

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

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

RUMORS OF A CHANGE IN THE CABINET AND RETIREMENT OF MR. BOUTWELL.

From the N. Y. Herald.

A rumor comes again from Washington that Secretary Boutwell will soon retire from the Treasury Department. His successor, it is said, will be Senator Morton, of Indiana. The reason assigned for Mr. Boutwell's retirement is that the President regards the financial policy of the Secretary as unpopular and damaging to the administration.

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What has been the stream of incoming revenue. No business man of the most ordinary capacity would have been guilty of such folly in the management of his funds. No one would have locked up his money when he could have drawn good interest from it. The pretext that a large reserve of gold was necessary to keep down the premium is fallacious. The diffusion of it through the country would have had a beneficial effect. Mr. Boutwell's failure as a financial minister, and if General Grant would consolidate the Republicans of all sections, and save the West from going over to the Democrats, the sooner he invites the Secretary to retire the better, both for himself and his party.

SHALL WE HAVE A TARIFF COMMITTEE?

From the N. Y. World.

Whatever opinion may be entertained concerning the first of the resolutions recently offered in the House of Representatives by our active and zealous member from the Sixth New York Congressional district, providing that the annual taxation shall not exceed \$250,000,000—including \$125,000,000 for principal and interest of the public debt; however questionable it may be that even in the present reconstructed House a majority vote can be obtained for the second resolution pledging the country to a purely revenue tariff, in opposition to a tariff for the protection of class interests at the general expense; however much the country may be divided on these two, there is no doubt that the third of these resolutions is received with a general approval bordering on unanimity. Even the Tribune, little disposed as it generally is to do justice to a free trader, frankly and freely lauds Mr. Cox for his attempt to secure for the contemplated tariff revision a careful and statesmanlike consideration.

The third of these resolutions is to this effect:—Resolved, That in case this session adjourns without the appointment of the Committee of Ways and Means, a special committee of seven be appointed to consider the expediency of the reform of our revenue, and such bill or bills embodying a revenue tariff on the foregoing principles as will best carry the same into practical effect; and in case such Committee of Ways and Means be appointed at this session, that then the said committee shall perform the duties required in this resolution;—and embodies, only conditionally, it is true, a proposition of a reform which has suggested itself before now to many thinking men. This proposition is none other than to remove all consideration of the tariff from the Ways and Means Committee, and transfer it to a committee specially devoted to that subject and none other.

The enormous labor now devolving on the Ways and Means Committee is sufficient to appall the heart of the stoutest, if he have the conscientious desire to do his duty. The late chairman, Mr. Schenck, has left on record a pathetic description of the fearful persecution from hundreds of tariff axe-grinders to which he submitted daily during each discussion of a tariff revision. The strongest man in the House could not do justice to one and the same time to the manifold problems of internal revenue, of the management of the debt, the general supervision of Treasury business, and the tariff besides; and, unfortunately, the present committee consists, with one or two notable exceptions, of the veriest incapables. The Ways and Means Committee is the most important committee in the House—its action is felt in every branch of the work in an active session, and consequently the most important work of Congress is generally the most poorly done. On this ground alone a division of the work of this committee seems eminently desirable. But there is another ground which makes this division almost imperative.

If there is one thing upon which almost all tariff reformers, and indeed all honest men, are agreed, it is that all evidence on the tariff should be heard in open session of the committee, and made public. It is absolutely necessary that some such measure should be adopted in order that the general public may know upon what facts and arguments the action of the committee is based, and in order that interested parties may have the amplest opportunity to meet and refute all statements affecting their interests. As the work of the committee is managed now, important interests are sacrificed without the parties affected having the remotest hint that their interests are under discussion, or what arguments have been used to influence the action of the committee. When the report of the committee is made to the House it is next to impossible to follow the direct political influence, or unless the matter is of very general importance, to secure a reconsideration. As matters are now managed, the most useful class of witnesses that such a committee could have, men of character and reputation, professionals and experts in their special spheres, are unwilling to appear, fearing to be classed with the corrupt and shameless lobbyists who haunt committee-rooms for their own selfish ends. But the committee might readily benefit by the advice and special knowledge of these men, if they were protected against unjust suspicion by thorough publicity. And publicity, too, would save the committee from the appearance of many who have heretofore been their chief advisers, but who would not dare testify as they have done if they knew that their facts, and arguments would be before the whole country before they themselves could leave Washington. Members not on the Ways and Means Committee would certainly hail this publicity of the tariff discussion as a special boon, for it would relieve them from the worst, most annoying, and least satisfactory duty which they now have to perform—that of urging upon the attention of members of the committee the claims of their constituents, of whose merits they are, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, either totally ignorant or incapable of judging.

