

A TREASURY RAID.

Gigantic Bills Piled Up for Running Mock Investigations.

OVER \$116,000 IS NOW DEMANDED.

The People Asked to Pay This Sum For Sham Investigations—Members Refuse to Accept Money For Bogus Expense Bills—The Latest Scandal in the Legislature.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Harrisburg, June 29.—This, the closing week of the legislature, witnesses the greatest raid on the state treasury known in recent history of legislative sessions in Pennsylvania. It would seem as though the present legislature intended to outdo all of its predecessors in such acts. It has been prolific of more attempts at bad legislation in the shape of "rippers" and other similar measures than any recent similar body. It has been noted for more scandals, such as the insurance scandal, the treasury investigation and the oleomargarine rottenness, than has been known for many years. It has instituted more sham investigations than any legislature in half a century, and it is now piling up more bills of expense for which there is no reasonable excuse than were ever piled up by any former legislature.

The sum of \$116,000 is the grand total demanded by the investigating committees for alleged expenses incurred. It is a terrible sum to pay when the people of the state consider the results of these investigations. All the bills are now in, and this is the result:

A Treasury Raid.

Expenses of committees to investigate the penitentiary, \$14,893; to investigate condition of anthracite miners, \$311,987; to investigate condition of bituminous miners, \$11,415; to investigate capitol fire, \$1,765; to investigate state treasury, \$4,734; oleomargarine investigation, \$7,000; the Andrews investigation in Philadelphia, \$66,000. Here is a total of more than \$116,000. To this must be added the demand for \$11,371 to pay the expenses of the legislature for kindly attending the unveiling of the Grant and Washington monuments.

The latter item of expense may be considered first. In all there were 257 members of the legislature, together with employees, visited New York and Philadelphia to attend the unveiling of the Grant and Washington monuments. Not one of these paid any car fare, for the Pennsylvania railroad furnished transportation free. Not one of them paid for a seat on the grand stand, for that was furnished free. The only items of expense were \$500 for a boat in New York, the printing of folders and cards of admission, and the lunch that was served on the boat during the New York trip. And yet the people of the state are asked to pay \$11,371 for this.

Never Left Harrisburg.

Some idea of the reckless demands of committees appointed to investigate is furnished in the statement that the committee to investigate the capitol fire, which did not leave Harrisburg, and held all of its half dozen meetings within three squares of the legislative hall, demands \$1,765 for its expenses. Another similar instance is the case of the committee to investigate the state treasury, which also did not leave Harrisburg, and yet which charges up \$4,734 for its expenses. This committee held all of its meetings right here in Harrisburg, examined less than 50 witnesses, and yet wants \$4,734 for its alleged expenses.

The committee which investigated, or made a pretense of investigating, the two penitentiaries in the state has presented a bill for \$14,893. No more notorious investigation was ever held than this. The committee apparently endeavored to see how near it could come to investigating without doing so. It refused to permit Judge Gordon to present witnesses and examine them as to the condition of affairs said to exist in the Eastern penitentiary at Philadelphia. It went off on a junket to New York state, and took a trip to Columbus, O., at the state's expense, for the alleged purpose of looking into the workings of that institution, and in this way piled up useless expenses.

Accomplished Almost Nothing.

For investigating the condition of the anthracite miners that committee demands \$11,987; for investigating the condition of the bituminous miners \$11,415 is asked, a grand total of over \$23,000. All of these committees lived at the very best hotels, where the rates are from \$4 to \$10 per day, they smoked the best cigars, rode in palace cars, and yet with the exception of the committee to investigate the bituminous miners, accomplished practically nothing.

Some light is thrown upon these expense bills by Chairman Hosack, of the committee to investigate the oleomargarine scandal. The bill of expense presented by this committee amounts to \$7,000. Chairman Hosack refuses to accept any mileage for his services as a member of the committee. Mr. Hosack says that he did not have to pay his fare on the railroads, and he refuses to accept mileage. Hon. Hampton W. Rice, of Bucks county, has refused, also, to permit the item of \$42 allotted to him "for extra car fare and other personal expenses" in the bill of expense. Mr. Rice declares that he had no extra expenses, and will not accept the money.

