The Columbian.

BROCKWAY & ELWELL, Editors.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

Friday, Jan. 11, 1878.

THE PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL BILL.

During the present session of the Legislature an application will be made for the passage of an act to repeal special Act 687 relative to appropriations out of county funds to agricultural societies, approved the 4th day of May 1864. The object of this proposed act as stated in the notice, is to entitle the Columbia County Agricultural, Horticultural and Mechanical Association to representation in the State Board of Agriculture, created by an Act approved the 8th day of May, 1876.

Special Act number 687, above referred to reads as follows: *Be it enacted*, &c., That the fourth section of the Act of the 29th March Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty one, entitled "An Act to incorporate the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society," which provides for the payment of a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, out of the county funds, to any agricultural or horticultural society, organized in any of the counties of the Commonwealth, to be and the same is hereby repealed, so far as it applies to the County of Columbia."

Section 1, of the Act of 1876 establishing a State Board of Agriculture is as follows: "*Be it enacted*, &c., That the governor of the Commonwealth, the secretary of internal affairs, the secretary of public instruction, the auditor general, the president of the Pennsylvania state college, and one person appointed from and by each agricultural society in the state entitled under existing laws to receive an annual bounty from the county, and three other persons appointed by the governor, with the consent of the senate, shall constitute the state board of agriculture."

It will be seen that Columbia county is not entitled to representation in the state board, because it can draw no bounty from the county. This proposed legislation is to enable it to receive a sum not exceeding one hundred as I give it representation. We are in favor of any movement that will advance the interests of agriculture, and shall be glad to see any legislation that will accomplish that end, but we cannot see how the citizens of the county are to be benefitted by the payment annually of one hundred dollars to the Agricultural Society out of the public funds.

Will it pay? The reasons that are claimed for this proposed act are probably that by representation in the state board we will be entitled to the agricultural reports for distribution among farmers and others. Section 8 of the act of 1876 provides that "The Secretary and board shall, in each year, cause to be made and published for distribution as full an abstract of the returns from the local societies as the board may deem useful." Everybody knows what agricultural reports are. A few thousand volumes are published and scattered through the country, about one person in five hundred receiving a copy. Some who do get them use them for the purpose of filling empty shelves until something better comes in, while the majority use them for waste paper. Copies of these reports are now sent into the county, and it is doubtful whether any more would be received by the passage of this proposed act, even if they were worth having.

We are opposed to any measure that will take money from the pockets of the tax payers without giving an equivalent in return, and we cannot at present see the utility of the present movement. The society was entitled to its annual bounty from 1851 to 1864 when the act was repealed. Thirteen years experience had shown that it was a useless expense and hence the repeal. It is now proposed to try again what was tried before and found wanting. The columns of this paper are open for the purpose of allowing those favoring the bill to show that it is a judicious one, and for the benefit of the people. Until convinced to the contrary we are opposed to its passage.

THE WALLACE BILL.

We learn that at the Cabinet Meeting on Tuesday it was determined that the secretary of the treasury should, as soon as practicable, invite further subscription to a popular loan of the four per cent. bonds and so conduct it that all subscribers in all parts of the United States shall have free and easy opportunity to subscribe to the bonds of any amount authorized by law through national banks and bankers of established credit, and to give every facility allowed by law to convert postal orders, certificates of deposit and United States notes into coin for the payment of bonds, and where necessary, to sell coin to facilitate subscription and to favor any legislation that congress might see fit to adopt to promote the deposit of savings for the funding of the national debt.

This is a sensible proposition, and is in effect carrying out Senator Wallace's idea in the bill submitted by him. Day after day our Savings Banks and other trust associations are going to the bad, and the people have little faith in those that remain. A long bond, say sixty years, at four per cent. and convertible at any time, would supply the government with all the money it needs at a low rate of interest, and at the same time make a depositary for millions of the Laboring poor. Besides, it is policy for the Government to have that class of persons as its creditors. They are then more than ever interested not only in the selection of honest and capable men to administer it. It would do away with the anomaly that men vote for candidates for high position, whom they would not trust to manage other affairs.

