

GRAB BILL WITHDRAWN. ELM-ST. STILL IN DANGER.

Albany Respects Public Opinion—Anti-Transfer Measure Killed.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Albany, March 29.—Yielding at last to the widespread public condemnation of its attitude toward the street railroad grab bills, the Assembly to-day concurred in Mr. Bedell's early withdrawal of the measure limiting transfers...

The bill withdrawn allowed the State Railroad Commission to specify points at which street railroads might be excused from giving transfers on account of congestion of traffic, and transferred from the aggrieved passenger to the Attorney General the right to sue for the statutory penalty for refusal to give transfers or for charging excessive fare.

The triumph to-day was not unattended with interest, since it provoked the mention of the tabooed word "grab" in legislative halls.

Chairman Bedell of the Railroad Committee, rose in his place and delivered a funeral oration over what the citizens' mass meeting in New-York last night left of his transfer measure. Prefacing his remarks by the frank acknowledgment that he regarded this measure as a proper one, Mr. Bedell explained that the popular misapprehension of the complete philanthropic nature of this measure could not be ignored by the legislature.

Assemblyman Newcomb, until recently connected with a New-York newspaper, then attacked the bill, after deploring the intemperate expressions of the public press on this subject. Mr. Newcomb explained that he was not in sympathy with the unchristian spirit which agitated the word "grab" to these measures.

"I object," protested Mr. Wainwright, of Westchester, vehemently. "They should be considered on separate readings. They are bad bills." Mr. Bedell, not catching the adjective correctly, instantly shouted: "I protest against any such designation as 'grab'."

With a peculiarly sarcastic smile on his face, Mr. Wainwright quietly rejoined: "If the gentleman will listen intently he won't misunderstand me by crediting me with the word 'grab,' however he may voice my opinion about these bills." When the laughter had died away Mr. Bedell explained: "I understood the gentleman to say 'grab.' Grab had carried quite different meanings to my mind."

When the Assembly had recovered from the shock occasioned by the unhappy suggestion contained in what Mr. Bedell thought Mr. Wainwright said, it was agreed that the bills should go over until Thursday, when they would be considered on second reading. At that time the first opportunity will be afforded for legislators to oppose the bills on the floor of the Assembly. But, as has been said, the firm conviction remains that, now that the transfer bill has been withdrawn, if the public in any way is alarmed by this action, or by the protest, the other bills will be presented to the New-York City Railroad Company as a testimonial of appreciation of the public services of that corporation.

It became known to-day that the defeat of the Bedell Anti-Transfer bill had been promised to the representatives of the Merchants' Association by the Governor yesterday, but that the time they were pledged to secrecy. Representatives of public bodies appearing before various committees to-day expressed the hope that the Governor would soon make an equally accurate prophecy of the death of the Elm-st. grab.

The Tribune's exposure of this bill this morning was enthusiastically commended by H. B. Dumont, representing the Merchants' Association.

Considerable unfavorable comment was provoked in the Senate to-day by the appearance of yet another Bedell railroad bill. This time it affects railroad corporations generally. This bill demands the railway law provisions that every corporation in the State shall make an annual report to the Railroad Commissioners of its operations, and this report shall be verified by affidavits by the president or treasurer, the general manager or acting superintendent, by substituting for the last three any other officer in charge of operations, and the treasurer or other officer in charge of accounts.

It was said on what appeared to be good authority that David Baird had declared that he had kept his faith with the opponents of the Pigeon bill as long as he had agreed to stand by them, and that he would offer no further opposition to the bill, but, in a word, legislative action on the matter would not be blocked by any further opposition from him.

As an indication that the opponents of the Pigeon bill had seen the handwriting on the wall, and could plainly discern what they might expect next year, it was related that Counselor Rutan, as counsel for the Riverside Gunning Club, who has for several years appeared for the club before legislative committees in defence of iron shooting, said to an ex-member of the Assembly a few days ago:

"Now we have again beaten the Pigeon bill, I hope that we may be able to agree on a compromise measure next year with the friends of the bill."

EXTRA JERSEY SESSION. MURPHY ISSUES CALL.

