

THE GOVERNORIAL SITUATION.

The Republican party in this State is in the worst situation. It has occupied since the elder Cameron first took the reins into his firm and skillful hands. Times have changed, and the people are sick and tired of the caprices and machinations of a dynasty which has brought nothing but trouble, confusion and debt upon the Commonwealth. The younger Cameron who succeeded to the political estate of his father, has committed many errors and the Ring has been badly shaken as a consequence. It was at his dictation that Blaine was defeated at Cincinnati, and but for his hot-headed impetuosity, the desperate battle for Grant would not have been made at Chicago and the bitter strife in his party have been made fiercer. The followers of the Blaine-Sherman branch of the Republican organization have not forgotten a great many things of this character and they merely await a good opportunity to show the Senator from this State, who has presumed to control them like a lot of cattle, the kind of mettle they are made of and the way they can unseat the political plans of a man who seems to be happy only when adding insult to injury.

Discontent and dissatisfaction are manifest everywhere. So much so, that the most enlightened and magnanimous policy on the part of the machine leaders would hardly unite the party for the coming campaign. Cameron is doing exceedingly well at Washington. He gets all he asks for from the Administration and flatters himself that he is perfectly secure so long as he can deal out national offices at his pleasure. But he forgets that while he keeps his trusty lieutenants well provided for, there is a still greater number of men who have never profited one cent from his long lease of power. They are naturally unhappy and only too eager to do something to better their condition or at least to show the Autocrat that they are not to be despised. The Ring seems not to have profited by Wolfe's large independent vote last Fall, which was achieved without organization and almost without leadership, and insist upon nominating either Beaver or Butler (and one is as bad as the other) for Governor. This determination of the Cameron bosses only serves to add fuel to the flame of dissatisfaction and strengthens the Independents who will nominate and fiercely support a ticket of their own in case of the nomination of either of these men.

This division in the ranks of the Republican party presents a magnificent opportunity to the Democracy. They can elect their candidate and inaugurate radical changes for the better at the State capital, after twenty years of misrule and corruption, if they shall now make a ticket of the right kind of material. Everything at present seems to indicate the selection of the Hon. James H. Hopkins, of Pittsburg, for Governor. There may be some opposition to him, but this may be overcome by friendly arguments, and he could be made the unanimous choice of the convention. We are glad to note the earnest desire everywhere to suppress contention and make a long pull and a strong pull together with a candidate in every way desirable. There are no faction fights in the Democratic party and its candidate will receive the entire and cordial support of every voter of the Democratic faith.

BONDING TOWNS.

Certain portions of the State of New York have been oppressed by onerous taxes levied to meet the principal and interest on town bonds issued to aid railroad enterprises. At the outset these bonds were approved of by the property owners, who vainly thought that the railway schemes they furthered would benefit the localities through which the roads would run, and that private property would be enhanced in value to a remarkable extent. Some of these railroads were completed, and some were fairly successful, while more enterprises of the same sort died suddenly after the money raised on town bonds had been exhausted. The preponderance of failures was naturally a damper on the ardor of many who at the outset were red-hot advocates of loaning the public credit for corporate benefit. Some towns resorted to the courts to evade payment, and while many were successful in evading the payment of their obligations, other sections were not so fortunate in discovering technicalities by which they could crept out of the difficulties into which they had been led by their soft-witted enthusiasm on the subject of great iron highways over which the steam-horse should thunder, driving the products of their little acres to a ready, remunerative market. It was all rose colored and golden tinted, while the bonds were being issued and confounding capitalists were advancing money on them, but there was an awful howl of rage when these towns were asked to pay up. Like the unsophisticated old Dutchman, when he gave his note to pay a debt, these towns seem to have exclaimed when they issued the bonds, "Now, thank God, that is paid!"

It remained for one county in New York (Steuben) to violently resist payment after the courts had declared against it; so violent was the behavior of the tax-payers of one town in that county, that the Governor of the State has been compelled to proclaim that county in a state of insurrection. Of course the tax-payers will eventually have to acquiesce in the decree of the court and settle up, and they would have saved themselves much trouble and expense, and about better sense had they made the best of a bad bargain at the outset.

