

PUSHING BALLOT REFORM

MR. SAXTON'S NEW BILL IN THE SENATE.

A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION IN ITS INTEREST—A BLOW AIMED AT POLITICAL ASSESSMENTS.

ALBANY, April 9.—The Republicans appear to be determined to make a record on electoral reform. The Saxton amended Ballot-Reform bill came from the General Laws Committee to-day and was sent to the Committee of the Whole. In addition to this Senator Saxton introduced a new bill to prevent assessments on candidates for judicial offices and a concurrent resolution that proposes to amend the Constitution in order to overcome Gov. Hill's objections to the official ballot. In conformity with the provisions of the Constitution the resolution will have to pass this Legislature and be referred to the Legislature to be chosen at the next general election of Senators. Senator Saxton attempted to advance both measures to third reading, but Senator Cantor objected. The resolution reads as follows:

Resolved, If the Assembly concur, that Section 5 of Article II. of the Constitution be amended by adding thereto the following: "Nothing in this Constitution contained shall be construed to limit the power of the Legislature to enact that all ballots to be used at public elections shall be official, and shall be printed and distributed at public expense; that the names of all candidates for the same office shall be printed on the same ballot; that all ballots shall be delivered to the voter within the polling place on election day by public officers; that only official ballots so delivered shall be voted; that the voter shall be permitted absolute privacy in preparing his ballot, and that the secrecy of the ballot shall be compulsory."

Resolved, If the Assembly concur, that the foregoing amendment be referred to the Legislature to be chosen at the next general election of Senators, and that in conformity to Section 1, Article XIII. of the Constitution it be published for three months previous to the time of such election.

The bill prohibiting assessments of candidates for judicial offices reads:

"A candidate for any judicial office who pays or gives or agrees to pay or give, or who promises or asks or agrees to procure or ask any person to pay or give any money or other valuable thing for the nomination or election of such candidate, or toward the expenses of the party of person that nominated or elected him, or as a contribution to the expenses of his nomination or election, or for or on account of any assessment or request for political purposes, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and in addition to the punishment otherwise provided by law forfeits his office if elected."

The Senate advanced to third reading the Weekly Payment bill. Senator O'Connor of Broome riddled it to pieces. He declared it was a piece of unadulterated demagoguery, drawn by and supported only by walking delegates and political acrobats. The class of legislation to which it belonged was the most vicious known. Several amendments proposed were voted down; one by Senator Hunter for semi-monthly payments, another by Senator Sloan to allow the workman a chance to choose his mode of payment by weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly, which was a fair proposition, and a third by Mr. Erwin to include railway companies under its provisions.

Senator Jacobs introduced a bill, which went to third reading, prohibiting the Union Ferry Company from raising its rates of fare or interfering with the present commission hours. He explained that the syndicate that had recently acquired possession of this property proposed to run it, not in the interests of the public, as the old régime had done, but for the stockholders.

The Webster bill, appropriating \$1,500,000 to build a new bridge at Macomb's Dam, passed the Senate and was sent to the Governor.

The Ahearn bill, prohibiting the erection of a municipal building in the City Hall Park, is in Gov. Hill's hands.

Among the bills passed by the Senate were the Buffalo Grade Crossing; the amendment to the black index law; Peck's, for the redistribution of the school fund; to enable the ladies' depository to distribute its surplus; in relation to jurors in Courts of Special Sessions; Stadler's, limiting election districts in New-York City to 250 voters; Fassett's, authorizing the Controller to refund moneys erroneously paid under the collateral inheritance law; Ahearn's, trial by jury, and Roesch's allowing District Court Judges jurisdiction over contempt of court and to direct trial by jury on questions of fact.

In view of the recent failures to indict any of the Tammany gang that has been extorting money from prisoners confined in Ludlow-Street Jail, Senator Fassett has introduced a bill to amend Section 48 of the Penal Code in relation to public officers, to read as follows:

"A public officer, or a deputy, clerk, assistant, or other subordinate of a public officer, or any person appointed or employed by or in the office of a public officer who shall in any manner act for or in behalf of any such officer, who asks or receives, or consents or agrees to receive, any emolument, gratuity or reward, or any promise of emolument, gratuity or reward, or any money, property, or thing of value or of personal advantage, except such as may be authorized by law, for doing or omitting to do any official act, or for performing or omitting to perform, or for having performed or omitted to perform, any act whatsoever directly or indirectly related to any matter in respect to which any duty or discretion is by or in pursuance of law imposed upon or vested in him, or may be exercised by him, by virtue of his office or appointment or employment or his actual relation to the matter, shall be guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment for not more than ten years or by a fine of not more than \$4,000, or both."