Legislature Must Act on Pigeon Bill and Morris Canal.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Trenton, N. J., March 29.—Governor Murphy issued a proclamation this afternoon calling a special session of the legislature to be convened on April 12 to consider the bill to prohibit live pigeon shooting, which was strangled by the Senate Committee on Miscellaneous Business, of which Senator Jackson is chairman, and of the Morris Canal abandonment proposition. It is no secret here that the real cause was the expression of public disapproval at the manner in which the pigeon bill was held up.

Governor Murphy's views are briefly expressed in his proclamation which follows: Whereas, the Morris Canal Committee appointed by me pursuant to a joint resolution of the General Assembly and Senate of the State of New-Jersey presented their report to me on the 14th day of March, 1904, and the same was in due course laid before the legislature too late for consideration at the regular session which has just ended:

And whereas, the importance of the question involved in such report, and of the recommendations therein made, in my judgment require their immediate and prompt consideration: And whereas, also, the bill designed to prevent the shooting of pigeons from traps did not receive, as I believe, its due and proper consideration, and, in my opinion, public necessity requires the convening of the legislature to consider these subjects:

Therefore, I, Franklin Murphy, Governor of the State of New-Jersey, by virtue of the power vested in me by the constitution, do convene the legislature of this State, hereby requiring the Senators and members of the House of Assembly to meet in their respective chambers at the State House in the city of Trenton on Tuesday, the 12th day of April next, at 12 o'clock, noon.

While the agitation in favor of an extra session was going on in the corridors of the State House, Governor Murphy and ex-Senator Stokes, the vice-chairman of the State Republican Committee, were holding a consultation on the subject at the temporary home of the Governor in this city. Later in the day the Governor held a long conference with President Wakelee and Senators Cross, Bacheller, McKee, Minch, Hutchinson and Jackson in the Executive Chamber.

The immediate cause for holding an extra session is the tremendous pressure brought by the press in favor of it, and the compelling opposition not only of the press, but of two-thirds of the citizens of the State to the treatment of the bill to prevent the shooting of tame pigeons. As ex-Senator Stokes said, the question of passing the Pigeon bill had gone beyond the argumentative stage. It had been decided by the people, and, for himself, he recognized that the popular will must not be further opposed or defied. The primary object, therefore, of calling an extra session is the passage of this bill. The Morris Canal Abandonment bill, which was submitted late in the session by the commission composed of ex-Governors Wert, Griggs and Voorhees, will also be taken up for consideration. It is not improbable that the nominations of the five unconfirmed State prison inspectors will be renewed.

JACKSON SELMS GRATIFIED. Senator Jackson, after the conference of the Senators with the Governor, seemed to have regained his former good spirits, and he appeared to be gratified by the probable opportunity to reinstate himself in the good graces of the indignant public, whose opinion threatened to end his political future. He said to The Tribune correspondent that he had kept his word in refusing to release the Pigeon bill from his committee, and that he had never broken a pledge in his life, but he did not think he ever would be caught in a similar position on any matter of legislation again.

It was said on what appeared to be good authority that David Baird had declared that he had kept his faith with the opponents of the Pigeon bill as long as he had agreed to stand by them, and that he would offer no further opposition to the bill, but, in a word, legislative action on the matter would not be blocked by any further opposition from him.

The same remarks were made as to the opposition of State Controller Morgan, and it was said that he was now in accord with Governor Murphy and the other members of his official family in the opinion that it would be dangerous to the success of the Republican party in the next election not to pass the bill.

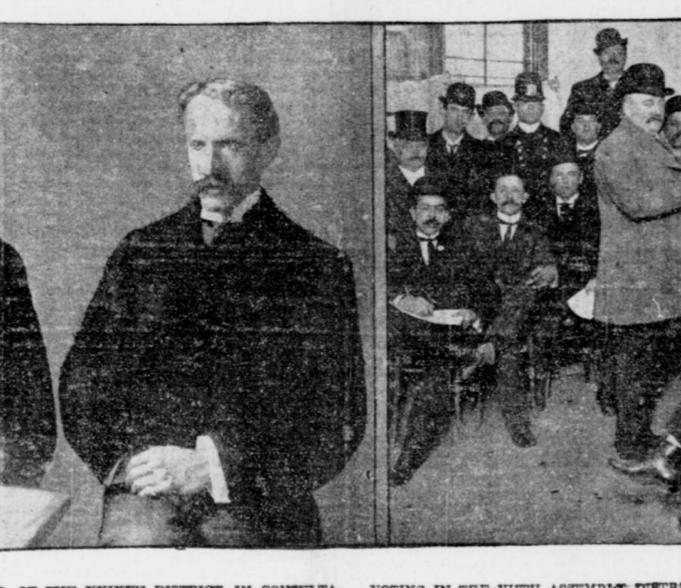
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It was said that immediately after the defeat of the bill last week the members of the Carpenters Gun Club began to rebuild and enlarge the club accommodations.

