

B. F. SCHWEIER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

CAN any one tell why there were no Mexican troubles along the border during the war of the North and the South?

The failures in New York city during the month of December amount to \$8,000,000. To meet that large sum, the broken parties claim to have \$4,000,000. If they have the half of \$4,000,000 they will do well.

The South Carolina Republicans contemplate reviving their organization. The recent unexpected victories in Beaufort and Sumpter counties have convinced them that they can reorganize with good prospects.

Is consideration of having turned, and proposing to still further turn States evidence, and give up such stolen property as yet remains in his possession, it is proposed by New York authority to relieve and pardon Boss Tweed.

In the coming political campaign a Legislature will be elected that will elect a United States Senator. A Governor is to be elected, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of Internal Affairs, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The defalcations of the broker Borden, of New York, have opened to view one of the methods by which such so-called money men raise funds. One of the favorite ways that he employed, was to pledge the securities, such as bonds, notes, &c., that were left with him, for money that he borrowed.

England worked to get her hand in at mediation between Turkey and Russia. She would have liked to receive the conditions on which Russia will end the contest. Russia, however, cut the proposal to mediate quite short. The answer was, that just so soon as Turkey herself asks for terms it will be time to consider the question.

There is time between this and the next Presidential election to change the manner of electing a President. There is a general feeling that a change should be made. The wrangle of a year ago has intensified the feeling. There is an opportunity for some Congressman to put himself in accord with the people on the question. Who will do it?

The world is fairly started on its career for the year 1878. It will be a great year. An indefinite oppressive consciousness possesses the mind that great changes are about to take place in Europe. Great and old families are about to pass out of the active and prominent places they now occupy, and great and old families are to be made greater still, while at the same time the civilization of Europe, which is founded on the Christian faith, will be greatly strengthened by the changes. What effect the great changes about to be made will have upon this country, or how this country will affect the changes now to take place, will be subjects of interest for the intelligent observer, and of the deepest, though unthought-of interest to the people generally. How will it affect Mohammedanism? How will it affect Roman Catholicism? How will it affect Protestantism?

Last Thursday afternoon two tramps entered the humble home of a family near Camden, New Jersey, while the husband and wife were away picking rags, by which they were earning a living. Finding no one in the house but two little girls, aged 9 and 12 years of age, the tramps, after eating such things as they found in the house, and desired, bound the children to chairs, and robbed the building. They found \$200 in gold and silver in a trunk, which they took, and then returned to the little girls and violated their persons, retied them, and left. In the evening the parents returned. No description can do justice to the sense of outrage that fell upon the parents when they witnessed the outrage of their little girls. The people in troops are still looking for the tramps who committed the outrage. If caught and identified, there should be a sudden and quick end with the court left out.

**Famine in Russia.** It would appear that Russia has to contend with famine within its own borders as well as with the Turks in Bulgaria and in Armenia. Dearth is reported to prevail to a serious extent in the Province of Kazan in Eastern Russia, the Province lying to the northwest of and adjacent to the Province of Samara, which suffered so disastrously from famine a short time ago. The city of Kazan is said to be crowded with famine-stricken persons who have flocked into it in search of food, and the peasantry in the outlying districts are reduced to great straits. An Imperial commission has been appointed to visit the Province and organize the means of relief. A public subscription has, moreover, been opened, to which the Tartar merchants have subscribed liberally.—*Amos.*

The colored men of Raleigh, N. C., celebrated the anniversary of the Emancipation 32d year last. Gov. Vance told them that he could not celebrate this day with them because he had done all that mortal man could do to prevent the occurrence of this day in history of this country, and that he and his party did not believe that the reconstruction acts were constitutional, and therefore the negroes were not properly freed. Other Democrats refused to attend on the ground that they would do violence to their consciences.

THE LEGISLATURE.

SENATE. JANUARY 1, 1878.

The Senate met at noon and was called to order by Lieutenant Governor Latta, prayer by Rev. Dr. Judd. Forty-seven Senators were present. Mr. Lawrence moved that an election be held for President pro tem. Mr. Newmyer, Republican, nominated Thomas V. Cooper, of Delaware county, and Mr. Hill, Democrat, nominated David A. Nagle, of Philadelphia. Of the votes cast 31 were for Mr. Cooper and 15 for Mr. Nagle, and Mr. Cooper was declared elected. The Senate then took a recess for fifteen minutes. Upon reassembling Mr. Cooper was escorted to the chair by Senator Newmyer, and returned thanks for the renewed evidence of the confidence placed in him. The oath of office was administered by the Hon. John J. Pearson, President Judge of Dauphin county.

