

LEGISLATIVE LORE

Wednesday Was New Haven Day at Hartford—Desires for Home Rule—Ridiculous Action of Democrats—Interest in Repeal of New London Harbor Bill on the Wane—House Jester Moves Adjournment Until Mileage is Made Good—Wilson Wants to Investigate New Haven Road—Judge Waller Praised—Hearing on Charter of Norwich, Colchester and Hartford Traction Company.

Wednesday was New Haven day under the gilded dome, and fully 300 representative citizens of the city that Yale made famous were doing some lobby work in the interests of the city and, so they claimed, for the state. Their slogan was "Home Rule for Cities, and their special efforts were directed in support of several bills presented by the representatives from that thrifty city. The presence of the Elm City delegation had its effect, for already there is much talk about the statehouse in favor of a general statute that will give to all the cities in the state the same home rule as is enjoyed by the city that New Haven is seeking.

The ridiculous action of the democratic members of the general assembly, blindly led by Senator Archie McNeill of Bridgeport, in having the party caucus held in executive session is now being condemned by many of the democratic members. They were led to believe by the statements from Bridgeport that he had something mysterious to divulge, as he got intimidated in his talk before making motion to hold secret caucus, but which proved only a method of barring the reporters and the members of the press from the state auditor, and while the senator's candidate for the office was defeated. There was nothing doing at the secret session except the vote by ballot. Simply that, and nothing more. The senator and Representative Wilson are both in the newspaper business and had been anything doing in the line of secrecy they might have been in the proceedings, and they might not.

Though ample time is given Senator McNeill to prepare his arguments in favor of the repeal of the bill appropriating \$1,000,000 for the development of New London harbor, the steamship terminal it was reported about the capitol Wednesday that he is seriously considering the advisability of withdrawing his opposition, not that he has changed his personal views on the subject, but because his views might not be the dominant opinion throughout the state. He also takes into consideration that to engage in a fight to undo the repeal of the bill, practically unanimous action of the general assembly of two years ago, might be no fool of an undertaking. There is much to be said for the bill to do without wasting time to undo what other legislators have done. It is understood that the senator will not appear before the committee when the matter is up for hearing, but that no special effort will be made to convert the members of the committee on roads, rivers and bridges to abandon their favorable views and adopt those of the senator. It is a matter of so much importance to the whole state.

The committee on forfeited rights gave hearing Wednesday afternoon on acts restoring rights forfeited by reason of offenses committed by John Filippin, Michael J. McCarthy and Frederick A. Weaver of Windham and to Henry Kornblit of Ansonia. As no opposition appeared, it is probable that favorable report will be made with recommendation that the bills ought to pass. The committee on appropriations gave hearing on an act appropriating \$2,000 for completion of the dormitory of the Mystic Oral school for the deaf, and also for the customary appropriation for maintenance. No opposition appeared Wednesday, March 30, has been assigned by the committee on new towns and probate districts for hearing on the act concerning the annexation of Summerville and Norwich Town to the city of Norwich.

The house on Wednesday concurred with the senate in the re-nomination of Charles B. Waller of New London as judge of the court of common pleas for New London county. The nomination after being passed unanimously in the senate came to the house under suspension of the rules, as the term of office had expired. Representative Abel P. Tanner of New London said it was a pleasure for him to vote for the nomination, who had proven an excellent judge during his term of service. He was a fine lawyer and painstaking in the performance of his judicial duties. The lawyers of the county would be glad of the re-nomination and the confirmation would give universal satisfaction. Ballot was then ordered and 121 votes were cast, all of which, except one deposited by a lone democrat, were favorable to confirmation.

After explanation by Representative Citrus King, house chairman of the committee on cities and boroughs, the amendment to the charter of the city of Willimantic was adopted. This amendment provides that the appropriation for the public library can, at the option of the city council, be increased from \$1,300 to \$1,500 annually.

Representative Wilson of Bridgeport asked for permits from the table his bill which authorizes an investigation of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad company. His motion to that effect was not attempted to withdraw the motion, but was ruled out of order. Mr. Wilson was then given the floor on a question of personal privilege. He said that the house in refusing to take the resolution from the table was guilty of bad faith towards the gentleman from Bridgeport. When the bill was introduced, on Feb. 7, there was no quorum present, and rather than cause adjournment just as a vote was taken, he consented to table the resolution, with the reservation that he be entitled to file a bill of particulars. He had the bill of particulars ready and desired to table same with the original resolution. This was done. At his request the bill of particulars will be printed in the journal with the resolution.

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Mr. Wilson said that inasmuch as he had accomplished his purpose he would relieve the house of the aspersions cast upon it relative to its earlier action and made the sarcastic motion that Mr. Wilson be given a vote of thanks.

