

MAY ABANDON NEW REVENUES

War Crisis Upsets Movement For Funds.

MUST NOT BURDEN PEOPLE

New Revenue-Raising Measures Would Have Included Tax on Real Estate, Direct Inheritance, Oil and Natural Gas, Capital Stock of Manufacturing Concerns and Other Things.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 2.—Despite increased demands for more appropriations by state departments, state hospitals and semi-state institutions of all kinds, it is unlikely that the legislature will go very far in raising new revenues. The plan for additional funds has not been abandoned altogether, though at this writing it must be admitted that the program framed some time ago to raise many millions dollars annually is much nearer to abandonment than consummation.

Republican organization leaders say it is probable that the movement for largely increasing the state's income will be abandoned, and that additional funds will not be imposed for peace time projects.

Organization leaders in the senate and house, while not yet certain of their ground, say it would not be wise to commit the state to larger outlays for projects that have in several years been regarded as urgent, but which might well wait if the legislature is to be confronted by the necessity of appropriating sums that may amount into the millions for war purposes, even though it is recognized it would be up to congress to authorize and finance the war program. The state could not wholly escape unusual and extraordinary outlays should war come.

It is probable, in the face of threatening conditions, that the drift will be toward paring state appropriations for educational, charitable and other institutions that make big demands upon the state treasury. The drift in the direction of more strict economy will also take in state departments.

What Might Have Been. New revenue raising measures, which have been under consideration, but most of which it is now said will likely be shelved, include the following: One mill tax on real estate, two per cent tax on direct inheritances, two per cent tax on oil and natural gas at the well, tax of one per cent on prepared coal and coke, tax of one per cent on capital stock of manufacturing concerns, a tax on all tickets sold by places of amusement.

Senator Spruel has introduced in the senate a concurrent resolution calling on the economy and efficiency commission to make an immediate report as to its findings in the matter of appropriations. The resolution passed. It is intended to hurry the commission in its work of informing the two branches of the assembly in the matter of appropriations. There has been talk that the report of the commission will contain recommendations cutting appropriations all over the state.

Municipal Court for Cities. A municipal court bill for cities of the third class is being favored by Senator Nason, of Erie. There is to be one judge learned in the law, who is to be elected for four years at a salary of \$3000 per year. There is to be a clerk at \$1500 per year. The bill defines the duties of the court and sets forth matters that are to come before it. It would not decide title to property and would not have jurisdiction in highly important litigation.

Senator Lofly, of Perry, introduced a bill providing that pending appeals in cases of appeal from summary conviction the fine imposed by magistrates, justices of the peace and aldermen need not be paid if a bond is double the amount of fine is filed until the appeal is determined.

For Third Class Cities. Following a hearing which was attended by representatives of Pennsylvania's League of Third Class Cities, the municipal corporations committee of the house of representatives has reported favorably upon the league's bill containing many amendments to the Clarke act regulating government of third class municipalities.

Attorney Gardner, of New Castle, explained certain amendments which from out the initiative and referendum features of the Clarke act. With regard to the former, it is made very clear that all petitions to compel the council to pass an ordinance must be signed in the city clerk's office and in the presence of all officials.

Among other important amendments are those providing that the terms of the mayor and councilmen shall all be for four years. The term of the mayor is now four years, and those of the councilmen two years. The new act requires that at the first election following the expiration of the councilmen's present terms the two men receiving the highest number of votes shall be chosen for four years and the other two men for two years, but thereafter all will be elected for four years. Under this arrangement efficiency in the government will be maintained as there will always be at least two experienced councilmen in office, as only two men will be elected at any one time.

AFTER SALOONS IN THREE BILLS

Legislators Propose to Make Stringent Rules.

ONE AIMED AT TREATING

Second Would Stop Entertainment and Third Directed at All-Night Restaurants—Measure Put in to Change Form of Government in Third-Class Cities.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 27.—On the very day of the hearing on the Vickers local option bill three more bills affecting the liquor business were introduced in the house. To date measures directed against saloons number fourteen and the last day to introduce bills has not yet arrived. In other words, it is safe to assume, that even more of such bills are coming.

One of the latest temperance bills is sponsored by Representative McKay and deals with or rather specifically prohibits treating in bar-rooms. The bill makes it unlawful for a saloonkeeper to furnish liquor to any person who has not paid for the same, to permit any person who has not paid for liquor to drink it upon the saloon premises. This makes the measure not only anti-treating, but also "anti-tick."

The bill does permit liquor to be furnished by any person to his adult wife, adult sister, adult daughter or parent of any person. This is the only exception. The penalty for violation is a fine of \$500, or three months in jail, or both, just as the court decrees.

Aimed at Cabarets. The second bill aimed at saloons pertains to entertainment in saloons. It was introduced by Representative E. R. Smith, of Bedford, and sent to the committee on law and order.

"The baby member of the house," as he is known, because he is the youngest assemblyman in Pennsylvania, this young man from the mountains of central Pennsylvania has been quite active this session for a new member and his new bill will attract widespread attention and be the subject of many discussions. The bill he presents will make the cabaret a thing of the past; will banish vaudeville and dancing from the precincts of licensed liquor houses and will eliminate any display of moving pictures as an inducement to have men line up at the mahogany and give orders to the bartenders and in addition would be a severe blow to the dining-room feature of many prominent cafes operated in conjunction with a saloon.