The usual resolutions appointing committees on the part of the Governor and on the House of Representatives, informing them of the organization of the Senate, were adopted. Messrs. Grady and Roebuck offered resolutions that the rules of the Senate and the joint rules of both Houses, adopted at the last session of the Legislature, be adopted for this session, and continued in force until otherwise ordered. Adopted. Mr. Herz offered a bill, resolutions and other unfinished business pending at the close of the last session be considered at this session, unless reintroduced as new business. Agreed to.

Mr. Stone—That the sessions of the Senate begin at 11 a. m. and adjourn at 1 p. m., except on Friday, when they shall begin at 10 a. m. and adjourn at 12 m. Agreed to.

Mr. Gazzam—That the President pro tem be authorized to appoint all standing committees of the Senate. Agreed to. On motion of Mr. Gazzam the Senate at 12.50 adjourned.

There are but few changes in the Philadelphia appointments of the Senate. John Lockhardt, formerly Assistant Sergeant at Arms, has been transferred to the transcription room; George Leatherberry, formerly Postmaster of the Senate, to the place vacated by Mr. Lockhardt; and Joseph Tatem appointed Messenger, vice Samuel McKenna resigned.

JANUARY 2, 1878. Memorial from the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce, praying for the appointment of a special committee to investigate the causes of the late riots.

A resolution was offered to the effect that, if the House concur, when the Senate adjourn to-day it be to meet on Tuesday evening next.—Adopted.

Four thousand copies of the German and English and one thousand copies in German were ordered printed. On motion a concurrent resolution was adopted that three thousand five hundred copies of the report of the Municipal Commission be printed for the use of the Legislature, one thousand for the Senate and five hundred for the House.

A resolution was offered to the effect that, if the House concur, the Legislature will meet in joint session in the hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday, the 10th, for the purpose of counting and publishing the returns for State Treasurer and Auditor General. Adopted.

A number of nominations were sent to the Senate, among them the number following to be notaries public for Philadelphia: N. R. Harris, J. N. Holland, H. E. Hindmarsh and L. F. Benson.

Adjourned until Tuesday evening, the 8th, at 7 1/2 o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JANUARY 1, 1878.

The House met at 12 o'clock, and was called to order by Speaker Myers, prayer by Rev. Mr. Clark. The Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth presented the credentials of two new members, viz: M. Edgar King, in place of David M. Jones, of Blair county, deceased, and Benjamin Dorrance, in place of Hugh Young, of Tioga, resigned.

The new members were then sworn into office by Judge Pearson, of Dauphin county. The usual committees were, on motion of Messrs. Potts and Graham, of Allegheny, appointed to notify the Governor and Senate that the House is organized.

Mr. Long presented letters resignation from three Allegheny county employes of the House, viz: Richard Jones Janitor, John F. White, Door-keeper, and John Williams, Assistant Postmaster. These three were obliged to resign under an agreement made by the Allegheny county delegation with the House last winter that their terms of office should last for one year. The resignations were accepted, and the places of the three retiring officials were filled by three new men from Allegheny county.

A memorial from the Chamber of Commerce of Pittsburg was presented by Mr. Long, of Allegheny, asking the Legislature to appoint a committee to investigate the riots in the western counties of the State, and announcing various conclusions, among others the following, viz: That the railroads had been entitled to the protection of the State; that had there been no riot, nor interference with established rights, nor attempts to overthrow authority, there would have been no need of troops; that the State had been bound to interfere, and that no single county ought now in equity to be held liable for damages incurred under such circumstances. The memorial was laid on the table for future reading.

In reference to the death of Mr. Jones, of Blair county, a committee was appointed to draft resolutions of condolence. A notice was received from the Governor, saying that his message would be sent to both Houses on Wednesday morning.

The House then adjourned until the 2nd.

JANUARY 2, 1878.

The question of considering the 207 bills left on the floor of the House at the close of the session of 1877 came up. Mr. Sherwood offered a resolution that no bill, resolution or other business

pending at the close of the session of 1877 shall again be considered at this session unless again introduced, except reports of special committees appointed last session.

As a substitute Mr. Billingsly offered a resolution (if the Senate concur) that the business of the General Assembly remaining unfinished at its adjournment on March 23, 1877, be taken up and disposed of in regular order.

Mr. Huhn argued against considering the old bills, his principal points being that if they were taken up it would require until the 25th of March to dispose of them, even without debate or amendment; that the session would thus be prolonged for one hundred and fifty days; and that there were important measures, such as the reorganization of the National Guard, the discussion of the riots and the consideration of the report of the Municipal Commission, which would suffer by confining the attention of the House to the old bills, in many cases, unimportant bills of 1877.