Some Fake Expenses.

A sensation was created in the house on Saturday last when three other members of that body who are on investigating committees declared that they had not paid out any money for extra expenses, and therefore were not entitled to receive it. These men are Representatives Wilson of Lycoming, Pender of Allegheny and Alexander of Clearfield. These men had, in the bill of expense handed in, sums of money charged opposite their names for such items as telephone and telegraph charges, extra carriage hire, car fare, etc., etc. They declared that they had no mileage, and none of the expenses charged, and that therefore as members of the election committee which investigated the Schiffer-Leh election contest in Northampton county they would not accept the money.

All honor to such men. As the Philadelphia Press remarks, editorially, "All honor to such men. All honor to Wilson, Rice and Hosack, who are con-

tent with their salaries, and refuse to collect any additional money from the state to cover expenses which were never incurred."

Other members of the legislature on investigating committees are prepared to charge mileage, and yet not one of them ever paid a cent for car fare. They charge up telegraph and telephone messages as "personal" expenses, when nearly every member of the legislature carries a telegraph and telephone pass. The charges for extra carriage hire are, as Representative Nesbit, of Northampton, said, "fictitious items of expense." In other words it simply means that these men will collect money to which they are not rightfully entitled.

The bill of expense of the Lexow committee pales into insignificance when its items aggregating \$66,000 are compared with some of the expense bills which committees have contracted within the past three months. It is the most shameless exhibition of cupidity and a desire to get at the contents of the state treasury that has been shown for years. It is nothing more than a notorious raid on the treasury.

A member of the "Seventy-six," in speaking of these notorious bills, said:

A Terrible Reckoning.

"If the people of Pennsylvania are willing to quietly submit to this sort of thing, then they will stand more than any other people in the United States. They have been uncoined by Senator Quay in the matter of reform, which for two years he has promised them. His Lexow committee is asking \$66,000, and now these other committees, all of them, with one exception, demanded by his lieutenants and followers, are making the most unparalleled raid upon the treasury for alleged expenses that has ever been known. Senator Quay cannot avoid the responsibility of this legislature. He controls it, and it was at his behest that the notorious treasury investigation was instituted. If I am not mistaken, there will be a terrible reckoning for Senator Quay when he goes before the people for re-election two years from now."

The legislature this week is going to pass a sort of beer tax bill. Senator Quay has been driven to this measure by the force of public opinion. But it is like all of his other bills, it is to be made as ineffective as possible. It takes the shape of a graded license on breweries and distilleries, and when compared with the proposed tax of one-half cent per gallon, as suggested by the "Seventy-six," is a mere bagatelle of expense for the corporate brewing interests of the state. They are glad to escape so lightly. But there is behind it all an object. Not only has Senator Quay kept his word by protecting the beer trust, but he has also paved the way towards fresh sources from which to draw campaign funds in the future.

What It Means.

For many years the ostensible interests of the state have sought to secure the passage of a law that would enable them to form corporations. Six years ago Representative Werthelmer endeavored to secure the passage of such a bill. He declared that there were "millions of dollars behind it," meaning, of course, that the whiskey interests represented millions of dollars, and was asking for this legislation. The result was that the members took it to mean that millions of dollars were to be spent in securing the passage of the bill if necessary, and as a result the bill did not pass because the supposed millions did not materialize. Ever since then the whiskey distillers have endeavored at each session of the legislature to get some such bill through, but have always failed.

Now the state is in need of revenue, and Senator Quay takes advantage of this necessity to put through a bill that will give the distillers just what they want. It is not reasonable to suppose that the distillers will do, for Senator Quay and the machine, just what the brewers have done. In other words, while the state treasury has been cut down as a source of revenue for political purposes, a new way has been opened whereby a large round sum should be realized every campaign for the benefit of the machine.

The legislature will close its sessions this week—on Thursday, and possibly not until Saturday. The bills introduced for the purpose of raising revenue will be passed, and while all of the charities will be cut down none of them is likely to be left without anything. The people of the state will be heartily glad to see the last of the legislature of 1897.

Pearls of Thought.

