

# NEWS OF THE LEGISLATURE

## SUPERVISORS TO BE ABOLISHED

Senator Frank A. Smith Presents Bill Relative to Harrisburg

A bill to end the singular situation in Harrisburg because of the act of 1860, creating two supervisors, was introduced in the Senate last evening by Senator Frank A. Smith. Under the provisions of the old law, there are legally two street supervisors, Charles E. Tress and George W. Kautz, who will be disposed of if the measure passes finally.

It is said that with the coming of the paved streets, the necessity for the two officials has vanished, and the introduction of the bill by Senator Smith is the sequence of a resolution passed by the city commissioners at a recent meeting, when it was decided to do away with present positions.

More than 25 measures were passed finally on third reading, but the Daix Public Service bills were postponed for the present at the request of their sponsor.

Senator Eyre, Chester, presented a bill authorizing third-class cities to surrender their charters and return to the borough system of government. It is understood that the bill is intended to enable Coatesville to become a borough once again.

A bill fixing the salaries of poor directors in the various counties of the State according to population, was brought forward by Senator Shantz, Lehigh. The recompense in counties with a population between 125,000 to 150,000 is placed at a minimum of \$700, with a \$1,000 maximum scale.

Senator McConnell, Northumberland, presented a measure giving the Board of Commissioners of Public Grounds and Buildings eminent domain.

## MEANS TO GET IN STATE TAXES

Numerous Measures Presented in the House at Night Session

Means to enforce penalties and facilitate collection of State mercantile taxes are provided in a bill introduced by Chairman Hugh A. Dawson of the House ways and means committee, at request of Auditor General Snyder, at the night session. It provides that the Auditor General shall have the right to investigate "amount or volume of business" and to make such inquiry as he is to have all the powers given for collection of State taxes. This may be law when no report is made or there is reason to suspect a fraudulent report.

A bill legalizing "outdoor recreation, healthful sports and games on Sunday not for profit" was introduced by Mr. Sowers, Philadelphia. He also presented a bill making it a misdemeanor to sell food to be eaten elsewhere than on the premises on Sunday after 9 p. m.

Mr. Smith, Bedford, introduced a bill providing for relief of contractors with city contracts which become "iniquitous and unjust on account of unforeseen conditions" arising out of the war. Councils are limited to appropriating only amount of "actual loss" sustained.

**New Pension Bill**  
Mr. Fitzgibbon, McKean, introduced a bill amending State pension law for retirement of State employees who may reach age of eighty after serving twelve years continuously as a State employee.

A bill to establish system of State licenses for sale of railroad and steamship tickets to foreign countries was introduced by Mr. Walker, Philadelphia.

Mr. Marshall, Beaver, read in place a bill requiring assessors to give street numbers or accurate description of residence of taxpayers.

Other bills presented were: "Equal rights" bill for colored people; Mr. Hamilton, Montgomery—Appropriating \$5,000 for additional land at Norristown State hospital; Mr. Golden, Philadelphia—Fixing pay of chief and special pages in Legislature at \$4 a day and others \$3; requiring county commissioners to provide for judges at county expense; requiring hotels, etc., to provide wheel chairs as State health authorities prescribe; providing that prima facie presumption of mailing shall arise when letters are given to mail men or put into mail boxes.

Mr. Zanders, Carbon—Dividing the middle coal field poor district into four divisions, each to elect one director.

Mr. Wood, Warren—Extending delinquent children act to truant and insubordinate children.

**New Salary Raiser**  
Mr. Bigler, Mercer—Increasing salaries of deputy superintendents of public instruction from \$3,930 to \$5,000.

Mr. Simpson, Allegheny—Extending lateral railroads act to corporations chartered in other States.

Mr. Bucher, Philadelphia—Forbidding sale of theater tickets beyond capacity of seats in the house and prohibiting standing in aisles.

Mr. Walker, Philadelphia—Forbidding acceptance of returns or exchange of bakers on crackers, bread, etc., sold by them.

Mr. Simpson, Allegheny—Regulating holding of material witnesses in murder cases and providing for payment of fees.

Mr. Stadler, Allegheny—Regulating delivery of writs to sheriff in Allegheny county.

Mr. Davis, Cambria, introduced a bill for an orphan's court in Cambria.

The Governor's bill of the Davis anti-German teaching bill was laid on the table on motion of Mr. Davis.

The bill establishing civil service for police in boroughs was defeated in the House, receiving 32 votes, or 21 short of the number required.

The House passed the Ramsey bill regulating suspension of third-class city policemen.

Adjournment was taken at midnight until 10:30 this morning.

## PARADE PLANS ARE OUTLINED

Early Morning Meeting Held by the Committee in Charge

The Joint Legislative Committee in charge of arrangements for attending the parade of the Twenty-Eighth Division, formerly the Pennsylvania National Guard, at Philadelphia on May 15, met early this morning after the Senate and House adjourned at midnight and completed so far as possible, arrangements for the trip.