Mr. Potts replied that scores of local bills had not last winter by the dilatory conduct of the House. They affected vital interests in different counties, had been properly advertised and should now be taken up and disposed of. He was thoroughly in favor of giving the people the worth of the money which they paid their legislators, did not believe in receiving pay for a session of one hundred days and actually working but eighty, as he had been done last winter, and insisted that the action, advertising and progress actually made with the local measures should not be wasted.

Mr. Long declared that the Attorney General inclined to the opinion that if a bill had last session been properly advertised such advertisement would sustain the reintroduction of it during the present session. The formal opinion of the Attorney General was quite accessible.

The proceedings were interrupted by the entrance of Secretary of the Commonwealth Quay, who presented the annual message of Governor Hartranft, which was read. At the conclusion of the reading the recommendations contained in the document were, on motion of Mr. Huhn, referred to the appropriate committees.

The House concurred in various resolutions of the Senate, viz: Bringing the report of the Municipal Commission (both majority and minority); ordering a joint meeting of the two Houses to open the vote for State Treasurer, and permitting the Senate to adjourn over from to-day until next Tuesday evening. [This action of adjournment affects the Senate only, and not the House.]

Mr. Walter (of Delaware) asked permission to offer a resolution, proposing to amend the act that directed that "the rights of individuals might be determined and that justice might be done." He then presented the following:

Whereas, It is alleged that O. F. Bullard, member of this House from Delaware county, is detained from his seat under arrest in violation of the second article of the Constitution and of the privileges of this House; therefore,

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary are hereby instructed, with all practicable dispatch, to inquire into the circumstances of the case and report to this House whether any breach of its privileges has been committed, and what action should be had thereon; that the said committee have power to send for persons and papers, to sit during the sessions of this House and to report at any time.

Mr. Sherwood did not believe that the House was prepared to shield any criminal under the cloak of its privileges. The charges against Mr. Bullard were those which involved a dastardly injury to widows and orphans, and whether he was innocent or guilty of those charges would be wise and proper for the House to leave his case in the hands of justice.

Mr. Huhn deprecated any attack upon Mr. Bullard before he had been proven guilty. Meanwhile it was no part of the duty of the House to presuppose his guilt, but simply to consider that one of its members, being charged with a crime, had asked for an investigation by the body of which he was a component part.

The English authorities had held that the English accused to Parliament were no shield against a criminal act, the precedent afforded by our own Congress in the Culver case, in 1866, was a safe one, and he desired the House to follow this precedent and refer the subject to its committee for an investigation. The matter of guilt or innocence did not now enter into the case, but simply the question whether any breach of the privileges of the House had been committed.

Mr. James said that a member (Mr. Bullard) being absent and the House having no official knowledge of the reason for such absence, and being unable to take any proper action without such knowledge, it was plainly its duty, through a committee, to inquire into the ability or disability of the member.

The bill was adopted.

Adjourned until Thursday morning, the 3rd.

JANUARY 3, 1877.

The House was called to order at 11 o'clock. The Speaker announced that the unfinished business before the House was the amendment of Mr. Billingsly, to commence business where it was left off at the last session.

Mr. Long announced that he was authorized by the Attorney General to say that he had given no decision at all in regard to re-advertisement of local or special bills not adopted upon at the last session; that the requirements of the Constitution had been complied with if the bills had been advertised previous to introduction last session, and could be again introduced without further advertising; such decision having never been given.

Mr. Spang spoke in favor of the amendment and quoted as a precedent for action in taking up unfinished business at the beginning of an adjourned session, and besides this, to begin de novo would entail a large expense on the State because the large calendar of bills now printed would be useless, and another expense would have to be met in printing new ones.

Mr. Jackson said if this House was competent to vote on its business of last session, it was entirely competent to finish this session its unfinished business of a year ago.

Mr. Morgan (Lawrence) offered the following: "That, in the judgment of the Senate and House, a bill defeated at last session can again be re-introduced this session, as an additional amendment."

Mr. Schmitterly opposed this resolution, the old business. He had no bill that would be affected by beginning anew or resuming the

old calendar (now, after a careful examination of the subject he had concluded to vote to commence de novo. He held that it would be unfair to resume the old business, because most of these bills were of a local or special nature, and would interfere with general legislation for the public good. All the old bills could be reintroduced and referred to committees, and if, on their report to the House and when on their final passage, satisfactory evidence of advertisement was given, the Speaker could decide such bills properly before the House, and no one could have the right to revise the decision.

After a few remarks by Mr. James, who said the special legislation came from small communities, and as all were desirous of having the laws passed that now remain unfinished business, to commence de novo would throw them back six or eight weeks to re-advertise.

The amendment of Mr. Morgan (Lawrence) was lost.

