

## Post Reporter Analyzes Trends As Prolonged Assembly Closes

Legislature Failed To Solve Problems Deeply Affecting All Citizens

By BERNARD B. BLIER

When the large and expensive mahogany doors were closed upon the final session of the General Assembly at Harrisburg few people wept on the surface. The many clerks who performed the only actual work of the session were both happy and sad. They lost the ten, fifteen and twenty dollars a day, it is true, yet when appointments were made in January, they did not believe that their services would be required beyond three months. Even newspapermen and more especially their expense-account paying journals back home were very glad that the 1941 session terminated before the stock-holders demanded that the editors employ only wire-service reports of the daily legislative happenings.

As I now look back however to review this session's accomplishments, I readily observe two things which deeply affected all citizens of the Commonwealth. First, all important congressional reapportionment was defeated. The failure on the part of this legislature to properly re-district Pennsylvania in strict accord with the state census of 1940 definitely disfranchised tens of thousands of citizens. For it means voting machines will not be in use in the spring primary next year. In their stead the ancient and political corrupt paper ballot will be employed. When the voter steps up to the clerk in his precinct and receives a paper sheet that more appropriately could be used to wall-paper a fair size room, his problem only begins. In Pennsylvania thirty-three congressmen will be selected at large, this number is one less than was chosen last year under the reapportionment plan set up in 1931 and which incidentally former Governor Gifford Pinchot condemned as unsatisfactory. Also, the electors will be among other things asked to nominate a governor, a lieutenant-governor, a secretary of internal affairs, members of their party's state and local committees, a state representative and in some districts, a state senator. If seven candidates are in the race for these forty-two positions, there will be approximately 300 candidates on each ticket. Can any one imagine a voter of average intelligence analyzing a ballot of over six hundred names (this figure is a bare minimum) and casting his vote for the individuals that he believes are best qualified for the offices up for election?

There was however, some consolation to one who diligently witnessed the many battles that were engaged in on the Senate floor relative to congressional reapportionment. For there are few that would dispute the observation that if this congressional issue was placed in the able hands of three senators, Dr. Leo C. Mundy of Luzerne and Edward J. Coleman of Lackawanna, both Democrats, and John Walker of Allegheny, a Republican, a settlement agreeable to all would be effected. These three were for reapportionment to the bitter end, they were responsible for the exhaustive and extended deliberations of the conference committee, and to them even though their forceful words and actions were of no immediate success, goes tremendous credit. They felt that party bosses and party lines came secondary when the constitutional rights of the ten million citizens of our state were in jeopardy.

The other great failure of the Pennsylvania legislature at this session and in this case the sole responsibility of the Senate was the non-liberalization of Pennsylvania's Unemployment Compensation Law. Our state which is always far behind other states when legislation benefiting workingmen is at stake, is completely out of tune with the liberal provisions of unemployment benefit laws throughout the nation. This situation has existed for several years. Yet the Chamber of Commerce bloc in the Senate has nailed every attempt to open up the act so that workers who become unemployed can maintain their families in an American way. In view of the steadily rising cost of living, something that reactionary Tom Girdler recently recognized, the workingmen of Pennsylvania expected some favorable adjustment.

These workers were sure that this assembly with full knowledge that the Commonwealth's Unemployment Compensation Fund was fastly approaching the two hundred million mark, would countenance some changes in the present low standard and extend increased weekly benefits that would spread over sixteen weeks. The O'Neill-Cohen bill which was sponsored by both the A. F. of L. and the CIO, and which embodied the very relief asked by the workingmen, passed the House but died in the Senate.