Adjutant General Beary, who attended the meeting, said it was expected that from 15,000 to 18,000 men would be in line and that the parade would start about noon according to present plans. The members of the Legislature, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and heads of departments will leave here on the morning of May 15. The State will be allotted about 350 seats for the members of the Legislature and heads of departments and an additional block of seats for members of their families. The location of the stand where the seats will be was not definitely known, this being left to the Philadelphia members of the committee—Senator Patton and Representatives Gans and Golder.

The Governor and the Legislature will be on the reviewing stand with Major General Muir. It was proposed that the reviewing stand be located at Independence Hall, but it is understood that General Muir objected to that location because Chestnut street is too narrow for a proper review. It is probable the official reviewing stand will be located either in Broad street or the Parkway.

When the members of the Legislature reach the reviewing stand they will be furnished with a box lunch. State Police will be in charge of that part of the grandstand used by the members of the Legislature and their guests.

Governor Sprout, it was stated by Senator Marshall L. Phipps, of Venango county, chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee, is desirous of giving the Pennsylvania boys a warm welcome. He is in favor of doing all that is possible to give them a proper reception, but he wants the State to pay for its share of seats allotted to it not exceeding five dollars a seat.

## Philadelphia Bills Going Right Along

The Philadelphia election bills, sponsored by Senator Daix, were passed by the Senate last evening with but one dissenting vote, that of Senator Leiby, Perry.

Senator Vare, speaking on the floor of the Senate, declared that no effort would be made to fight the measures in the Senate, but they would be allowed to go to the House, where the final fight would take place after the Governor had made clear his position regarding the passage of the bills.

Neither Senator Vare, or his Philadelphia colleagues voted on the measures.

## Only 40 Per Cent Of Loan Raised

Washington, May 6.—Imperative need of increased activity during the remaining five days of the Victory Liberty Loan campaign was indicated early to-day by the treasury's report that subscriptions to date amount to \$1,803,730,000, or only 40 per cent of the aggregate needed. This was an increase of only \$145,751,000 since Saturday.

## BLACK TOM SUIT BEGINS

Jersey City, N. J., May 6.—The \$2,500,000 suit of the Bethlehem Steel Company against the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, for munitions alleged to have been destroyed in the Black Tom explosion and fire on July 30, 1918, was begun yesterday in the Supreme Court.

## POLICE BILL IS THROUGH HOUSE

Lower Branch Also Passes the Bill to Repeal Nonpartisan Third Class Law

The House of Representatives last night passed two bills which it had defeated within a fortnight, the vote in each case being emphatic and after a bitter debate. One of the bills, that reorganizing the State Police force, was reconsidered and passed with some votes to spare, while the Wilson bill repealing the nonpartisan elective feature was passed after being reconsidered a week ago. The evening's proceedings attracted much attention and there was a large audience in the House during the debates, a number of Senators being present.

The Powell bill reorganizing the State Police Department, creating an additional troop to be located at Erie and establishing two bureaus, was the first to be taken up. It was brought up on a motion to reconsider by Messrs. Willert and Shunk, Erie, and then debated for an hour. The vote on passage of the bill was 131 yeas to 62 nays.

The bill, which was defeated two weeks ago, now goes to the Senate. It was a strong fight for the bill and many men who opposed it before voted for it. All Dauphin, Perry and Cumberland members voted for the bill.

Mr. Witmer, Westmoreland, made the first speech for the bill, declaring that the people of his county looked to the State Police to run down the murderers of a school teacher in a particularly atrocious manner a few days ago. If the bill carried many millions of dollars, he said, he felt he would vote for it.

Mr. Dithrich, Allegheny, said that labor was not against the bill, but only some agitators. The people of the State want more State policemen, he said.

The bill was opposed by Mr. Fowler, Lackawanna, who said that labor organizations resented being classed as Bolsheviks and have always been in the State Police. There is no need for an increase in the police, he declared, and opposed the taking away of the jobs of fire, fish and game wardens to put their duties in the hands of the State Police. Mr. Fowler charged that "orders have been issued" to put through the bill.

**Places for Veterans**  
The Police were asked to provide places for veterans of foreign service, who would afford additional protection to people. Labor, he said, is not against the State Police, but only some agitators.

John Thomas Davis, Indiana, in whose county some attempts at disturbances were made a few days ago, said that if it had not been for State policemen the job of the State would have been blood shed in Indiana mining districts. The House, he said, should show that it stands for maintenance of law and order.

Mr. Ramsey, Delaware, said the Governor urged the increase of police just as a mayor would ask for more officers. If the increase in officers was needed only to run down automobiles thieves, it should be granted, he declared, amid considerable applause. After referring to the "home" outrage at Chester, Mr. Ramsey said that the State wanted more policemen and the Governor has directly asked for them.

