

LOOKS LIKE DEATH TO DEATH PENALTY

Legislators May Wipe Out Capital Punishment.

PROMINENT MEN FAVOR IDEA

Opposition is Formidable, But Advocates of Tompkins-Wells-Hess Bill Feel Sure Measure Will Pass—Other News of Legislature.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 30.—The Pennsylvania legislature is about to decide whether or not to abolish capital punishment in this state. A vote is to be taken on the subject in the house of representatives within the next ten days.

This question is probably the most widely agitated one which has come up for discussion at the present session of the general assembly, and the indications are that the Tompkins-Wells-Hess bill proposing that first degree murderers be sentenced to life imprisonment instead of being put to death, will be passed. The governor is already on record in favor of them.

There is formidable opposition to the measure, however, and while their passage seems likely, it is by no means certain, and the advocates of the change are exerting every effort to induce legislators, not convinced that the abolition of the death penalty will be a good thing, to change their minds and vote accordingly.

Today there was a monster public hearing in the hall of the house of representatives on the bills, at which some nationally prominent speakers urged the legislature to favorable action. They included Dean George W. Hitchcock, of the Columbia University Law School, and formerly warden of Sing Sing prison; Bishop James Henry Darrington, of Harrisburg; Judge Joseph P. Rodgers, of Philadelphia; District Attorney Samuel P. Rotan, of Philadelphia, and others.

It is declared by those in favor of the bills, who include justices of the supreme court, over fifty county judges, many district attorneys and hundreds of prominent lawyers, that the abolition of capital punishment will achieve one greatly desired improvement in the administration of the criminal law. That is that the number of convictions of persons charged with first degree murder will be increased fifty per cent.

By imprisoning murderers for life, these men say, society will be just as amply protected as it would be if they were electrocuted, and society will at the same time be saved the brutalizing influence of legal executions.

It is pointed out that not more than 8 per cent of the persons who commit murder may justly be charged with premeditation or full responsibility. Statistics show that 54,545 murders in America in the last ten years were committed by drunken men. This is nearly two-thirds of all the murders committed. Added to this is the estimate that a majority of the remaining murders committed by rogues or burglars would not be committed were it not for the fact that the murderer was under the influence of cocaine or other narcotics.

Real Sufferers.
At the same time, Senator John G. Romber says that even in the case of a man who is guilty of a cold-blooded murder, the murderer himself does not suffer by execution, but that the real sufferers are his mother or his family, first by mental torture and second by social ostracism.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger is leading the fight to abolish the death chair. Other newspapers throughout the state have taken up the campaign. Public sentiment, they say, is overwhelmingly against a continuation of the institution.

Judges, lawyers and other experts declare that the penalty does not deter men from committing murder. They believe that less than one in a thousand murderers actually consider the penalty before committing the deed. The consensus of their opinion is that capital punishment is an obsolete institution and that the sooner it is done away with the better off society will be.

BACK TO TOWNSHIP

Such a simple-looking little bill introduced in the house yesterday by Representative Dawson, of Lehigh county, which provides that a borough may be dissolved and restored to the township from which it was originally created, is a movement that may grow to important proportions. Though the specific case covered in the Dawson bill is La Plume borough in Lehigh county, the bill could, and likely would be taken advantage of by scores of other boroughs throughout Pennsylvania.

With the state spending millions for township roads and contemplating the expenditures of \$50,000,000 more at one smash, townships are in closer touch with the matter of good highways while boroughs are so better off than they were long before the good roads movement started.

The Senate act calling for a comprehensive system of state highways designates routes through boroughs, but the state is exempt from building or repairing these borough roads. The result is that in many cases a traveler will find wonderful roads in townships and dilapidated arteries of travel in contiguous boroughs.

STATE OFFICIALS DIE ON SAME DAY

Secretary Houck and Senator Magee Called to Reward.

LEGISLATURE PAYS TRIBUTE

Both Senate and House Adjourn Out of Respect to Their Memory and Delegations Were Sent to the Funerals—Were Popular Officials.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 30.—Death removed two state officials last week—Secretary of Internal Affairs Henry Houck and State Senator Charles A. Magee, and by a coincidence both died on the same day, Tuesday. As a mark of respect both branches of the legislature adjourned Wednesday morning before completing the work outlined for the week and sent delegations to the funerals on Friday.

