

Geo W Wagenseller, Editor and Proprietor.

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Thursday, Mar. 28, 1895.

Letter from Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, PA., Mar. 27, 1895. Editor Post:

The experience of the bad legislation and over legislation has had its influence in the past in determining the frequency and length of legislative sessions. Formerly the sessions were annual: now all states but five meet biennially. It appears to me that the state would not suffer materially if the sessions were still less frequently and laws fewer. Judging from the number of bills introduced one might be led to believe that the entire state was in a condition of chaos, that the security of home, life, liberty and all depended upon the legislation of this session. A great deal of useless matter finds its way into the legislative hopper which fact may be excusable if is not permitted to find its way out.

This legislature as a body endeavors to do good service for the state. It is working with a great deal of vim and up to this time has accomplished more than many previous ones had at this date. The last week was rather uneventful, nothing interfering with the usual running of the machinery.

Poor House Bill.

The bill changing the method of taking care of the poor, came up for final passage but failed to receive the constitutional majority and was therefore lost. It is generally supposed that an effort will be made to reconsider the vote by which it was defeated. If that should happen another attempt will be made to pass it.

I endeavor to represent the majority as near as I am able to do so that some that from the opinions that have come to me.

There may be good reasons to change the existing plan of providing for the maintenance of the unfortunates but I do not propose to decide for the people of Snyder county when under existing laws they have that power delegated to them. No poor unfortunate father or mother will be sent over the hill to the Poor House by my vote in the legislature according to the provisions of the proposed law.

I shirk no duty, evade no responsibility and ask only the considerate judgment of my fellowmen. I have faith in the people and whenever possible all questions affecting their local interests should be submitted to them. That is a pure government of the people and by the people.

Judicial Apportionment Bill.

A bill, apportioning the State into Judicial districts passed second reading. There is no doubt that the state should be reapportioned but the bill seemed to lack that consideration to the economical expenditure of the people's money which a subject of that importance deserves. Our district is reduced to Union and Snyder, a territory containing a population of about 3600. Northumberland and other districts contain from 75000 to 80000 of a population and have one judge assigned. Huntingdon belongs to the Centre district but under the proposed plan it is detached and Milfin is united with it, the two counties forming a new district. There is no reason at least as far as territory is concerned why Huntingdon county could not have been annexed to the Perry-Juniata districts. The population of those three counties does not exceed that of Northumberland county which has but one judge. Some one, I suppose, must be provided with a place. That one may be lawyer Lovell who withdrew from the contest in the Centre-Huntingdon district last fall and made it possible for Love of Centre to be elected. The bill provides for four or five more judges than we have at present, which means an additional expense to the state of about \$25000 a year. The real fight, however, was directed against Judge Macher's district composed of Clinton, Elk and Cameron, and the fight did not cease until the district was pretty well annihilated.

Road Legislation.

A number of bills, designed to improve the public highways, are on the files of the House, one of which was up for second reading. It provides for county conventions, composed of delegates from each district to formulate regulations for the improvement of the roads. The bill failed to pass the breakers but it was afterwards reconsidered. It is not likely that any road bill will pass this session.

The Superior Court Bill.

The bill, providing for the establishment of an appellate court defining its powers, etc. passed second reading with but few minor amendments.

The Custodian Bill.

The bill reorganizing the different forces that are employed about the Hill, such as director of the grounds, elevator attendant, policemen, gardeners etc, passed the House finally with but seventeen votes against it. The administration is behind the bill because it is said it will save the State \$20000 a year in the purchasing of supplies. The bill legislates Maj. John Lockhart of Philadelphia out of office and lets John C. Delaney in. It is generally supposed that the governor will appoint the latter to the position of general superintendent which the office creates.

Exhibition of the pupils of the school for the Deaf and Dumb at Mt. Airy.

On Thursday evening the managers of the school for the Deaf and Dumb at Mt. Airy exhibited by class drills the methods by which the pupils in that institution are educated. The sign language has almost entirely been discarded. The more modern method is to teach these unfortunate ones to talk by educating their sensation and sight. It is astonishing how readily these pupils can get language from the shape and motions of the mouth. A number of tests were made and invariably the answers to questions were correct. The questions were put to them in words and not by signs and the answers were in words. The class drills proved most conclusively that the deaf and dumb can be taught to speak by this modern method. The school of course wants an appropriation of about \$250,000.

The Revenues of the State and How They are Appropriated.

Board of Public Charities is by the enactment of a law creating a Department of Charities. The question of distributing charity among the many institutions seeking state aid is a serious one and will have to be met sooner or later. The bill providing for the creation of such a Department, is designed to meet this question. The board as it exists at present, I understand very frequently recommends the appropriation of more funds than the State has to give and in addition to all their work the State spends a great deal of money in paying the expenses of the members of the appropriation committee to run all over the State to visit the different institutions asking aid.

