

NEWS OF LEGISLATURE

ADMINISTRATION WINS ITS FIGHT

Compensation Changes Made Along Lines of the Attorney General's Bill

The State administration won its fight for an increased rate of workmen's compensation and a series of other changes in the State workmen's compensation law beneficial to the workers of the industries of Pennsylvania last night when the Smith bill amending the code of 1915 was passed in the House without opposition in practically the same shape as when introduced by the Dauphin Senator at the request of Attorney General William I. Schaffer. The bill now goes to the Governor's desk. With it will go the bill establishing a bureau of rehabilitation for industrial workers which is to be administered under direction of the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. The self-insurers tax has been abandoned.

The opposition to the compensation amendments disappeared several days ago and the bill passed finally in the House, 159 to 0. It was the subject of several hearings in the Senate in which the administration plan was severely criticized and the administration won out. When the bill reached the House the basis of computation worked out by the Attorney General was eliminated in the ways and means committee and one favored by employers substituted. The House last night took out the employers' provisions and reinstated the Attorney General's plan. This was through the influence of the Governor, opposition disappearing.

Under the provisions of the changes the rate of compensation is fixed at sixty per cent, a more favorable basis of computation established, the waiting period cut to ten days, \$1,000 more added to total disability cases and other changes made.

The objections of the committee of doctors that the bill did not contain a maximum charge of \$100 for operations, exclusive of treatment, were overcome by an agreement that a ruling would be made by the Compensation Board to that effect. This did away with necessity of recalling the bill.

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TEMPLETON NEW GROUNDS CHIEF

Luzerne Man Appointed Superintendent; Man of Many Lines of Activity

Former Congressman Thomas W. Templeton, of Plymouth, Luzerne county, is the new State Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings. His nomination was sent to the Senate last evening by Governor Sprout, who has been a close friend of the appointee since the days of the famous Elkin fight when both fought side by side in the camp of the "Indiana plowboy." He was confirmed.

For years Mr. Templeton has been active in the politics of Luzerne and adjoining counties. His acquaintance, however, extends to every one of the sixty-seven counties, for every campaign the past ten years has found the Plymouth man touring the State in the interest of the Republican State Committee as a "sounding of sentiment." In this work he is an adept and said he had no equal.

Those who know Mr. Templeton intimately claim he is peculiarly qualified for the duties of Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings. After graduating in the Wyoming Seminary he learned the carpenter trade and at once built a dozen houses, and, outside of the Luzerne county, he did it all himself, that is he drove every nail from the cellars to the roofs. Then he studied law and was admitted to practice in Luzerne county. But law had little attraction for Mr. Templeton. He engaged in mercantile enterprises and eventually found the line that he liked the best—as a grower of flowers. Always a lover of nature, Mr. Templeton is more at home among flowers than among men. He is a manager and part owner of the largest nurseries in Pennsylvania—the Penn Floral Company of Dornach, Luzerne county. His partners being P. F. Joyce, of Pittston, and W. P. Gallagher, chief clerk of the Senate.

Some years ago Mr. Templeton was elected prothonotary of his county, but declined a renomination. Then in 1916 when the Republicans of Luzerne wanted a man to take the measure of Congressman John J. Casey, who was then serving his second term at Washington and who by reason of his labor union connections had become unpopular in a coal mining community, they induced Mr. Templeton to jump into the battle. He did so and after trimming the Brumbaugh faction in Luzerne county for the nomination, defeated Casey by upwards of 5,000 majority. The Republican Congressional Committee declared the election of Mr. Templeton the most noteworthy political happening in any district in the United States. Mr. Templeton was offered a renomination on a silver platter but he refused to run again and decided to devote all his political activity last year to the success of Sprout and Beiteman.

Mr. Templeton is a member of the Republican State Committee and a loyal follower of Senator Penrose. He had the backing of the State's senior Senator, State Chairman Crow, Lieutenant Governor Beiteman and many others active in Republican ranks.

The new Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings is fifty years old and unmarried. Under the bill

HOUSE CLOSING IN FINE SHAPE

Small Number of Bills to be Disposed of on the Final Business Day

The House of Representatives adjourned shortly before midnight with only thirty-five bills, including conference reports and bills recalled from the Governor, to consider on its final business day, which is to-day. This is the best shape in which the lower branch of the Legislature has been so close to final adjournment in years.

