

Montour American.

FRANK C. ANGLE, Proprietor.

Danville, Pa., Mar. 7, 1907.

Among the more important legislative propositions that died with the fifty-ninth congress, and most of which received the sanction of the president and the country, are: The eight-hour bill which organized labor has been asking for these many years. The anti-injunction bills, of which there were several. Swamp land reclamation.

Codification of the revised federal statutes. Modification of the Chinese exclusion act. Copyright revision. Reduction of the tariff on Philippine products entering the United States. The bill to make Porto Ricans citizens. Publicity in campaign affairs. The Crumpacker bill to afford a court review of a fraud order issued by the postoffice department. Federal child labor legislation. Legislation to protect free labor from contract labor. Legislation regulating the interstate traffic in intoxicating liquors. Most of these measures will re-appear at the next session, but it is a discredit to congress and to this nation, that the Sugar and Tobacco Trusts prevented justice to the Philippines in giving them such legislation as would place them on their feet and revive their industries, by reducing the tariff on Philippine products entering the United States.

The notorious railway mail graft, carrying with it excessive payments to the amount of at least ten or fifteen million dollars a year, is continued. The trick of weighing the mails for seven days and dividing by six to find the daily average, which makes a free gift of five million dollars to the roads, is still in force. The Beef Trust is also voracious. The Beveridge amendment to date meat products was defeated in conference. The conservation of government oil and coal lands, urged by the president was refused, though the refusal leaves them at the mercy of the Standard Oil and Coal Trusts.

Pension Bill Voted Down.

HARRISBURG, March 6. With hardly a dissenting voice, the house of representatives yesterday afternoon killed the teachers' pension bill, on second reading, and the members had a lot of fun doing it.

Scarcely had the bill been read when Representative Dunsmore, Republican, of Ohio, offered an amendment that not only teachers, but all persons attaining the age of 70 years, who had for twenty-five years been good and faithful citizens of the State, be made eligible for the pension of \$150 per year which the bill provides. The house accepted the amendment amid laughter and cheers.

Representative Marvin, Republican, of Pike, contributed his share to the entertainment by following with an amendment that, instead of teaching thirty years, as the bill provided, teachers should serve seventy-five years before being eligible for pensions. With a whoop of merriment this amendment was also adopted.

A third amendment was proposed by Representative Pratt, Republican, of Allegheny, providing that men teachers should be retired at the age of 60. As the house was not playing any favorites this was also tacked on the bill, and at once drew forth a point of order from Representative Blaklee, Democrat, of Carbon.

Blaklee presented what he termed a constitutional point of order, saying that the bill was impossible of fulfillment as amended, for it provided for retiring women at the age of 60, and that no woman would ever admit that she was 60.

Speaker McClinton smiled broadly and admitted that the point was well taken, but nevertheless, decided to submit it to the house.

In a mighty shout the members sustained Blaklee, and the bill fell.

There was little time from the measure's inception when it was not virtually certain it would fail. Not only is there a general sentiment against civil pension lists among a large proportion of the members, solely on the merits of the question, but the constitution is quoted as being against any pensions except for military service.

Fire in New Capitol.

HARRISBURG, March 6. Mice and matches formed the combination that set this morning set fire to a desk in the office of State Registrar Bart, in the Department of Health, at the new State capital. Night Watchman E. M. Householder was passing through the corridor in the north wing of the capital when he smelled smoke. It was about 1 o'clock and he knew there was no necessity for a fire at that hour, and he began an investigation, which resulted in the discovery of the fire in Dr. Bart's office.

A concerted attack upon bachelors is in progress all over the United States. The Indiana Legislature is debating a bill designed to tax them in matrimony—or suicide. The Massachusetts Legislature has been petitioned to do likewise—the petitioners signing themselves, "The Unmarried Ladies of Wakefield," and alleging that "bachelors are of no earthly use except as pall bearers." The Supreme Court of Illinois, on a damage suit appeal, has decided that bachelors' life is worth but \$1. The Charleston News and Courier proposes that bachelors be debarred from holding public office.

BILLS EXCEED REVENUE.

This is the way it strikes the Hazleton Daily Standard: "If one may form an opinion from the number of bills offered in the State legislature the members seem to be impressed with the belief that the income of the State of Pennsylvania is unlimited. The bills asking for money already exceed in amount the annual revenues."

A MILITARY DESPOT.

The Experience of One Private in the German Army.

The following is the experience of a German army private:

During the second maneuvers I was sent on a tour of inspection to a company. The police supply the names of householders who are expected to shelter the soldiers, and I had to decide on the number of men who should be assigned to each place.

It seems that our major dispatched a courier with a message for our captain. For some reason or other the message was not delivered. The next day the captain called me out and in the presence of the whole company rebuked me for not delivering the message.

"I did not receive any message," I ventured.

"Shut up your mouth, you liar!" he thundered. And again he bellowed, "Why didn't you deliver that message, you—"

I told him a second time that I had not received any message. The captain's temper broke all bounds. With an oath he rode his horse at me full tilt, hurling fifty names at me the while.

When he had ridden right up to me—I fully expected he would run me over, but I dared not move—he suddenly reined in his horse and, drawing a long dagger from his belt, shouted, "Ivud with passion, 'I have half a mind to stick this through your vitals, you scoundrel!'"

Once more he asked me about the message, and once more I answered him.

