THE MIDDLEBURGH POST.

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Middleburgh, Pa., January 31, 1895.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Important Measures Considered by Our Lawmakers.

MONDAY—Gen. Gobin, of Lebanon, Pa., introduced bills in the senate to-night asking for the continuance of the Indian fort commission, to appropriate $8,000 to pay the commission, and $60,000 to erect necessary tablets.

To fix theatrical licenses at $500 in cities of the first class, $250 in cities of the second class, $75 in cities of the third class, and $30 in boroughs and townships.

To require corporations to pay entire bonus on their capital stock on the incorporation of any company liable for bonus.

To allow appraisers of collateral inheritance $2 a day when in actual service.

To appropriate $50,000 for erection of approaches to the surroundings of the equestrian statue of Maj. Gen. Meade on th Gettysburg battlefield.

Andrews (Crawford)—Providing for site and erection of a state asylum for chronic insane, to be located at Titusville, the cost of grounds and building not to exceed $500,000.

Brewer (Franklin)—Judicial apportionment bill and bill to establish circuit court of appeals.

McQuown (Clearfield)—Providing for a state board of examiners to examine all students of law.

Kennedy (Allegheny)—For protection of persons unable to care for their property.

Papers in the Laraach contest election case was referred to committee on elections.

Mr. Kennedy, of Allegheny, presented resolutions of the Allegheny councils against the "Greater Pittsburg" bill.

In the house these bills were introduced: Lawrence of Washington, for appointment by governor of a board of boiler inspectors, consisting of one or more from each judicial district.

Schwarz, Monroe, providing for uniform opening of a game season.

Wallace, Allegheny, making it unlawful for assemblage of idle and boisterous crowds on highways.

Fredericks, Clinton, appropriation of $50,000 to Lock Haven normal school.

Ililes, Delaware, authorizing street railway companies to carry freight.

Griner, Luzerne, compelling school directors to prevent male and female teachers from wearing any religious garb or uniform of any civic, military or political organization while on duty.

Nichol, Philadelphia, empowering cities and boroughs to appoint inspectors of food, cattle and market houses.

Smith, Jefferson, authorizing justices to select a jury of twenty-four persons, who shall have same qualifications as other jurors to try criminal cases of assault and battery.

Talbot, Chester, to appropriate $7,200 to ex-Sergeant-at-Arms Hoopes for services on election committee of 1883, providing that marriage law, passed two years ago, go into effect June 1, 1895; to make adulteration of milk and cream a misdemeanor.

TUESDAY.—In the senate to-day, Mr. Flinn presented a bill repealing so much of the act allowing voters of the townships of West Deer, East Deer, Harrison, Killbuck and others in Allegheny county to vote for or against the issuing of liquor licenses as refers to Harrison township. Among the appropriation bills were the following: $15,000 to the Adrian hospital, Jefferson; $10,000 to the hospital for the injured, at Mercer; $31,200 to the Oil City hospital. A bill was introduced increasing the salary of the superintendent of public printing from $2,000 to $3,000.

A big lot of bills were introduced in the house. Mr. Cotton, of Allegheny, offered one repealing the amendment to the marriage license act of 1893, which requires persons to be married in the county in which they take out a license. A bill presented by Mr. Richey, of Allegheny, provides for the carrying out of the provisions of the act of 1893, relating to the treatment of the indigent insane in the state and appropriating $950,000 for the purpose. Another amendment to the Baker ballot law was proposed by Mr. Wilcox, of Erie, who presented a bill which changes the time and manner of making the registry of voters, and changing the registration from May to June. These appropriation bills were offered in the house: $11,000 to the Warren insane asylum; $500,000 to the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania; $5,000 for the erection of a pedestal for a monument to William Penn, to be placed on the site of the treaty tree on the banks of the Delaware.

WEDNESDAY.—The Lemon bill amending section 24 of the act of June 19, 1887, relative to the government of cities of the second class, passed the final stage in the House this morning. The amendment substitutes the word "thereon" for "thereat" so that a majority of the persons voting on the question of a bond issue shall authorize such issue. As the law stands at present a majority of all those voting at such general election is necessary.

Bills were introduced by Representative Stewart, of Philadelphia, to prevent the interference of unauthorized persons with the electrical conductors, appliances and machinery of electric light, heat and power companies; providing for the organization, support and maintenance of associations for the protection and saving of property in case of fire in cities of the first-class.