Senator Coleman who was a minority member of the conference committee charged with the adjustment of House-Senate differences in the two amending unemployment compensation bills again lead the fight for enactment of the above liberal amendments. Another Senator from Westmoreland county John Dent, gave Coleman great assistance on the floor during a spirited fight. But Pennsylvania must at all cost maintain her traditional policy of protection for the "vested inter-

## Shiber Moves Idetown House

Does Smooth Job; Is Of House Moving Family

While Harold Shiber of Davis street, Trucksville, is not exactly the Superman type, he can move a house so smoothly that the dishes will remain in place and a glass of water could be set on the kitchen table without a drop spilling. Perhaps this knack was handed down by heredity, for Mr. Shiber is the third generation of the family to be in the building moving business.

At present Mr. Shiber is moving the house of R. B. Shaver at Idetown, to make way for the new Dallas-Harvey's Lake highway, and among other buildings he has moved in the past year are the Odd Fellows' Hall at Dallas and the Ben Neyhart home at Fernbrook. He has also done the major part of the moving and razing work for coal companies and municipalities in Northeastern Pennsylvania, and is justly proud of the reputation he has built for dependability and honest dealing.

In case you have a home that you want moved or realigned, you will be interested to know that the cost of such an operation is not nearly so much as you might think. In fact, Mr. Shiber figures that a great deal of razing or moving really necessary for the remodeling of some homes is not done because most people feel the job is too expensive. He will give you an estimate entailing no obligation whatsoever if you will call him at Dallas 429-R-16, or drop around to his home.

Mr. Shiber has trained men and equipment competent to handle a job of any size, and can move a home without the loss of any of its conveniences to the occupants in the process. Water, gas, light and sewer connections are maintained throughout.

ests' and let the struggling workman be damned.

CHIPS: There is the story that Roger W. "Cap." Rowland, secretary of the Department of Property and Supplies and Lawrence county businessman has awaited the conclusion of the Legislature to extend his resignation to Governor James. This, if it is true, will leave three lucrative openings for his excellency to fill: Secretary of Health as result of Dr. John J. Shaw's untimely death; the chairmanship of the Liquor Control Board left open by the recent death of ex-Senator William S. Rial of Westmoreland, and now the property and supplies post. Last week the governor's office announced the elevation of acting and deputy secretary of commerce, Mark S. James, to full secretary status. James a resident of Allegheny county, jumps into the shoes that Dick Brown leaped out of earlier this year over a disagreement in the parceling out of advertising patronage. Senator Robert Miller of Luzerne appears willing to lay down the senatorial toga in favor of an office beside the beautiful Susquehanna River in Wilkes-Barre. He is aspiring for the county controllership. Bob has been the spokesman for all veteran's groups in the two sessions that he served in the upper house.

More than 200 clergymen and delegates, including several from this section, are attending the annual convocation of the New York Free Methodist Conference in progress at the East Dallas camp grounds. The conference, which will last until this Saturday evening, is open to the public for evangelistic meetings afternoons and in the evenings from 6 to 7. Clergymen will be appointed to new charges and young ministers, among them Rev. Herbert Olver of Trucksville, will be ordained. Host to the visiting delegates is Rev. A. K. Lindsley of Trucksville, Wilkes-Barre District Elder. The annual conference is the third to be held here since 1922.

## T. J. Brown's Sons Oldest Coal Firm

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The oldest business firm in Plymouth and the oldest coal dealers in Luzerne County are two distinctions enjoyed by T. J. Brown's Sons, dealers in Glen Alden coal, and a third distinction is held by a well-known member of the firm, M. J. "Dyke" Brown of Dallas—that of being one of the more noted horsemen and fanciers of the Wyoming Valley. Incidentally, the firm itself is the only one in the county that deals in both coal and horses, two business ventures that are not generally found together.

Many changes in mining and transportation methods have been seen by Mr. Brown in his experience in the coal business, and he feels that present transportation conditions indicate a possible shortage of the fuel this year. He urges all his friends and many customers throughout this region to have their bins filled early, since it is more than a mere disappointment when the bin is empty in winter and no coal is immediately available.

Right now, however, T. J. Brown's Sons have plenty of good Glen Alden coal on hand, and are ready to serve all comers. General hauling is another specialty of the firm, and their trucks are on call at all times.

