

The Columbian.

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The Columbia Democrat,

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1898.

THE STATE TREASURY IN BAD CIRCUMSTANCES.

An Estimated Deficit of Four Millions of Dollars For the Fiscal Year.

"There certainly must be, if present legislation shall continue, a large reduction by the next legislature in the appropriations to the charitable and penal institutions of the commonwealth, or an increase of state taxation to meet past obligations and present demands. If not this, then a readjustment of the taxes. Either one or all, perhaps, combined in a more or less degree will have to be adopted."

These are the words of Auditor General Mylin, who is much disturbed over the financial condition of the state. General Mylin and State Treasurer Haywood have their hands full trying to devise means to raise sufficient revenue to meet the public expenses. The last legislature appropriated considerably more than the state revenues will cover and the fiscal officers have to practice the most rigid economy to make ends meet. General Mylin has very decided views on the subject of state taxation and he does not hesitate to express them.

"Under past legislation, for instance, the Brooks high license law, the retail liquor license was turned over to the local authorities," the auditor general added. "A careful estimate of the value of this tax made by the department shows that it will amount to \$3,500,000 annually. This estimate is based on the returns for 1896. Under the Boyer revenue act, which has been in force several years, the personal property tax of \$2,000,000 for 1896 goes to the local authorities. The appropriation to take care in part of the county insane under the act of 1883 and subsequent acts will reach \$700,000.

"The school appropriation was increased in 1892 from \$1,500,000 biennially to \$5,500,000 and has continued at this figure to the present time. This large increase of the school fund, the transfer of the retail license and the personal property tax from the state to meet the demands that properly belong to the county and local authorities and the increased expenditures by past legislatures have been the cause of the present financial difficulty of the commonwealth. In other words, the state has been bereft of the revenues which properly belong to it for the relief of the local authorities."

General Mylin predicts there will be a deficit of \$4,000,000 at the close of the present fiscal year, November 30, unless the state is enriched from unexpected sources. There is still \$3,000,000 due the public school districts and this will have to be paid before the first Monday of next June. Philadelphia has received \$600,000 of its share, which aggregates \$1,020,000. Pittsburg and a few other large districts have been paid their share of the appropriation, but many of the other districts have not received a cent.

Many of the country districts depend upon the money they receive from the state to conduct their school, and do not raise cash by local taxation. There is due Philadelphia personal property tax amounting to \$1,031,608.93, while Allegheny county is entitled to \$246,158.59. Several other counties have not yet received the personal property tax due them by the state.

The balance in the general fund of the state treasury at the close of business was a trifle over \$3,000,000. If State Treasurer Haywood were called upon to pay the money due the school districts and the personal property tax owing the counties there would not be a dollar left in the treasury for the state institutions. This is the condition that confronts the fiscal officers and proves that there must either be a sweeping reduction in the public expenses or an increase in state taxation.

There has collected during the past two years \$1,600,000 of delinquent taxes. The delinquent taxes due six and eight years have been nearly all collected, except in cases where the amounts are small. During 1897 over 1,000 cases were made up for collection. The large number of delinquencies running back so many years grew out of the fact that there was not in the office of the auditor general

a proper method of keeping track the of thousands of corporations with which the department has to deal.—Patriot.

THE BLANKET BALLOT.

Is it not time that the people protested against the cumbersome style we have of voting? It is not only cumbersome, but expensive and inconvenient. And so far as I can see, it has not one redeeming feature.

One of the advantages claimed for it, was that it enabled a man to vote secretly, as the ballots were all alike. Spies at the polling places could not tell by the shape or size of the ballot, or by the style of the paper which party the person was voting with. In a few instances this may be true, but I will venture the assertion, that a watchman at polls or a member of the election board could if so disposed in a majority of cases tell how each person voted.

For instance, a man takes his ballot and goes into the booth, he opens the ballot, and with two strokes of his pencil he makes a cross at the top of one of the columns, he refolds his ballot and comes out. He has voted and voted a straight ticket. It is generally known to which party a man owes fealty, hence it is known how the man voted.

Where a man votes a mixed ticket, it may not be possible to tell with certainty how the man voted, but from the length of time he spends in the booth, lookers on will feel assured, that he is voting a mixed ticket; and hence will be regarded with suspicion by those who think that everything that is "pure and love" and of good report," is wrapt up in their own party.

But there is another class of voters who insist on having some one to aid them in preparing their ballot.