THURSDAY.—The house only was in session to-day. Cochran, of Armstrong, introduced an old bill of the session of 1893, imposing a state tax on each barrel of malt liquor brewed. In Philadelphia the collection of the tax is given to the real estate assessors and in other counties to the county commissioners. The house passed a joint resolution by Mr. Focht, of Union, for the appointment of a legislative committee of five, with two citizens to be named by the governor, to ascertain the number of aliens who are charges on the state and who are inmates of state institutions. It also directs that the committee shall recommend some plan to have these aliens deported or the cost of their maintenance collected from the European countries that have sent them here. The resolution provoked no debate. The house fought for some time over the Standard Oil company's bill to repeal the act prohibiting competing pipe lines from consolidating. This is known as a boodle bill, and is nursed very tenderly. It came up on second reading. Mr. Connell had Governor Pattison's veto of the bill of 1893 read. The friends of the bill wanted it recommitted before a second reading in order to thus delay it further. The republican leaders favored this plan, but the house broke away from them and passed the bill. It was then recommitted in order that parties interested might be heard.

FRIDAY—Mr. Woodring, of Northampton, in the house presented a bill which reads as follows: That any person who shall willfully state or deliver or transmit by any means whatever to the manager, editor or reporter of any newspaper, magazine, periodical, serial for publication therein, any libellous statement concerning any person or corporation, or thereby secure the actual publication of the same, is hereby declared guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding $500 and undergo an imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years, or either, at the discretion of the court.

Faure Calls Ribot.

President Faure has summoned M. Ribot to form a cabinet, and the latter has accepted the task. He is now consulting with his friends. The wife of M. Ribot was formerly Miss Minnie Burch, of Chicago. Since the [illegible] under the late

THE BOND MESSAGE.

President Cleveland Begs Congress to Grant Relief.

CONDITION OF THE TREASURY

Gold Running Out and the Public Credit Menaced.

RECOMMENDS FIFTY-YEAR BONDS.

The President Monday sent to Congress the following special message on the financial question:

In my annual message I commended to the serious consideration of Congress the condition of our National finances, and in connection with the subject indorsed the plan of currency legislation which at that time seemed to furnish protection against impending danger. This plan has not been approved by the Congress. In the meantime the situation has so changed that the emergency now appears so threatening that I deem it my duty to ask at the hands of the legislative branch of the government such prompt and effective action as will restore confidence in our financial soundness and avert business disaster and universal distress among our people. Whatever may be the merits of the plan outlined in my annual message as a remedy for ills then existing and as a safeguard against the depletion of the gold reserve then in the treasury, I am now convinced that its reception by the Congress and our present advanced stage of financial perplexity necessitates additional or different legislation.

With natural resources unlimited in variety and productive strength, and with a people whose activity and enterprise seek only a fair opportunity to achieve national success and greatness, our progress should not be checked by a false financial policy and a heedless disregard of sound monetary laws, nor should the timidity and fear which they engender stand in the way of our progress.

It is hardly disputed that this predicament confronts us to-day. Therefore, no one in any degree responsible for the making and execution of our laws should fail to see a patriotic duty in honestly and sincerely attempting to relieve the situation. Manifestly this effort will not succeed unless it is made unfettered by the prejudice of partisanship and with a steadfast determination to resist the temptation to accomplish party advantage. We may well remember that if we are threatened with financial difficulties all our people in every station of life are concerned and surely those who suffered will not receive the promotion of party interests as an excuse for permitting our present trouble to advance to a disastrous conclusion. It is also of the utmost importance that we approach the study of the problems presented as free as possible from the tyranny of preconceived opinions to the end that in a common danger we may be able to seek with unclouded vision a safe and reasonable protection.

LACK OF CONFIDENCE.

The real trouble which confronts us consists in a lack of confidence, wide-spread and constantly increasing, in the continuing ability or disposition of the government to pay its obligations in gold. This lack of confidence grows to some extent out of the palpable and apparent embarrassment attending the efforts of the government under existing laws to procure gold, and to a greater extent out of the impossibility of either keeping it in the treasury or cancelling obligations by its expenditure after it is obtained.

The only way left open to the government for procuring gold is by the issue and sale of bonds. The only bonds that can be so issued were authorized nearly 25 years ago, and are not well calculated to meet our present needs. Among other disadvantages they are made payable in coin instead of specifically in gold, which in existing conditions detracts largely and in an increasing ratio from their desirability as investments. It is by no means certain that bonds of this description can much longer be disposed of at a price creditable to the financial character of our government.

THE DANGEROUS FEATURE.

