

opinion that the decisions were honestly made. It has been an extremely laborious session, this House having considered several hundred more bills than any of its predecessors, and while we may not have enacted many laws of supreme importance and interest to the State, a careful examination of our legislative record will convince any fair minded critic that it will bear comparison with any of its predecessors. A portion of the public press has deemed it necessary to comment adversely upon the record here made. In the closing hours of this Legislative Session, I believe it my duty to call attention to the position taken by this body on all questions of public moment.

There were two bills before this body, during the consideration of which charges were made that there was a strong lobby operating against their passage. One was known as the "Telephone Bill" and the other the "Gas Bill." The Telephone bill, with all the lobby influences said to be opposing it, passed this House with only four votes against it. The Gas bill passed with only seven votes against it. I challenge any one to point to any single measure before this House in the consideration of which a majority of the members of this body were not found voting in the interest of the people. For me to attempt to enumerate the important measures that successfully passed this body, would consume entirely too much time. Economy has been practiced all along the line. Your legislative expenses have been over ten thousand dollars less than the last session, when the tendency of all legislative bodies is to increase rather than diminish expenses. Your course has been conservative and safe, and we can well afford to leave the result of our labors to be judged by the people of this State after a careful review of all that has been done.

Thanking you again for your unvarying courtesy, I now declare this House of Delegates adjourned without day.

Attest:—B. L. SMITH,

Chief Clerk.

FREDERICK SASSCER,

Journal Clerk.