During the day the House cleared its calendar of over forty bills and concurred in many measures amended by the Senate. The business of the night session occupied less than an hour and a recess was taken to hear Attorney General Palmer.

The bill empowering the State Department of Health to state places which it may designate as breeders of mosquitoes and for apportionment of cost among municipalities and benefited properties passed finally without opposition and now goes to the Governor.

Senate bills were considered at the night session those passed including:

- Increasing game protectors to eighty.
- Establishing a State system of villages for arable lands.
- Relieving Governor from obligation to approve building plans for village for feeble minded women; enlarging powers of building commission and providing a system of maintenance charges.
- Giving water power companies right of eminent domain under supervision of feeble minded women; enlarging powers of building commission and providing a system of maintenance charges.
- Establishing children's hours in counties having less than 250,000 population.
- Constitutional amendment consolidating Philadelphia courts.
- Requiring counties, cities and boroughs to furnish rooms in public buildings for veterans' organizations.
- Providing that no boards of view or sherrifs until improvements are made and excepting pending work.
- Establishing a State court of claims.
- Non-resident fishermen's license bill.
- Making failure to support wife or children a misdemeanor.
- Authorizing cities incorporated in other States to hold realty in erect buildings.
- Empowering cities to condemn property for public halls, memorials, libraries and monuments.
- Constitutional amendment forbidding cities from becoming stockholders in companies or associations except Philadelphia in regard to transit.
- Making superintendent of Public Instruction, executive officer of the State Board of Education.
- Fixing salary of deputy superintendent of Public Instruction at \$7,500 and \$4,000.
- Regulating renewal of professional teachers' certificate.
- Providing for payment of cost of children in orphan asylums and similar institutions.
- House vetoed down to remove poor directors from liability for costs of incorrigible children's detention.
- The bill giving electric light, heat and power companies right of eminent domain for transmission lines passed.

enacted a few days ago and which reorganizes the department his salary will be \$7,000 a year, an increase of \$2,000. It is said that for the present at least, George A. Schreiner will be retained as one of the assistants to the superintendent, which place was created by the recent act. Templeton will be sworn in on July 1.

PALMER SPEAKS IN THE SENATE

Attorney General Guest of Governor Who Also Addresses Lawmakers

Warning to Bolsheviks and radicals in general that American institutions and the American system of government can never be overthrown by force, was the keynote of an address by A. Mitchell Palmer, of Stroudsburg, Attorney General of the United States, in an address in the State Senate chamber last evening.

Mr. Palmer, who was in Harrisburg for a brief stay, on his way to the meeting of the State Bar Association in Bedford to-day, spoke in the Senate, as the result of a resolution introduced by Senator Scott Leiby, Perry, which invited him to address the upper house. He was the guest over night of the Governor, his classmate at college.

Governor Sprout, who also spoke to the Senate, praised that body for the co-operation which it has given him during the session which will close to-morrow. The Governor seemed well pleased with the result of the session, and declared that after a sufficient time had elapsed to give a fair perspective of the work completed, the present assembly will be long remembered for its good work.

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The Attorney General congratulated the Legislature on reaching the end of "a very important session."

Mr. Palmer spoke of the results of the war, declaring that never in the history of the world were there greater opportunities for service to the people than at the present time and in the next few years in the way of reconstruction and in taking advantage of the changes brought about by the war.

Mr. Palmer spoke on European conditions and on the use of force to bring about changes in condition of government. Those who attempt to bring about reforms by the use of force and strike down a cabinet officer, a great judge or a great executive official, Mr. Palmer said, "will find vigorous and courageous men arise to take their places and government will be restored."

Governor Sprout then expressed his "pride and satisfaction with the treatment the administration has received from the legislation."

The Governor told the Senators it was far easier to be Senator and pass legislation on to the Governor than it is to sit in the south wing of the Capitol and have the last guess on it. "There is nobody to pass the buck to," the Governor said.

Governor Sprout also expressed his satisfaction at the passage of the woman suffrage ratification resolution, brought about by peaceful methods and without force. "This is a historic day in Pennsylvania," he declared.