The bill reads: "That from and after the passage of this act it shall be unlawful for any person or persons licensed to sell wines, spirituous, malted or brewed liquors to maintain or conduct any public dances or dancing, whether by any performer or performers engaged for the purpose, or by any guests, customers, patrons or any other persons whatsoever upon any part of the premises so licensed; or any public singing therein, or any cabaret shows, vaudeville or theatrical entertainments, or exhibitions of moving pictures upon any part of the premises so licensed." The penalty is a fine of \$500 or six months' imprisonment or both.

A third bill would wipe out night saloons. This proposed law is favored by Representative Duncan, of Blair, of Fayette County. It directs that every place where liquor is sold must close between one A. M. and five A. M.

There are some "wet" counties where saloons are not permitted to be open all night, but this is accomplished by court orders and there is no law on the statute books regulating hours for the sale of intoxicating beverages. Hotels and saloons in the three cities would be hit by this Sinclair bill. It would practically mean the end of the cabaret, for that form of entertainment is at its height about one A. M. and rarely ends before three o'clock.

Wants New Law for Small Cities. Senator E. E. Heideman, of DuPuis, president pro tem. of the senate, has introduced a bill to repeal the Clark third city act, and enact in its stead a new form of government for such cities.

The bill, as a whole, is a combination of the act of 1889, the Clark act, amendments to the act of 1889 as introduced at the session of 1915, and some few provisions from the Ramsey amendments to the Clark act of the present session.

This new form of government would consist of a mayor and single branch of council made up of a representative from each ward. These councilmen would be chosen on regular political party ballots, thus wiping out entirely the non-partisan system in cities of the third class. The mayor would likewise be selected by the partisan plan according to population. There is no salary or compensation of any kind for councilmen.

An examination of the bill, which consists of over 1500 sections, shows that its enactment virtually returns third class cities to the old form of government, with the important exception that instead of a bi-cameral council there would be a single council constituted as explained above.

ACTIVITY SHOWN BY LEGISLATURE

Calendars of Two Houses Are Well Filled.

PENROSE AT STATE CAPITAL

Welde Reception in Lieutenant Governor's Rooms and for Hours a Steady Line of Visitors Greeted Him. Appropriation Committees Quietly Probing Certain Departments.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 27.—The legislature is now steaming up. Perhaps the arrival of spring has had something to do with the present activity, or maybe, it can be attributed to some other cause. The fact remains, however, that the Pennsylvania law-makers have donned their bustling clothes with the result that the important committees and the active legislators are working overtime.

A glance at the senate calendar the other day showed forty-two bills on third reading; twenty-six on second reading and thirty-nine on first reading. Inasmuch as not more than a half dozen of these were appropriation bills it is easily seen that the upper branch is putting in some heavy work. On the house side the daily calendars are even larger than in the senate and certain new members are beginning to realize that service in the legislature is not a sinecure.

Penrose Meets Legislature. A feature of last week's sessions was the presence of United States Senator Penrose in Harrisburg. He came here to attend the biennial banquet of the Legislative Sons of St. Patrick. Senator Penrose arrived about noon of the banquet day and up until the time of the dinner was kept busy receiving a steady line of senators and representatives and capitol attaches, who called to pay their respects. He held forth in the rooms of Lieutenant Governor McClain.



SENATOR BOIES PENROSE. Who Paid Visit to State Capital and Received Great Reception.

The banquet speech of Senator Penrose was really the feature of the evening. He remissly referred to his service in the senate and senate before his election as United States senator and the fact that he attended the first banquet of the association. Senator Penrose told about St. Patrick driving the snakes from Ireland and said that it might be a good thing if he could be reincarnated and visit Harrisburg in order to drive "snakes" from certain bills that would appear in the legislature.

He closed his address with an appeal to the patriotism of his listeners, saying that in times like these or during any crisis, all good Americans are expected to stand by their country and, if necessary, fight for it. He declared that this country should not enter into any entangling alliances with other countries, but that it should stand on its own firm foundation in keeping with the spirit of the Declaration of Independence and the intention of its framers and our first presidents. Senator Penrose was applauded longer than any man who has spoken before this organization during its existence of nearly twenty-five years.

Quiet Investigation On. Following on the heels of a resolution passed in the house and senate demanding that Auditor General Powell submit a full report not later than March 30 and to answer the charge that he is spending the state's money to pay expert accountants to straighten out his books it became known that the joint appropriation committee has been quietly conducting an investigation into the manner in which heads of certain departments have expended their contingent funds during the past two years.

Until such time as the committee's recommendations on contingent fund appropriations are announced the result of the probe will not be known. It is said the committee will be guided to its recommendations by what this investigation reveals. Other committee investigations will be gotten under way at an early date.

As a result of the probing being done the joint appropriations committee hopes to be able to effect some real economy. Thousands of dollars is expected to be saved by the reduction of departmental expenses, thereby directly benefitting the taxpayers of the state. This will mean that all of the additional taxes considered by the joint revenue commission will be used for schools and to improve the road systems of the commonwealth.



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