If it is true, and we think it can scarcely be doubted, that publicity of the tariff discussion in committee is almost essential, it must be evident that this forms a very strong additional argument in favor of a separate committee; for, with the exception of the tariff, the work of the Ways and Means Committee is peculiarly unfitted for premature publication, and the objections to partial or irregular publicity will suggest themselves readily enough to whoever will take the trouble to consider them.

There need not, as might at first blush seem likely, be any conflict between this new tariff committee and the Ways and Means Committee; for if the House will fix the amount of revenue that it requires to be derived from the tariff the new committee can adjust such a tariff, without any interference with other sources of revenue except in the case of wines and spirits and tobacco; and any difference arising out of the duties on these articles as interfering with the internal revenue tax upon them can easily be overcome by a conference, or, if irreconcilable, can be settled by the House. The more closely the subject is examined the more clearly will it appear that Mr. Cox's suggestion of an independent tariff committee is eminently wise and judicious, the more

strongly will good men of all parties desire to see it put in practice.

THE KU-KLUX DEBATE. From the N. Y. Tribune. No other section has half the interest in suppressing the dastardly midnight outrages which disturb and disgrace the South that the South herself has. She needs peace and rest, she needs order and security, she needs capital and population—all which these crimes destroy or repel. Not one-fourth of her acres are under cultivation; not a hundredth part of her water-power is utilized; her annual product of minerals is not a thousandth of what it might and should be. An influx of two or three millions of intelligent, energetic, efficient miners and manufacturers would double the average value of her real estate and reduce by one-half the burden of her taxation. Yet those whose deeds of arson, maiming, and murder preclude any considerable influx of capital or industry want themselves "Southern men," and even "the Southern people," in contradistinction from "carpet-baggers," "scalawags," and "niggers."

The Democratic party has multitudes of outside counsellors who urge it to remember that Democracy ought to mean devotion to equal rights, but especially to the imperilled rights of the ignorant, the humble, the powerless. Its leaders are exhorted to consider that they might secure a considerable segment of the colored vote, even yet, by evincing humanity and common sense. "All you need," persist these well-meaning counsellors, "is to be Democrats, as you have always professed to be, and you have the country in your hands."

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CITY ORDINANCES.

RESOLUTION OF Thanks to the Volunteer Fire Department. Whereas, The Volunteer Fire Department of the City of Philadelphia has ceased to exist, and a "Paid Fire Department" has been substituted in its place by the proper authorities of the city, and went into active operation on Wednesday, the 15th of March, 1871:—

And whereas, The city of Philadelphia, almost from its foundation, had no other protection from the ravages of fire than that afforded by the Volunteer Firemen, who were ever conspicuous in their efforts to extinguish conflagrations, and on repeated occasions have saved the city from perils of the most appalling character; and it would seem to be less an act of justice than of gratitude that an institution to which our citizens owe so much should not be permitted to expire without some public recognition of its services; therefore, be it Resolved, by the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, That the thanks of the city be and they are hereby tendered to all the Engine, Hose, and Hook-and-Ladder Companies composing the Fire Department previous to and at the time of the passage of the ordinance establishing a Paid Fire Department, for their long and faithful services in the protection of the city and suburbs from the ravages of fire—services not to be forgotten by the citizens, and which will ever remain a lasting memorial of their self-sacrificing, noble, and devoted exertions in the cause of humanity.