Bonding towns to aid speculative railroad men, steamboat men, or any private enterprisers of the sort, is wrong in principle and oppressive in effect. It has already been carried so far, and the lesson which it has taught us the past should be heeded to the future.

—There is a loud cry from Montana, Dakota, Idaho and Washington Territories for girls. The hardy frontiersmen want wives. Some "genuine, sounding creature," as the late Artemus Ward used to put it, "to get up in the morning and build the fire. There are seventeen men and boys in these territories to each woman. Think of that, ye spinster of the West!

LEGISLATORS TO GET THEIR \$500. The legislative salary question raised by the Hon. Charles S. Wolfe was Monday decided by the Supreme Court in favor of the legislators, who will now receive the extra five hundred dollars. The question before the Court was in relation to the construction to be placed upon the word salary, which occurs in section eight of the Constitution: "The members of the General Assembly shall receive such salary and mileage for regular and special sessions as shall be fixed by law, and no other compensation whatever for service upon committees or otherwise."

Justice Sharwood delivered the opinion of the Court, revering that of Judge Pearson, of the Dauphin Court. He says: "To justify a Court in pronouncing an act of the Legislature unconstitutional and void, either in whole or in part, it must be able to voice some expression or prohibition clearly expressed or necessarily implied. The doubt is to be resolved in favor of the constitutionality of the act. This rule of construction is so well settled by the authority that is unnecessary to cite cases. Where the contention is as to the meaning, technically or otherwise, will sustain the exercise of the power, it is sufficient. On the other hand, if the strict and legal meaning would have the effect to limit or destroy, while some proper acceptance of the word would support the act, it must be resorted to." He then goes on to show that both words, salary and wages, mean necessarily the same, and the Constitution did not mean to prohibit a per diem allowance when the word salary was used.

POSTMASTER-GEN. HOWE'S ORDER.

Timothy O. Howe is the Postmaster-General, and he seems to have an extraordinary conception of his duties in that position. At least one of his earliest official acts would seem to indicate that he has. Having been applied to for aid by a military society which contemplates the erection of a monument, the new Postmaster-General notifies all of his subordinates throughout the country to contribute contributions of money for this purpose. He had not supposed that what postmasters are paid for. It is the popular belief—it seems to be a popular fallacy according to Mr. Howe—that their time and energies are to be devoted to receiving, distributing and sending on the mails, and not to collecting funds for private enterprise. The very proposition calls up visions of a rare gathering of men and women of letters at the National Capital every season, which would offset and supplement the heterogeneous political and official circles by a brilliancy and profundity that would some day make Washington the Mecca of scientists, literateurs, artists and savants, as well as of the mere pleasure-seeker and office-hunter.

I met one of the leading Senators, an intimate friend of the Ex-Secretary, today in reply to my questions as to the outcome of the Blaine controversy, said: "I do not see what harm could have come from the Peace Congress, and Mr. Blaine thought that it might result happily. He understood that President Garfield and President Arthur were both in favor of it. He has no desire to engage in a controversy with the Administration, but he thought he could not remain silent in view of what had been done. He considered that he did not throw the first stone, but only retorted when a course was adopted which reflected upon an official act of his own. He regarded the situation in South America as opening a grand chance for the United States. When times are good, as now, no one cares what is going on anywhere else. The people do not seem to be interested in the fate of Peru or the course of Chile. Soon a change may come, and then everyone will say, why did we not do this thing or that?" Mr. Blaine thought it was wise statesmanship to prepare, when the opportunity offered, for the commercial advantages for which the people will be clamoring at no distant day, probably. The ex-Secretary will not issue any more statements or letters if he is not attacked and put in a position where he shall deem it proper to defend his course while at the head of the Department of State. About the most expensive task of the Government ever bought is Sydney P. Luther's pair of white faced steers, concerning which a bill has recently passed both Houses of Congress. A similar bill was passed by the House in the Forty-sixth Congress, but the Senate did not act upon it. In the Forty-sixth, Congress the bill was passed by the Senate, but the House did not act upon it. Now, both Houses have passed it, and it will doubtless receive the autographic approval of the President. In August, 1870, this pair of steers, now historic, was purchased by Mr. Luther in Canada, and duties having been paid on them at Canaan, they were driven into the State of New Hampshire. There they were seized by an Inspector of Customs upon suspicion that they were smuggled or under-valued, and Luther had to pay \$35 to obtain possession of his white faced animals. Luther, however, proved that the importation was a lawful one, and the District Attorney decides that no cause for forfeiture existed, whereupon Luther demanded his \$35. The Secretary of the Treasury declined to refund and referred Luther to Congress, where he has finally triumphed, but the white faced steers have occupied valuable time which might have been devoted to some question of National importance, and have cost the country over one thousand dollars.

