

HIGH LICENSE POSTPONED

LITTLE HOPE OF THE CROSBY BILL PASSING THE SENATE.

THE FOUR REPUBLICANS TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE—A VOTE IN BEHALF OF WEALTHY CORPORATIONS.

ALBANY, April 12.—The discussion of the High License bill in the Senate was again postponed to-day. Senator Erwin suggested to the Democrats that the bill be ordered to a third reading by general consent, assuring them that they should have every opportunity to propose amendments and for debate. This, however, was objected to by Mr. Cantor, who thought that under the circumstances the bill had better be considered in committee of the whole. The Democrats realize that even when all the friends of the bill are present, they number only 16 votes, one less than is necessary to pass it. Mr. Erwin moved that the bill be made a special order for next Tuesday, and this was carried without opposition, although Mr. Cantor was for Wednesday, because some of the opponents of the measure will be absent Tuesday. It is practically settled that the bill cannot be passed without the beer license being reduced. Two Republican Senators, Worth and Laughlin, will oppose it in any shape.

It rests with four men to say whether the Republican Party shall be humiliated by its failure to pass this bill. They are Henry Russell of Albany, Henry T. Coggeshall of Oneida, Henry R. Low of Orange, and William L. Sweet of Seneca. Not one of them has shown the slightest disposition to vote for it unless it is amended. Mr. Sweet is a maltster, upon whose vote, it is said, depend heavy contracts with the breweries. He frankly says he does not expect to be re-elected. Mr. Russell has been enlisted in the cause of beer, it is asserted, through the grain dealers, with whom he has large dealings. Mr. Coggeshall's election expenses were contributed to by the brewers, and that holds him. Mr. Low's position is unaccountable. Of such is the material in the timber so necessary to the Republicans.

Senator Linson told his associates some unpleasant truths during the morning session. The subject under discussion was the Langbein bill, increasing from \$5,000 to \$10,000 the amount that may be recovered of corporations for killing human beings. Senator Langbein informed the Senate that his bill had been in the possession of Judge Robertson's Judiciary Committee for three months, having been introduced by him on the 11th of January, and that, do his best, he could get the committee to take no action upon it. They would not report it favorably or adversely. He therefore moved to discharge the committee from its further consideration.

Judge Robertson replied that the committee had not yet reached any decision upon it that was satisfactory to its members. If the Senate was of the opinion that Mr. Langbein could perfect the bill better than his committee, he had no doubt the committee would be willing it should be referred to him.

Senator Ives was of the opinion that not very much legal skill or astuteness was necessary to change the figures \$5,000 to \$10,000. A reference by Senator Kellogg, another member of the Judiciary Committee, to discussion in the committee room on this measure gave Mr. Ives an opportunity to explain that amendments have been proposed in the committee that would eliminate from the law the opportunity afforded to procure the sum of \$5,000, and would compel the relatives of the dead to prove the amount of actual damages sustained in the loss of a husband, wife, or child. "Pecuniary damages" is the gold-blooded legal term which some of Mr. Ives's associates roll glibly off in the privacy of the committee room. The effect of any such amendment, Mr. Ives urged, would be that corporations would prefer to have their employees kill people outright rather than to maintain them.

Senator John Raines cast his eyes up toward the galleries, which, by the way, contained very few persons, and then talked learnedly of legal matters, of which he is very ill-informed. The Senator's time when at home is largely occupied in running a sort of insurance business and in laying pipes for legislative purposes, and naturally he has not built up any legal practice that would entitle his legal opinions to much respect. Naturally, he took sides with the wealthy corporations. He was brought up with a round turn in his speech with a sharp demand from Mr. Langbein to explain why the Judiciary Committee, of which Mr. Raines, singularly enough, is a member, doesn't report the bill. Mr. Raines didn't explain.

Senator Coggeshall offered a labored defense of his position, which, as he realized, was so inconsistent with his many professions of affection for the poor, the very class that this bill seeks to benefit. Senator Foley, the Democratic representative of Saratoga, also had a lame apology for declining to aid in discharging the committee. Senator Kellogg defended himself with the declaration that he proposed to stand by the committee.

