

The Bedford Inquirer.

BEDFORD, PA., FRIDAY, JAN. 27, 1865.

TAXATION.

The New York Tribune thus cries loudly for more tax.

"Let us have a twenty-five per cent. income tax, if necessary, with a searching inquiry into every man's business and receipts, which double the present tax on all luxuries and superfluities."

"Well, there is a consolation in the fact that a 25 per cent. tax would only come four times. But wouldn't it be better to take all the property at once, and allow a fellow so much per week, to live on?—Reading Gazette, 21st inst.

The Gazette's arithmetic is sadly at fault. If an income was derived from itself, a fixed tax of any amount would diminish it from year to year, but never exhaust it. Nor would a fixed tax ever exhaust a fixed principal. In order to exhaust a principal in four years, commencing the first year with 25 per cent. the second year the tax would have to be 34 per cent. the third year 50 per cent. the fourth year 100 per cent. But, of course no such tax is proposed. The idea so extensively and persistently propagated by the Democratic press, that taxation will impoverish and exhaust the sources of wealth, is thoroughly false. A taxation of any amount by a Government, to carry on its own operations, or to pay a debt contracted to its own subjects, could not impoverish its wealth to the extent of a single dollar. But an income tax is the most easily borne of any form of taxation. It does not touch the principal, it only effects profits. If a coal dealer in Reading makes a profit of a thousand dollars a year by his sales, and pays an income tax of over 25 per cent., it is not easy to see how it will effect the profits on his sales of the following year, or if the editor of the Gazette pays an income tax of 250 dollars on the profits of his paper, how will it curtail his business, or reduce his profits of the following year? It is not necessary from the context we have taken, to take into account the increase of profits, to be derived from employing the total accruing profits as capital.

The whole system of taxation so far as it effects the ultimate resources of the country, does not seem difficult to comprehend. The Government is not a miser, it does not hoard its treasure; it is only a transfer agent at best, immediately paying out the money it receives, back again to the sources from which it came.

"We have but one fault to find with the management of that paper, and that is, that it permits the Harrisburg Telegraph to outstrip it in circulation on the railroads and through the hands of news dealers. Democrats, when traveling, would like to buy Democratic papers, but when none are to be had, they are compelled to resort to the enemy's journals for news. The injury done to the cause, in this way, is incalculable.—Gazette.

The important fact that about nineteen twentieths of the circulation of the principle dailies in the country is Republican Union, is a pretty strong argument in itself, in favor of the "cause" they sustain. If the editor of the Gazette were an honest and discerning inquirer after the truth he would look a little further into this significant circumstance, than the above paragraph, indicates his wont to look. He would ask and honestly answer in his own mind, how it is that nineteen twentieths of the reading, reflecting, moral and influential part of our citizens, do not like to buy "Democratic" papers.

There is a report current that Fort Fisher has fallen. We cannot vouch for its correctness.—Gazette.

The "report" alluded to above was the official announcement of Admiral Porter, Gen. Terry and Assistant Secretary of War, Dana, giving the details of the fall of Fort Fisher, received in this place in the daily papers of Wednesday about twenty four hours before the Gazette went to press. Wonder if the readers of the Gazette, who get no other paper and who want to see the important News, are satisfied with such "reports."

The Fall of Gold.

When the flag goes up, gold goes down. On Thursday afternoon the sales closed at 210 and yesterday the lowest point was 195. This was fifteen per cent. gained for greenbacks in twenty-four hours. The last quotation was 205, a decline of seventeen per cent. in one week. There can be but one reason for this rapid and remarkable fall; it is the conviction that the rebellion is near to its death. The price of gold has been for weeks undetermined; it has hung like an icicle, that melting imperceptibly, falls suddenly, without apparent cause. Yesterday we had no startling news or rumors of Union victories to bring gold down so far. Its fall was the result of a profound growth of confidence in the ability of the United States to make speedy and honorable peace. This faith expresses itself forcibly in the present panic of the gold market. It will be more emphatic in a few weeks.—The Press of Saturday.