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SCENES AT THE PRIMARIES.



ALEXANDER T. MASON (AT THE RIGHT), OF THE XXIXTH DISTRICT, IN CONSULTATION WITH SENATOR ELSBERG AT REPUBLICAN HEADQUARTERS, FIFTY-NINTH-ST. AND MADISON-AVE. VOTING IN THE VIITH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT. POLLS AT CONEY ISLAND.

M'CARREN'S DEFEAT CRUSHING.

DOYLE-MURPHY COMBINATION WINS IN THE VIITH AND ALSO IN THE IXTH, BROOKLYN.

Gruber and Mason Victorious in the XXIst and XXIXth Districts, Manhattan—Charges of Fraud—Odell Pleased.

Primarys were held yesterday by both Democrats and Republicans in all Assembly districts to elect delegates to the State conventions and to the Congress district conventions. The primarys yesterday provided for these elections solely, and so there was no vote for leadership. In several districts, however, rival tickets were in the field, and leaders had to show their strength.

The hardest fight was in the Democratic organization in Brooklyn. Senator P. H. McCarren's efforts to dislodge Doyle as leader of the VIITH District and to defeat Kehoe in the IXth proved unavailing, and it looked as if Tammany's voice in Brooklyn was dominant. Doyle and Kehoe, sustained by Tammany, were successful, and McCarren and his "autonomy" lieutenants were rolled in the dust.

In the Republican organization Abraham Gruber faced a revolt in the XXIst District, but won by an overwhelming majority. In the XXIXth the foes of Alexander T. Mason gave him a hard tussle, but he won with plenty to spare, and controls everything in his district.

MASON'S HALF VICTORY. IT WILL HURT PARKER.

Loses Delegation to XVth Congress District. Doyle and Kehoe Delegates Against Instruction.

While the Republican primary elections yesterday meant no change in district leadership, yet a test of strength was made in several districts, to determine the power of leaders. The primarys were for the purpose of electing delegates to Congress District conventions and also delegates to the State convention. The hard-fought fights were in the XXIst and the XXIXth districts.

In both instances the regular leaders were victorious. In the XXIst District Abraham Gruber, the present leader, had a ticket in the field which was successful by a vote of about 2,500 to 900. The contesting ticket, led by Hector M. Hitchings, was therefore badly beaten, and Mr. Gruber's hold on the district is greatly strengthened. The district was lively all day, and several clashes occurred between the Gruber men and their opponents, but Gruber won easily. Mr. Hitchings said after the result was known last night that he would not abandon the contest, and that at the September primarys the battle against Gruber and his leadership would be renewed.

In the XXIXth District the fight against Alexander T. Mason and his allies, Edward Lauterbach and Senator Elsberg, was bitter. A severe contest had been waged in this district for the last month. The Plaza Central Park Republican Club, of which James R. Sheffield is president, led the fight. Mr. Sheffield personally took no interest in the factional battle. Mason was originally antagonized by Alderman Franklin B. Ware and Joseph Schwarzer, but when Mr. Ware and Joseph Schwarzer came out against the Plaza Central Park Club came out against Mason and put a ticket in the field, Ware and Schwarzer dropped out, and fell in behind the club ticket, which was supported by Robert C. Morris, John Henry Hammond, Newbold Morris, Frank H. Partridge and others. The Mason ticket won, casting 1,200 votes against the opposition's 880.

The regular ticket was elected by a much smaller majority than Mr. Mason and his friends expected. The Plaza Central Park Republican Club had all the inspectors of election against it, but its ticket received 880 votes. The opposition ticket won in seven election districts, and three of the districts are of the five which send delegates from the XXIXth Assembly District to the XVth Congress District Convention. The opposition therefore controls the delegation from the Assembly district to the Congress district.

