## SPEECH OF HON. C. T. ALEXANDER.

The first bill in order was Senate bill No. 49, entitled An act to secure to operatives and laborers engaged in and about coal mines and manufactories of iron and steel, the payment of their wages at regular intervals and in lawful money of the United States.

The PRESIDENT. The question is on the final passage of the bill.

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Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, the
two great moving forces that have made
this country all that it is are capital and
labor. Under our beneficent form of free government these two forces have been working together for the general improvement and development improvement and development of the wonderful natural resources with which nature has so bountifully endowed this great country. For many years they worked harmoniously together, side by side, and shoulder to shoulder, accomplishing results that have astonished the world in the development of the capabilities of our people. One portion of our people have, by tact and good management, accumulated property, of our people have, by tact and good management, accumulated property, which we are taught to call capital. Another portion of our people, less fortunate, have struggled, and are still struggling, to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow, which we are taught to call labor. Each and every man, originally, is supposed to have started in life with the same endowment of nature, to wit, the right to earn his bread by labor, which was his original

In the organization of our govern ment our forefathers, recognizing the right of all men to a fair start in the race of life, declared that all men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to se-cure these rights governments are in-stituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the govern-ed. So far, therefore, as the fundamental law of the land is concerned, the whole law of the land is concerned, the whole law of the land is concerned, the whole people have had a fair chance in the race for that fortune which so many erroneously conceive to be the acme of happiness. Many have lagged behind in this race. Some have far outstripped their fellows. We still find them struggling along all the way from the starting point to the end of the journey. Some are clothed in rags, others in purple and fine linen. Some live, as it were, upon husks, others upon milk and honey. Some toil from the rising of the sun still the scing down thereof and gain some toll from the rising of the sun until the going down thereof, and gain but a poor subsistence; others toil not, and yet live in luxury, with all the good things of the world at their command. This order of things is so established, in the economy of the world, by the fiat of the Almighty, and no human power can change it. All men cannot be rich. All men cannot be equally powerful; and if, by legislation, it were possible to make an equal division of accumulated wealth among all our people, the equality could not be maintained for a daysome will be frugal—some will be thrift-less. Those who are frugal will accum-

common desire of all men is live in ease with all the comforts of life at their command. Human nature is never satisfied, and the comforts of life are insufficient to satisfy our longing, craving nature. We must have more, and on we go, struggling for more and more, never satisfied until death—the inevitable lot of all men—commands a halt, and then what good? What worth the efforts—the struggles of mind and body—sleepless nights and toil by day— what the value of accumulated wealth? An undertaker's wagon, a coffin, mourn-An undertaker's wagon, a coffin, mourning friends, a concourse of people, a hole in the ground, and you are buried from sight at once, and in a few days from memory; and the world goes on without you just as well as though you had never existed. Why then the struggle of life for wealth? Nature wills it so and we cannot help it; this state of things has ever been so, and so it will

ulate wealth; those who are thriftless

All men are engaged in the same struggle of life—each one striving for more, and in the eagerness with which they pursue the phantom wealth they often elbow and gouge and trip up each other. They jockey each other on the track. Their neighbors say they cheat. ome people say they are dishonest, hose who fall behind and are beaten in the race say that the race was unfair, and the second best claims the stakes. Will it ever be otherwise? Can legislation prevent it? I claim to understand ing man, and can sympathize with in his struggles of life, and I will do for him all I can to help him on in als jour-ney. If there is any load upon his shoulders that he ought not to bear, I will lift it off if I can. Can I do it by voting for this bill as it stands, without my amendment? Capital and labor are my amendment? Capital and labor are not in conflict with each other, as is so frequently alleged by the politician and the demagogue—capital is essential to labor, and labor is essential to capital. The one cannot get along without the other. Why, because labor is capital and capital is the fruit of labor. Labor is the tree, capital is the ripened fruit. The fruit cannot exist without the stalk and the stalk in the nature of stalk, and the stalk, in the nature of things, must produce the fruit (unless it be a barren stalk of which it is said, shall be cut down and cast into the soil or digs the treasures of nature from the bowels of the earth, or who by long training, learns to direct his hands in manipulation of nature's treasures and brings them out from the crudeness of nature into articles of use, supplying the comforts and necessities of man,