WILMINGTON.—The naval and merchant service of the Confederacy suffered severely last week. Admiral PORTER sends word that the rebels have not only blown up Fort Caswell, but the pirates Tallahassee and Chickamauga as well. And a late arrival at Philadelphia with Wilmington dates to the 20th, brings satisfactory news, that on the night of the 18th five blockade-runners ran into Old Inlet and were captured by our fleet. It may be doubted whether or these successive losses will be felt most severely at Richmond or at Liverpool. At the present rate blockade-running does not promise to be a paying business for any great length of time.—Nassau, Halifax and Bermuda will all feel the shock of these events in Cape Fear River before long, and altogether the Anglo-rebel mercantile interest seems to be in anything but a flourishing condition.

SHERMAN AND CHARLESTON.—Now that Gen. Sherman is so near Charleston, it will be seen by our rebel extracts that the Mercury of that city pronounces a glowing and elaborate eulogium upon him and his army. Its admiration is unbounded. But it is very severe upon the rebel troops thereabouts, whom it describes as a lawless mob, and characterizes it as "ruffians." We find articles in the Courier to the same effect. Both these journals are in a terrible rage with their leaders and their so-called soldiers; and will doubtless be greatly rejoiced when Sherman, whom they greatly admire, pays them a visit with his army, which they so profoundly worship. Is this really South Carolina?

INCREASED PAY.—A move has already been made to increase the pay of members of the Legislature. A bill has been introduced providing that the annual compensation be 1200 and mileage.—It is very likely that the salary will be raised at this session. In olden times the pay of a member of the Legislature was three dollars per day.

The Richmond Press.

Now that the rebels have lost all their supports of any consequence, their newspaper editors are taxing the utmost extent of their ingenuity to prove that these disasters are really a blessing, and that, instead of having a depressing effect on the fortunes of the confederacy, they will only tend to develop its innate and latent resources. They argue that the loss of these places only puts them in the position that they should properly have assumed at the beginning of the war when their abandonment, it is said, was advised by some very wise rebel statesmen. The fact would have us believe he is much handsomer without his tail. A blockade running is brought to an end, the rebels say that war must be their sole business; the conscription must be more vigorously enforced, and every one who can must be made to fight. It is claimed that when Jeff. Davis said that at least one-third of his men belonging to his armies were absent without leave he was far below the mark, and that there are enough of these deserters to make an army which would sweep both Sherman's and Grant's into the Atlantic Ocean." The Richmond Whig believes that negroes in the prime of life will make better soldiers than white men over fifty years of age. General Joe Johnston, in a speech lately to some soldiers at Columbia, S. C., told them that he was "out of service," and "regretted that he could not serve with them." Mr. Henry S. Foote refuses to be released from arrest, and insists that his prosecution shall go on, and the Provost Marshal of Fredericksburg be compelled to show cause for taking him into custody. Captain Semmes has arrived in Richmond.

A very significant article appeared in the Richmond Enquirer, of last Thursday, 19th inst., which would seem to be designed to break the inevitable and now plainly foreseen fall of the rebel confederacy. Admitting that "after ever" manly effort, they may fail to achieve their independence, it asserts that policy and interest, as well as feeling, would incline the rebels to submit to the United States rather than to England, France or Maximilian.—Joining their military forces to those at present constituting our national armies, they would "endeavor to extend the power and influence of that [the] nation from pole to pole, and uniting every country of America by alliance, seek to make this continent a unit against the world." "With the wealth and population which peace and union would develop in a few years," it continues, "we might find at least a hiding place for our shame, and perhaps some consolation in the fact that America would become the colossal Power of the world."

The Anti-Davis Feeling in the South.

