

The Daily Intelligencer.

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License to Sell Liquor.

An important issue has been framed in Philadelphia for the testing of the high license act. Wallace C. Raudenbush, who for five years past had been a retail liquor dealer, was an applicant for license under the new law.

There could not be a better case to test the question whether the judges have absolute discretion for refusing liquor licenses. In the opinion of this journal the act of May 13, 1887, was intended to be a regulation of the liquor business, not prohibition thereof.

It is true that in the power to grant licenses delegated to the court of quarter sessions, the expression occurs "may be granted," but it is a well known principle of law that "may" means "must" when third persons or the public have an interest in having the act done which is authorized by such permissive language.

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by other states. There is no good reason in these days why a railroad servant should not have the same protection as a railroad passenger; and when they get it, the railroad superintendents will be more careful of the life and limb of their employees.

But the busiest court nowadays over constitutional questions is the Dauphin court of our state, which is wrestling with tax questions. Judge McPherson the other day knocked the state out of a handsome sum by the claim that it could not collect a tax on the carriage of goods over our border; and to-day Judge Simonton comes along with a decision declaring that the tax on corporation mortgages is unconstitutional, because mortgages of foreign corporations in the hands of state residents are taxed upon their assessed value, whereas those of domestic corporations are taxed at their par value, while they may be worth double or half that sum.

The same constitution would require judgments, notes and other evidences of indebtedness to be taxed equally with mortgages. The question seems to be whether money at interest must be equally taxed upon its assessed value, in whatever shape it is secured; whether a mortgage given by a domestic corporation must be taxed the same as one given by a foreign corporation or by an individual.

Fifty years ago steam navigation between Europe and America began. Then fifteen days was good time. Now we cross in six and one-fourth days.

SECRETARY WHITNEY has written a long letter to the naval committee of the House heartily supporting the plan for the establishment of a naval reserve as a measure of economy. This system will train the men engaged in our large coast trade so that they will be immediately available in case of war.

THE COMMISSIONER for March contains an exceedingly interesting sketch of the Prussian and German English painters, from the pen of Edward Red. The illustrated studies are of rare beauty even to this artist's journal.

THE whole world is distressed by the reports of the physical condition of the emperor of Germany, and with admiration for the courage with which he discharges his duties and bears his pain. But how is it that it so often happens with great patients that the physicians are better able to satisfy the public desire for certain knowledge of their condition and their fate than the emperor himself?

THE losses by fire in the United States during last year were nearly \$120,000,000, an increase of over 13 per cent. as compared with the previous year.

FRIDAY will be Arbor Day. Get ready to plant trees.

GENERAL H. S. SANFORD, who has been very active in matters connected with the Congo free state and claims credit for securing its recognition from our government, cannot restrain his impatience over the refusal of our government to ratify the neutrality treaty.

philosophy of Berlin, of his conviction that Stanley is now with Emin Pasha, and that it is not the opinion of all leading German explorers. In the absence of Stanley's opinion it is the most reasonable, probably, within reasonable limits.

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