Mr. Hess, Lancaster, said legislators could appreciate the abnormal conditions when the State had only one door open and declared there was a State-wide demand for the bill.

Mr. Helt, Northumberland, said that possibly State officials comprehended the conditions and that if labor was ever needed to put down a Bolshevik riot, it would be done effectively. He made the last speech on the bill.

## The Wilson Bill

The Wilson bill repealing the nonpartisan elective feature of the Clark third-class city act, was passed by 119 yeas to 73 nays.

Two weeks ago the bill was defeated by a decisive majority, but reconsidered last Monday, Allegheny county members led the fight for passage of the bill and the usual swords with members from Butler and Lawrence.

The Dauphin and Cumberland members voted for the bill, which goes to the Senate.

In opening the debate, Mr. Wallace, Lawrence, said so many bills were being called "administration measures" without the Governor knowing anything about them that it was becoming a joke. When questioned by Mr. Willson, the Lawrence member said the Governor had twice been quoted as saying he was not back of the bill and he said him he did not want the bill to reach his desk.

Mr. Dithrich, Allegheny, said that he thought the Governor could speak for himself at any time and that people were coming here and forming organizations for legislation, who seemed to be very busy.

Mr. Woner, Butler, said that the bills were "destructive legislation" and was laughed at, whereupon Mr. Wallace asked that he be given a respectful hearing.

"The gentleman seems to be able to take care of himself," ruled the speaker.

The Butler member said Senator Penrose had been quoted as favoring nonpartisan government and became involved in a controversy with Mr. Simpson, Allegheny, on party regularity. The latter said the bill was not a step backward, but to "correct an error."

A motion for the previous question ended the debate.

## Lord Mayor of Belfast Declines to Meet With Ryan

Belfast, May 6.—Former Governor Edward F. Dunne, of Illinois, and Michael J. Ryan, of Philadelphia, yesterday interviewed members of the local Sinn Fein Society. The Lord Mayor of Belfast declined to see them.

The Dublin corporation has summoned a special meeting for Saturday to receive Mr. Dunne and Mr. Ryan as representatives of the Irish societies in the United States.

## LIGHTNING CAUSES FIRE

Philadelphia, May 6.—Fire, believed to have been caused by a bolt of lightning, last night destroyed the cardboard manufacturing plant of Hurlock Brothers in West Philadelphia. The loss was estimated at \$125,000.

## BRITISH CONTRACT GOES TO AMERICAN

Will Furnish Street Car Rails For Birmingham, Despite Numerous Protests

London, May 6.—Yanks' enterprise triumphed when the city of Birmingham, planning to replace its street car rails invited bids for material. An American obtained the contract, although two British firms asked for it, and protests have been so numerous that the municipal government issued an official statement.

One of the British bidders, it was explained, agreed to begin delivering rails a week in April, but would not consent to a penalty clause for non-delivery; the other promised 1,200 tons within twenty weeks. The firm in the United States agreed to complete delivery by the end of May and quoted a lower price than either of the British manufacturers. The price and the fact that the British authorities were anxious to complete the work this year were the influencing factors in favor of the American bidder.

Sending American steel rails to Birmingham is like carrying coals to New Castle, with the possible exception that the purchase by the city corporation of street railway rails made in the United States is better than if the British product had been used.

Councilman Lee, called upon by the city council to explain the purchase, said that the British manufacturers had not been equal to the committee's standard. The life of the normal life of fifteen years.

Alderman Bewlay declared this statement rested on the British steel trade industry; and another member recalled that rule of the council forbade the placing of an order with a foreign concern when the value was more than \$5,000.

The controversy ended when a resolution was adopted approving the purchase of American rails, but recommending the committee of the existence of the rule regarding foreign goods and ordering its enforcement in the future.

## Syrians Must Borrow Clothing to Go on Street

The need of clothing in Syria is so great that many people have to borrow garments before they can appear on the street, according to a letter received by the American committee for Armenian and Syrian relief from Major James H. Nicol at Beirut. He says:

"When we came into Syria after the occupation, it might really almost be said that there was no clothing in the Lebanon mountains. Some who appeared on the streets in a fairly respectable way were found to have no underclothing of any sort and very little bedding in their homes. Cases are reported to me constantly where women have to borrow clothing to come down to the headquarters, and certain pieces of clothing are handed from one person in a village to another; and this is the condition even now."

after we have been working as hard as possible to make and distribute clothing for four months past. We should have had at least 500,000 garments to distribute, whereas the best we have been able to do up to the present is to make and distribute about 100,000. This clothing need will go on for some time to come, as people in the mountains have no means for purchasing what there is here."

ON BEING PROPOSED TO Kitty was engaged, and her girl friends were very interested. "How did it feel," asked one, "while Billy was proposing to you?" "Oh," laughed Kitty, twisting her lovely diamond ring, "two or three times I felt like supplying the words I knew he was fighting for; but of course, that would not have been the thing to do at all, would it?"—Galveston Tribune.

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