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Banking Law Journal

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tion herein made as shall be necessary shall be available for the proper expenses and compensation of such commissioner or envoys.

Sec. 3. That so much of an act approved March 2, 1895 entitled "An act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, and for other purposes," as provided for the appointment of delegates to an international conference and makes an appropriation for their

compensation and expenses, be and the same is hereby repealed. Approved March 3, 1897.

In pursuance of this act, the president has appointed Senator E. O. Wolcott, Gen. Charles J. Paine and ex Vice President Adlai E. Stevenson as commissioners for the promotion of such international agreement.

ACCOUNTANCY.

These columns are intended to embrace topics of interest to accountants, and discussions of, and decisions upon, matters of law involved in various branches of accountancy. Cases bearing upon the management and distribution of trust estates and property are published under this head. These are of importance to trust companies, bankers, and all others charged with the management of trust property; as well as to accountants employed to investigate trusts, make reports, and assist in the rendering of accounts.

A new association of accountants known as "The New York State Association of Certified Public Accountants" was organized on March 30th, at the Hotel Waldorf. The following officers and directors were elected: President, Charles W. Haskins; Vice-president, John Hourigan; Secretary, A. W. Teele. Treasurer, H. S. Corwin. Board of Trustees (eight in number) consist of the above-named gentlemen together with Francis Gottsberger, S. E. Sargent, Henry Harney and Farquhar Macrae.

The members who signed the articles of the association and became charter members are: in addition to the foregoing, Charles Both, R. S. Dennis, A. S. Patterson, E. W. Sells, J. R. Loomis and J. M. Kelley.

A special committee composed of Messrs. Hourigan, Corwin and Dennis, were appointed to take steps to veto assembly bills 1667 and 2030 and to look after any other legislation affecting the interests of certified public accountants.

A resolution was adopted to the effect that the New York State Association of Certified Public Accountants is in harmony with all existing associations of public accountants, particular mention being made of the Institute of Accounts and the American Association of Public Accountants and expressing the hope that the kind feeling which they felt towards these contemporaneous associations would be reciprocated and that all would work together in harmony for the common weal.

The following bill for an act to regulate the profession of public accountants is pending before the General Assembly of Illinois:

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the People of the

State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly, That any citizen of the United States, or person who has duly declared his intention of becoming such citizen, residing or having a place for the regular transaction of business in the state, being over the age of twenty-five years, and of good moral character, and who shall have received from the Trustees of the University of Illinois at Champaign, a certificate of his qualifications to practice as a public expert accountant as hereinafter provided, shall be styled and known as a Certified Public Accountant; and no other person shall assume such title or use the abbreviation C. P. A.; or any other words, letters or figures to indicate that the person using the same is such certified public accountant.

2. The Trustees of the University of Illinois, at Champaign, shall make rules for the examination of persons applying for certificates under this act, and may appoint a board of three examiners for the purpose which board shall after the year 1897, be composed of certified public accountants. The Trustees shall charge for the examination and certificate such fee as may be necessary to meet the actual expenses of such examinations, and they shall report annually the receipts and expenses under the provisions of this act to the state auditor, and pay the balance of receipts over expenditures to the state treasurer. The Trustees may revoke any such certificate for sufficient cause after written notice to the holder thereof and a hearing thereon.

3. The Trustees may in their discretion waive the examination of any person possessing the qualifications mentioned in Section 1, who shall have been continuously for more than five years before the passage of this act, practicing

as Public Accountant, two years of which shall have been on his own account, in this state, and who shall apply in writing for such certificate within one year after the passage of this act.

4. Any violation of this act shall be a misdemeanor.

It is reported that the Institute of Accounts, incorporated under the laws of the State of New York and which has had an existence of 15 years as a local New York organization, is taking steps towards the organization of a national association or federation of Accountants in different states, so that in the future the Institute of Accounts, instead of being a single local organization, will consist of a federation of chapters located in different cities in the country. By-laws have been adopted by which a chapter may be formed in any city or business centre and the membership will be comprised entirely in the chapters. As a first step in this direction, the members of the Institute residing in and near New York have already organized a New York chapter of the Institute of Accounts, and chapters are contemplated at Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Hartford, Bridgeport, Nashville, Pittsburgh, Chicago, San Francisco and other cities. The government of the Institute will be vested in a congress to meet annually, composed of delegates from the chapters.

The American Association of Public Accountants is taking steps to establish an advisory board and is obtaining from its members, information as to the specialty of each in the profession of accountancy. The idea is that the association may from and among its members form such a board, that advice may be given to any member on technical points and questions of practice, and thus place the association on the highest plane of efficiency and usefulness to its members.

Measures inimical to the profession of accountancy have found their way into the legislature at Albany this year and have called forth the determined opposition of members of the profession. One of these measures was Assembly bill 2030 to amend Chapter 312 of the laws of 1896 entitled "An act to regulate the profession of

public accountants." The amendment proposed was as follows: "And the Regents shall, upon the payment of the regular fee and without examination, certify as public accountants all persons who on the 17th day of April, 1896, were employed by any of the city governments of this state as auditors in the office of the controllers, or as chief clerks, examiners or assistant examiners in the offices of the commissioners of accounts."

Another objectionable measure was Assembly bill number 1667 entitled "An act to incorporate the Accounting Guarantee Company" which was given power among other things "generally to do all acts and things pertaining to the business of the preparation, examination, investigation and audit of books and accounts, which a certified public accountant of the State of New York may legally do in the pursuit of his occupation as such certified public accountant."

Mr. Frank Broaker, president of the American Association of Public Accountants has been especially active in opposition to these measures. He appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 7th. and through his efforts and arguments the above quoted power to the projected Accounting Guarantee Company to practice as an accountant was eliminated from the bill; and he was also successful before the Assembly Judiciary Committee in defeating the amendment proposed by Assembly bill 2030 to the Accountant Law, which would have opened the doors of the profession to the various government employes embraced in the amendment without examination as to their qualifications.

One of the rising C. P. A's practicing in New York City is Mr. W. Sanders Davies, vice-president of the American Association of Public Accountants. Although Mr. Davies has only been established in New York city for 6 years, he has during that time built up a very large practice in auditing the accounts of manufacturing and trading corporations and in investigating private firms for the purpose of their conversion into stock companies. Mr. Davies is located on the ninth floor of Aldrich Court, 45 Broadway, and has as an associate Mr. Charles F. Neild, who is a practical and thoroughly experienced accountant.