As there seems to be some difference of opinion as to whether the county is liable for the fees of bridge viewers, we have taken the pains to examine the law on the subject. The Act of June 13, 1836, provides that "viewers of public roads or highways, and of bridges, shall be entitled each to receive from the county treasurer one dollar for every day necessarily employed in that service, on producing a certificate from the clerk of the court of quarter sessions of the respective county, that such service has been performed by them." The second section of the act of March 24, 1868, repeals the above as to Lycoming county, so far as it relates to the fees of viewers of roads or highways' *but not as to the fees of viewers of bridges or bridge sites.* The county is still liable for the fees of viewers of bridges, and by the act of May 13, 1874, their fees for services are fixed at $2 per day, and mileage at the rate of ten cents per mile necessarily traveled.

OUR MILITARY HISTORY.

With this issue of the COLUMBIAN we commence the publication of the military history of Columbia and Montour counties, prepared by Col. John G. Freeze. That the subject will be ably handled all who are acquainted with the author will admit. The subject is of vast importance to our people, and especially to those who participated in any way in the late war, and to those who had relatives in it.

It is Mr. Freeze's design to make the record full and exact. He therefore asks the cooperation of all interested in the subject. Information is solicited from every soldier who served from Columbia or Montour County, and from the friends of those who moved away or are deceased. This applies not only to those who served in the late war, but to those who were at any time in the regular army or who had served in any previous war.

Persons who desire this valuable record, if not subscribers to the COLUMBIAN, should send in their names at once for copies.

CARE FOR THE POOR.

Editor's COLUMBIAN:—

As apropos to your remarks on the little colored "waifs" of our town, we ask you to publish the following prelude to one of Joseph Cook's lectures. Truly you say "a soul is as precious here as in Africa." If our missionary activity were more intensive it would soon become more extensive. Some united systematic plan of evangelization is needed by which all in our town may be reached. Good christian ladies animated by the spirit of the Master, have organized a general plan of benevolence whose scope is co-extensive with the town. Something similar is needed in evangelization. Ministers here are culpable. On them rests the initiatory of the work.

While on the subject of Bloomsburg's public welfare we would suggest the organization of a Home Lecture Course. Let a committee of enterprising citizens take it in hand and invite different persons in town to lecture, we have talent enough to accomplish this. Charge a moderate admission fee, say ten cents, and let the proceeds go to the Ladies Benevolent Society. Such home lectures with cheap admission are now in vogue elsewhere. It would answer a double purpose, aid charity and awake our intellectual sloth.

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perishing classes are to blame for being born, they, at least, whatever we say of their parents, cannot be shut out from a victorious place in our pity. This is a festal day; and, if the Author of Caristianity were on the groaning earth to make calls, probably the most of them, in the cities of the world, would be in unfashionable places. Why should we be so shy of the visitation in person of death-traps and rookeries? There is ineffable authority and example for going from house to house doing good. Visits thus enjoined cannot be made by proxy. No doubt organized and unorganized charity is usually, in its modern form, a result of the Christian spirit. Celsus said Christianity could not be divine, because it cared insanely for the poor. Old Rome's mood toward the miserable the world of culture now loathes. Philanthropy swells the tide of commiseration for the unfortunate; and sometimes the most erratic opinions have been conjoined with the soundest behavior toward those who have hardly where to lay their heads. Orthodoxy itself is often shy of personal contact with the very wretched, and goes from house to house by proxy. Organized charity, we think, is the whole of our duty. But Thomas Guthrie, and Dr. Chalmers, and all who have had much to do with the perishing classes in great cities, have taught the Church that, when men are sick and in prison, they are to be visited. I know a great orator in this city, whose name is a power from sea to sea, and whose silvering honored head often bends over couch and cradle in the most miserable houses. It is safe to go to the North End now: it is not safe in the fiercest heats of summer.