"Then five days' confinement and bread and water be your punishment, you liar!" he retorted.

He repeated the question several times and increased my term of imprisonment each time I answered in the negative until my term of imprisonment equaled fourteen days. I was placed under arrest. Next day I was released.

Afterward found that the captain had discovered his mistake, but he never referred to it.—World Today.

BIRTH OF A "GASSER."

Note of a Blowing Well Drowned

In the Broadway Magazine is a story by Rupert Hughes concerning the oil wells of Texas. He tells of the birth of a "gasser."

"It screamed like the death cry of a thousand panthers." He says: "The long steel cable has been sent flying like a twine string. A great length of pipe has been hurled against a tree and wrapped around it. The derrick was almost hidden in a white haze. A geyser of the sand was streaming upward and eating away the lofty crown block."

"She knew what it was. He found Tom, and they gesticulated at each other. They made faces, but no audible sound. Their voices were vain as candles in the full sunlight. Each was trying to yell the same thing.

"She's a gasser, blowing her head off."

Men gathered from everywhere and acted like crazy folk, working their jaws empty saddles against trees.

"They were soaked, drowned, obliterated in a sea of intolerable noise. A mile away at the railroad station the passengers were equally made dumb by the uproar. If a man wanted a ticket he had to write out the name of the station on an engine rolled toward the bell that rattle without sound and a whistle emitting puffs of white steam that no one heard.

"The animals of the region were greatly disturbed. There was much breaking of harness on the part of horses, and one or two galloped about with empty saddles. Their riders were dumbly stuck in the mud some where, head first.

"A few pigs wandering here and there had sniffed at the noise and returned to their luxurious wallows in the oily muck."

Costly Windsor Castle.

No royal castle has cost Great Britain more in hard cash than that of Windsor, says the London Chronicle.

When George IV. announced his intention of making it a family residence parliament granted him £300,000 toward its rebuilding. For four years the work went merrily on under fresh grants, and the king then took possession of the private apartments. That did not end the expenditure however. By the time William IV. had satisfied himself that there was nothing more to be done the castle had swallowed up close to a million pounds.

A Line on Her Age.

"Oh!" gasped the beautiful woman as she fell back, clutching at her heart, and permitting the telegram to flutter to the floor.

Her fashionable guests rushed forward, crying:

"What is it? Has your husband met with an accident?"

"No, no," she moaned. "It is from my son-in-law. I am a grandmother!"

His Stubbornness.

"Have you and your friend got through that argument yet?" asked a parent's youngest son.

"I isn't any argument," answered the boy. "I am merely telling Jimmie the facts in the case, and he is so beastly stubborn that he won't understand."—Chums.

Respecting the Organ Grinders.

Reside close to a dentist's if you are not fond of street music. Itinerant organ men carefully avoid playing anywhere near the house of a practitioner who can effectively stop or remove all travel of the grinders.—London Punch.

HARD ON BACHELORS.

A concerted attack upon bachelors is in progress all over the United States. The Indiana Legislature is debating a bill designed to tax them in matrimony—or suicide. The Massachusetts Legislature has been petitioned to do likewise—the petitioners signing themselves, "The Unmarried Ladies of Wakefield," and alleging that "bachelors are of no earthly use except as pall bearers." The Supreme Court of Illinois, on a damage suit appeal, has decided that bachelors' life is worth but \$1. The Charleston News and Courier proposes that bachelors be debarred from holding public office.

Steel Plant to Mexico.

The big \$1,000,000 steel plant of the Pottstown Iron company, in Pottstown, which has been idle for a dozen years, has been sold to the Montrey Iron and Steel company, and will be dismantled and moved to Mexico.

Funeral of Mrs. Graham.

The funeral of Mrs. James Graham, whose sudden death was noted yesterday morning will take place at nine o'clock tomorrow morning from St. Joseph's Catholic church. Interment in St. Joseph's cemetery.

EDMUND KEAN.

To See Him Act Was Like Reading Shakespeare by Lightning.

Before the third century after the birth of Shakespeare had reached its first quarter there was born in England to a staid carpenter and a strolling actress a child destined to grapple with the poet's highest thought and interpret it with a vividness that to this day stands unrivaled. Coleridge's terse comment, that to see him act was reading Shakespeare by lightning, reveals him with the fullness of a volume. Edmund Kean, along with most people early taken to an art, had little of any education of the schools. He was when a boy provided with instruction by some benevolent people whom his smartness and beauty attracted, but he rebelled against the tasks of study and went to sea. But life there was too rough for his fine nature. He returned to England and at the age of seven began the study of Shakespeare's characters with his Uncle Moses. This he continued with an actress named Tidwell, who taught him, besides, as well as she knew, the principles of her art.

At an early age he had the credit of originally so surprising as even then to challenge the supremacy of Philip Kemble. At fourteen he played Hamlet. King George had him recite at Windsor castle, and it is said this incident led some gentlemen to send him to Eton, but there is no record of it. At twenty he was in a provincial troop, a member of which he had, and he was six weeks in the theater, until he glorious night at Drury Lane, his life was one of hardship, struggle, obscurity, but, thanks to the faith in himself, not hopeless. His London debut was made at twenty-eight. He had fought for it hard and long and would then have met the challenge of the supremacy of Philip Kemble. At fourteen he played Hamlet. King George had him recite at Windsor castle, and it is said this incident led some gentlemen to send him to Eton, but there is no record of it. 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