The estimated revenue, taking into consideration the decisions of the Supreme Court in interpreting the provisions of the Revenue act of 1891, have been fixed at \$19,000,000 for the next two years. There may be revenue from other sources of about a million more, giving us about \$20,000,000 to satisfy a demand for \$34,000,000. The State Department's estimates are as follows:

- Executive Department, \$793,000; Judiciary, \$1,185,200; Legislative, \$578,000; Public Schools, \$11,000,000; County Superintendents, \$190,000; Education of Teachers, \$190,000; Printing and Binding, \$413,164; Interest on Public Debt, \$538,743; Inspecting Coal Mines, \$143,000; Public Buildings and Grounds, \$30,000; Water, Light and Heat, \$52,000; Harrisburg Fire Department, \$2,200; Counting Vote, \$1,000; Mercantile Appraisers' Mileage, \$6,643; Advertising, \$6,053; Stationery and Supplies, \$71,533; Legislative Record, \$32,100; National Guard, \$700,000; State Library, \$30,000; Indigent Insane, \$1,000,000; Nautical School Ship, \$22,000; Soldiers' Orphans, \$300,000; Soldiers' Home, \$224,000; Penal Institutions, \$1,144,000; Incidentals of various Departments, \$75,000; making a total of \$18,306,638, and this is exclusive of the demands for permanent improvements at the various institutions belonging absolutely to the State, and the finishing of the asylum at Polk for feeble minded children, for which at least \$300,000 must be appropriated.

The insane asylums are all overcrowded and for humanity's sake something must be done. If steps are taken in that direction the total will be nineteen millions, leaving about one and a half millions to

divide among institutions, improvements and the normal schools, that have already filed bills aggregating fifteen millions. As to what will be done, will greatly depend upon the amount of surplus, if any, that may be left over and above the appropriations for the last two fiscal years. All the large amounts asked for I am afraid will fail, and already members are being warned not to push them.

(to be continued next week.)

The Telescope At Harrisburg.

The Harrisburg "Star-Independent" informs its readers that the first telescope ever used in the Department of Internal Affairs of the State Capitol; that it was purchased in London by Benjamin Franklin, and was used by him to note the first transit of Venus ever observed on this continent.

The transits of Venus of the last century occurred in 1761 and 1769. In 1757 Franklin went to England, and he was not in America in 1769. The chief observation of the transit of Venus of 1769 were made his own instruments for the purpose. It is said that a reflector was sent to him from England by Thomas Penn, who was a liberal patron of science, and the chief benefactor of the University of Pennsylvania. It has been said that the first calculations concerning the transit of Venus of 1769 were given to the world not by the royal astronomer of Europe, but by a self-taught genius in forests of Pennsylvania.

In the fall of 1893 a son of Mr. T. A. McFarland, a prominent merchant of Live Oak, Sutter Co., Cal., was taken with a very heavy cold. The pains in his chest were so severe that he had spasms and was threatened with pneumonia. His father gave him several large doses of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy which broke up the cough and cured him. Mr. McFarland says whenever his children have croup he invariably gives them Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and it always cures them. He considers it the best cough remedy in the market. For sale by J. W. Sampsell, Penns Creek, Pa.

How to Cure Rheumatism.

ARAGO, COOS CO., OREGON, 11-10-93. -I wish to inform you of the great good Chamberlain's Pain Balm has done for my wife. She has been troubled with rheumatism of the arms and hands for six months, and has tried many remedies prescribed for that complaint, but found no relief until she used this Pain Balm; one bottle of which has completely cured her. I take pleasure in recommending it for that trouble. Yours truly, C. A. Bullard. 50 cents and \$1.00 bottles for sale by J. W. Sampsell, Penns Creek, Pa.

MARRIED

March 17th, at the Reformed Parsonage, Adamsburg, by Rev. W. H. Landis, Miss Annie M. Hook, of near Adamsburg, and Mr. J. W. Wiegand of West Beaver township.

March 14th, at the residence of the bride, by Rev. W. M. Landis, Miss Clino I. Wieder, of West Beaver township, and Harvey M. Wagner, of McClure.

On the 24th of March John A. Keithan of Sunbury to Nora A. Jarrett of Kratzerville.

On March 17, at Richfield, by Rev. Oscar G. Romig, Mr. Thomas J. Roush, and Miss Sallie Wert, both of Freeburg.

DIED.

March 12th, at Tyrone, Sophia Spigelmyer, relict, of Valentine Spigelmyer, of West Beaver township, aged 76 years, 7 months and 1 day.

March 10th, in Adams township, after a lingering illness, Elizabeth Weaver, wife of Daniel Weaver, aged 83 years, 5 months and 18 days.

March 11, near Pallas, Hanna A. T. Arndt, aged 1 year, 6 months and 22 days.

On Mar. 15, near Richfield, Edna S. Strawser, aged 1 year, 11 months and 16 days.

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Fine Upholstered Rockers marked down from \$3 to \$8. Bedsteads marked down from \$2 to \$6.

Cane and Wood Seated Chairs marked down from \$1 to \$6. Hall Rockers marked down from \$4 to \$10.

Ladies' Parlor Desks marked down from \$3 to \$10. Parlor Tables marked down from \$1 to \$5.

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