As early as 2:30 p. m.—and the polls opened at 2 o'clock—charges were made by Senator Elsberg, of the regular faction, of fraudulent practices on the part of the opposition in attempting to vote repeaters in some of the election districts. In some instances, the Senator said, these men were discovered at the time, but in others voters came to the polls to find that some one else had voted already under their names, and they, in consequence, were deprived of their votes. The fight in the XXIXth District was superintended by Senator Elsberg and Edward Lauterbach, who were on election district to election district, watching carefully for any trouble that might ensue. Mr. Mason remained at the club headquarters, at Fifty-ninth-st. and Madison-ave., and received frequent returns. In the XXIst Assembly District there was not so much of a contest. Mr. Gruber has been in contests almost every primary since he secured the leadership a number of years ago. Mr. Gruber was about the district during the seven hours the polls were open, and took personal charge of his fight. The case of an election district captain of the opposition, who disappeared and was reported to have been drugged and assaulted, and then discharged Cardelli.

EX-ALDERMAN IN A FIGHT. Louis Cardelli a Prisoner as Result of Primary Dispute.

Ex-Alderman Louis Cardelli, of No. 907 Sixth-ave., was a prisoner in the West Side Court yesterday afternoon on the charge of assaulting Gustav Voels, of No. 115 West Fifty-third-st. The arrest was the result of the primary fight for the Republican control of the Sixteenth Election District, which pitted Mr. Mason and Ware against Cardelli. Cardelli was working for Ware. There was a dispute between Cardelli and Voels after the latter had voted in a way displeasing to the former, and this was followed by a mix-up which took the services of Detective Sergeant Catter and Police Captain Hayes, of the West Forty-seventh-st. station, to straighten out. The arrest was made at Fifty-third-st. and Sixth-ave. Magistrate Zeller told both men to act as gentlemen, and then discharged Cardelli.

SHARP FIGHT AT CHONGJU.

RUSSIANS DRIVEN BACK.

About Fifteen Hundred Engaged—No New-Chwang Protests.

General Mitchenkow sent details of a sharp fight near Chongju on March 28 in which the Russians were defeated and retired in good order to Kasan. About fifteen hundred men were engaged. Three Russians were killed and sixteen wounded, according to the report, but a dispatch from Seoul estimated the killed on both sides at one hundred and fifty.

Admiral Togo, reporting the second attempt to block the harbor at Port Arthur, said that two of the merchant steamers were sunk by Russian torpedoes. The Japanese lost four men killed and nine wounded. The steamers' crews were picked up by the supporting torpedo flotillas.

No action is likely to be taken by the United States or Great Britain regarding the Russian proclamation of martial law at New-Chwang, although England may ask indemnity for merchants at the end of the war.

A STUBBORN ENCOUNTER.

Russians Retire in Good Order—Loss Estimates Vary.

St. Petersburg, March 29.—General Kuropatkin, in his first report to the Emperor from the scene of war, announced that offensive land operations had taken place against the Japanese upon the sixth anniversary of the occupation of Port Arthur by the Russians. These operations took the form of a cavalry attack yesterday by six companies of Cossacks, led personally by General Mitchenkow, against four squadrons of Japanese cavalry, which the general believed to be beyond Chongju, but which he found occupying that town.

The Russian commander pays a tribute to Japanese tenacity and bravery, the Mikado's troops only ceasing to fire after a combat which lasted for half an hour. Before the Russians could follow up their advantage three Japanese squadrons galloped toward the town, which two of them succeeded in entering, while the third was driven back in disorder, men and horses falling. The fire maintained was so destructive that the Japanese were unable to make an effective return.

Japanese reinforcements arrived an hour later, and, in view of the superiority of the enemy, General Mitchenkow determined to retire, doing so without embarrassment, although he carried with him three killed and sixteen wounded.

General Kuropatkin's location was not made public. He is supposed to be either at Liaoyang or on the way to New-Chwang. General Mitchenkow's report follows:

For three consecutive days our small outposts attempted to dislodge the Japanese cavalry troops, but their patrols, after contact was established, retired beyond Chongju, about fifty miles northwest of Ping-Yang. Having learned that four squadrons of the enemy were posted five versts beyond Chongju, on March 27 six companies marched toward Kasan, and on March 28 reached Chongju at 10:30 a. m. As soon as our scouts approached, the town the enemy opened fire from behind the wall. Two squadrons promptly dismounted and occupied the heights six hundred yards distant. An engagement ensued.

