

Letter from Harrisburg.

(Continued from last week.)

HARRISBURG, Pa., Mar. 27, 1895.

The Greater Pittsburg Bill.

Senator Flinn's Greater Pittsburg bill is now under fire in the House. A delegation of at least a hundred in opposition to the bill appeared before the municipal corporation committee last week and through their spokesman hurled some very hot shells against the proposition.

One of the speakers charged the bosses of Pittsburg with selling franchises and pocketing the money. A number of other things were said that were not very complimentary and if half of what was said is true Pittsburg is not behind some other cities in its management of municipal affairs.

Senator Flinn, Chris. L. Magee and City Solicitor Moreland, of Pittsburg, were present during the entire meeting. They paid the closest attention to what was said, and although several references were made to them that are not generally regarded as compliments, yet they showed no signs of uneasiness.

Mr. Magee even applauded one of the speakers as he sat down. The delegation was composed of representative men and spoke for the twenty-five districts that do not desire to become a part of the Great Western City.

Representative Tilbrook of McKeesport, Allegheny Co., had the anti-annexationists in charge. At present it looks as though these cities and villages would not be compelled to go into this proposed Great City.

The annexationists will have their innings before the same committee this week. They put up a brave fight before the Senate committee and it is reasonable to believe they will not go down without hero's effort.

Free Scholarships. Dr. Atherton, president of the State College, is very anxious to have a bill passed giving that institution a number of free scholarships.

The money required to pay for these scholarships is to be taken out of the money appropriated for the common schools.

That feature is not popular with a great many members since it is desirable that all moneys appropriated for the public schools should be applied to them.

Counties, of course would not be obliged to avail themselves of their scholarships and if none were assigned the county would lose no money given for common school purposes.

The State College has made rapid strides under Dr. Atherton's supervision during the last five years.

The Silver Issue. Senator Cameron's views on the silver question are to be given in the House of Representatives by Chas. Heler Clark, of Philadelphia on Tuesday evening of this week.

The money question is attracting a great deal of attention. It is studied by thousands now when only several years ago its discussion was confined to bankers, political economists. Many of our intelligent citizens in all walks of life are looking into the question and have opinions to express.

It is safe to presume that if the unsettled conditions of things continues the next National political battle will be fought not solely on the principle of trade but largely on the principles that are involved in our circulating mediums.

A great many people are experiencing a condition the cause of which they want explained.

Ten or fifteen years ago they bought property worth \$10,000 or \$20,000 and still owe half on it.

His property has depreciated in value. He hasn't got the number of dollars now that he had twenty years ago to pay off this indebtedness, and in order to get a dollar he must produce about twice as much as formerly.

I don't propose to discuss the money problem. It is sufficient to know that this question is forging to the front and the great parties are bound to meet it if they desire to keep in touch with the people.

Here the matter is much discussed and you can easily tell that the principle of a double standard has many adherents. We are to have both sides, of course.

Chas. Emory Smith, Editor of the Philadelphia Press and Congressman C. W. Stone are to give the other side of the issue several weeks later. The Hall will likely be crowded during their discussions. Let us have light, but there may be more darkness than light by the time these statesmen get through with the opposing theories.

I. J. Laudenslager and B. F. Herman spent several days at the Capital last week. They think legislation is somewhat tedious but were much pleased with the surroundings and the manner of doing things generally.

Prof. Gobble, of New Berlin, was among the college presidents who came here to look after a bill regulating the granting of degrees of colleges.

The bill discriminates somewhat against the smaller institutions but is not retroactive and will not do much injury to those now in existence.

Log Bill. The writer introduced a bill regulating the salvage on logs and lumber, etc. The bill will get a place way back on the calendar and it will require a special order to have it reached if we succeed in getting it out of the committee.

No effort will be spared to pass the bill. It is one which affects many citizens all along our picturesque Susquehanna. C. W. H.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Apr. 1, 1895.

Lest your compositors might become mutinous on this "All Fools' Day"; not particularly on account of the day, but more likely because of the length and prosy character of these letters, I'll promise for the sake of your security and happiness to be more brief and considerate to the feelings of the several graceful imps that adorn your sanctum.

