Evening Telegraph

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED),

AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, No. 108 S. THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

The Price is three cents per copy (double sheet), or eighteen cents per week, payable to the carrier by whom served. The subscription price by mail is Nine Dollars per annum, or One Dollar and Fifty Cents for two months, invariably in advance for the time ordered.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1870.

An official statement has recently been issued

FOREIGN IMMIGRATION.

of the number and nationality of the alien passengers (or immigrants) who arrived in the United States during the fifty-one years ending on September 30, 1870 In 1820, the number of immigrants was only 8385, and it was not until 1828 that they exceeded 20,000. In 1834, more than 65,000 immigrants arrived on our shores, and it was not until 1845 that they exceeded one hundred thousand. In 1847 the immigration suddenly increased to more than two hundred thousand per annum, the famine in Ireland driving an immense number of her citizens to our shores at a time when the German immigration was unusually large. In 1850 the immigration exceeded 300,000 for the first time, and these numbers rapidly swelled to more than 400,000 in 1854. It is a noticeable fact that this is the culminating point in the history of foreign immigration, the number of arrivals falling from 427,833 in 1854 to 200,877 in 1855, and there being another slight decrease in the subsequent year of 1856. The Know-Nothing agitation was probably the main cause of this sudden check, as the newlyarrived immigrants naturally sent home doleful accounts of the denunciations hurled against them, but the sudden diminution of the American demand for labor in constructing railways may have also exerted a considerable influence in arresting the tide that had been flowing in upon us so rapidly. In no one year since 1854 has immigration reached 400,000. During the first year of the war, 1861, it fell below 100,000 for the first time since 1844, and from this depression it did not again rally until 1863, when it reached 176,282, this number increasing to 318,554 in 1866, and reaching in 1869 the enormous aggregate of 385,287, or a higher number than had ever before been attained in any one year except 1854. During the three quarters of 1870 which ended September 30, the totals reached 285,422, which figures indicate that the number of immigrants this year from every important quarter except Germany will be as great as in 1869.

The aggregate of this entire immigration during the period named is 7,448,922, of whom 2,250,822 came from Germany and 3,826,040 from the British isles. Of the latter 501,316 are from England, 1,406,030 from Ireland, 82,403 from Scotland, 12,213 from Wales, and 1,824,078 from "Great Britain, not specified," a large portion of whom are Irishmen, so that the immigration from the Emerald Isle has probably exceeded that from the Fatherland, although in late years they have closely kept pace, especially if we add 100,983 reported as Prussians and 61,269 Swiss. The immigration from other quarters is comparatively unimportant, the largest aggregate being 271,185 from British America, which has already sent us in 1870 more immigrants than in any former year (40,034), and which paves the way for manifest destiny by sending her population into the United States with extraordinary rapidity.

The Chinese immigration, which is the great modern bugbear, has amounted in the aggregate to 108,610, and it is remarkable that while it suddenly started, in 1854, with 13,100, it fell off in 1855 to 3526, and never again exceeded 10,000 per annum until 1868. In 1869, however, it swelled to 14,902, and during the first three quarters of 1870 it was 11,051.

It appears from these statistics that public opinion in the United States, even when it is not embodied in our laws, exercises a powerful influence on immigration, as well as on purely domestic subjects. The stumpspeeches of our demagogues, the riotous demonstrations of our rowdies, and the various other manifestations of a spirit of hostility to men of foreign birth check immigration even when they fail to influence the action of Congress. If we want immigrants we must give them a hospitable reception, and although they cannot all be frightened off by scare-crow agitators, their numbers can be very materially diminished by imposing ebullitions of hostility.

In this connection, we give the following extract from a letter addressed to the recent convention at Indianapolis, by Jay Cooke, Esq., the eminent banker of this city:-

"Although for years we have, as a nation, derived a large share of our marvellous increase in numbers, wealth, and power from immigration, this vast interest has been singularly neglected by our National Government. While State authorities and private corporations have accomplished much ex-perience has shown that the General Government is the only power competent to do the really national work of fostering immigration on an adequate scale, and protecting each immigrant, while in transit between the old home and the new. In addition to the Government's neglect of the immi-gration interest, it seems to me it wholly lacks gration interest, it seems to me it wholly lacks a business-like method of promoting the rapid settlement of our public lands by our landless citizens, native and foreign born. Our liberal homestead and bounty laws are rendered inoperative through the failure to disseminate among the classes they are specially designed to benefit that minute and full information without which the profered gift of free land has little value. For example, what former's information without which the professed gift of free land has little value. For example, what farmer's son, what day laborer in an Eastern city, much less what newly arrived emigrant knows where to find desirable public lands or how to secure them when found. A simple and inexpensive system of furnishing this information to the landless massrs by means of maps, plates, and printed documents, would quadruple the present rate of settlement of our public domain, give prosperous homes to thousands who are now poor and homeless, and add proportionately to our national growth and wealth. As some intimation of our views on certain points of the subject you have in hand, I may remark that in organizing the immigration department of the Northern Pacido Railroad, perhaps the most extensive movement of the kind yet undertaken, this company aims, first, to select as its immigration agents, at home and abroad, only men of highest character;