The most dangerous and irritating feature of the situation however, remains to be mentioned. It is found in the means by which the treasury is despoiled of the gold thus obtained without canceling a single government obligation and solely for the benefit of those who find profit in shipping it abroad or whose fears induce them to hoard it at home. We have outstanding about five hundred millions of currency notes of the government for which gold may be demanded; and curiously enough, the law requires that when presented, and in fact redeemed and paid in gold they shall be reissued. Thus the same notes may do duty many times in drawing gold from the treasury; nor can the process be arrested so long as private parties who profit, or otherwise see an advantage in repeating the operation. More than three hundred millions of dollars in these notes have already been redeemed in gold, and notwithstanding such redemption, they are still outstanding.

Since the 17th day of January, 1894, our bonded interest-bearing debt has been increased $100,000,000 for the purpose of obtaining gold to replenish our coin reserve. Two issues were made, amounting to fifty millions each—one in January and the other in November. As a result of the first issue there was realized something more than fifty-eight millions of dollars in gold. Between that issue and the succeeding one in November, comprising a period of about ten months, nearly one hundred and three millions of dollars were drawn from the treasury. This made the second issue necessary, and upon that more than fifty-eight millions of gold was again realized. Between the date of this second issue and the present time, covering a period of only about two months, more than sixty-nine millions of dollars in gold have been drawn from the treasury. These large sums of gold were extracted without any cancellation of government obligations or any permanent way benefitting our people or improving our pecuniary situation.

THE GOLD QUESTION.

The financial events of the past year suggest facts and conditions which should certainly arrest attention.

More than one hundred and seventy-two millions of dollars in gold have been drawn out of the treasury during the year for the purpose of shipment abroad or hoarding at home.

While nearly one hundred and three millions of this amount were drawn out during the last two months of the year, a sum approximating more than two-thirds of that amount being about sixty-nine millions, was drawn out during the following two months, thus indicating a marked acceleration of the depleting process with the lapse of time.

The obligations upon which this gold has been drawn from the treasury are still outstanding and are available for use in repeating the exhausting operation with shorter intervals as our responsibilities accumulate.

Conditions are certainly supervening tending to render the bonds which may be issued to replenish our gold less useful for that purpose.

An adequate gold reserve is in all circumstances absolutely essential to the holding of our credit and to the maintenance of our high national character.

Our gold reserve has again reached such a stage of diminution as to require its speedy reinforcement.

The aggravations that must inevitably follow present conditions and methods certainly lead to misfortune and loss not only to our national credit and prosperity and to financial enterprise, but to those of our people who seek employment as a means of livlihood and to those whose only capital is their daily labor.

THE REVENUE DEFICIENCY.

It will hardly do to say that a simple increase of revenue will cure our troubles. The ap[illegible] and constructive [illegible] rest upon a calculation of our revenue. The time has passed when the eyes of investors abroad and our people at home were fixed upon the revenues of the government. Changed conditions have attracted their attention to the gold of the government. There need be no fear that we cannot pay our current expenses with such money as we have. There is now in the treasury a comfortable surplus of more than $30,000,000, but it is not in gold, and therefore, does not meet our difficulty.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

I cannot see that differences of opinion concerning the extent to which silver ought to be coined or used in our currency should interfere with the counsels of those whose duty it is to rectify evils now apparent in our financial situation. They have to consider the question of national credit and the consequences that will follow from its collapse. Whatever ideas may be insisted upon as to silver or bimetallism, a proper solution of the question now pressing upon us only requires a recognition of gold as well as silver and a concession of its importance, rightfully or wrongfully acquired, as a basis of national credit, a necessity in the honorable discharge of our obligations payable in gold and a badge of solvency. I do not understand that the real friends of silver desire a condition that might follow inaction or neglect to appreciate the meaning of the present meaning of the present exigency if it should result in the entire banishment of gold from our financial and currency arrangements.

Besides the treasury notes, which certainly should be paid in gold, amounting to nearly $500,000,000, there will fall due in 1904, $100,000,000 of bonds issued during the last year for which we have received in gold, and in 1907 nearly $62,000,000 of 4 per cent bonds, issued in 1877. Shall the payment of these obligations in gold be repudiated? If they are to be paid in such a manner as the preservation of our national honor and national solvency demands, we should not destroy or imperil our ability to supply ourselves with gold for that purpose.

While I am not unfriendly to silver, and while I desire to see it recognized to such an extent as is consistent with financial safety and the preservation of national honor and credit, I am not willing to see gold entirely banished from our currency and finances. To avert such a consequence, I believe thorough and radical remedial legislation should be promptly passed. I therefore beg the Congress to give the subject immediate attention.