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While most local folk know Mr. Wood through his branch offices on Main street in Dallas and at 145 E. Center street, Shavertown, his main offices are at 707 Market street, Kingston. Mr. Wood—whom you may reach by phoning 7-3915—will be glad to discuss your real estate or insurance problems with you at any time.

## Free Methodist Clergy Throng Dallas Grounds

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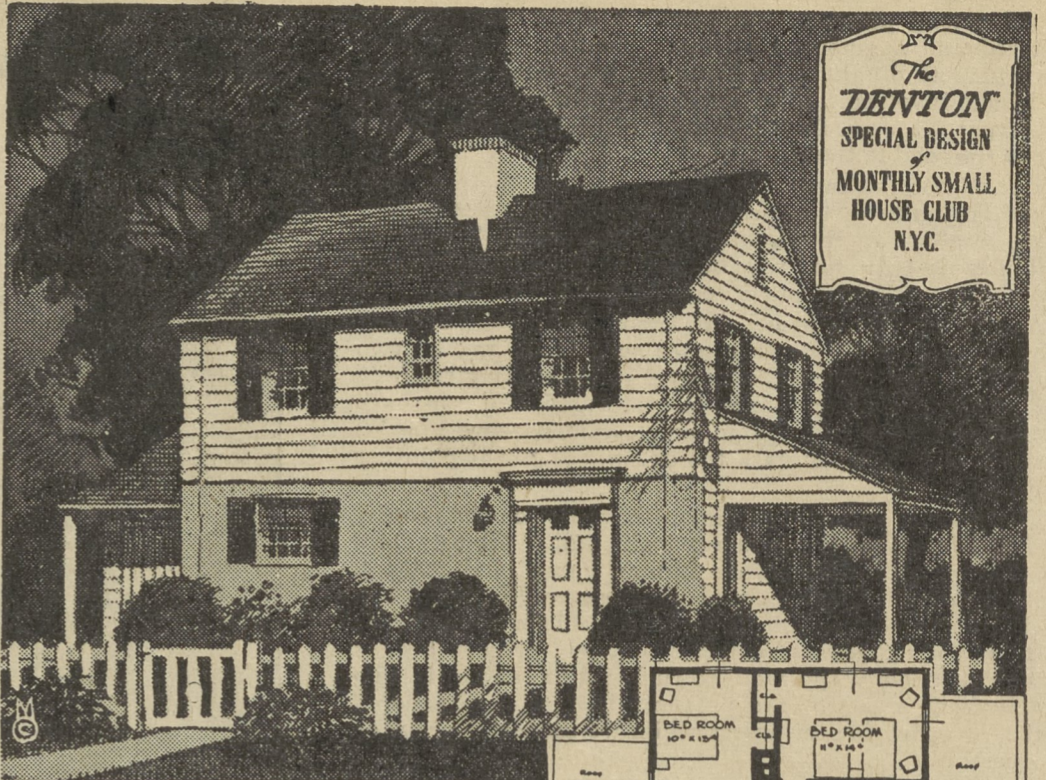
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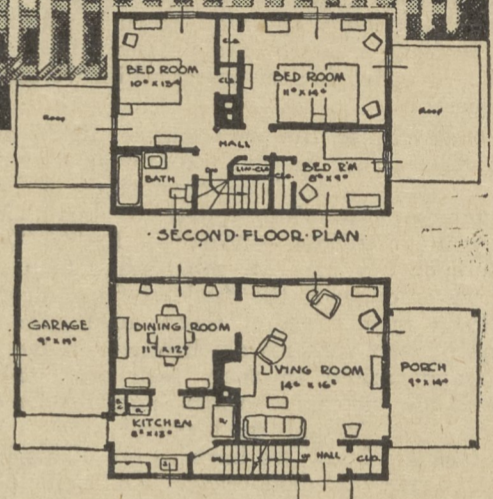
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