Senate Bills are Taken From Calendar

Senate bills providing additional methods of collecting delinquent borough and school taxes in boroughs and amending the delinquency collection law, for which bills were dropped from the calendar.

The bill regulating the sale of second-hand automobiles and requiring certificates to be kept by garages recalled from the Governor for amendment, was changed and passed finally just before the close of the afternoon session.

Messrs. Hess, Haldeman and Shaffer were named as conferees on the bill reorganizing the State Compensation Board.

Going Home on Horseback Gettysburg, Pa., June 25.—Jack Glickman, a one time cowboy and lately with the Sumner Division in France, passed through here on his way from Camp Dix to Miles City, Montana, traveling the entire distance on horseback. Glickman spent several seasons before he enlisted with the Buffalo Bill and Pawnee Bill Wild West Shows and while here gave a demonstration of the way cowboys swing the rope in the wild and woolly west.

PLANTING TOBACCO Marietta, Pa., June 25.—Tobacco farmers have finished putting out the plants for this season's crop. There is not quite as much this year as on former occasions, the prevailing price being the hindrance. Many have planted corn, and others potatoes in their fields. The potato crop, especially in Lancaster county will be heavy.

SOUR CHERRIES PLENTIFUL Marietta, Pa., June 25.—Sour cherries are plentiful in Marietta and vicinity, and to-day the picking began in real earnest. The greater part of the sweet cherries are over, and according to reports not as many were put away for the winter as other years.

COURT UPHOLDS COMMISSION

Public Service Finding in regard to Telephone Competition Sustained by Frazer

The decision of the Supreme Court in the Perry County Telephone and Telegraph Company case upholds the Public Service Commission and establishes important precedents in regard to rulings against ruinous competition by telephone companies.

In brief the Commission refused to permit the community to be burdened with two competing telephone lines when one company could adequately serve the community. The Commission held that the building of two lines, under the circumstances, would double the capital charge upon which the public would pay, and it would also divide the service between two companies so that the same public would be obliged to rent two telephones in place of one in order to reach all the local telephone users.

Justice Frazer, of the Supreme Court, in rendering the opinion, said in part: "Although in a sense refusal to permit the construction of a competing line may be conceded directly affecting the public welfare, the purpose of the framers of the constitution evidently had in mind prohibiting the consolidation of competing telephone lines and railroads, nevertheless before reaching a conclusion on this question, consideration of other matters becomes important, to wit, the burden necessarily following from the maintenance by the public of dual systems to provide facilities which, in their very nature, are monopolies, and also the existence of legislation conferring upon a public

body the power to inquire into and regulate rates alleged to be excessive, thus removing danger of evils experience has taught generally result from a monopoly in the supply of a particular commodity to the public. Competition may be, and is very desirable in many lines of business; there are, however, a number of quasi-public enterprises which may be classified as natural monopolies in case the duplication of facilities merely results in the placing of an additional burden upon the public by forcing persons to maintain two systems where one would serve the purpose as effectively and at less cost. In this class may be placed the furnishing of gas, water, electricity and telephone service to the public. The argument that competition between rival facilities serves to reduce the price to the consumer is not sustainable logically. The duplication of water systems, for instance, means the expenditure of a large amount of money in the construction of reservoirs, laying of pipes, in turn involving duplication of inconvenience to the public in tearing up streets and making excavations without proportionate benefit. The duplication of telephone systems in a given locality without connection between their lines requires subscribers to install both systems and pay double service to reach subscribers on but one of the two systems. Or, as frequently happens, subscribers maintain both systems when they can reach other users with equal facility on either system. It is useless to argue that the cost of construction of such duplicate systems is paid by investors, and the risk of financial failure is theirs, owing to the burden of finally paying the carrying charges and income to the investors is imposed upon the public with the result that a higher charge on the part of each competing company becomes necessary, due to the division of the patronage of the public. This is especially true in the smaller cities and country districts where the public to be served is limited in numbers. To hold, therefore, that

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In our estimation coal put into your bins during the summer months is worth at least one dollar per ton more than coal mined and shipped under rushed winter conditions when everything is hustle and bustle around the coal breakers.

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