ing still; our coal operators complain that they can make no profits; the la-boring men who work in these several branches of industry complain that they are insufficiently paid—both sides are telling the truth—neither capital or labor are receiving the returns they did during what we call "flush times." What shall we do? If labor demands What shall we do? If labor demands more of capital, and capital grants it, then capital will suffer. If capital demands that the price of labor shall be less, then labor will suffer. If labor demands so much of capital that it cannot stand it, then capital will shut itself up and refuse to employ labor—then what? Capital cannot be compelled to employ labor and labor can have nother employ labor, and labor can have nothing to do without capital. Thus we see that one is dependent upon the other, and both must live and thrive together, or both must suffer. It is said by some that capital oppresses labor, and that labor must be protected by law. Others say that labor oppresses

tal and demands of it more than it can pay. That both allegations are some times true, I have no doubt. Capital ists invest their money in industrial pursuits expecting to make a profit on their investment. They do not invest it in business simply for the sake of giv-ing employment to labor—they expect a return in the shape of profit in their investment—for their labor and the risk of their capital-whose capital is his muscles and training in his art, expects a profit and a return for it-its value depending upon its being well directed by an intelligent understand-ing, the more skilled labor commanding the higher price. That the capitalist often takes advantage of the laborer is doubtless true—that the laborers sometimes takes advantage of their employ-ers is equally true. Is it possible by legislation to prevent either one from imposing upon the other? This is not pretended, but it is alleged on the part of labor that in some localities and in some industrial pursuits a system of paying the wages of labor in orders on a store or stores has been introduced, and that the merchants are in the habit of charging exorbitant prices for their goods and that in this way the laboring man is deprived of a portion of his hard earned wages; this is no doubt true in many cases and is an evil. It is not confined to company stores or stores owned by the employers of labor—but most all stores, upon whom orders are drawn, charge more for goods sold upon orders than they do for cash. Why? orders than because an order is not money, it is a letter of credit and the merchant who receives it parts with his goods, which cost him money, and is compelled to wait months for his pay.

Our toiling farmers, as a general rule. have no money from spring to fall; they employ labor at lower figures than other branch of industry, and are compelled to pay their hired men with an order on a country store, at least to furnish him with his necessaries in this way. The merchant must charge more for his goods sold in this way than if sold for cash, or he would fail in busisold for cash, or he would laif in ous-ness. If the farmer was by law com-pelled at all times to pay cash for his labor, he could not do it, and would be compelled to leave all work he could not do himself, undone. The farm laborers would have no work and would have to starve or be supported by pub-lic charity. The production of the nec-essaries of life would be dimished and the cost to the consumer necessarily in-creased, which would operate severely upon laborers engaged in other pursuits upon incorers engaged in other pursuits.
But it is said that the proposed law of the
Senator from Fayette does not apply
to any industry except the manufacture
of iron and steel and the mining of coal.
This is true, but why should it be so? Why single out these three industrial pursuits from among the hundreds of others? · Why not include the farmer, the founder, the machine-shop man, the miller, the lumberman, the axe-maker, the factory man, the grocer, the baker, the lime burners, the merchants themselves, who pay their store boys and clerks with store goods. Why not in-clude all branches of industry in which labor is employed? If labor must be protected against capital, let all labor and all capital be treated alike. Is it because the manufacture of iron and steel and the mining of coal are more profitable than other branches of in-dustry? This cannot be pretended too many of our furnaces are standing idle for this to be asserted, and ever person who knows anything about the manufacture of iron knows that no branch of industry is at this time more depressed. It is asserted by parties in district, engaged in the n of charcoal iron, whom I know to be honorable and truthful men, that if it were not for their stores and the order system, as adopted and in use by them, that they would be compelled to stop their works and thus throw out of employment all of the men employed. Valentine & Co., engaged in the man-ufacture of charcoal iron, near Bellefonte, for more than twenty years prior to 1876 had no store, but paid their men in cash at the end of every week. At the end of that year the footing of their accounts showed an actual loss. They were not disposed to run their works at a loss, and there was but one of three things to do: First, to stop their works and leave all their men to shift for themselves; or, second, to reduce their wages and thus bring the cost of the production within the market value. This they did not like to do as the wages were already so low that the men could do no more than live, so they hit

upon a third plan They found that they were paying out in money to their employes about one hundred thousand dollars per year. That their men spent all this money with the merchants in the purchase of goods, and that these merchants were Because he fulfills the highest destiny of man, in that he masters the secrets of nature and converts them to the use of man—creates capital. Labor is the foundation of capital, but shall it be said that labor shall destroy capital? Shall the father destroy his offspring? Shall there even be a conflict between them? Educated labor does not desire it, capital does not desire it. Who does? The demagogue.