Since the Southern papers have found it courage to speak out against Jeff. Davis, they have grown bolder and bolder, and if the press in any indication of public feeling, there is a terrible storm gathering about the head of that Southern autocrat, the Charlotteville (Va.) Chronicle says that "Jeff Davis and the Court were only going to dash their brains out, we might rally from the calamity; but they are dragging the whole society feet after them," and denounces Davis in no mean terms for all the calamities that have come upon the Confederacy. The Charleston Mercury is furious. It says:

Patent follies and their disastrous consequences have brought despondency upon the people, and a license has thinned the ranks of the defenders of the country.

Instead of aiming at radical changes in the causes of the effects under which we suffer and are endangered, men are found who propose the mad remedy of driving out negro producers into the war, and forcing them to fight. They are to understand that the Yankees are getting the upper hand of us, and their time of liberty is drawing near; they are to choose between fighting with us, the weaker party, or with the stronger party, our enemy. They are to fight for slavery (or for individual freedom) on our side, or on the side of the enemy, for total and general emancipation of their families, race and people, allured by all the fancies and luxuries of nothing to do, independence of law, independence of principle, independence of our institutions, the proposition appears to us as desperate in its absurdity as it is reckless of everything else. Can Congress find no remedy for the incompetency and mismanagement which is riding us down to ruin?

In another article the Mercury says that there are 100,000 effective men absentees from the rebel army, and who are kept absent because they have lost faith in Jeff Davis. It adds:

It is the incorrigible, intermeddling, mischievous, dictation, malignant prejudices, and petty partisanship, which make sacrifices apparently endless and useless. It is these things which weigh like a pall upon the heart of the country. It is these things which infuse inefficiency everywhere, and inspire selfishness and indifference. It is these things which are destroying us, and which must be eradicated by the action Congress.

In the following sketch it presents a sad picture of the Confederacy:

The path we now are traveling leads straight to destruction. The crisis of the Confederacy has arrived in fatal earnest. The result of the next six months will bring the Confederacy to the ground, or will restore its power. Without reform we are doomed. There is more than one department of government in which reform is important. But reform in our armies is essential, is vital. Without it the death-knell of the Confederacy is already tolled. We want no more Jeff. Davis follies; we want no more of brains, one spark of nerve; we want no more of Buchanan; we want no more of merchants with heads of monkeys and fishy attachments at neither extremities—we want men, real men, earnest—North Carolina, Georgia and South Carolina are in no mood for trifling. They have had enough of this sort of thing. They don't intend to have much more.

A most onerous and imperative duty devolves upon the commander of this department, who ever he is. That duty—this first and most essential duty—is to cashier and shoot. Without it nothing can be done, and Sherman conquers us. Everything is at stake—everything that is in the way must be swept and trampled under. The man who commands here must put his heart in his pocket, and his sword in his hand. He must know nothing but the good of the Confederacy.—That he must do regardless of official weakness.—That he must be radical reform. It is folly to talk of red tape—we want the thing—we must have it—reform, shooting, cashiering, order, subordination, soldiers—not runaways, magnanimous ruffians. We want, and we must have, brains and pluck in commanders, and implicit obedience and order in subordinates and soldiers. Six paces and a steady aim will do the business if repeated sufficiently often, especially among the commission officers.

If, however, commanding officers will not do their duty in this matter, let all men shut their books, for the end will well nigh come.—The time is short, will it be improved?

GEN. GRANT, in a recent communication, thus refers to Gen. Sherman: "The World's History gives no record of his superior and but few equals." To this sentiment we may justly add that the world never witnessed in any military chieftain more the elements of generous candor and unselfish appreciation of the good qualities of those by whom he is surrounded and who are necessarily his competitors for fame, than are daily exhibited by Lieut.-Gen. U. S. Grant. His justice is as inflexible as his valor is invincible.

The Richmond papers complain bitterly of the decay of public spirit in the South, and argue that if those in authority would exhibit a little more manliness, common sense and pluck, there would be some hopes for the Confederacy.—This looks to us like surrendering at no distant day.

Peace Mission.

Mr. Francis P. Blair returned to Richmond again last Friday on the Government Steamer Don, specially detailed for the use of Mr. Blair. A special dispatch dated Friday, to the New York Tribune furnishes us the following information on the subject.

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