

HE SPRUNG A SURPRISE.

MR. WILKINSON STIRRED UP THE HOUSE LAST NIGHT.

He Claimed That the Assessment Bill Had Not Been Properly Defeated, and Then There Was a Great Hustle to Get Members Together—He Was Beaten, Restoration of the Old Chamber Is Advised.

[Special to The American.]

ANNAPOLIS, March 19.—Mr. Wilkinson, of Worcester, caused something of a stir in the House tonight when he made the point that the Assessment bill, instead of being dead was alive and kicking on the table from which it could be taken at any time. He had taken his cue from a paragraph in Jefferson's Manual, which says that the motion to reconsider a motion to lay on the table does not carry with it the subject matter, and when Mr. Atkinson introduced an order tonight that only local bills should be considered, he asked that it be voted down so that he might make his point. At once the House was in an uproar. Absent members were quickly sent for, while a division and then the yeas and nays were being called. The House finally adopted the order by a vote of 47 to 24, and thus the matter was for a time settled. It is very likely, however, that Mr. Wilkinson will again revive his point. He claims that he will be able to convince the Speaker that he is right.

Mr. Fitzgerald and other parliamentarians in the House contend that the rule quoted does not apply. They base their opinion on the twenty-eighth rule of the House of Delegates, which reads, in part, as follows: "The motion to reconsider and the motion to lay on the table the motion to reconsider may be made by a member at the same time, and when the motion to reconsider has been laid upon the table, the subject matter shall not be again considered during the session." They claim that this rule takes precedence over all others, and that the speaker will so decide. An appeal from the decision of the chair may then be taken, and, in case he is sustained, the matter will be settled for good.

TO RESTORE THE OLD CHAMBER.

In the Senate tonight Mr. Hayes presented the report of Messrs. J. Appleton Wilson and Frank B. Mayer as to the feasibility of restoring the Senate chamber to its condition when Washington resigned his commission in it, which was read. The committee say that they consider it feasible, and would recommend that the work should be complete, and advise in detail what should be done. They estimate the cost of the proposed work to be \$4,250, including the preparation of the necessary drawings, traveling and clerical expenses and supervision. They also say they have found the location of the speaker's chair and desk, one of the members' chairs and desk, and the desk of the clerk, and that the furniture and old chandelier, which hung in the center of the chamber, can be reproduced for the additional sum of \$1,000, and they earnestly recommend that the work may be authorized at once.

Upon motion of Mr. Moss, the report was ordered to be printed in the journal. Subsequently, Mr. Hayes offered an order that, in the opinion of the Senate, the restoration is right and proper, and, to accomplish it, the Finance Committee be instructed to include in the general appropriation act the sum of \$4,250, subject to the order of the Senate, and that the President of the Senate appoint a commission of three persons to superintend the work of restoration. The order was referred to the Committee on Finance.

A BILL CALLED BACK.

Senator Hepbron tonight recalled from a special committee the bill incorporating the Chestertown Light, Power and Railway Company, and had it referred to the Committee on Corporations. This was done because the provisions of the bill and the powers it grants are very broad.

MORE PAY FOR ROUND SERGEANTS.

A compromise has been reached on the Police Round Sergeant bill, which is agreeable to all interested. Instead of raising the round sergeants to the rank of lieutenant, they will receive an addition of \$3 in their pay. The city delegation will report favorably such a bill.

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