be investigated.

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BUDGET PLAN TO FRONT IN SENATE

Daix Offers a Resolution That Will Bring It to Committees' Attention

A concurrent resolution calling upon the State Economy and Efficiency Commission, composed of the Governor, Attorney General and Auditor General, to furnish the Legislature with information as to the amount expended from each item appropriated to the department, commissions and boards of the executive branch of the Government between June 1, 1915, and December 31, 1916, was introduced into the Senate last night by Mr. Daix, Philadelphia. It also calls upon the commission to furnish a statement of the estimated needs of each department, commission and board for the two years commencing June 1 next. The effect of this resolution would be to make up a budget for the State government.

Numerous bills were presented to the Senate, among them the following: Mr. Catlin, Luzerne—Authorizing third class cities to appropriate money annually for music in public parks. Mr. Graef, Armstrong—Prohibiting adulteration and misbranding of liquors. Mr. Eyre, Chester—Requiring county funds to be placed at interest at 1 1/2 per cent. per annum on active accounts and 2 per cent. on inactive accounts.

Mr. Daix, Philadelphia—Enabling foreign religious and charitable corporations to hold realty in Pennsylvania. Hackett, Northampton—Allowing common pleas judges \$1,500 a year for clerical assistance, the State to reimburse the judges. Mr. Leiby, Perry—A joint resolution requiring all institutions receiving State appropriations to make a report of expenditures and denying aid to those failing to comply.

Mr. Phipps, Venango—Prohibiting use of milk containers by any person or concern other than the one whose name appears on the vessel. Mr. Nason, Erie—Making it a misdemeanor for any person to give a check when there are no funds to meet it. Mr. Snyder, Blair—Establishing a system of licensing egg candlers.

Rev. Merritt, who officiated at funerals of many widely known Americans dies. New York, Jan. 30.—The Rev. Stephen Merritt, Methodist clergyman and undertaker, who died at his home here yesterday, officiated or assisted at the funerals of Daniel Webster, President Ulysses S. Grant and Commander Booth-Tucker of the Salvation Army, and many other prominent Americans. Mr. Merritt was born here in 1832, founded one of the largest churches in the country. He preached in eleven different churches during his career, but it is said that he never accepted compensation for his services as a clergyman.

HELPED KILL MADERO; ESCAPES. Queretaro, Mex., Jan. 30.—Jose Martinez, who was arrested in connection with the assassination of President Madero, in 1913, escaped ten days ago from the penitentiary in which he was confined. It was made known to-day.

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AMUSEMENTS

ORPHEUM—Wednesday, matinee and night, January 31—"One Girl's Experience." Friday, matinee and night, February 2—"The Girl Without a Chance." Saturday, matinee and night, February 3—"Mrs. Fiske in 'Erstwhile Susan'."

Questions of environment, of labor difficulties, high cost of living, birth control, dress reform and the like, have no more to do with the chapters of the latest novel by E. J. Conroy, "The Girl Without a Chance," which comes to the Orpheum to-morrow, matinee and night, and upon which the author and playwright has founded his latest play, whose action goes straight to the heart and soul of the audience. It is a tale of a poor girl, who is simply, plainly and honestly works for a living.

The play at the Orpheum, Friday, matinee and night, is said to be a problem that will cause each and every one to stop, ponder and wonder who will be the next victim of the "gruesome" White Slave traffic. The strong situations at the climax of the act, as said, are built so that the action makes you long to get a hold on the people in high authority, who are the persecutors of the "The Girl Without a Chance" and written by Whitney Collins and produced by Robert Sherman.

When the new William S. Hart feature, "Truthful Tulliver," came to the Orpheum, it was the first performance, last evening, at the Colonial, which had witnessed the picture applauded it; something that seldom happens in a motion picture theater. But anyone who has the pleasure of seeing this play cannot help but exclaim that it is a masterpiece of the day and to-morrow, has for its hero a traveling printer of half century ago, who goes to a western mining camp and starts a newspaper. The editor's motto is "The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, as it stands for law and order and decency, which is showing a most beautiful and obliging to show a few people of the town the right way to behave when ladies are around. The play is filled with many thrills and an absorbing love romance. The latest Pathe News, showing Admiral Dewey's funeral procession and many other late events, and a funny comedy are showing on the same program. This one day only, Mabel Taliaferro in "A Wife by Proxy."