In the town a company of infantry and a squadron of cavalry were lying in ambush. Our men were reinforced by three companies and attacked the Japanese with a cross fire. Northward squadrons and ours was commanding position, the Japanese gallantly held their ground, and it was only after a fierce fight of half an hour that the Japanese ceased fire and sought to retreat. They hoisted the Red Cross flag at two points.

Soon afterward three squadrons of the enemy were seen advancing along the Kasan road at full gallop toward the Japanese camp. The squadrons succeeded in entering, while the third fell back in disorder under repeated volleys from our troops. A number of men and horses were seen to fall. Our companies continued to fire on the Japanese in the town, preventing them from leaving the streets and houses.

An hour and a half after the beginning of the engagement four companies were seen on the Kasan road, hastening to attack. I gave the order to mount, and the entire force, with a covering squadron of the Japanese and heavy losses in men and horses, was thrown into disorder, was evidently unable to occupy the hill which we had just evacuated, and their infantry arrived too late.

After determining that our rear guard arrived quietly at Kasan, where we halted for two hours in order to give attention to our wounded. At 9 p. m. our force reached Noosan. It is supposed that the Japanese had heavy losses in men and horses. On our side, unfortunately, three officers were severely wounded.—Stepanoff and Andropoff in the chest and Vasilovitch in the stomach. Schinkoff was less severely wounded in the arm, but did not leave the field. Three Cossacks were killed and twelve wounded, including five seriously.

General Mitchenkow bears witness to the excellent conduct and gallantry of the officers and Cossacks, and especially praises the 3d company of the Argunsk Regiment, commanded by Krasnostanoff.

Seoul, March 28.—A report has reached here that fifty Japanese and one hundred Cossacks were killed and wounded in a conflict between Anju and Chongju.

TOGO REPORTS BATTLE.

Details of Second Attempt to Block Port Arthur—Casualties.

Washington, March 29.—The Japanese Legation has received from Tokio the following official report made by Admiral Togo respecting the second attempt to bottle up the Port Arthur squadron:

About 2:30 a. m. of March 27 the bottling up squadron, composed of four ships, escorted by a torpedo boat destroyer flotilla and torpedo boat flotilla, arrived off Port Arthur, and without finding the searchlights of the enemy steered straight toward the entrance of the harbor. About two marine leagues from the entrance the squadron was discovered by the enemy. Thereupon the shore batteries and guardships showered hot fire upon the squadron, but in spite of the terrific fire the ships made their way into the harbor.

In what other way can fifty cents be so well invested for a young person as in a copy of The Four-Track News for 1904? Five cents at newsstands.—Adv.

HOPE TO KILL ALL GRABS.

Militant Associations Will Keep Up Fight Till End.

A HOME RULE COMMITTEE. Although one of the melodious grab bills has died and there appears to be a general weakening of the powers behind the rest of those evil measures, there will be no cessation of the opposition here. The associations which have been fighting the series of railroad grabs, the Remsen East River Gas bill and the measure giving to the Niagara, Lockport and Ontario Power Company the right to seize lands anywhere will keep up the campaign until the legislature adjourns, to make certain that none of the bills will be sneaked through.

Already there has been shown much result from this persistent effort. Legislators, stirred to take some stand on the measures by the appeals of the various organizations, have pledged themselves to use their influence against the pernicious grab bills. Pledges of co-operation have come to them in the fight from many well known men of political influence, and assurances that they will work against the grab bills.

Julius Henry Cohen, chairman of the legislative committee of the Citizens Union, said yesterday that that organization "was not going into mass meeting for nothing. We shall continue our fight."

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RUMOR ABOUT KAISER.

Alarming News of His Health Said To Have Reached Berlin.

Paris, March 29.—According to the London correspondent of "The Matin," a dispatch was received from Berlin last night, coming from a high quarter, which says that alarming news has been received concerning the health of Emperor William owing to a recurrence of the throat trouble for which the Emperor was operated upon last year.

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