Senator Linson was indignant at what he had heard, and he withdrew his vote and had his name called again in order that he might reply to the argument of Senators Coggeshall and Raines. "I wish," he said, "to reply to some of the remarks of Senators Raines and Coggeshall. It is a dangerous proposition to put into this act the principle that pecuniary damages shall be proved in case of death by neglect. The necessity for the passage of an act, originally, as every Senator well knows, was to meet the principle of the common law that human life is too sacred and too valuable to be measured in dollars and cents. The only way to check the recklessness of great corporations in regard to human life was found to be the passage of this statute. It is utterly impossible to measure the value of human life. Take a young girl, the favorite child of a family. She goes out upon an excursion and is killed by the recklessness and the rapacity of railroad managers. Can you measure that young girl's life in dollars and cents? It is the most astounding proposition in the interest of corporations—reckless and wicked corporations—that I ever heard on the floor of this Senate."

The two Senators undertook to reply, but without success. Mr. Laughlin, at the suggestion of Senator Reilly, amended his motion so as to make it applicable to a similar bill that has already passed the Assembly and is in the possession of the Judiciary Committee. His effort to drag the bill into the Senate was defeated and a number of professing "friends of the people" were unmasked. The vote was as follows—Republicans in roman, Democrats in *italic*:

YEAS.—Messrs. Cantor, Collins, Ives, Langbein, Linson, Murphy, Reilly, Stadler—8.

NAYS.—Messrs. Coggeshall, Deane, Erwin, Fassett, Foley, Hawkins, Kellogg, Lewis, Laughlin, Low, McNaughton, O'Connor, Raines, Robertson, Russell, Sloan, Van Cott, Vedder, Walker—19.

Strangely enough, not a single Republican was so recorded as to break the force of the charge that will doubtless be made that the corporations have got a rope about the neck of every Republican Senator. The bill will not pass this Legislature.

Gov. Hill's little scheme of voting the 1,100 inmates of the Bath Soldiers' Home as he sees fit by the grace of legislative enactment is likely to come to naught. The Assembly to-day, by a party vote of 64 Republicans to 49 Democrats, ordered to a third reading an amendment to the Constitution providing that the old soldiers may cast their votes wherever they may chance to be, but that the votes must be counted as belonging to the election districts in which the voter has an actual residence. Merely living at the Soldiers' Home, the Court of Appeals has decided, does not constitute a residence in Bath for voting purposes, and this view the Republican majority of the Judiciary Committee of the Assembly felt compelled to take when it had under consideration the Governor's message pleading for the enfranchisement of the soldiers. If the Governor was as much of a lawyer as his friends claim he would know that what he begs for cannot be done as long as the present laws remain on the statute books. Probably he does know it, but 1,100 votes is a thing greatly to be desired in the day when a man's votes and friends are vanishing.

The majority of the Judiciary Committee reported in effect that the Governor's message was clap-trap nonsense and that the only way out of the difficulty was to amend the Constitution as indicated in the amendment it proposed. The minority of the committee, with Judge Greene at its head, shut its eyes to the law and the Constitution and tried to help the Governor out by reporting a bill declaring the home to have been established to give a permanent and legal residence to its inmates, and authorizing them to vote there on the same terms as the 1,800 actual residents of Bath. The House was satisfied with the majority report and accepted it and ordered the amendment to a third reading. Thus fades another of the Governor's cherished dreams; thus falls through another of his ploys.

Ten members of the Assembly voted to-day to arraign Assemblyman William F. Sheehan of Buffalo before the bar of the House for breach of order in debate. As 87 members thought there were other and less extraordinary means for controlling Mr. Sheehan's impetuosity and determination to talk when the Speaker rules that he should not, Mr. Sheehan did not get any nearer the bar of the House than his seat. The trouble arose over Crank Platt's prohibition amendment, which went through the Assembly before Mr. Sheehan had a chance to say all he wanted to about it. He did offer an amendment, which was voted down, permitting the manufacture of liquor in this State, if not its sale. The previous question was ordered and the roll call followed with Mr. Sheehan rising to questions of privilege and information which the Speaker decided were neither. What Mr. Sheehan was trying to do was to charge the Republican Party with insincerity in making the amendment a party question, and to say that he had been provoked when the amendment was progressed to third reading that opportunity for discussion and amendment would then be afforded. Finally the vote was announced as 68 in favor of the amendment and 51 against it. It was a strict party vote, except that Mr. Reitz of Brooklyn voted with the Democrats in the negative.