This nation now has one fifth of its population in cities. What are we to do with the social barriers which allow a great city to be not only a great world, but ten great worlds, in which one world does not care at all for what the other worlds are doing?

In every great town there are six or ten strata in society: and it is, one would think, a hundred miles from the fashionable to the unfasionable side of a single brick in a wall. Superfluity and squalor know absolutely nothing of each other—such is the utter negligence of the duty of visiting the poor, in any other way than by agents. I do not undervalue these, nor any part of the great charities of our times; but there is no complete theory for the permanent relief of the poor without personal visitation. Go from street to street with the city missionary or the best of the police; but sometimes go all alone, and with your own eyes see the poor in the attics, and study the absolutely unspeakable conditions of their daily lives. Not long ago, I was in a suffocated tenement-house where five or six points on which I could put my hand were in boldest violation of the laws which it is the business of the Board of Health in this city to see executed. The death-rate of Boston in summer, in the North End, is often above thirty-five in the thousand. The registrar-general of England says that deaths above seventeen in a thousand are unnecessary. Live one day where the children of the perishing poor live, and ask what it is to live there always. I know a scholar of heroic temper and of exquisite culture, who recently resolved to live with the poor in a stifling part of this city, and who, after repeated and desperate illness, was obliged to move his home off the ground in order to avoid the necessity of putting his body underground. You cannot understand the poor by newspapers, nor even by novels.

Our distant lavender touches of the miserable show the barbaric blood yet in our veins. Going about from house to house doing good is a great Christian measure permanently instituted by a typical example, which in a better age may be remembered, and be the foundation of a nobility not yet visible on the planet. There was One who washed his disciples' feet, and in that act founded an order of nobility; but this second symbolic act seems not to be apprehended even yet by some good Samaritans—in gloves. The way from Jerusalem to Jericho lies now through the city slums; and, for many an age to come, there will be the spot were men oftenest will be left stripped and sore and half dead. We want all good influences of the parlor and press, from literature and the interior of the church, to work upon the problem of saving the perishing and dangerous classes in great cities."

Poor naked wretches, wheresoever you are,
That bide the pelting of this pitiless storm,
How shall your houseless heads and unclothed limbs
Your loaped and windowed raggedness, defend you
From seasons such as this? Take physic pomp;
Expose thyself to feel what wretches feel,
That thou mayest shake the superflux to them,
And show the heavens more just.

Lear, act III. sc. iv.

A WORD TO OUR LEGISLATORS.

There is a proposition on foot to saddle the costs of the late labor riots upon the State. In other words, peaceable communities like ours must contribute to the expense of suppressing lawlessness in Luzerne, Pittsburg and elsewhere, and paying damages to their property holders. This is all wrong. If parties in Pittsburg see fit to indulge in a "shindy"—burn buildings and destroy life—and the most of the community do not see fit to repress such actions, but in fact sympathize with the rioters,—*let them pay for it.* It is good and sound law that every community should protect itself. Officials have ample powers to call the *posse comitatus* and if the officers neglect their duties, or if the people refuse to response to a proper call, they should make good any damage done by a mob.

Another word. The railroad companies should be a little modest in their charges against the State. They ask $141,000 for the transportation of troops to protect their own property. The amount is extortionate and unreasonable, and we don't if any of it should be paid.

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Legislative Correspondence.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 8th, 1878.

The question of the order of business seems to be looming up as a disturbing element between the two Houses of the Legislature.