They have the privilege of choosing their man. They choose a radical partisan, and it goes without saying, that he is going to vote to suit that man.

People are sometimes accused of selling their votes. In that case they will no doubt call the purchaser to their aid in preparing their ballot. There would then be no question as to whether he delivered the goods.

As the present style of voting is admittedly cumbersome, expensive and inconvenient, why should we longer tolerate it? Better go back to the old style of voting. A man could vote secretly, if he chose. Or if a man sold himself he could satisfy the purchaser, that he was living up to his contract. And all this could be done much cheaper than under the present style.

If some change is desirable, why not adopt the style followed in Massachusetts and perhaps in some other states? Furnish each voter with an envelope in which to place his ballot after crossing the name of such candidates as he did not wish to vote for. The names of all the candidates could be printed in one column, under the name of the office to be filled, leaving a blank space under each head for one or two names as the case may be, where the voter may write such name or names as he sees proper, not exceeding the number for which he is entitled to vote.

The envelopes should be all alike and the ballots all alike. And as it would require just as long to vote a straight ticket as a mixed one, absolute secrecy could be secured. Spies at the polling places would then be out of a job. I think all intelligent men will agree, that some change should be made in our style of voting.

There may be a variety of opinions, as to how that change should be made, but while we do not have money to burn or throw away, some plan less bungling and less expensive should be adopted.

A ballot more liable to misconstruction by plain people than the one now in use would be difficult to form. So a change is likely to be beneficial in more ways than one.

The aim should be in forming a ballot, to make it as intelligible as possible, giving no excuse for an intelligent man to call for aid in preparing his ballot.

With a plain ballot there would be no necessity of printing two or three ballots for each voter in the district, the most of them to be cast aside or burned up. In envelopes there need be no waste, as they will be all right for any subsequent election.

JAY EYE SEE.

Hon. W. T. Creasy, Complimented.

In its issue of January 27th the Reading Democrat, compliments Hon. W. T. Creasy of Catawissa. It says: "We are informed that Hon. William T. Creasy, of Columbia county, has consented to be a candidate for re-election to the legislature and we earnestly hope the Democrats of Columbia county will re-nominate him by acclamation. His legislative career deserves this tribute and no truer and abler representative sat in the last body than he. He is industrious, is well informed, knows the parliamentary rules and will represent Columbia county better and more effectively than any new man can.

He is a man of the people and true

to their best interest. He has become the leader of the Democrats on the floor of the House and his presence is needed in the next assembly. He is an able and fearless debater and it is to be hoped that the next assembly will contain a majority of such able and conscientious public servants. The Democrats of Columbia county can well be proud of him."

A New Law Relating to Forestry.

The last legislature passed the following act, which is important to many of our readers:

"That in consideration of the public benefit to be derived from the retention of forests or timber trees, the owner or owners of land in this commonwealth, having on it forest or timber trees of not less than fifty trees to the acre, and each of said trees to measure at least eight inches in diameter at a height of six feet above the surface of the ground, with no portion of the said land absolutely cleared of the said trees, shall on making due proof thereof, be entitled to receive annually from the commissioners of their respective counties during the period that the said trees are maintained in sound condition upon the said land, a sum equal to eighty per centum of all taxes assessed and paid upon the said land, or as much of the said eighty per centum as shall not exceed the sum of forty-five cents per acre; provided, however, that no one property owner shall be entitled to receive said sum more than fifty acres.

It would pay every township to have a farm, the improvement of which in various ways, as well as by extensive tillage, could be made to employ every professional vagrant. The term of service could be fixed, and the release of such persons could be on the rigid conditions that he should leave the township, or, refusing to take himself beyond the lines, to be rearrested and made to work double time. Such persons would comply with the conditions and seek a more favorable pasture. If every township had such a farm, the professional would find work wherever he might go, and the place that he once knew would know him no more. Pennsylvania would be free of the tramp nuisance in a few years were the tramps compelled to work their passage to some paradise of tramps beyond its borders. As for barn-burning—that need not deter the people from uniting to suppress the miscreants who indulge such revenges. We have only considered the professional because the moderate number who would be glad to work can be provided for without treating them as confirmed vagabonds. If nothing better can be done, put the professional at work breaking stones along the roads that need such improvement. Work, not whipping posts and pillories, is the real remedy for the tramp nuisance. Make laws to enforce work, if none exist, and the work will be well begun.

