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TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1869.

A Princely Office-A Rich Political Plum.

Governor Geary, influenced beyond all doubt by a sincere desire to effect a much-needed reform, recommended to the Legislature in his annual message the establishment of an 'Insurance Bureau' similar to that in New York and Connecticut.

The Governor having directed attention to it, a bill was introduced into the House of Representatives, and reported favorably on by the Committee on Ways and Means, which is entitled "An Act to establish an Insurance Department."

But even supposing that it was intended to leave the revision of the laws to distinct legislative action, still the proposed law does not meet the wants of the people. It makes the Commissioner an autocrat. He has power, solely at his discretion, to refuse to allow any company to issue policies within our borders.

While, however, the responsibility is as slight as possible, not so the fees. The Commissioner is given a commission for three years, and is not removable except for "good and sufficient cause."

In addition to these, the companies must obtain the licenses hereafter from the Commissioner, and not from the Auditor-General, and for this we suppose the old fees continue, say \$10 a license.

Salary \$5000

Travelling 1300

Filing charters for the first year, say 6000

Filing annual statement of annual receipts 4400
Certificates (annual) 1100
Licenses (annual), say 2200
Changes in directors, etc., at least 1000
Fees for filing papers and certifying, say 500

State Legislatures-A Contrast.
What inefficient and corrupt legislation is a chronic grievance in Pennsylvania and New York, it is a noteworthy fact that complaints of a similar grievance are rarely heard in the New England States.

It will be seen that each of the New England States named, except Rhode Island, has a larger number of representatives than Pennsylvania, and that, although their aggregate population is less than that of this Commonwealth, they have nearly five times as many State Senators and more than nine times as many Representatives.

It is also a much easier task to control by base influences a body of one hundred members than one of three to four hundred members. It may be alleged that an increase of the number of members of the Legislature would largely increase the expenses of government; but this need not necessarily occur.

A VAST AMOUNT of telegraphic philanthropy has been expended upon the Indians, and the sufferings and wrongs of the "noble savage" have been sung in song and uttered from the rostrum with a pathos and power that have convinced many persons that, in usurping their place, we have become the real blood-thirsty savages, while the Indian soars above us as an interesting mixture of hero, victim, and martyr.

According to a Parliamentary return just issued, it appears that the number of English iron-plated ships afloat is 54. There are also ten building. Of four floating batteries 190 are not yet ready for sea.

Out of the 34 vessels afloat, 13 are built on Mr. Reed's plan and five on Captain Cole's turret plan. The first cost of some of the iron vessels of the Royal Navy is as follows:--

Salisbury, 2357,993

Belleville, 2343,970

Lord Clyde, 2273,824

the rules of discipline, have not been converted into the mere playing of sanguinary marauders, free as the winds, to wander at will, and utterly unembarrassed by any tactics except their rule of rapine and murder. The strong measures of our army, under the lead of Sheridan, have brought the wild tribes to terms, and the commanding officer at Fort Cobb announces that thousands of genuine savages, who have not been contaminated by the influence of the whites, and who may be presumed to resemble that primitive type of mankind over whose woes and wrongs we have been called to weep, are about to place themselves under his protection.

The Chesnut Street Fire and Its Causes.
At the time of the recent disastrous fire at the corner of Ninth and Chesnut streets there was but one rumor current concerning the cause of the conflagration, and that was to the effect that the boiler located in the rear portion of the basement of Caldwell's store had exploded.

Further testimony may yet definitely establish the true theory of the explosion, but at present it would appear that, and the fearful disasters which ensued, were the result of an accumulation of gas between the ceiling of the first story and the floor of the second.

Whisky Dethroned.
The whisky thieves have again come to grief in Brooklyn. Judge Blatchford appears to have a true appreciation of his judicial functions and of his duty to the Government and the people.

NAVY.
The English Iron-clads.
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PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COMPANY.
The Board of Directors of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, do hereby give notice that the annual meeting of the stockholders of this company will be held at the City and State Office of the Company, No. 40 Broadway, in the City and State of New York, at 12 o'clock noon on WEDNESDAY, the 30th day of January next, to consider and approve of, or reject, certain contracts entered into by the Company with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and Indian and Central Railroad Company, and also to consider and approve of any other business which may be presented.

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COLD WEATHER DOES NOT CHAP.
The above advertisement is for a medicinal product called 'COLD WEATHER DOES NOT CHAP' which is described as being very useful for various ailments.

NOTICE-I AM NO LONGER EXTRACTING TEETH WITHOUT PAIN.
The above notice is for a dental service provided by Dr. F. R. Thomas, who claims to extract teeth without pain.

PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR.
The Mayor of Philadelphia has issued a proclamation regarding the killing of birds in the city. It is stated that the killing of birds is prohibited and that anyone who violates this rule will be fined.

OFFICE OF THE RECEIVER OF TAXES.
The Office of the Receiver of Taxes is located at the corner of Sixth and Chesnut Streets. The Public Office will be closed for the present, until the books for 1869 are prepared by the Board of Revision.

OFFICE OF THE NORTH PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY.
The Office of the North Pennsylvania Railroad Company is located at No. 47 Walnut Street. The company has announced that the transfer books for the year 1868 will be closed on Saturday, the 9th inst. at 3 o'clock P.M.

THE FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NATIONAL BANK.
The Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank has announced that the annual meeting of the stockholders will be held on Saturday, January 13th, 1869, at 10 o'clock A.M.

OFFICE OF THE DELAWARE DIVISION CANAL COMPANY OF PENNSYLVANIA.
The Office of the Delaware Division Canal Company of Pennsylvania is located at No. 303 Walnut Street. The annual meeting of the stockholders of this company will be held at their office on Tuesday, February 24th, 1869, at 12 o'clock M.

ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.
The Atlantic and Great Western Railway Company has announced that the annual meeting of the stockholders will be held at the City and State Office of the Company, No. 40 Broadway, in the City and State of New York, at 12 o'clock noon on WEDNESDAY, the 30th day of January next.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.
OFFICE OF THE ST. NICHOLAS COAL COMPANY.
The St. Nicholas Coal Company has announced that the annual meeting of the stockholders will be held at their office on Tuesday, January 26th, 1869, at 10 o'clock A.M.

COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE OF PHILADELPHIA.
The Commercial Exchange of Philadelphia has announced that the annual meeting of the Board of Managers will be held at their office on Wednesday, January 27th, 1869, at 10 o'clock A.M.

POST OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA.
The Post Office of Philadelphia has announced that the annual meeting of the Board of Postmasters will be held at their office on Thursday, January 28th, 1869, at 10 o'clock A.M.

THE BUSINESS MAN'S VIEW OF THE MATTER.
This is a collection of essays or articles discussing various business topics. It is published by Charles Richardson.

SKATING.
POSITIVE REOPENING.
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MAMMOTH SKATING RINK.
The Mammoth Skating Rink has announced that it will be reopened on Monday, January 18th, 1869.

MRS. HENRY WOOD'S NEW BOOK.
Never Before Published.
THE RED COURT FARM.
By Mrs. Henry Wood.

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Author of "East Lynne," "Verona's Folly," "The Channings," "Oswald Cray," "Earl's Heir," "The Channings," etc.

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INSURANCE COMPANIES.
F A M E
INSURANCE COMPANY,
No. 406 CHESNUT STREET.

INSURANCE COMPANY.
This Company, incorporated in 1856, and doing a FIRE INSURANCE BUSINESS EXCLUSIVELY, in order to enable it to accept a large amount of business constantly declined for want of adequate capital, will, in accordance with a supplement to its charter, increase its

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