second, to permit no representation to be made by its authority which the facts will not fully warrant; third, to promote, as far as possible, immigration by colonies, so that neighbors in Fatheriand may be neighbors in the new West; fourth, to exercise over immigrants, from the time they leave one home until they reach another, whatever supervision their best interests may require, seeing to it that transportation charges are the lowest obtainable; that accommodations on ships and cars are comfortable; that their treatment is kind; their protection against compulsion and abuses of all sorts complete; that every dollar of unnecessary expenditure en route compulsion and abuses of all sorts complete; that every dollar of unnecessary expenditure en route is avoided, and the emigrant enabled to husband his scanty means for the work of starting a homestead. These matters of detail, though scenningly unimportable, make just the difference between the content and discontent, the ancess and failure of thousands who come among us, strangers to our inaguage or geography and our ways of life. The corporation for which I have taken the liberty to speak above intend to complete the work of caring for the immigrant who moves to the line of their road by furnishing lands at such moderate prices and long credits that the poorest need not remain landless; by aiding all who prefer to secure homesteads from the Government domain, by transporting settlers, the Government domain, by transporting settlers, their families, and goods, at reduced rates; by seeing to it that all the elements of a sound civilization, including educational, church, and mail racilities. including educational, church, and mail racilities, keep pace with the progress of the road and the growth of communities.

PURCHASE OF FIRE APPARATUS. THE passage of the Paid Fire Department bill is now considered a certainty, and consequently all the volunteer companies are animated with a desire to sell out their apparatus and other fixtures at the best possible rates. So soon as the bill goes into operation an active competition will commence upon this point, and there is no doubt that the city will be urged to purchase engines and other properties at prices far beyond their real value. It therefore would be prudent as an avoidance of the difficulty in the future, and to give the best satisfaction to all parties concerned. if it were known before the bill becomes a law what measures are to be taken for the purchase of property. The bill itself contains no definite provi-

sions upon this point, and the whole matter is left entirely in the hands of the commissioners, who will not, improbably, in the confusion incident to the organization of the paid department, be subjected to a pressure upon all sides from the old companies that may induce them to make some bargains not advantageous to the city. It is understood that a plan has been arranged for the leasing of the old fire apparatus for a term of two years, the city at the end of that time to have the option of purchasing or of returning it to the present owners. This arrangement, we are confident, will not work well, and it would be much better to purchase at once what is needed for the outfit of the new department. The proper method of proceeding would be to invite proposals from all who have fire apparatus to sell, and then purchase of the lowest and best bidders. There is no necessity whatever for the city to take all the engines, hose carriages, and other fixtures now belonging to the volunteer companies, nor is it necessary to pay for the ornamental work with which many of them are decorated. There is no doubt that the companies owning highly decorated engines and hose carriages will endeavor to dispose of them at prices representing the cost, or more | the rates, and by so doing bolsters up weak than the cost, of the perfectly useless work | companies. upon them, when equally efficient machines could be had at much lower rates. There is no reason why the city should submit this, and if a competition is opened for the actual number of machines needed, and no more, and it is clearly understood that purchases will be made where the best bargains can be obtained, the city will have some chance of getting the real value of its investment. In case any of the old engines and hose carriages are obtained for the use of the paid department, it would be well to strip them of all the gingerbread work with which they are now decorated, and make them as plain and unattractive in appearance as is possible. There would then be less temptation for a certain class of young men to run to fires, and the new department would be less liable to be

THE TAX RATE.

afflicted with the nuisances that have de-

moralized the old one.