Then Mr. Hamilton of New-York offered the resolution calling Mr. Sheehan before the bar of the House. Mr. Sheehan said he hoped it would

pass, but only these gentlemen, all Republicans, voted for it: Messrs. Ainsworth, Coon, Crosby, Frost, Fuller, Hamilton, Kimball, Latimer, Nixon, and Whipple. Ninety-eight votes in all were cast. Mr. Sheehan said that in his four years' service in the House he had never known such an un-called-for resolution to be offered. He attempted further to criticize the resolution, but was stopped by the Speaker, who said that he had always treated Mr. Sheehan with more leniency than any other man on the floor, because he represented the minority. There the matter ended.

Guerrilla Charles P. Shaw continued to-day the siege upon the Senate Railroad Committee which he began yesterday under cover of Mr. Potter's argument against Mayor Hewitt's rapid transit scheme. Gifted by nature with a copious flow of words and by training with extraordinary impudence the guerrilla exhibited his natural and acquired talents before the committee in a way which led unprejudiced observers to infer that he expected that body to capitulate on the spot in order to escape him. The shady history of the whole scheme, which had its flower in the creation of the Shaw band of raiders, was told in Mr. Shaw's most alluring manner, with oratory the like of which is never heard at Albany except during the season of the annual cable siege. The Shaw arms were fired from behind two bills which Senator Pierce and Senator Erwin have been good enough to put before the Legislature for the benefit of the cable gang, and which permit them to do all that they wish, and were trained upon every other means of rapid transit yet talked of for New-York, or which may be talked of in the future. The cannonading drew people from the remotest points in the Capitol, stopped the elevators, interfered with the electric light system, and made the ordinary raider blush to think of his own weakness. It was a great day for the raiders and a great day for the loungers around the building. It was amusing, too, particularly to the committee, the members of which seemed to enjoy it immensely. Nevertheless, Chief Raider Shaw talked like a man who had hopes.

The Senate to-day passed without opposition the bill of Senator O'Connor reorganizing the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Bridge. It reduces the number of Trustees to three, to be appointed by the Mayors of New-York and Brooklyn.

The Senate Judiciary Committee favorably reported the bill by Assemblyman George Weed, empowering Judges to pass upon fellows of the Herr Most stripe a sentence of from five years upon a second conviction.

A vote in the Assembly to-day shows that there are at least 36 members who do not believe the State should spend any more money in sinking salt wells on the Onondaga reservation. The Ways and Means Committee reported favorably a bill appropriating \$20,000 for that purpose. Mr. Van Gorder of Wyoming, who yesterday introduced a constitutional amendment permitting the State to sell the reservation, moved to disagree with the report, and spoke against the State granting further aid to the Onondaga salt men, thereby discriminating against like enterprises in the western end of the State. His motion was lost by a vote of 36 to 36.

The Vedder Quarantine bill was reported favorably by the Assembly Committee on Commerce and Navigation this morning, and it was ordered to a third reading. No hearing was given on the bill. The Democratic members of the committee joined with the Republicans in reporting this absurd measure favorably.

Three Democratic members of the Judiciary Committee, Messrs. Greene of Orange, Coons of Schoharie, and Wagner of Brooklyn, dissented from a favorable report made by the committee to-day upon the Fassett Eribery bill. Action on the bill would have been taken this evening had not Mr. Saxton, Chairman of the committee, been ill.

Saloon-keeper Philip Wissig, who made three attempts before he succeeded in breaking into the Assembly from the Eighth District of New-York, brought to Albany with him his Stanton-street manners and tastes. The Assembly this evening had under consideration the Ainsworth bill granting municipal suffrage to women. It was generally treated in a respectful fashion, and in its defense a number of pretty speeches were made. Gen. Husted, who was in the Chair, spoke with dignity and feeling in favor of the bill, and Mr. Whipple, Mr. Ainsworth, and others spoke in a similar vein. It remained for the Stanton-street saloon keeper to insult the women present on the floor in an ostensible explanation of a vote in the negative. Here is the speech verbatim:

"I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the ladies have too much rights now already, and I cannot see why we should give them the right to go to the polls. I listened to one of their arguments the other day in the Senate, and they were arguing about the few good men and the many bad men, and it was the cause of ruin. I will say right here on this floor, with all due respects to the ladies, that they are more cause toward the men drinking than anything that ever could be produced. I believe they are the cause of making drunkards, and therefore I withdraw my excuse and vote No."