Following Col. Brown's example of devoting the Friday preceding Washington's Birthday, Decoration Day, and the Fourth of July to patriotic exercises, Senator Coggeshall has introduced, and the Senate has passed, a bill empowering Boards of Education to appropriate \$25 for each district, for a national flag to be displayed over the school buildings, throughout the State.

The anti-canal men in the Assembly were overjoyed to-day over their success in defeating the bill of Senator Laughlin of Buffalo, which appropriates \$500,000 for improving the lockage capacity of the several canals of the State. The bill was on the order of third reading and its friends were apparently certain of its passage. It went to vote without debate and was lost by 61 to 43. Mr. Audrus immediately moved to reconsider the vote and that his motion lie upon the table, and this prevailed. It is generally believed that the bill will finally pass. Here is to-day's vote in detail, Democrats in *italics* and Republicans in Roman:

YRAS.—Messrs. Audrus, *Blanchfield*, *Blumenthal*, *Boyce*, *Brady*, *Robert P. Bush*, *W. G. Byrne*, *Thomas F. Byrne*, *Connelly*, *Cooney*, *Cooms*, *Cornell*, *Courtnay*, *Currier*, *Dempsey*, *Dinkelshiel*, *Duffy*, *Enders*, *Gibbs*, *Gillice*, *Greene*, *Gretzinger*, *Guenther*, *Guibord*, *Haffner*, *Henderson*, *Hitt*, *Hoag*, *Albert Johnson*, *H. C. Johnson*, *Kelly*, *Kerrigan*, *Kill*, *King*, *Kurth*, *R. J. Lewis*, *L'Hommedieu*, *Martin*, *McBride*, *McTernan*, *Monaghan*, *Mullaney*, *Notan*, *J. J. O'Connor*, *J. K. O'Connor*, *O'Hare*, *Pake*, *Rice*, *Billey*, *Sawmiller*, *Schaaff*, *Sheehan*, *Shields*, *Schmer*, *Stein*, *Stevens*, *Stranahan*, *Treadway*, *Van Vranken*, *Webster*, *Wissta*—61.

NATS.—Messrs. *Abbey*, *Acker*, *Bennett*, *Bradford*, *Bridges*, *George H. Bush*, *Crawford*, *Curtis*, *Davis*, *Decker*, *Deyo*, *Dickinson*, *Everett*, *Fish*, *Fitta*, *Groat*, *Harwood*, *Huson*, *I. S. Johnson*, *Jones*, *Kimball*, *H. J. Lane*, *O. K. Lane*, *Larmon*, *B. B. Lewis*, *Miller*, *Mitchell*, *Mott*, *Nixon*, *Pealer*, *Pearsall*, *Peck*, *Pierson*, *Rhodes*, *Sage*, *Saunders*, *Nelson Stevens*, *William C. Stevens*, *Stewart*, *Thompson*, *Tompkins*, *Towne*, *White*—43.

The bill providing for the payment of the interest on the canal debt, amounting to \$363,090, introduced by Mr. Loder of Monroe, was passed by the Assembly to-day.

The bill of Mr. Hoag of New-York providing for the removal of the Forty-second-Street Reservoir passed the Assembly. The bill places the cost of removal upon the property benefited, the district lying between Thirty-seventh and Forty-third streets and Fourth and Sixth avenues. Those who voted against the passage of the bill were Messrs. Blumenthal, Brady, and O'Hare of New-York, Greene of Orange, and J. K. O'Connor of Utica.

When the bill of Mr. Gibbs of New-York to prevent the placing of pictures or other articles in cigarette packages, designed to increase the demand for the packages came up in the House, Mr. Blumenthal of New-York objected strenuously to its provisions. He said that the more he studied the bill the less he liked it. It did not rise to the level of consideration, for it was clearly unconstitutional, and would not stand a legal test. Mr. Tompkins of Rockland also claimed that the proposed law was unconstitutional. Mr. Connelly of New-York denied this, and said he would vote for the bill because he believed it would accomplish much good if made a law.