Representative Krehberger wears the blue overalls on it now known as the house jester. It was he who suggested session on Lincoln day as the most notable sort of observance, and who made brief, spry remarks on several occasions, Tuesday he made motion that when the house adjourn it be to a time when the mileage question was at hand, so that when the members would not be required to reduce their pile by paying railroad fares to do business for the state. The speaker did not entertain the motion of the gentleman from Morris, but did recognize a motion from the republican side that the house adjourn to 11:30 Thursday morning.

There was a hearing on the petition of the Norwich, Colchester and Hartford Traction company Wednesday afternoon by the committee on railroads, and there is no doubt but a favorable report will be made to the general assembly. Attorney Henney of Hartford, representing the company, stated that the object was to extend the term of building the road to Dec. 1, 1917, and to increase the capital stock from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. Mr. Henney said \$1,800,000 would be expended in the construction of the road, and that the stockholders had paid in \$102,000. Of this 65 per cent. has been expended in grading and securing the right of way and 18 per cent. in engineering. About six miles of the road had been graded, and the intention was to grade the road as expeditiously as possible. There is need for a trolley road between Hartford and Norwich. There is no opposition to this road, and the steam railroad companies have no intention of building over the route selected by the traction company. As no opposition appeared at the hearing, the committee did not consider it necessary to hear any further testimony in favor of the measure.

The committee on railroads gave a hearing Wednesday on the O'Keefe bill, which prohibits passengers from riding on the running boards of trolley cars. James P. Murphy of Hartford, representing the trolleyman of the state, stated that there was need for a statute for the punishment of this dangerous habit. While the conference committee issued orders to the trolley company to stop the riding on running boards, there was need for a statute for the punishment of the offenders, and the new bill provides for arrest and prosecution. Representative O'Keefe, conductor of the New Haven, represented the measure. They showed the dangers of riding on running boards, and the necessity of law that will put an end to it, which will be of general public benefit. S. W. C. Jones, manager of the Danbury company, objected to the measure as he believed it would be a hardship on the companies, especially the smaller ones, where there is of necessity a shortage of equipment on special occasions. If the bill is to be a favorable report, he believed the punishment should be inflicted upon the offending passengers, and not the companies. Senator Landers asked General Manager Punderford of the Connecticut Traction company if he was not planning to do away with the open cars and substitute convertible cars for use in winter and summer. Mr. Punderford said the open cars, with present and prospective legislative restrictions, certainly must go in time, as they were becoming increasingly and burdensome. It is practically true that the company has bought its last open car.

Representative Stoddard asked what was the life of a trolley car. Mr. Punderford said that was a question difficult to answer. Some are of old iron, and their life depends upon their use and care. Senator Landers asked Mr. Punderford if he would object to a bill coming from the committee that would prohibit the purchase of any open cars after a reasonable date. Mr. Punderford said he believed such a law would be more equitable than the many restrictions that have been imposed and are pending against the trolley companies in response to queries from Senator Landers. Mr. Punderford said there was a bill that provides against riding on the running boards between seats of open cars. Senator Peck asked Mr. Punderford if he was opposed to the matter under consideration, which was the riding on running boards. Mr. Punderford said he would rather not reply to that question at this time, but preferred to be heard on the bill that also included riding between seats, upon which he had considerable data. He did not care to go into the matter unless he was assured the committee would not report the present bill until after there was hearing on the other matter.

Senator Peck said the committee was considering the bill relative to riding on running boards, but he could not say whether it would be reported before the other feature in another bill was considered. Mr. Punderford said he would like to be heard on both bills in conjunction, where such procedure considered proper by the committee. Mr. Jones said his company had within a month purchased a closed car for summer use in order to get away from some of the burdensome legislative restrictions. Representative Stoddard of the committee made motion that no report be made on the running board bill until after hearing had been held on the bill which concerns both riding on running boards and between the seats on open cars. The resolutions appointing county commissioners has been made the order of the day at noon next Wednesday. It is quite probable that the house will make the resolutions the order of the day for the following Thursday.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNION AT PRESTON CHAPEL. Aggressive Christian Endeavor to Be the Theme for Meeting.

There will be a meeting of the Norwich Christian Endeavor union at 4 p. m. Friday, this week, at Preston chapel. The theme will be Aggressive Christian Endeavor. The programme follows: 4:00. Short devotional service. 4:15. Welcome, president local society; response. 4:30. Two papers: Christian Endeavor in Church, Miss Calla White, Norwich Town society; Christian Endeavor in the Community, Fred Armstrong, Jewett City Baptist church. 5:00. Open parliament, conducted by Rev. Clarence Barber, Danielson. 5:20. Social hour. 7:15. Short devotional service, leader Rev. M. J. B. Fuller, Hanover; fifteen minute talk, Missionary Effort, Miss Elizabeth Pease, Norwich; address by Rev. Clarence Barber, Danielson. The meeting will close at 8:15 p. m. so that Jewett City and Lisbon members may take an order per home.

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