COAL MADE TARGET OF NUMEROUS BILLS

Latest Measure in House Would Provide Standards and Grades

LANDLORDS ARE ALSO HIT

By a Staff Correspondent

Harrisburg, Feb. 1.—Investigators of the coal industry and means to thwart efforts of some landlords to keep their properties from occupancy by families with children were among the measures under consideration by members of the House today.

The latest bill named at the investigators is a measure introduced by Representative Charles Shaffer, Columbia county, a coal mining county. It requires fixed standards and grades of various kinds of coal. A penalty is imposed for the sale of coal which does not conform to the standards.

Shaffer recently introduced a bill imposing a penalty for the sale of washing coal unless it is labeled as such. His bill would prevent the mixing of washery coal with good coal.

Another bill introduced by Shaffer would prevent the mine companies from dumping the refuse of the mines in streams which costs municipalities getting their water supply from these streams thousands of dollars annually for filtration.

Follow Brewers' Example

Altogether 10 threatens to be a very busy session for the coal industry and are on the job trying to head off legislation aimed at the coal industry to protect the consumers. The operators have adopted the same course that the brewers adopted when prohibition became imminent.

The brewers launched into a campaign of propaganda placing all the blame for the liquor trade on the distillers. The operators are yelling that the retailers are to blame for the high prices.

Governor Sproul has proposed a coal probe to find out who is getting the big end of the $13 which the consumers pay for what is termed "coal" these days.

Landlords Hit in Bills

Renting officers and landlords who want to bar families with children from their properties are the targets of bills dealing with the housing situation.

Representative Isaac L. Shmink, secretary of the Tenants' Protective Association, Philadelphia, delivers a whole sale attack upon rent profiteers and the "own your own home" campaign in a resolution calling for a legislative investigation.

Smink's resolution provides for a commission of five members, two from the Senate, two from the House and one appointed by the Governor. It attacks the housing situation as an "iniquitous condition" and goes after building and loan associations, which he charges are aiding speculators in buying properties by mortgaging them far above the assessed valuations.

The measure complains the companies have "contributed materially to the prevalent in this commonwealth." Attention is directed to the high cost of realty and the impossibility of obtaining a house for rent at a reasonable rate. The bill has support of the administration.

No Tips for Page Boys

Representative Harry Feldman, Philadelphia, put in a bill to stop page boys from being by providing that the courts shall absorb all rent boosts through increased taxation. It provides that a new tax equal to any increase in rents shall be made by the real estate assessors.

C. J. McBride introduced a bill which aims at taxicab [illegible] by imposing stiff fines on landlords who refuse to rent properties to families with children.

Speaker Spangler announced last night he has put page boys in the same class as stenographers so far as [illegible] are concerned. The speaker told members of the House that [illegible] be no "tipping" for any [illegible].

Also, stenographers are not to do any other work than look after the correspondence of members during the legislative session. Last week the speaker put the ban on the employment of "tips" to the 23 stenographers.

The speaker called the House committee chairmen together after the session to discuss rushing through the jobs and appropriation and House bills. He has then arrangement that [illegible] expected to come in the [illegible] Wednesday of [illegible] week.

Important Measures Under Consideration by Assembly

The Senate and House in session or committee today have under consideration bills to:

Probe coal industry as to price and grade.

Amend Philadelphia city charter to permit short term loan bonds for repaving streets.

Provide fines for landlords who discriminate rent agents by refusing homes to families with children.

Regulate hotels as to service and rates, under supervision of Public Service Commission.

Regulate [illegible] to proceed by quo warranto against public service companies.

Creation of a state board of examiners in mine engineers and land surveyors with a system of state licensure is included in a bill introduced by Representative Walker, Philadelphia. The Governor would appoint a board of seven to examine the license system.

Somers, Philadelphia, Amending the act providing for the retirement of state employees. The term state employees is to apply to all employes in penitentiaries, reformatories and other institutions as well as those more directly in the service of the commonwealth.

State Regulation of Hotels Planned

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Legislature was adopted after mature consideration. Unless there was such an arrangement it might occur that after a some day session of the Assembly there would be a hundred and seventy-five rooms occupied by legislators and correspondents. After refusing reservations or transient guests the management would, under any other condition, find itself with a large number of empty rooms.

In the case of the members of the Senate, who usually adjourn on Thursday afternoon or Wednesday evening, the time day charge is undoubtedly a mere [illegible]. In some cases it ranges from $5 to $25 a day for the hotel rooms not used.

A law regulating hotels of the state by placing them under the Public Service Commission, if it were passed and signed by the Governor, while imposing a set schedule, would in its operation affect only the larger, and what we know as the best-class hotels in the cities and at the summer resorts of the commonwealth.

In the matter of high charges for rooms or service any hotel, however, would be compelled to present evidence to the commission that such charges were justifiable.

The concern that runs the small town hotel could not be affected to any noticeable extent as they are largely run as an Anne Boleyn inn.

Members of both House and Senate frequently live in the larger cities and need a hotel within reasonable rates.

I have always been of the opinion that hotels should be regulated in some way, but the difficulty has been to find the way. Speaker Spangler said: "I look for some legislation on the school bus session.

I have not seen the bill prepared by the Hotelmen's Association, but I understand it is a fair composition measure.

I have no doubt that it would be partisan legislation should attempt to provide for the organization and control of public houses of entertainment, as such bills are called.

Hotelmen Not Excited

Nothing to get excited about was the expression of Philadelphia hotelmen upon the news of the proposed bill. Hotel managers took the attitude that they are willing to abide by any law that may be enacted by the Legislature and that they stand ready to cooperate with the Public Service Commission.

"We are not afraid of any legislation," said one hotel man. "We are willing to abide by any law that may be passed. We are not afraid of the Public Service Commission."

[illegible] Hotel Association [illegible] Senate Committee [illegible] Senate Committee [illegible] Senate Committee