Henry Houck was probably one of the best-known men in Pennsylvania. Expressions heard at the state capital and at hotels, where there gathered an unusual number of men from all parts of the state because of the legislative sessions, showed how widely he was known and esteemed and there were many stories told about the famous educator. For years Dr. Houck has lectured all over the state and his visits have been reception occasions. He boasted of his friends and it seems that they were numerous. The children whom he taught are grand fathers now and these who have romped of their own will tell of the days when "Uncle Henry" came to town.



HENRY HOUCK.
Secretary of Internal Affairs, Who Died Recently.

In the thirty-eight years that "Uncle Henry" was connected with the department of public instruction, his duties took him into every section of the state, and it is doubtful if any Pennsylvania had a greater acquaintance. This acquaintance about him is well stated in the three paragraphs he sent before the chamber as a candidate for secretary of internal affairs.

Henry Houck was born at Lebanon, Lebanon county, Pa., March 6, 1856, and received his education in public and private schools. In 1887 he began teaching. In 1888 he became principal of the North Lebanon (Pa.) High school. Three years later he became superintendent of schools of Lebanon county, a position to which he was thrice re-elected.

In 1867 he took a position in the state department of public instruction and two years later became deputy state superintendent, holding the office thirty-eight years.

He was twice chairman of the executive committee of the State Teachers' association, and in 1873 presided at its annual meeting in Philadelphia.

He was elected secretary of internal affairs on November 6, 1906; re-elected to that office November 8, 1910, and re-elected for a third term on November 8, 1914.

MAGEE CAPABLE SENATOR

The death of Senator Charles A. Magee removed from the upper branch of the general assembly the youngest and one of the most useful members. He was carrying his second term, having first been elected in 1908 when but twenty-eight years old. Senator Magee took an active part in shaping legislation affecting school class cities and was prominent in western Pennsylvania politics.

Senator Magee was a nephew of the late Chris Magee, who was one of the potential state Republican leaders. Chris Magee served in the state senate and he was followed in that body by William A. Magee, a brother of the senator who died last week.

In calling attention to the death of his colleague, Senator Charles A. Kline of Allegheny paid him an unusual tribute. He spoke of his fidelity to duty, his friendship for his friend and his courtesy and consideration to everyone with whom he came in contact. The senate attended the funeral last Friday in a body and it was ordered that the senate chamber be draped for a period of thirty days.

Senator Magee was chairman of the committee on canals and inland navigation and held membership also in the following committees: Appropriations, educational, industrial, general, law and order, legislative, apportionment and municipal affairs.

POSSIBLE DEMOCRACY IN RUSSIA

Last week the emperor of Russia abdicated his throne and Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, his younger brother, has been named as regent. The Russian ministry, charged with corruption and the incompetence, has been swept out of office. One minister Alexander Protopopoff, head of the interior department, is reported to have been killed and the other ministers, as well as the president of the Imperial council, are under arrest.

A new national cabinet is announced with Prince Lvoff as president of the council and premier, and the other offices held by the men who are close to the Russian people.

For several days Petrograd was the scene of one of the most remarkable risings in history. Beginning with the minor food riots and labor strikes, the cry for food reached the hearts of the soldiers, and one by one the regiments rebelled. Finally those troops that had for a time stood loyal to the government took up their arms and marched in the ranks of the revolutionaries.

The president of the duma, Michael V. Rodzianko, was the leading figure among the deputies who unanimously decided to depose the imperial order for a dissolution of the house. They continued their session and M. Rodzianko informed the emperor, then at the front, that the hour had struck when the will of the people must prevail. Even the imperial council realized the gravity of the situation and added its appeal to that of the duma, that the emperor should take steps to give the people a policy and government in accordance with their desires and in order that there should be no interference with carrying on the war to a victorious ending.