Members near the saloon-keeper turned away in shame and disgust, and several negative votes were immediately changed to the affirmative. The vote was as follows, Republicans in roman, Democrats in *italics*:

YEAS.—Messrs. Adams, Ainsworth, Bagley, Brundage, Bonbright, Brennan, Brown, Brownell, Brundage, Cashow, Harrison, Cheney, Clark, Comstock, A. B. Coons, Cornwell, Cottrell, Davis, Demarest, Flaherty, Fort, Frost, Gallup, Gorman, Huntington, Husted, Kimball, Langley, Mable, Wagner, James M. Martin, Mase, Mathison, Maynard, MoAdam, McCann, McKenzie, McLaughlin, Moody, Morgan, Newton, Nixon, O'Neil, Platt, Rhoads, Sheldon, Tallmaige, Tisdale, Wafer, Whipple, Yates—50.

NAYS.—Messrs. Acker, Aldrich, Aspinall, Beatty, Brumenthal, Bush, W. W. Cheney, Church, Conger, Connelly, S. M. Coon, Cronwell, Crosby, Curtis, Dalton, De Witt, Donaldson, Emery, Endres, Enz, Farrell, Fuller, Gallagher, Goerss, Gordon, Greene, Grippin, Gunther, Haggerty, Hawes, Herrmann, Hill, Hornidge, Hughes, Kent, Lewis, John Martin, McKenna, O'Reilly, Prime, Rannow, Reitz, Rosenthal, Ryan, Shea, Sheehan, P. A. Sullivan, T. D. Sullivan, Thompson, Van Gorder, Weed, Wemple, White, Wiszig, Youngman—55.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, when it met to investigate the charges against some members of the Cities Committee of being contemptible, swore the smirched members, and was told by them that they had never been approached by lobbyists and were never paid any money for their votes. The committee will continue the investigation next Tuesday.

The Ways and Means Committee will report to-morrow the result of its investigation of the expenditures upon the Executive Mansion—an investigation which the Governor boldly decided in his letter to the public this morning amounts to nothing. He had evidently been informed of the probable course of the Ways and Means Committee. Three members of that committee, Assemblymen Hamilton, Latimer, and Hadley, do not agree with his estimate. The rest of the committee have united upon a whitewashing report. The four Republicans who have gone out of their way to perform this act of kindness to the Governor are: Gen. Husted, Cottrell of Allegany, Enz of Tompkins, and Cheney of Onondaga. What little arrangements these gentlemen have made with the Governor relative to the treatment to be awarded such bills of theirs as reach him cannot, of course, be stated at this time. The Governor is known to be as ready to make a deal as a Yankee is to swap jackknives, and as he has felt considerable anxiety about the results of this inquiry it is natural to suppose that he has left nothing undone that would secure the necessary whitewash.

Capitol Commissioner Perry has prepared plans for preserving the beauty of the Assembly Chamber by substituting a wooden ceiling laid in panels as nearly after the style of the old one as a "flat" ceiling can be made. He will leave four granite columns in their present position, and their height would be increased by six feet. On these granite columns will rest Phœnix wrought-iron columns extending up the necessary height, supporting wrought-iron girders, to which the wood finish will be secured. From column to column oak beams will extend, dividing the centre section into three spaces transversely. From the east to the west wall the ceiling for the space between the columns will be level, and the north and south sections will slope at an angle of 22½ degrees to the side walls. This will give acoustic results. The proposed ceiling is designed to be of oak, and will be 55 feet from the floor. The uprights from the capitals of the columns will describe a graceful arch as they near the horizontal and main beams. The main ribs, the uprights, the corbels at the ends of the beams, and the ribs surmounting the panel work, are designed to be carved elaborately. This investment, with the necessary labor, &c., will cost nearly \$225,000. The plan prepared for the work also includes two additional rooms, each 20 by 20 feet, conveniently situated, and opening into the Assembly Chamber.

The other day the orderlies employed at the Capitol requested Lieut.-Gov. Jones to meet them in one of the committee rooms, and when he appeared they presented him with a fine, large-size crayon picture of himself, a perfect likeness and an artistic work. The picture was handsomely framed, and now adorns the rooms of the genial Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Jones was taken entirely by surprise, but made a few feeling remarks, expressing the pleasure it gave him to receive such a tribute from his old Grand Army friends. All the orderlies are veterans.