Resolved, That a copy of this preamble and resolution, suitably engrossed, signed by the Presidents of the two chambers, and attested respectively by the Clerks, shall be framed and hung up in the Hall of Independence.

HENRY HUHN, President of Common Council.

JOHN ECKSTEIN, Clerk of Common Council.

SAMUEL W. CATTELL, President of Select Council.

Approved this twenty-second day of March, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one (A. D. 1871).

DANIEL M. FOX, Mayor of Philadelphia.

RESOLUTION OF Thanks to Robert Johnston, Esq., Representative in the General Assembly. Resolved, By the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, That to Robert Johnston, Esq., a representative in the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the thanks of the city of Philadelphia are due, and are hereby tendered, for his prompt, earnest, and effective efforts in arresting the attempted enactment of the so-called Philadelphia Commission bills pending before the General Assembly.

Resolved, That the Clerks of Councils be and they hereby are directed to prepare and transmit to the said representative an attested copy of this resolution.

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JOHN ECKSTEIN, Clerk of Common Council.

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DANIEL M. FOX, Mayor of Philadelphia.

COMMON COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA. CLERK'S OFFICE.

PHILADELPHIA, March 17, 1871. In accordance with a Resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of Philadelphia on Thursday, the sixteenth day of March, 1871, the annexed bill, entitled, "An ordinance creating a loan for the extension of the Water Works," is hereby published for public information.

JOHN ECKSTEIN, Clerk of Common Council.

CITY ORDINANCES.

AN ORDINANCE To Authorize the Construction of Sewers on Cherry Street, and on Fifth Street.

Section 1. The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do hereby order, That the Department of Highways be and is hereby authorized to construct the following sewers, viz.: On the line of Cherry Street from Tenth Street to a point ninety-four feet east of Eleventh Street, and on Fifth Street from Wacker Street to a point seventy feet northward from the said Wacker Street, each with a diameter of three feet; said sewers to be built of brick, circular in shape, and in accordance with specifications prepared by the Chief Engineer and Surveyor.

Section 2. The Chief Commissioner of Highways shall advertise according to law, announcing that bids will be received for the sewers above designated, and he shall allot them to the lowest bidder, and it shall be a condition of said contract that the contractor shall accept the sums assessed upon and charged to the properties lying on the lines of the sewers, in manner and form authorized by ordinance entitled "An Ordinance regulating the assessment upon property for the construction of branch sewers," approved May 12, 1869, and supplement thereto approved February 10, 1869; any excess over and above said assessment to be charged to item (for branch sewers) of annual appropriations made to the Department of Highways for the year 1871. Provided, Said excess shall not in any case be more than can be charged to said item under ordinance entitled "An Ordinance authorizing the Chief Commissioner of Highways to draw warrants for street intersections, manholes, and legal deductions in the construction of branch sewers," approved April 3, 1868.

HENRY HUHN, President of Common Council.

JOHN ECKSTEIN, Clerk of Common Council.

SAMUEL W. CATTELL, President of Select Council.

Approved this twenty-second day of March, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one (A. D. 1871).

DANIEL M. FOX, Mayor of Philadelphia.

AN ORDINANCE To Regulate the Sale of Meats along the Curbside Markets, Against any House, or in any Alley-way within the Limits of the City of Philadelphia.

Section 1. The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do hereby order, That on and after the first day of April, A. D. 1871, no meats shall be offered for sale along the curbside markets, against any house, or in any alley-way within the limits of the city of Philadelphia, in a less quantity than a quarter of the animal so offered, under a penalty of five dollars for each and every offense, said penalty to be recovered in like manner as debts are now by law recoverable, before any Alderman of the city of Philadelphia. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

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RESOLUTION TO PUBLISH A LOAN BILL.

Resolved, That the Clerk of Common Council be authorized to publish in two daily newspapers of this city daily for four weeks the ordinance presented to the Common Council on Thursday, March 16, 1871, entitled, "An ordinance creating a loan for the extension of the Water Works." And the said Clerk, at the stated meeting of Councils after said publication, shall present to this Council one of each of said newspapers every day in which the same shall have been made.

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