THE REPUBLICAN.

CLEARFIELD, PA.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 17, 1873.

Tax Ridden South Carolina.

The message sent by Governor Moses to the Legislature of South Carolina shows in what a terrible financial plight that State is. With a population of only 705,606, there is a State debt of over $20,000,000, or nearly thirty dollars for each inhabitant.—This is about half as much pro rata as the national debt of the United States, but is far more burdensome upon the State than the national debt is, for the reason that the money to meet the charges upon it is raised entirely by direct taxation. The people of the State are now taxed so heavily that it is almost a misfortune to hold property, yet the Governor suggests that they be still more heavily taxed in order that the debt may be refunded and the finances put into something like a sound condition. In 1870, according to the United States census, South Carolina had a State debt amounting to $7,665,990, and though only three years have elapsed since then the indebtedness has nearly trebled, the funded debt alone being twice as large as the total debt in 1870. Such a showing as this can only be attributed to most wretched mismanagement, but nothing better could be expected in a State where the Legislature is composed very largely of men who can neither read or write, and where it has been explicitly charged that merchandize is made of all the offices—from United States Senator down—over which it has control.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC SMASH.—The New York *Sun* pertinently remarks: The disastrous collapse of the Cookes has not only brought great suffering to thousands of families throughout the various States, but it has effectually blighted the prospects of numerous aspiring towns in the Territories. Only a few months ago the papers were filled with glowing accounts of the brilliant future awaiting the prospective city of Bismarck, the point where the Northern Pacific road strikes the Upper Missouri river, and where it was believed a commercial town of great importance would be speedily developed. A gentleman directly from that place recently informed the Sioux City *Journal* that business has almost entirely ceased there; that the only thing making any show of life at the time of his departure was the building of some cavalry quarters for United States troops. On the same authority it is said that the railroad company were preparing to abandon the Western division of the road from Fort Seward to Bismarck, a distance of one hundred miles, and were straining every nerve to get away with the doors and windows of the station houses before a snow storm should come and cork the whole thing up. The *Journal* says: "Only three trains a week are now run into Bismarck, and a good mule team would be ample accommodation for the amount of travel over the line. Our informant was the only paying passenger on the train he left Bismarck by. The other passengers were dead broke gamblers beating their way back to civilization."

STILL MORE BLOWING.—Secretary Richardson says the Treasury department is "well prepared for war." We are pleased to learn that it is prepared for something, for we have evidence that it is not being run on a peace footing. A few weeks ago the Secretary made a great blow about specie payments, which he intended to inaugurate across the elegant marble counters of the Department. A few thousand dollars were paid out, when the movement collapsed, and we hear no more of it. It evidently was not prepared for peace. Now, if we have war with Spain, and land armies in Cuba, we must be prepared to pay our troops in gold and silver, because the Spaniards would not receive our paper money for articles bought by the soldiers. If the Treasury Department is ready for this it is then well prepared for war, but not otherwise. Will the Secretary think of this?

SOME DIFFERENCE.—The Philadelphia *Bulletin* thinks that the Governor of Delaware has become as much of a nepotist as Grant, because he has appointed his brother-in-law, Willard Saulsbury, Chancellor of the State.—The appointment is certainly a suspicious one, on account of the relationship between the parties, but it should be remembered that while Willard Saulsbury has long been known as an able lawyer, and has been elected by the people to high office, the relatives on whom Grant has showered favors and the emoluments of the Treasury were never heard of before outside of the family, and even among their immediate friends were never suspected of being fitted to hold the most inferior position of public trust.

A FORTUNE WASTED.—The great fortune of $3,000,000 left twenty-three years ago to the cities of New Orleans and Baltimore by John McDonough, who died in the former city, has been so wasted in a lawsuit brought by McDonough's heirs, on account of a flaw in the will, to recover the amount, that not more than $25,000 of the whole is said to remain. The rest has gone to the lawyers. McDonough's purpose in making the bequest was that the money should be devoted to the maintenance of free white and black schools in the cities named.

Eleven hundred persons own 15,000,000 acres of land in the State of California. That is an average of nearly 13,000 acres for each person.—This area is nearly three-quarters as much as the whole land under cultivation in the great State of Ohio. In Ohio the average size of the farms is 111 acres.

Pittsburgh is mourning over the loss of $500,000 lent by the water commission to a private banking company that has collapsed in the panic. Under the new Constitution there will be no more of these commissions to rob the taxpayers of the cities of this Commonwealth.

In Richmond, Va., a firm of colored persons manufacture sassafras oil on a large scale, Forty thousand pounds of the root are used every week, producing eight thousand pounds of rectifying oil. It is used for scenting toilet soaps, flavoring tobacco, and the like.

A lazy editor in Ohio reads all his exchanges in bed. He finds it the easiest way to fill up his sheet.