The emperor hastened back from the front, only to find that the revolution had been successful and that a new government was in control. The emperor, who, it is alleged, has been influential in the councils opposed to the wishes of the people, is reported to have fled or to be in hiding.

Although considerable fighting took place, it is not believed that the casualties are large.

The early period of the uprising bore the character rather of a mock revolution staged for an immense audience. Cossacks charging down the street did so in a half-hearted fashion, plainly without notice or intent to harm the crowds that they playfully dispersed. The troops exchanged good natured salutes with the workmen and women, and as they rode were cheered by the populace.

Long lines of soldiers stationed in dramatic attitudes across Nevsky Prospect, with their guns pointed at an imaginary foe, appeared to be taking part in a realistic tableau. Machine guns firing roundshots of blank cartridges seemed only to add another realistic touch to a tremendous theatrical production, which was using the whole city as a stage.

The government is practically in

the hands of the people, common representatives being in almost absolute control of public affairs.

An early call will entitle you to a choice selection in Millinery at the Mellon Millinery Store.

QUICK LUNCH
HOME-MADE ICE CREAM
FITZPATRICK'S RESTAURANT
PATTON, PENNA.

NOTICE—Lost a White Fox Coat with large brown spots. Any information regarding same will be greatly appreciated.
W. A. MELLON.

Facts Versus Fallacies

FACT is a real state of things. FALLACY is an apparently genuine but really illogical statement or argument.

EXPERIENCE has taught that Prohibition is a FALLACY, and where Local Option (or local Prohibition) has been applied in counties of Pennsylvania, through Judges refusing all licenses, FACTS and figures have shown no lessening of indulgence in liquors. For instance, in 1915 J. A. McLane was elected Judge in Mercer County, and he refused all licenses under his jurisdiction for 1915. With what result? Read what authoritative witnesses testified at License Court on December 4 and 5 last:

"J. M. Cundy, freight agent for the Erie Railroad, testified that 374 cars of liquor were shipped into Farrell, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, during the nine months the county has been 'dry.' These consignments included 242 barrels of beer, 306 half barrels, 38,248 quarts, 94,567 cases of two dozen bottles each, and 7976 packages of whisky."

"W. W. CARTRIGHT, freight agent for the Erie railroad, testified that seventy-five car-loads of liquor were shipped to the valley towns in six months."

"G. K. MOORE, Erie freight agent at Sharpsville, said 28,162 packages of booze had been received at Sharpsville."

"O. L. LATIMER, a railway clerk testified that within two weeks something like 750,000 glasses of beer, 200,000 glasses of whisky and 50,000 of wine were shipped to Sharon from outside points, the per diem cost of which was \$4000."

"CHIEF OF POLICE MILLER, of Mercer, stated that arrests were running about even. In the eleven months of 1916 the police arrested 407 persons from intoxication, while in 1915 for twelve months, when the county was 'wet,' 426 persons were arrested for the same cause."

THE above FACTS in evidence are quoted from the news columns of a Philadelphia daily paper that advocates Prohibition, and the testimony shows conclusively the FALLACY of "dry" conditions in Mercer County. Likewise did the Venango Herald, of Franklin County (a Prohibition organ), editorially confess to no betterment of conditions in Venango County, after Judge Criswell had refused all licenses.

Pennsylvania State Brewers' Association

109

Virginia tobacco pays no duty— all the value is in the cigarette

That's exactly where the value belongs—in the cigarette. You can't smoke duty, you know.

Piedmonts are made of the highest grade of Virginia tobacco—ALL Virginia tobacco! Golden in color and as mellow as Dixie's sun.

You know what tobacco experts say—they say that Virginia is the best cigarette tobacco in the world.

Leggett Myers Tobacco Co.

"A package of Piedmonts, please."

An ALL Virginia Cigarette—

Piedmont

The Cigarette of Quality

NOTE—A package of ten cigarettes made of all Turkish tobacco costs the smoker 10c or 15c. A package of ten Piedmonts made of highest-grade Virginia tobacco costs the smoker only 5c. Why the difference? Because Piedmonts pay no duty, no sales freight, no marine insurance, no expensive shipping charges.

10 for 5¢
Also Packed 20 for 10¢