When the Legislature adjourned last March it left as unfinished business about 280 bills upon the calendar in various stages of progress, the understanding then being that when they met again this winter they were to take up the business of the session just where it was left off—as if they had only adjourned over for a day. It was discovered, however, by some of the city members that this plan would interfere with the early consideration of some pet measures that had been hatched in the interim, and a strong combined effort of all parties interested is being made to have all the old bills thrown into the waste-paper basket and begin legislation anew—to consider no bills now upon the old calendar unless re-introduced, thus giving them a chance to place their new bills first upon the new calendar. In the Senate the scheme was successful, but in the House the country members rallied under the lead of Jackson of Mercer, James, Sprang and others, and decided to take up the old calendar and dispose of the unfinished business of last session, by a vote of 110 to 71. An analysis of the vote shows that outside of the 52 delegates from Philadelphia and Allegheny only 19 votes number of votes cast by members from the rural districts in favor of taking up unfinished business is partly accounted for by the fact that no local bills on the old calendar could have been introduced this session, for want of the three months' notice in the public prints required by law, had the House determined to begin legislation anew. What the upshot of the business will be time only can tell. The House seems determined to stand by its decision, and the Senate is reported to be equally obstinate on the other side.

The project now being engineered by the Allegheny delegation to have the State pay the bill entailed by the destruction of property during the strike riots of July last in Pittsburg has had the effect of bringing once more to the front the claims of the border counties for indemnity from the State for damages inflicted by raiding rebels during the war of the rebellion. The bill introduced by Mr. Gehr, of Franklin recites that claims amounting to $3,425,532 have been adjudicated by commissions appointed by the state and certificates issued for the same; that only $00,000 of these claims have been paid, and provides that the State shall issue certificates of loan bearing 5 per cent. interest and payable in 20 years with which to redeem the balance of old certificates remaining unpaid—the State then to become owners of claims against the United States. Dame Rumor has it that there is to be an alliance, offensive and defensive between the friends of the Border claim and the supporters of the Allegheny scheme; while in some quarters the former is regarded as merely an attempt to kill the Allegheny project by overdoing the claim business and showing what may be expected if an easy road to the money bags of the treasury is once opened up.

The Senate adjourned over from Wednesday of last week until this evening; consequently nothing has yet been accomplished at that end of the Capitol. The House, however, has been hard at work and a large number of bills have been introduced, about two-thirds of which are identically the same as those on the old calendar of last session. This is a precaution taken to insure their early consideration should the advocates of *de novo* legislation finally carry the point

The local optionists are on hand again thus early in the session and seem to be as sanguine and persistent as ever. Nearly every day numbers of petitions from all sections of the State praying for the re-enactment of the local option law are presented in the House, and two or three bills bearing on the subject have been introduced. The friends of this measure seem determined to make things lively at the Capitol this winter if persistent agitation can do it.

The Penn'a Railroad company has been rather tardy this session in furnishing members with free passes over their lines of road, and there has been quite a flutter and much indignation has been expressed in consequence. Threats of what would be done the next time a Penna. Railroad bill came up were savagely muttered and things begin to look serious when matters were smoothed over by the promise that the coveted documents would arrive at the close of the present week.

The Bland Silver bill and the repeal of the Resumption act do not seem to meet with much sympathy in the Penn'a legislature, judging by the fate of two resolutions upon these matters that were introduced into the House yesterday. One declaring that "the Bland silver bill now before the U. S. Senate ought to pass," and another declaring that "the Resumption act to be repealed and greenbacks received on imports were not allowed to come to a direct vote but were referred to the committee on Federal Relations. The principal functions of said committee appearing to be to smother obnoxious resolutions in regard to questions of National policy.

As soon as the order of business questions is settled look out for lively times on "the Hill. I will be there as usual. B.

Victor Immanuel, King of Italy, died at Rome on Wednesday morning, and is succeeded by his son, Prince Humbert. No 8 x 7 commission is there to count him out. After all, the Pope has outlived his ancient enemy.

Mothers, do not let your darlings suffer with the whooping cough, if you have a remedy so near at hand. Use Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, and the little sufferers will soon find relief. Price, 25 cents

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Turkey has called "enough," and the preliminaries of pace are being adjusted with the Russian generals.

Economy, good management and industry go hand in hand, and thrift is sure to follow. A certain and speedy cure of all coughs is sure to follow the use of Dr. Coxe' Wild Cherry and Seneka.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan 8, 1878.