POWER TO ISSUE BONDS.

In my opinion, the secretary of the treasury should be authorized to issue bonds of the government for the purpose of procuring and maintaining a sufficient gold reserve and the redemption and cancellation of the United States legal tender notes and the treasury notes issued for the purchase of silver under the law of July 14, 1890. We should be relieved from the humiliating process of issuing bonds to procure gold to be immediately and repeatedly drawn out on these obligations for purposes not related to the benefit of our government or our people. The principal and interest of these bonds should be payable on their face in gold, because they should be sold only for gold or its representative, and because there would now probably be difficulty in favorably disposing of bonds not containing this stipulation. I suggest that the bonds be issued in denominations of 20 and 50 dollars and their multiples and that they bear interest at a rate not exceeding 3 per cent. per annum. I do not see why they should not be payable 50 years from their date. We of the present generation have large amounts to pay if we meet our obligations, and long bonds are most salable. The secretary of the treasury might well be permitted at his discretion to receive on the sale of bonds the legal tender and treasury notes to be retired, and, of course, when they are thus retired or redeemed in gold they should be cancelled.

These bonds, under existing laws, could be deposited by national banks as security for circulation; and such banks should be allowed to issue circulation up to the face value of these or any other bonds so deposited, except bonds outstanding bearing only 2 per cent. interest, and which sell in the market at less than par. National banks should not be allowed to take out circulating notes of a less denomination than $10, and when such as are now outstanding reach the treasury, except for redemption and retirement, they should be cancelled and notes of the denomination of $10 and upward issued in their stead. Silver certificates of the denomination of $10 and upward should be replaced by certificates of denominations under $10.

As a constant means for the maintenance of a reasonable supply of gold in the treasury our duties on imports should be paid in gold, allowing all other dues to the government to be paid in any other form of money.

THE GREENBACK BURDEN.

I believe all the provisions I have suggested should be embodied in our laws if we are to enjoy a complete reinstatement of a sound financial condition. They need not interfere with any currency scheme providing for the increase of the circulating medium through the agency of national or State banks, since they can easily be adjusted to such a scheme. Objection has been made to the issuance of interest bearing obligations for the purpose of retiring the non-interest bearing legal tender notes. In point of fact, however, these notes have burdened us with a large load of interest and is still accumulating. The aggregate interest on the original issue of bonds, the proceeds of which in gold constituted the reserve for the payment of these notes amounted to $70,326,250 on January 1, 1895, and the annual interest on these bonds and th se issued for the same purpose during the last year will be $9,145,030, dating from January 1, 1895.

While the cancellation of these notes would not relieve us from the obligations already incurred on their account these figures are given by way of suggesting that their existence has not been free from interest charges and that the longer they are outstanding, judging from the experience of last year, the more expensive they will become.

In conclusion, I desire to frankly confess my reluctance to issuing more bonds in present circumstances and with no better results than have lately followed that course. I can not, however, refrain adding to an assurance of my anxiety to co-operate with the present Congress in any reasonable measure of relief, an expression of my determination to leave nothing undone which furnishes a hope for improving the situation or checking a suspicion of our disinclination or disability to meet with the strictest honor every national obligation.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

The Executive Mansion, January 28, 1895.

ONE CHICORA SURVIVOR.

A Terrier Swims Ashore from the Wreck.

When the Chicora went out of St. Joseph, Mich., on its last trip there was a big dog aboard. Saturday the dog was brought into Benton Harbor alive. Tuesday night the dog was heard whining at the door of a road house at Pottowatomie Park. It is a snuff-colored skye terrier. It was covered with ice. The tinder connected the visit of the dog, which had evidently just come out of the cold water, with the loss of the Chicora and brought it to the city.

The dog was immediately recognized by the stevedores who work on the Graham docks and by the crew of the Petoskey, as the animal that was aboard the Chicora when it left. The dog has been a tramp passenger on the Graham and Morton Transportation Company's boats for several months. It has been dividing its time between the Chicora and the Petoskey this winter. No one claims ownership of it, and the nearest friend of the animal is Capt. Griffin of the Petoskey.

The return of the animal indicates that the Chicora was within a half mile of the east shore the second night out. The dog it is believed could not swim more than a quarter of a mile. The place where the dog came ashore, Pottowatomie Park, is eight miles north of Benton Harbor, a summer resort. Many are inclined to think the vessel went

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