Troubles of Their Own.

The county commissioners of Dauphin county have created a breeze among the law officers of that place by refusing to pay a lot of bills for costs in criminal cases. The cases in which the commissioners refuse to pay costs were of such a trifling nature that the magistrate dismissed them, yet put in his bill and the constable did likewise. The commissioners have turned them down, hence the breeze. The magistrates and constables declare they will test the right of the commissioners to refuse to pay these costs or to make reductions in bills submitted.

President McKinley celebrated his 55th birthday on Saturday having been born at Niles, Ohio, on January 20, 1843. He is in remarkably good health, except that he has suffered slightly from the cold he caught in New York.

Catarrh Cured

Fullness in the Head and Ringing in the Ears

Better in Every Way Since Taking Hood's Sarsaparilla.

"For several years I had no cessation of the suffering caused by catarrh. I had a sense of fullness in the head and ringing in my ears. One of my nostrils was tightly closed so I could not breathe through it, and I could not clear my head. I tried several catarrh cures, but failed to get relief. Seeing accounts of cures by Hood's Sarsaparilla I determined to give it a fair trial. After taking a few bottles I was satisfied it had effected a cure, for the catarrh no longer troubled me a particle and I felt better in every way than for years. I am now able to do a hard day's work on the farm." ALFRED E. YINZ, Hoerstown, Pennsylvania.

Hood's Sarsaparilla
Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Sold by all druggists. \$1; six for \$5.

Hood's Pills easy to buy, easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

SEE THE

BIG REDUCTION

IN MERCHANT TAILORING,

FOR 10 DAYS.

\$16.00 SUITS NOW \$13.00,

Made to your measure at

TOWNSEND'S, MERCHANT TAILOR.

STATE NEWS.

—Assessed valuations have been raised over \$2,500,000 as compared with last year in Scranton.

—The Social Democracy of Reading has invited Eugene V. Debs to visit that city in February.

—A cavalry company has been formed at Hazleton and will be admitted to the National Guard.

Richard Simpson, Jr., crashed through a window and fell 20 feet, at Williamsport last week. He will die.

—General Secretary H. E. Dodge of the Pottsville Y. M. C. A. has resigned to accept a similar position at Warren, Pa.

—Railroads, mills and other large consumers of coal in Pittsburg, are stocking up heavily in anticipation of a miners' strike.

—Six Pittsburg men have fitted out an expedition at a cost of \$10,000 to find \$40,000,000 of gold, said to have been lost in the Pacific from Peru and Chili sixty years ago.

—Snyder County has a jail without a single inmate and has \$1,400 surplus in its treasury. It is said 100,000 cobb webs grow on the district attorney's desk.

—Judge Ermentrout of Berks County, has refused an injunction to restrain the Borough of Boyertown from voting on a proposition to borrow \$35,000 for a water supply.

Aaron Yings, conducting a book store in Reading the past two months committed suicide on Saturday by shooting himself in the mouth. He was found sitting in an upright position on a rocking chair, his right hand clasping a revolver.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

In India the natives, when a bicycle comes along, fall down and mention the name of the Deity.

A lady in Hiram, Me., has cucumber pickles which have been in her possession for more than forty years.

Whistling is practically unknown among the Icelanders who regard it an irreligious, and a violation of the divine law.

The first forger of a Bank of England note was Richard William Vaughan, a linen draper of Stafford, hanged in 1758.

Miss Florence Hudson, of Baltimore, Md., has a tooth of solid gold, with a diamond in the centre of it. The ornament cost her over \$150.

The long tails of the Shah of Persia's horses are dyed crimson for six inches at the tips—a jealously guarded privilege of the ruler and his sons.

If Chinese children do not obey their parents, and the latter whip them to death, the law has no punishment for them, as obedience to parents is the cardinal virtue.

W. T. Woodward, the Kentucky horse breeder, is going about telling his friends that he has been cured of rheumatism by carrying old electric light carbons.

Among the many devices to assist the blind one of the best is a typewriter in which the keys have raised letters and which punctuates the paper with either letters or the dots contained in one of the blind alphabets.

Experiments testing the comparative values of salt and fresh water in street-sprinkling are being made in San Francisco. It is said that salt water does not dry so quickly as fresh, and that it binds the dirt together, so that there is less dust.