He is a fool who cannot be angry but he is wise who will not.

"Thy will be done" is the keynote to which every prayer must be tuned.

The man who is really doing a great work is seldom conscious of the size of the job.

Do not esteem too lightly the small things of life, for the whole universe of God is made up of insignificance.

We do not get enough spiritual help all at once to last us for ever. It is gradual, and we must look for it constantly.

The man who is never tried never knows himself. It is only to the furnace heat that the soul learns its own strength and weakness.

Real Oddities.

"Neighbor Jones, I am a candidate for office and want your support. I really didn't want to be a candidate, but my friends forced me to it."

"O splendid," thank you. "Would be glad to have you subscribe for the Post."

"It's a real good paper, but can't afford it just now; besides there's neighbor Smith's hiring he takes the Post and I borrow that every week."

Down in Georgy there was an odd conviction of murder. A fellow took a newspaper several years and then refused to pay for it, in consequence of which the editor started to death. The lank widow had the subscriber arrested for murder; he was tried, convicted and hung.

Personally-Conducted Tours via Pennsylvania Railroad.

That the public have come to recognize the fact that the best and most convenient method of pleasure travel is that presented by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's personally-conducted tours, is evidenced by the increasing popularity of these tours. Under this system the lowest rates are obtained, for both transportation and hotel accommodation. An experienced tourist agent and chaperon accompany each tour to look after the comfort of the passenger.

The following tours have been arranged for the season of 1897:—

To the north (including Watkins Glen, Niagara Falls, Thousand Islands, Montreal, Quebec, Au Sable Chasm, Lakes Champlain and George, Saratoga, and a day light ride down through the Highlands of the Hudson), July 27 and August 17. Rate, \$100 for the round trip from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, covering all expenses of a two weeks' trip.

To Yellowstone Park on a special train of Pullman sleeping, compartment, and observatory cars and dining car, allowing eight days in "Wonderland," September 2. Rate, \$235 from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington; \$230 from Pittsburg.

To Niagara Falls, excursion tickets good to return within ten days will be sold on July 22, August 5 and 19, September 4 and 16, at rate of \$10 from Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington. These tickets include transportation only, and will permit of stop over within limit at Buffalo, Rochester, and Watkins on the return trip.

Two ten-days tours to Gettysburg, Luray Caverns, Natural Bridge, Virginia, Hot Springs Richmond, and Washington, September 28 and October 12. Rates, \$65 from New York, \$93 from Philadelphia. 7-1-2t.

The Ideal National Flower.

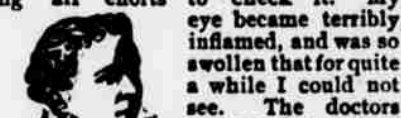
When a flower is found that can arouse widespread and genuine patriotic enthusiasm or has become associated with some great and universally beloved man or woman, it will become the national emblem without the necessity of legislative action except as a formal ratification of a universal sentiment. Under such circumstances only will people relegate their floral favorites to a second place. It will not matter, when this event happens, whether it is a plant useful to man or a weed. It will be the national flower just the same. It was this sentiment which made the thistle the national flower of Scotland and the cornflower the national flower of the German empire, and it must be a similar chain of circumstances which gives us national flower.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Cancer Of the Face.

Mrs. Laura E. Mims, of Smithville, Ga., says: "A small pimple of a strawberry color appeared on my cheek; it soon began to grow rapidly, notwithstanding all efforts to check it. My eye became terribly inflamed, and was so swollen that for quite a while I could not see. The doctors said I had Cancer of the most malignant type, and after exhausting their efforts without doing me any good, they gave up the case as hopeless. When informed that my father had died from the same disease, they said I must die, as hereditary Cancer was incurable. "At this crisis, I was advised to try S.S.S., and in a short while the Cancer began to discharge and continued to do so for three months, then it began to heal. I continued the medicine a while longer until the Cancer disappeared entirely. This was several years ago and there has been no return of the disease."

A Real Blood Remedy.

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Mrs. W. M. Job, New Florence, Westmoreland Co., Pa.

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John H. Kaufman, Matawanna, Mifflin Co., Pa.

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