Mr. Fish of Putnam took the same ground, and said that he would also vote for a bill to prohibit the sale of cigarettes. He said the cigarette business was causing untold injury to the rising generation, and ought to be put down. Col. Webster of New-York took the same view. He said that a recent investigation by the authorities of the University of Michigan resulted in a report that many of the students were unable to proceed with their studies because of the pernicious effects of the use of cigarettes. While explanations were being made during the roll-call, Mr. Blumenthal said he was surprised at the innocence of the supporters of the bill. In his opinion this was simply intended to "strike" at a great industry. The vote on the bill stood 72 to 17, much to the surprise of Mr. Gibbs, who undoubtedly did not believe it would pass when he introduced it. The speaker voted against it, declaring it to be unconstitutional.

The bill of Mr. Hitt of Albany providing for three Boards of Medical Examiners representing the three schools—the allopathic, homeopathic, and eclectic—was on the calendar for third reading. Dr. Bush of Chemung moved to recommit it, with instructions to substitute Senate bill No. 204, which calls for a single board. Dr. Bush defended his motion, saying the bill he proposed to substitute left the appointment of the board to the Regents of the University, who could allot the members as

they chose. The House passed the Hitt bill, notwithstanding this opposition.

The bill repealing the present obnoxious two-dollar-a-day-law, introduced by Mr. Deyo of Boone, will come up to-morrow morning for final passage. Mr. Fish gave notice to-day that he would move a call of the House in the morning as soon as the bill was taken up. The design is to pass this measure, and the outlook is exceedingly favorable.

Just before the Assembly adjourned Dr. Bush of Chemung moved that the State Printing bill be ordered from the control of the Ways and Means Committee and given to the Committee on Labor. Mr. Fish of Putnam said the bill was for the creation of a new political office for the Democratic Party. Quite a sharp discussion ensued, but the House finally voted down the doctor's motion. It was a close call for Mr. Fish's committee, however, the vote being 54 to 51.

It transpires that Charles M. Dickinson of Binghamton, who was nominated by Senator O'Connor last night in the Republican caucus for Regent of the University and then defeated, was Thomas C. Platt's chosen candidate. The Fish-Gibbs coalition quietly conspired to beat him and the feat was accomplished without any difficulty. Mr. Dickinson is editor of the Binghamton *Republican* and a strong Platt adherent.

This afternoon the Senate Committee on Prisons permitted Senator McCarren of Brooklyn to substitute for his bill annulling the Brush-Davis prison printing contract one providing that no printing other than of reports and matter to be used in the institution shall be done in any State prison, penitentiary, or reformatory. The new bill also prohibits the manufacture or finishing of fur hats in any penal institution except for use in State institutions. Mr. McCarren told the committee that there was no necessity for the passage of the original bill, as the Superintendent of State Prisons had decided to annul the prison contract at once. The committee accepted the substitute. A hearing was then accorded a delegation of printers from New-York and Albany on the new bill. W. W. Pasco, Secretary of Typothetae 19, and W. H. Lanahan of Typographical Union No. 6 of New-York, and the veteran printer John D. Parsons of Albany spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. C. T. Lewis of the State Prison Reform Association opposed any change in the law of 1889. He said that the law as it stands to-day should stand a year or more at least to give the association a chance to see its effects. He said he had learned in England that the superintendents of prisons found printing to be a valuable agent in reforming prisoners. "Is it right," he asked, "that this trade, of all others, should be exempted from the list of those that may be taught convicts?" Mr. Lewis's remarks were not relished by the printers present, and they expressed their dissatisfaction in vigorous terms. Senator McCarren and Ahearn took issue with the gentleman, and the committee was treated to a sharp discussion, in which the methods and results of prison reform were thoroughly aired. It is likely that the McCarren bill will be favorably reported.

The Senate Commerce and Navigation Committee this afternoon decided to report favorably Mr. Johnson's New-York and Long Island City Bridge bill and Mr. Greene's New-York and New-Jersey Bridge bill.