The people of Sharpsburg, Ky., engage in diverting contests on Saturday evenings. Forty men are each supplied with a dozen eggs, and range themselves in two parties, twenty on each side. They then begin throwing the eggs at their opponents, and at its close they look like omelets from head to foot.

The largest lobster that has been seen in New Haven, Conn., in years was on exhibition at the Tontine hotel. The big shellfish weighed twenty-eight pounds, and was very old. It reposed in a dish on the office counter, and was kept cool by pieces of ice. The lobster was alive, and lazily moved its great claws.

A Virginian has invented a tree protector which kills insects and worms which try to crawl up the trunk and eat the leaves, the new device consisting of a pliable receptacle to surround the tree and hold the insect killing liquid, with a felt pad at the bottom to prevent insects from crawling up between the trees and the protector.

We make you some

SPECIAL OFFERS

— FOR THE —

First 10 days in February.

Domestics.

One case of Cocheco Madder Prints, the best we can buy, at 44c per yard.

One case of light Calico, all new patterns for Spring, the best make we can buy, at 4c yd.

One case American Indigo Blue Prints, all good patterns, 5c per yard.

One bale of unbleached muslin, as good quality as Appleton A, in lengths from 2 yds. to 10, at 4c per yard.

One bale of best fine Muslin; make, Cameron D. A muslin that bleaches easily and washes soft, 10 yards for 50c.

25 pieces of Sea Island Percale, 36 in. wide, best percale made, good patterns, worth 12½ cts., go in this sale at 10c.

9-4 fine unbleached Sheeting, 12½c yd.

Ginghams.

We show a nice lot of dark ginghams in good patterns, both in stripes, plaids and mixed effects, regular 10c goods. We will sell them for a few days at 8c per yard.

Bate's Seersucker, 10c.

Gloves.

We offer special for 10 days 25 doz. all wool cashmere gloves in black, worth 25c per pair.

Go for 15c, or 2 pair for 25c.

Hose.

50 doz. Heavy Ribbed Hose, one of the best makes in the market, good for misses and boys. We have never offered them for less than 15c per pair. The lot we will sell at 11c a pr.

F. P. PURSEL,

46 East Main Street.

CORSER'S
NEW SHOE STORE.BLOOMSBURG,
PENNA.

THIS COLD SNAP

You want to keep your feet warm and dry. We have just the thing —

Men's Felt Boots and Overs,	\$2.00.
" Gum Boots,	2.00.
" Beaver Shoes, lined with felt,	2.00.
" " Boots, " " "	2.00.
Women's Beaver Shoes,	69c to \$1.25.

Our prices on leather footwear are cheaper than others. Come and see.

CORSER'S

46 E. Main St.

Schuyler's old hardware stand,

BLOOMSBURG.

WIDOW'S APPRAISEMENTS.

The following Widow's Appraisements will be presented to the Orphans' Court of Columbia County Feb. 7th, 1898 and confirmed nisi, and unless exceptions are filed within four days will be confirmed finally.

John Neyhard, Personality \$200.00.
Henry Rote, Personality \$200.00.
Richard Edwards, Personality \$102.60 Realty \$197.40.
Mathias Heller, Personality \$300.00.
Jacob H. Creasy, Personality \$300.00.
Parson Edwards, Personality \$-9.00.
Est. of William Frazier, late of Cleveland twp. deceased, Personality \$50.00.
Est. of Daniel Fritz, late of Sugarloaf twp. deceased, Personality \$300.00.
Est. of Samuel Fisher, late of Montour twp. Realty \$800.00.

W. H. HENRIE, Clk. Orphans' Court.

SUBSCRIBE FOR

THE COLUMBIAN

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the following accounts have been filed in the Common Pleas of Columbia County, and will be presented to the said Court on the first Monday of February, A. D. 1898, and confirmed nisi, and unless exceptions are filed within four days thereafter, will be confirmed absolute.

1. The first and final account of Elias Krebs, committee of Lavinia DeWitt.

W. H. HENRIE, Prothy.

BloomSBurg, Pa., Jan. 6, 1898.

NOTICE.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

I, the undersigned, have purchased as co-tenant's sale the personal property of A. J. Ale, in Fishers Creek township, Columbia county, including all household goods in the house of said A. J. Ale, and have loaned the same to A. J. Ale during my pleasure for his use. All persons are hereby notified not to interfere with, or in way molest the same.

W. H. HENRIE,
Forkes P. O.