

The Democratic majority in the State House of Representatives on Tuesday, in the spirit of factious opposition and legislative imbecility which has characterized its conduct since the first day of the session, defeated the only measure possible to save the credit of the State during the year and to enable it to meet its just obligations to the charitable and reformatory institutions which discharge its best functions. The facts are stated very fully in our Harrisburg despatches, but their importance merits a brief statement here. First, as regards the condition of the public treasury: On the first day of the present month it contained, according to the statement for February, the sum of \$59,044, applicable to all purposes other than the principal and interest of the public debt.

Its emptiness is attributable to the following facts: The Legislature of 1874 passed an act providing that the sinking fund should consist of the proceeds of the sale of the public works or of any part thereof, or the sales of any stocks owned by the State, and of the tax upon the capital stock of corporations, all other revenues to go into the general fund. Its other provisions re-enacted the sections of the constitution declaring the sinking fund inviolate, except in certain emergencies, and prohibited the misapplication of the revenues. So far, so good, but the act while thus providing for and protecting the sinking fund, failed entirely to furnish the means for raising revenue to meet the ordinary expenses of the State. In fact, it destroyed the previous means of so doing by diverting them to another purpose. And thus it is that the Commonwealth, while it will find itself at the end of the year in a position to discharge at least \$1,200,000 of its indebtedness to one class of creditors, will be a debtor to another.

To remedy this state of affairs a bill was some time ago presented in the House, amendatory of the act of the last session, and assigning all State taxes other than those received from the capital stock of railroad, canal, and transportation companies to the general revenues, so as to allow a margin which would meet all extraordinary expenses.

The sinking fund in excess of the interest obligations of the State. This \$800,000, by the way, is \$350,000 in excess of the amount which the constitution requires to be annually placed to the credit of the sinking fund.

The bill was favorably reported from the Ways and Means Committee, and passed both a first and second reading. Tuesday, however, it was defeated by the Democratic majority, notwithstanding the fact that the support of several of the ablest members of that party. Unless this action is rescinded all appropriations for penitentiaries, insane asylums, and hospitals must be defeated, and, moreover, there will be no money to pay the judicial, legislative, and other salaries.

And as this is the first time Pennsylvania has had a Democratic rule for a long time, we are glad the door is strong one.

The Johnstown Tribune states that one of the messengers of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, is Thomas Snyder, Democrat of Blair county. He is reported to be worth \$75,000, but as business is dull he is turning an honest penny in the obscure post of messenger at \$140 a year, thus preventing some poor but deserving Democrat from earning a much-needed subsistence.

"HOMER HOBART"—The old Democrat who always votes for Jackson is yet alive and lives in Connecticut. The Brunswicker has this to say of him: "An old Bourbon war-horse was in from the country Wednesday, and while in town heard the news from Tennessee: 'Here, lies,' he said to his wife, 'drive back home, and don't look for me 'fore Saturday night. I'm going to celebrate. Jestis has been done at last. The good old time is returnin'! Andy Jackson has been elected again! Hoop! hooray! I'm on it bigger'n a ten-bucker freddy!"

The New York Times says there seems to be nothing wanting but a change in the weather to bring about that revival in trade for which all our business men have long been sighing, and praying. The general condition of the times is favorable enough. Old stocks in the hands of country dealers must be getting pretty low, and a week of sunshine would set most people to the work of tidying up their houses and replenishing their wardrobes. The demand for houses and real estate would certainly become more brisk. The stock market is rising, and however much we may abuse the stock market, it is generally so unfeeling barometer of the state of trade. Congress has adjourned, and there are no very disquieting political events in the immediate future—at least none that can be foreseen.

GENERAL NOTES.

Governor Ingersoll, of Connecticut, has appointed Friday, March 26, as a day of fasting and prayer.

In Indianapolis, Ind., Monday night, a man named Lewis Bishop cut his wife's throat because she refused to live with him.

Mrs. David Bechtel, of Williamsburg, this State, committed suicide March 5th by hanging. She had been ill all winter, and had become melancholy.

Brown, who is to be hung at Pottsville on March 24, for the murder of the old couple, Mr. and Mrs. Kramer, made a full confession of his guilt March 4th, stating that he committed the murder, and had no accomplices.

Two colored men were hanged in Memphis, on Friday Joshua Griffin, at Bolivar, for the murder of Miss Susan Taylor, and George Wheeler, at Easton, for the murder of Mrs. Margaret Whitman.

An insane man blew his brains out on the Northern New Hampshire Railroad on Friday, and another passenger, becoming faint on witnessing the fatal deed, went on the platform for air, and fell off, receiving fatal injuries.

A despatch from Newfoundland says: "The bodies of over forty persons who died at St. John this winter have been temporarily interred in the snow, which lies in such immense quantities in the country as to prevent the opening of graves."

Both Gordon and Fletcher emphatically deny the story brought to Fort Laramie that the Sioux City party in the Black Hills are short of provisions. Letters brought by Gordon from nearly every member of the expedition State they have supplies to last till June.

The proprietor of a minstrel troupe in Montgomery, Ala., has been arrested for a violation of the Civil Rights bill in refusing to sell parquet tickets to colored men. At the hearing before the United States Commissioner the case was dismissed on account of defects in the complaint.