On the amendment of Mr. Billingsly to resume the unfinished business of last year the yeas and nays were demanded and resulted 110 yeas to 71 nays.

The House then adjourned until Friday morning.

JANUARY 4, 1878.

The House met at 10 o'clock a. m., Speaker pro tem. Mr. Long, of Allegheny, in the chair.

The following bills were introduced: Mr. Potts, to prohibit the peddling of fruits, vegetables, &c., in cities of second and third classes without a license. Mr. McElroy, to repeal an act to extend the Penn township road in Allegheny county.

Mr. Long, to provide for the current expenses of the Ohio river improvement commission; supplement to an act entitled an act to prevent frauds upon travelers; to repeal an act authorizing the county commissioners of Allegheny to select four morning papers for official county advertising.

Mr. Lockwood, supplement to an act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations, and to extend the provisions of the same to the transportation and storage of oil.

Mr. Edge, for the repression and punishment of the willful adulteration of food, drinks and drugs.

Mr. Tyler, providing for the filling of the office of judge of a judicial district pending a contest.

Mr. Fulton, relating to the practice under the sheriff's interpleader laws of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Miller, of Allegheny to amend an act authorizing the elections of additional officers, etc., in townships of Robinson and North Fayette in Allegheny county.

Mr. Kierstedt, to provide for the division of counties of this Commonwealth and the creation of new counties therefrom.

Mr. Kimble, making an appropriation to the Home for the Friendless of Williamsport.

Mr. Gross, to amend an act to suppress vagrancy, so as to prohibit payment of fees for arrest to constables and police.

Mr. Stewart, to permit the voters of the State to vote every two years upon the question of granting license to sell intoxicating drinks.

Mr. Morgan (Lawrence), an act in regard to the boundary monuments between the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio; substituting a poll tax for taxes on trades and occupations.

Mr. Garman (Junata) to provide additional appropriations to school districts in certain cases, in which mistakes in reports occur.

Mr. Wise, prohibiting killing of squirrels between the first day of January and the first day of July.

Mr. Schnatterly, to repeal the second section of an act for the better protection of passengers upon railroads.

Mr. Englebert, fixing the amount of bounty on fox scalps.

Mr. Stewart, to provide for the selections of jurors by county commissioners.

Mr. Magill, to establish a recorder's court in cities of second class.

Mr. Billingsly, requiring hotel keepers to provide means of escape in case of fire.

Mr. Nisley, appropriating \$25,000 to the State Lunatic Asylum at Harrisburg Hospital.

Mr. Black, appropriating \$25,000 to Harrisburg Hospital.

Mr. Rapsler, to facilitate the prompt collection of taxes.

Mr. Jackson of Sullivan, supplement to an act to amend and consolidate the game and fish laws.

Mr. Rrspher, enlarging the rights and liabilities of married women.

Mr. Roberts, an act to establish new counties in this Commonwealth.

Mr. Morgan, of Schuylkill, to establish boards of arbitration to settle questions of wages, etc., between capital and labor.

Mr. Larrabee, of Potter, to encourage the construction of steam engines for use on public highways.

Mr. Shantz, providing for making and improving public roads; appropriating \$100,000 to Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia.

Mr. Snyder, relative to the election of an additional law judge in Northumberland county.

Mr. Sherwood (Northumberland), to remedy the evils arising from taking more than the legal rate of interest.

Mr. Richardson, supplement to an act regulating boroughs.

Mr. Petroff, to prevent frauds upon hotel keepers; further supplement to an act regulating elections in this Commonwealth.

Mr. Huhn, supplement to an act requiring auditors to publish an annual statement; appropriating \$45,000 to Philadelphia House of Refuge.

Mr. Hall, appropriating \$10,000 to the Western Hospital of Philadelphia; to facilitate the extension of passenger railroads in cities; appropriating \$3,000 to the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.

Mr. Huhn, to secure a strict accountability of certain public officers.

Mr. Larrabee, of Potter to facilitate the collection of debts contracted for the construction of public roads.

Mr. Billingsly offered the following: Resolved, That the daily sessions of this House shall begin at 10 a. m. and close at 1 p. m. Adopted.

Mr. Ringold offered the following, which was adopted: Resolved, That the Superintendent of Public Buildings and grounds be required to cover with wood and place a railing on the stone steps at entrance of the Capitol Adjourned until Monday evening.

Mr. Ringold, to amend an act to suppress vagrancy, so as to prohibit payment of fees for arrest to constables and police.

Mr. Stewart, to permit the voters of the State to vote every two years upon the question of granting license to sell intoxicating drinks.

Mr. Morgan (Lawrence), an act in regard to the boundary monuments between the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio; substituting a poll tax for taxes on trades and occupations.

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