Frequently, mutterings of riot and rebellion from these hard-worked creatures have come to my ears and much as I would like to have a whole side of your progressive paper, I will be satisfied with much less space.

Poor House Bill Defeated. For the second time this bill was defeated by a larger vote than that which sounded its death knell the first time. Earnest speeches were made by Niles, Focht, Patterson and your correspondent against the measure, while Gould Baldwin and others defended it.

To my knowledge, no representative from any county not having a poor house supported this bill; and many of those representing counties that have poor houses on a different plan than is provided for in this bill also zealously opposed it.

The defeat of this measure will not prevent counties from providing poor houses for maintaining dependents since the act of 1874 provides that the qualified voters of each county may decide this question for themselves.

The New County. The opposition to the proposed Quay County resorted to filibustering methods during a full half day in order to defeat it.

Jeffreys, the member from that section of Luzerne county which is to form part of the proposed county, championed the bill. The five other members of that county and the six members from Schuylkill, which county would also lose a part of its territory if the bill should become a law, are solidly arrayed against it.

Mr. Schrink, ably assisted by Stuck led the filibustering tactics by offering numerous amendments to the different sections of the bill calling for the yeas and nays on the adoption of every proposed amendment, calling for the reading of the yeas and nays, moving to postpone the consideration of the bill, moving to adjourn, and numerous other maneuvers tending to kill time.

After having successfully carried the fight to the hour of adjournment, upon reassembling they agreed to desist from their filibustering but gave notice that they would contest every inch of the progress of the bill. It passed finally on second reading by a small margin.

Some of the leaders must show an open hand if the bill is to pass third reading, and then it is a question because the eleven members from that section, if they choose to unite may make rough sledding for some other fellows' pet measures.

It is generally supposed that the bill will fail.

Railroad Legislation. Representative Andrews of Crawford county has blood in his eyes. A bill passed the Senate compelling the railroads in this County to fence in their lines, but the measure ran

against a snag in the House committee since it came out with a negative recommendation. Mr. Andrews offered a resolution to have the bill placed on the calendar notwithstanding it was reported negatively.

Andrews is one of the most active members in the House. Representative Creasy, of Columbia county, fared no better. His bill, fixing the fare at two cents a mile, also fell through the committee's hopper. He desires that it should be placed on the calendar and the resolution to that effect is pending.

He is anxious to put the members on record on that question. Mr. Creasy, although a democrat, is one of the most conscientious members of the House.

The District Attorney's Bill. A bill, fixing the salary of the district Attorneys, was defeated on second reading as it deserved to be.

Under its provisions all counties would be obliged to pay \$500 a year and \$100 in addition to 500 of a population over 10,000, a salary in many cases quite princely.

Greater Pittsburg. The advocates of a city of monstrous proportions in the western part of this State presented their reasons for their faith and belief to the House and more especially to the committee on Municipal Corporations. The fate of this proposition hangs in the balance.

The Judicial Apportionment Bill. This bill passed third reading in the House after several attempts to amend it. Your correspondent endeavored to knock one of the districts out by proposing to annex Montour county to Union and Snyder and Columbia to the Sullivan and Wyoming districts.

The proposition failed not from merit, it seems to the writer, but because somebody must be taken care of.

Close Season for Deer. The bill providing that no deer shall be pursued, or killed during the next five years will come up for final passage in the House. As far as I can determine the opinion of the members, I believe that the bill will pass. The onslaught if any is to be made, can best be directed against it in the Senate.

Log and Lumber Bill. A numerous signed petition praying for the passage of this bill, was duly received and submitted. No effort will be spared to pass this bill but we regret that the session is advanced rather far to speak with the same confidence as if the session had just commenced.

Eel Bill. By the time this is in print this bill will likely be disposed of. If the articles in the dailies will convince, we will have a lively skirmish before we get through. C. W. H.

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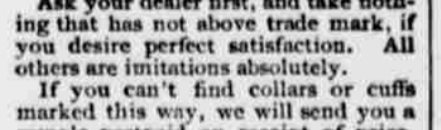
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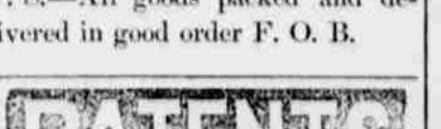
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