

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

THE JOBBERY OF DEMAGOGUES THE ROBBERY OF THE POOR.

From the N. Y. Times.

If the labor conventions or the various organs of the laboring classes were worth anything as means of instruction, they would seek to convince their followers of the fallacy of one statement at least, which has done more damage to American interests than almost any other single idea prevalent with working people, and that is, that the laboring class derive benefit from the peculations of their leaders.

The laboring man is influenced by what seems an immediate gain from a corrupt proceeding of one of his leaders. Thus, if a Court House is built for five millions which ought to have cost two and a half millions, the workmen of the city see the profits of the undertaking to their class in supplying work, but do not see that this additional expense, pocketed by jobbers and raised from taxation, is at once charged to them by capital in the shape of an advance in rents.

Some kinds of corrupt administration the laboring class know and feel at once. Thus, if the streets are to be paved at a certain expense, and the contractor only half does his work and pockets half the cost, all the cartmen and drivers of the city suffer the loss to their daily business in damage to teams and wear and tear of horses.

Mr. Cooper, in a recent address to workmen, said that the loss to cartmen alone for this city from this source is equal to a thousand dollars a day. Most of the losses, however, to the laboring class from the jobbery of our city governors is indirect. It appears in increased rent of tenements and shops, in the consequent higher price of commodities, and also in the withdrawal of capital from the city.

If any intelligent laborer desires to see what effect unequal taxation can have on an important branch of business, let him go around our docks, and shipyards, and iron works at the present time. He will not find in all New York, with its immense wealth and boundless commerce, more than one ship in process of building to-day.

The causes of this calamity, as any one will inform him, are not alone the heavy national taxes on the raw material entering into the structure of ships, but also the heavy local taxation of New York, as compared with European cities. This taxation weighs upon every part of a shipbuilder's work. It adds to his rent, to the wages he must pay, and to the cost of all his material, as compared with a foreign rival.

The working class should understand that the result of this increasing plunder and enormous taxation by our city authorities is sure to be most disastrous to themselves. There will be hosts of unemployed men in this city this winter. Many branches of production will be closed. The masses of poor will suffer with want, but the leaders they have chosen and the demagogues who represent them will be reveling in wealth, wrung from them.

Relative official status is something which ought to be determined by common sense, and not by tradition or professional prejudice. There was never yet a pious and swaggering Brigadier, with a cock feather in his hat and a sword between his legs, who would not, if he could, fix his own claims to distinction much higher than those he would admit on behalf of a Bishop, or a Professor of Greek.

or an eminent artist. Nor is it likely that the officer who walks about the quarter-deck and says "Luff!" thinks that the other officer in the infirmary, who feels pulses and prescribes powders, is so great a man as himself, or entitled to so much emoluments or so much titular and other distinction.

In respect to the disbursing officer, who is included in the scheme of titular exaltation, it is not necessary to say much, except that it is impossible to honor too highly the man who pays out money. The business does not rank among the liberal or learned professions, though it is certainly liberal, and its practitioners are not necessarily unlearned.

According to the avowment of the line, certain practical difficulties attend the giving of high official titles to the staff. It may even happen, for example, that a surgeon of long standing may sometimes technically outrank his commanding officer. It is true that this might lead to embarrassment. The doctor might, on a critical occasion, emerge from the cockpit, dubious and drowsy with the odor of drugs, and enfeebled by prolonged diagnostics, and command the ship to strike its colors in the face of the enemy.

Moreover, the doctor outranks nearly every person on shipboard, his prescriptions are in the nature of commands, and any patient except the admiral, who omitted to bolt a bolus or swallow a powder, would be guilty of mutiny. It is rather a pathetic alternative to place before marine and midshipman to lose either his stomach in consequence of the pill, or his life in consequence of not taking it.

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT AT WAR WITH THE RELIGIOUS SENTIMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

The compulsory order of the Navy Department, which requires the students of the Naval Academy to pursue their ordinary secular studies on Sunday, without any regard to the feelings of the midshipmen or the needs of the public service, is arresting the attention and invoking the condemnation of religious journals of various communions.

To learn the art of war, with the intent to follow it as a life profession, is doubtless necessary even in the midst of profound peace. But, in such an epoch, to compel our youth, who have resolved to devote themselves to this vocation from patriotic motives, to stifle their conscientious scruples, and pursue the routine of secular studies on a day when they all need rest, and which the moral convictions of the entire community.

LINE AND STAFF.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

and demoralizing practice, by distinguished citizens of both political parties, some of whom are leaders in various Christian denominations, both Protestant and Catholic, while others, who profess no particular creed, based their objections on patriotic grounds and the needless outrage upon the rights, convenience, and conscientious scruples of the pupils.

BUilding UP THE BABIES.

The New York Association for the Advancement of Science and Art has now fixed its contemplative eye on the innocents of our public schools. In view of this alarming fact, it becomes necessary to assure the fifty thousand fond mothers who have confided the intellectual training of their darlings to the State and left their physical culture to nature, that there is really no danger.

Interesting as it might be to have four-year olds discoursing on the relations of the sexes, and able to tell us to a scruple how much blood is sent out of their left ventricles into their little heads, there is a too strong and proper prejudice in favor of having them kicking up their heels in blissful manufacture of corpuses out in the sunshine, in the deepest ignorance of blood and stomach, and such other viscera as never make themselves known except in disease.

Two HUNDRED AND TEN THOUSAND SHORT.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The popular vote cast in our late State election falls two hundred and ten thousand short of that of last year for Governor, as follows:

Deficiency..... 210,611

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