The members composing the Committee on Ways & Means will be the subjects of obituary notices and the recipient of a large amount of posthumous taunt if the tariff question is not shortly settled. On meeting days the atmosphere of the room occupied by the Committee is decidedly equinoctial, and the angry turbulence of Chesapeake's billowing down an August gale is as naught when compared to the storm of contention which sweeps over the southern end of the Capital on the days allotted to Greco-Roman wrestling matches are the order of the day. A High Protectionist will grab a Free Trader; a Free Trader will clutch a High Protectionist, and until peace is restored by physical exhaustion the air is figuratively speaking, full of soaring statements. Mr. McKinley looks as faded as a last year's sunflower, and Mr. Tucker said him if he was ready to file his bill of exceptions yet. "I am studying timables now," replied Mr. Scoville, holding up a rail-road time-table he held in his hand. "I expect to go away to-morrow evening. I cannot finish the bill of exceptions until Mr. Porter finishes the revision of his speech." The record cannot be printed till that is done.

—Our legislators at Washington are busy trying to create new Cabinet positions. A bill making the Agricultural Bureau an executive department was reported to the House last week, and a bill was also introduced for a department of Manufactures, Mechanics and Mines. There is also a scheme on foot for a department of Commerce. Any plan for multiplying offices will command support any time from a certain class of Congressmen.

For the CARBON ADVOCATE.
SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

References to the microbes—or microscopic organisms of fermentation and disease—have become so frequent that this classification of their varieties by Mr. W. Hamlet may be of interest: 1. Microbes which appear as points are called monads, momera or microcosms. They are motionless, and may be regarded as the spores of other microbes. 2. Motile linear microbes—the bacterians and the bacilli. To them belongs Bacillus anthracis, which produces the dread-some spleen fever of cattle and sheep. 3. Cylindrical mobile microbes, having rounded ends or contracted in the middle so as to form an 8. These are the bacteria proper. Among them is Bacterium termitum of putrefaction, the commonest of all. 4. Flexions mobile microbes. They look and act like cilia, and differ but little from the equally active bacteria. They are the vibrios. 5. Spiral microbes, resembling a corkscrew, and mobile; Spirilla spirachetae. Their presence in human blood appears to be connected with intermittent fever. 5. Microbes with heads very active, having globules larger and more refractive than the rest of the body at one or both ends. These globules are apparently spores ready to be detached from a bacterium—Bacterium capitatum. Besides these six principal states, the microbes form agglomérations in which their appearance is somewhat changed, these masses receiving distinctive names. There seems to be no way

at present of distinguishing between a disease-producing bacterium and a harmless one by sight.

It has lately been proven, experimentally, that salomel may be dissolved in the human system with the formation of corrosive sublimate—a powerful poison. Observations by Mons. Lalaunie, of Toulouse, show that something very like tuberculosis is produced in the lungs of dogs by a nematoid worm.

Recent borings indicate the existence of workable coal-seams underneath London, England.

In view of the ravages of the physloxers, which have so seriously interfered with vine-growing, a French agriculturist has sought to discover a substitute for the vine, and is said to have obtained very good results with a variety of red beet. This beet yields a wine which is said to be equal to many of southern growth, and the plant has the advantage of being adapted to all soils and climates.

(From our SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1882.

The old question of the relative dignity of the two Houses of Congress has lately been revived by the introduction of a resolution looking towards an equalization of the salaries of employees of the House and Senate. A similar attempt was made in the Forty-fifth Congress.

In the House, a bill was passed granting a pension of \$5,000 a year to Mrs. Lucretia R. Garfield, widow of the late President Garfield. An apportionment bill was passed, fixing a number of Representatives in the lower house of Congress at 325, an increase of 32 over the present representation.

CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

In the Senate, Thursday, 16th, the Anti-Polygamy bill, after a long debate, was passed by a "viva voce" vote, in which no negative responses were heard. The Pension Arrears resolution was then taken up and laid over as unfinished business. After the introduction of several bills among them by Mr. Harris, established Circuit of Appeals in each of the Judicial Circuits of the United States, the Senate adjourned.

In the House, a bill was reported and passed granting a pension of \$5,000 a year to the widow of President Garfield. Various bills were reported from committees, among them one for the admission of Dakota as a State. The consideration of the Apportionment Bill was resumed, the previous question was seconded, and an amendment offered by Mr. Pendleton, at 325, was adopted—162 to 104. On a motion to reconsider an amendment offered by Mr. Cole, of Indiana, which had been rejected, no quorum voted, and the House adjourned.

In the Senate Friday Mr. Bayard reported the bill to ascertain and settle private land claims in certain States and Territories. Mr. Platt introduced a bill to regulate the payment of pensions, which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations. An executive session was taken up and laid over as unfinished business, and the Senate adjourned Monday.

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In the Senate, a bill was reported and passed finally, the number of Representatives being fixed at 325. The private calendar was considered and an executive session was held.

The Senate was not in session on Saturday.

In the House, the Speaker presented a resolution from the Legislature of Utah protesting against the passage of the Anti-Polygamy bill. Bills were reported, to promote the efficiency of the life-saving service, and for the judicial ascertainment of facts in private claims. The latter was ordered to be printed and recommended to the Senate. The bill went into Committee of the Whole on the Immediate Deficiency bill, appropriating \$1,222,883. Discussion arose on the public printing and silver coinage questions. Extravagance was charged in the matter of printing by Mr. Cox, who said that bill was to be printed in gold, and that the printing was to be done by the Government. The bill was referred to the Committee on Printing for publishing of documents with which the Government has nothing to do." In debate on the silver question, Mr. Hewitt, of New York, declared that standard silver coins "are cheap and are demanded by the public in its worst and most objectionable sense." Mr. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, spoke in favor of "representative money"—such as silver certificates—as being "convenient to commerce," and Messrs. Stephens, of Georgia, and Marsh defended the standard dollar.

The managers of that annual swindle, the River and Harbor bill, are putting their heads together and preparing to "catch on" to an unusually large slice this year, beginning when they left off last year. It is now said that the bill for making damp spots navigable rivers has its kink laid, so to speak, with a gross amount of nine millions for a basis. This does not include the Mississippi River improvement—which is a big thing by itself—and is pretty fair to start with. Last year the bill as originally reported to the House appropriated \$10,189,800, including \$1,000,000 for the Mississippi River improvement. It is expected that the total appropriation, this year will be somewhere between \$11,000,000 and \$12,000,000. Last year the original amount was built upon to such an extent that it finally reached the sum of \$11,250,000, the Senate having voted with the House in extravagance and recklessness. If these imaginative Congressmen are now beginning operations with a proposition to appropriate eleven or twelve millions for alleged improvements of rivers and harbors, it is clear that the lavish expenditure of the last Congress will be outdone.

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In the Senate Tuesday the House Appropriation bill was passed, after a brief debate, by a "viva voce" vote. The Pension Arrears resolution was considered, and finally, on motion of Mr. Hawley, laid on the table and printed, looking to a Congress of the American Governments in Washington to settle the difficulties between Chile and Peru. The bill to place General Grant on the retired list was rejected. An evening session was held on the bill, and it was rejected, and then adjourned. Mr. Fair introduced a bill authorizing the issue of silver certificates of certain denominations. After an executive session, the Senate adjourned.

In the House, Mr. Hewitt, rising to a question of privilege, declared, for himself and Mr. August Belmont, that they were misrepresented in the use of their names by Jacob R. Shepherd. A number of bills and resolutions were introduced under the call of States. The bill to promote the efficient use of Life Savers, and the Japanese Infantry Fund bill were both passed under a suspension of the rules. The bill to limit Chinese immigration was made the special order for the 2d of March and thereafter until disposed of, subject only to application for extension. An evening session was held on the bill, and it was adjourned until Thursday.

In the House, Mr. Kasson gave notice that he would ask the House to consider the Tariff Commission bill. The Post-office Appropriation bill was considered, pending which the House adjourned until Thursday.

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