Lovers of good singing will be given a rare treat if they attend the Majestic Theater the first half of this week. Josie Flynn and her quartet will give a most excellent performance, and they present an act that cannot fail to please. An added attraction on the bill is Long and Ward, man and woman, who offer an excellent singing act. Both possess good voices, which they use to excellent advantage in singing high-class as well as popular airs. Rounding out the program, one day only, Mabel Taliaferro in "A Wife by Proxy."

AMUSEMENTS. REGENT THEATER. Last Day — MARIE DORO, supported by Hobart Bosworth in "OLIVER TWIST." Adapted from Charles Dickens' immortal novel. To-morrow and Thursday, IRENE FENWICK and OWEN MOORE in "A CONY ISLAND PRINCESS." A comedy drama of Coney Island and Fifth Avenue.

THEATRE. Miss Lucile Lee Stewart and Anita Stewart. Sister of Miss Stewart and HUNTLEY GORDON. Two Famous Stars of the Vitagraph Studio will appear in "MARRIAGE A LA CARTE" and will render a vocal program and address the audience.

AMUSEMENTS. D'AVINO'S FAMOUS BAND SATURDAY NIGHT. D'Avino's Famous Band—the Finest Concert Band in America—the band that Madame Sarah Bernhardt went into ecstasies over at Atlantic City—will be at the Stevens Memorial Church, Thirteenth and Vernon streets, Saturday evening at 8 o'clock. Tickets on sale at Bogar's on the Square and Schell's Store, 1307 Market street. Sale limited to 1,300, church seating capacity. All tickets, 25 cents—adv.

Continuous Dance Band and Orchestra. Winterdale, Wed. Night. 8.30 to 11.30 P. M.

Massenversammlung (Mass Meeting) IN THE INTEREST OF THE German and Austrian Red Cross Charity Bazaar THURSDAY EVENING, FEB. 1, 1917 in the Basement of St. Michael's German Lutheran Church STATE STREET, BELOW SECOND Harrisburg, Pa. All Germans and Austrians of this city and Steelton are earnestly invited to attend this mass meeting. The object is to create an interest and enthusiasm in the Charity Bazaar to be held in Chestnut Street Hall, from April 18th to 21st, inclusive. Reports of work already done will be made and a number of addresses will be delivered by prominent men identified with this work. Come to this meeting. Bring your friends. Help the good cause along.

AMUSEMENTS. TURBULENT MEXICO. An Illustrated Lecture by FREDERICK MONSEN. Artist, Explorer, Lecturer. Technical High School. Wednesday Night, 8.15. Admission, 25c — Reserved Seats, 50c Extra. AUSPICES NATURAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY. MAJESTIC. WILFRED VINCENT VALDEVILLE. JOSE FLYNN'S. Female Minstrels. A Semi-Circle of Girl Comedians. Four Other Excellent Acts. Coming Thursday. A Dream of the Orient. One of the Season's Greatest Spectacles.

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DIVORCE LAWS HIT BY REYNOLDS

Philadelphia Member Says That This State Is Getting Worse Than Reno

"Pennsylvania is worse than Reno as a breeding place for divorce," was a declaration from Representative John Reynolds, of Philadelphia, as he handed up a bill in the House last night to repeal the Divorce act of March 9, 1915. "Under the law which my bill seeks to repeal," remarked Mr. Reynolds, "a resident of any State may, by publishing a claim of residence in Pennsylvania, obtain a divorce much more readily than in Reno, Nev., where an actual residence must be established. I am presenting this bill at the instance of the Law Association of Philadelphia. It has also the endorsement of the Bar Association of Pennsylvania. Both of these organizations will circulate the members of the Legislature, urging them to vote for this repealer. There is being compiled a collection of opinions from judges from all parts of the State condemning the present law and joining in this demand for the repeal of this highly objectionable statute. It is not generally known, but it is a fact nevertheless, that the legitimate children who are the outgrowth of marriage of persons divorced under this law is not recognized in any State of the Union outside of Pennsylvania."

AMUSEMENTS. ORPHEUM. To-morrow Matinee and Night. C. S. PRIMROSE Presents "One Girl's Experience." All Matinee Seats 25c. Nights—25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00. THUR. MAT. FEBRUARY 1. THE LADY BUCCANEERS. —With— FLOUSIE MCCLLOUD. —Extra— "PRINCESS ROMA"

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