Senators and Representatives are coming back rapidly, and probably there will be very few absentees at the opening of the two Houses on Thursday. If a solution with the people has given members a realizing sense of the need of early and continued attention to legislation on the business interests of the country, so that the non-feasance of the extra session will not be repeated, everybody will be glad. Among all things, as Democrats control the House, and in the absence of Sharon and Patterson, virtually control the Senate, they should see that no valuable time is wasted on quarrels among Republicans.

Let both Houses get at the silver, and anti-resumption bills, and pass or defeat them; vote on the Army and Navy bills making the amounts as small as possible, so that we may know how large an Army and Navy we are to be taxed for; transfer the care of the Indians to the War Department, so that we may not pay two prices for dealing with them one for civilizing and supporting them and the other for killing them; revise the list of taxed articles, both imported and domestic, so as to simplify and if possible, remove all taxes from articles of necessity; vote down all subsidies not actually necessary to the welfare of the country; pass a general amnesty bill, let them do these things, and such other acts of absolute necessity as appear, and adjourn by the 3rd, of March. It is of high importance that the finances should not be left in their present uncertain state; that peace should continue; that economy should be assured, that poverty should be relieved of all its unnecessary burdens, and that all these things should be done promptly. There is no excuse for a session lasting till July or August. Politicians may desire it, but the Democratic party can make friends everywhere by preventing it.

Senator Patterson, mentioned above as a probable absentee, will not be able for a long time to attend sessions of the Senate, even if resignation does not remove him altogether from that body. His condition is very precarious.

It is said that Kellogg, of Louisiana, is the richest man in the Senate. Ten years ago he was poor, and he has done no legitimate business since then.

Senator Conkling's Mexican Committee holds sessions occasionally, but is evidently watching for some "overt act" of the Administration against Mexico.

There is absolutely no politics here at this time.

Evidently the Woman's Convention of this year is to be made the most imposing of any so far held. The Riggs House, best of hotels, will be the head-quarters of the delegates, though most of them will stop with friends at various private houses. They will have everything, with the possible exception of a street parade, which is supposed to be a part of such an occasion. The largest hall is engaged, good speakers, male and female, will be on hand, the press will have full reports. Congress and its Committees will be visited, and evidently the old stagers—young, of course, in years, and old only in this reform movement, expect great results. May they be successful in all proper efforts to assist themselves and "the rest of mankind."

SEMINOLE.

It is now an acknowledged fact that CONSUMPTION IS CURED. It has been cured in a very great number of cases where other means had failed, and we believe we can safely say that it is the only medicine which will cure it. We have cured many of the worst cases that were given up by our friends to die, and many who were so low that they could not leave their beds or even be raised in their beds, are now enjoying good health, and we feel confident that we can recommend Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup to one and all in the confidence that it will do all that is claimed for it, when taken according to the directions. We will say that we have sold the medicine for many years, and have never had a bottle returned nor have we ever been asked to refund the money for a bottle that did not do all that was claimed for it. We also keep Dr. Schenck's Mandrake Pills and Seaweed Tonic, and we believe these three medicines combined, when taken according to the directions, will cure all curable cases of Consumption. We will be happy to see our friends who are in need of medicine, and will take pleasure in recommending the above medicines to all who are in need of them. We will say that we have sold Dr. Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup, Seaweed Tonic and Mandrake Pills for many years, and have never had any medicine to sell that gave more general satisfaction than these medicines. We will also say that we have sold the medicine in question in many cases where all else had failed, and it has never failed to cure the patient when taken according to the directions. We will also say that we have never had any medicine that we could recommend with the same confidence as we can these medicines, because we know them to be the best medicines for the diseases for which they are recommended that we have ever met with in our business. We will also say that we have never had any medicine that we could sell with the same confidence that we can these, because we know they will do what we say they will do, and we can't say more than the truth