THE Finance Committee of Common Council on Wednesday reported an ordinance fixing the tax rate for 1871 at \$1.80 on the hundred, to which must be added the 6 cents on the hundred to provide funds for the erection of the new public buildings. That this tax rate will be totally insufficient every member of Councils knows from past experiences; but if there were any doubts on the subject, they should be removed by the array of figures presented by Mr. Hetzel, who clearly demonstrated that even if every dollar of the tax were to be collected, and without taking into account the many extra appropriations that will inevitably be called for, but that cannot now be foreseen, there will be a deficiency of \$646,845.01 at the end of the year. It is folly for Councils to pretend to manage the finances of the city in this manner any longer, and the members will not be doing their duty to their individual constituents or to the city at large if they do not fix the rate at such a figure as will cover, with economical management, the necessary expenses of the municipal government. The present method of doing business has already caused an infinite amount of trouble and embarrassment, but it has no outlook for the future but disgraceful bankruptcy. In fact, a total reform in our revenue matters is needed, and there is no reason why the whole expense of the city government should be borne by the owners of real estate. There are millions of dollars worth of personal property that is available for taxation, and that ought to be taxed, and if the taxes were thus divided among a larger number of persons, it could easily be put at a lower figure even than the one now proposed. In addition to this there is a source of revenue that ought to be available to this city that is not at present. All that is received from liquor dealers' licenses goes into the State treasury, while the city is obliged to support the paupers and criminals who are the results of the liquor traffic. Under these circumstances a portion at least of the special taxes paid by the liquor dealers rightfully belongs to the city rather than to the State, and an effort should

be made to obtain it. If Councils, instead of

timidly quibbling over the tax rate, would resolutely determine to effect a permanent revenue reform for the city, they could do so undoubtedly, and in a short time place us in a creditable financial condition. In the meantime the tax rate for 1871 must be fixed at once, and we sincerely hope that at the next meeting of Councils the matter will receive the attention it deserves, and that the members will resolutely determine to impose a tax sufficient to meet the necessities of the city government for the coming year.

THE annual report of the Secretary of the Interior appeared in some enterprising newspapers yesterday, and as it is theoretically a document addressed to the President, embracing the history of the transactions of the Interior up to the latest moment prior to the meeting of Congress, which does not take place until the first Monday in December, it appears decidedly shead of time. Its publication involves a breach of faith in some quarter, as it is not courteons to give this precious document to the whole American people before it has been duly inspected by the high official parties who have the first right to a perusal. How it happened to come to light thus prematurely is not fully explained, but in some quarters the intimation is made that ex-Secretary Cox, who prepared it previous to his resignation, has had some share in the disclosure. If indeed he has veritably let the cat out of the bag in this fashion, he has done more to disgrace himself than to mortify the administration, for private griefs or quarrels will never justify the violations of official confidence by an ex-Cabinet minister. It may turn out, however, that the whole affair hinges on a feat of newspaper enterprise, and that there has been no exhibition of petty spite work after all.

COUNCILMAN NICKELS is a genius. His ideas on the proposed Paid Fire Department are especially novel, and as weighty as novel. He has discovered that "dirty" means are at work to secure the passage of the ordinance creating a Paid Fire Department, the said "dirty" means consisting in the fact that the insurance companies are anxious to buy votes in its favor, and are willing to throw away at least \$150,000 in this reckless and reprehepsible manner. But, to show that he entertains no ill-will towards the insurance companies for this insinuation against the incorruptibility of Councilmen, Mr. Nickels opposes a Paid Fire Department because the effect of such a system in New York city has been to lower the rates of insurance and thereby to drive a number of companies out of existence! Insurance companies are a good thing in their way, but we scarcely think that the general public will complain at the lowering of the rates of insurance. Persons who own much real estate, especially, will not be apt to take a lowering of the rates to heart. Nor are property-owners anxious to see a system perpetuated which keeps up

HENRY WARD BEECHER'S Woman Suffrage Association refuses to coalesce and combine with Theodore Tilton's Woman Suffrage Association. The Beecherites are not willing to be swamped among the Tilters. The antagonism, we are told, is based upon "a difference of principles and modes of work.' All the friends of the sixteenth amendment should rejoice at the determination of the Beecher people to keep themselves separate and apart from the Tilton crowd. Rivalry is a good thing in every kind of business, and if there should be no rivalry among the female suffregists, there would be danger of a total collapse.

FIVE of the leading volunteer fire companies of the city have already pronounced in favor of the proposed paid system, and declared their readiness to come under its regulations. These are the United States Fire Company, the Diligent Engine Company, the Humane Fire Company, the Fairmount Steam Fire Engine Company, and the Spring Garden Steam Fire Company. The abuses of the present system have at last become so apparent that the respectable firemen, despairing of a reform, are at least willing to acquiesce in a radical change.

NEW YORK charity had its hands full vesterday. In the various prisons, hospitals, asylums, and missions, there were some 19,500 criminals, invalids, orphans, and vagabonds who eat their Thanksgiving dinners at public expense. There are some points on which New York can justly lay claim to being a metropolitan city. Its depraved and dependent classes are far more formidable in number than those of any other American

-A silver mine was recently discovered on the property of a Mr. Nevison, at Corning, in New York. The State Geologist visited the place last week, and took away specimens for examination.

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