Reading's oldest citizen, Abraham Reinhart, died in that city on Sunday, at the age of ninety-seven years. He moved to Reading at the age of eight, when that city contained less than 2,000, was a soldier of 1812, a habitant and the oldest member of the Rabaw Fire Company.

The fight between the Baltimore and Ohio and the Pennsylvania railroads is confined, so far as the latter company is concerned, to Baltimore and Washington. The Baltimore road continues to cut rates from New York and Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania road only cuts from Baltimore and Washington.

The Pittsburg Bolt Company procured a gang of colored puttylers from Richmond last week to replace their striking employees. Upon their arrival in the city they were waited upon by the committee of strikers, who offered to pay their fare back to Richmond if the colored men would return. The offer was refused, and the men went to work without a moment's delay.

The House of Representatives of the Alabama Legislature has, by a unanimous vote, expelled a negro member named Gaskin for proposing to do certain things in his legislative capacity for \$300. The committee examining the charges consisted of three Democrats and one white and one colored Republican and reported unanimously that he was guilty.

Salt Lake City, March 12.—The News says: The imprisonment of Brigham Young is an indignity heaped upon the head of a venerable representative gentleman, who has done more for the country and humanity than the aggregate of the people. There is intense excitement here. Brigham is still in the penitentiary, and is comforted hourly by the visits from his wife "Anabella," and his friends.

Mark Ganson, of Richmond, Va., is booked to walk around the world a distance of 19,224 miles by his route, in 600 days, which makes his average thirty-two miles a day. During his shipboard travels he will walk his distance regularly. He is 28 years old, five feet seven inches high, and weighs 130 pounds. He starts from the City Hall, New York April 3, and agrees to walk back to it November 24, 1876. He should have started on the first.

The coal miners' strike at Straitsville, Ohio, has been attended by great destitution among the families of the operators, just as it has been at Pittsburg owing to the boilers' strike. It is reported that many families in the Ohio coal region are living on bread and water-soda, and some are reduced to corn. Relief is called for, when none would be needed if the idle husbands, fathers and brothers would work. Starvation rather than half a loaf is the principle the strikers seem to believe in.

The Kansas Legislature has adjourned without making any provision for the grasshoppers sufferers of the State, on account of the refusal of the Senate to recede from its determination to vote no money for such purpose, except as a loan to be repaid to the State by the counties receiving the aid. There is a very general feeling of alarm among all classes of people, says the Chicago Tribune, over the fact that the Legislature adjourns without giving a cent to the destitute settlers, when there is nearly \$100,000 of available funds in the State Treasury.

Philadelphians have just got over a bad scare. The people residing on certain streets awoke one morning, and found their doors and window shutters chock-blocked with hieroglyphics, which some of them construed to be the peculiar signs of a gang of thieves of loggans. The Mayor was interviewed on the subject, an investigation had, and the development made that the marks were the work of newspaper carriers, who took this means to acquaint their assistants with the residences of their patrons. The Philadelphians' dreams are once more turned into the Centennial groove.

THE DELAWARE ICE-GORGE.

NITRO-GLYCERINE TRIED AS A SOLVENT.—NAPHTHA TO BE USED—ICE TWELVE FEET THICK.

A despatch from Port Jervis, dated Saturday, says: The engineers engaged in breaking up the ice blocking the channel of the river below the ice-gorge in their operations to-day reached the first hummock below the great terminal wall of ice-pack proper. They found the ice there twelve feet thick and as solid as cemented masonry. To shatter this obstruction an extraordinary charge of nitro-glycerine was used. It weighed twenty pounds and was lowered into a hole drilled in the centre of the glacial mound and ridge. The explosion was terrific. Great blocks of ice were thrown a distance of over 100 yards to the Pennsylvania shore, while a column of broken ice and water shot up into the air 200 feet, and fell back upon the ground and ice with a noise like thunder. The ice for a great distance around was rent and shivered to pieces, and great seams running in all directions marked the course of the concussion and its mighty force. It was found however, that beneath this mass of ice the water in the river had no decided channel, but was scattered and shallow, not being of sufficient body to carry off the debris, and the blast was not attended with that beneficial result it would otherwise have been. The blasting ceased this afternoon, as the supply of nitro-glycerine is exhausted. Mr. D. D. Graham, who has immediate charge of the explosive, went to New York this afternoon for another lot, the operations are to be continued until the ice is loosened up to the arch of the dam, and directly upon the gorge if it is then thought advisable.

Mr. R. A. Chaceboro, of New York, has donated twenty barrels of naphtha, to be used in experimenting on the ice. It will probably arrive here to-day.

It snowed until noon to-day, and there was a slight fall of rain this afternoon, and there is now a prospect of a heavy storm. The river shows no indication of rising at this point, but reports from above are to the effect that the streams are gradually rising.

whether it be of the counting-room, the professional office, the workshop, or the family. Its circulation, equal to the best from the start, has grown in extent and importance daily, until now it acknowledges but two equals—the Dispatch and Leader—so far as the number-passed daily is concerned, and is equal as to the character of its readers. These facts are so well known and appreciated by the business community, or the shrewdest members thereof, that our columns have been well-filled by the favors of

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JOHN GLEICHNER, Executor Benning, Feb. 25, 1875—al16.