Is there any real conflict between them? We hear from all sides that capital invested in industrial pursuits does not bring to its owners a sufficient recompense. Many of our iron furnaces are idle; our foundries, and our machine shops and planing mills are stand-

side of their employes. They also say that some of their employes, who for twenty years under the cash system ac-cumulated nothing, now having grow-ing balances to their credit. I have ing balances to their credit. I have heard no complaint from any of these men, but I have heard complaints by outside parties—by other merchants who have, of course, lost the custom of these men, and a few laboring men who have received these orders second hand; I have not heard any complaints from any of the employes of any of the other iron manufacturers. I presented a petition several weeks ago, signed by about sixty citizens of two townships remote from these iron works, where the about sixty citizens of two townships re-mote from these iron works, where the principal industry is lumbering, who complain of the order system as prac-ticed in their neighborhood, and pray for the passage of a law, general in its term, applicable to all parties. I have also heard complaints from a few of the employes in some of our coal mines, who say they are compelled to take orders on the company stores where they are compelled to pay more for goods than they can buy them for at other stores. I have no doubt but that some of these complaints are founded upon facts, and if legislation would reach these cases without doing an interest these cases without doing an interest these cases without doing an interest these cases. upon facts, and if legislation would reach these cases, without doing an injury to both capital and labor in other localities, where there is no complaint or abuse, I would gladly support it. This law would reach the innocent as well as the guilty. But this legislation, as proposed in the bill as it reads without my amendment is reached. as proposed in the only as it reads with-out my amendment, is special in its character, being only applicable to three branches of industry, leaving all others untouched, and, as I believe, contrary to the spirit of the Constitution.

to the spirit of the Constitution.
Section seven, article three, of the Constitution, provides that the General Assembly shall not pass any local or special law \* \* \* \* changing the rules of evidence in any judicial proceeding, or inquiry before court, alderman, justices of the peace, \* \* \* or regulating labor, trade, mining or manufacturing." This proposed law may not be local in its character as it applies to three branches of industry applies to three branches of industry which they are conducted, and is there-fore general as to the business to which it refers, but is it not special as it ap-plies to three particular branches of industry? What did the framers of the Constitution mean by the use of the words local or special in the connection in which they are here used? We must gather their meaning by the same rules we would apply in the interpreta-

tion of a statute.

But whether it be unconstitutional or not, is not the policy of such a law bad? All men are equal before the law, and each man should be left free to make his own contracts in his own way, so long as he does not interfere with the rights of others. All laws in restraint of legitimate trade are obnoxious; all laws that seek to interpose a barrier to the making of legitimate contracts are in restraint of trade, and an unwarranted interference with the rights of citizenship. This act seeks to protect a class of our citizens against their own contracts, and, after they have made them, to declare them null and void. If it be right to protect labor against capital, it would be equally right to, by law, to protect capital against labor, and to say, by law, that it shall be a misdemeanor for a man to refuse to work and to compel him to work when he was unwilling. Neither would be right. If labor would thrive, it must do it by industry, frugality and thrift. No law can do for it what it will not do for itself.

The amendment I have proposed doe not interfere with the right of capital and labor to contract with each other, and it makes the order that may be issued in payment of labor, buy as much as would that much money. It is right and proper to go this far in the interest of labor. To go further would prove, in the end, an injury and a wrong to the laboring man instead of being a benefit to him. This ought to satisfy labor, and, at the same time, it is just to capital.

I call the attention of the Senators to the seventh section of the third article of the Constitution, in which it says, "the General Assembly shall not pass any local or special law," referring to different things, but the point to which I wish to call attention is that it shall not pass any local or special law "regu-lating labor, trade, mining or manufacturing." Now, it may be said that this is not a local law. That I admit, but because in its provisions it applies to these three industries, wherever they be situated in this State. What is the meaning in tended to be conveyed by the use of these two words "local or special." That the word "special" has not the same signification as the word local is evident, or it would not have been used

in this connection.

As I understand it, a special law is a law that is not general, that applies to certain portions of a class instead of to all that come within that class; that this law applies to three industrial pur-suits instead of being applicable to all branches of industry where labor is em-ployed, and therefore the law is special, not local, in its character, but it is special in its features, and therefore prohibcial in its features, and therefore prohibited. It says that no local or special law shall be passed \* \* regulating labor, trade, mining or manufacturing. Now, this act, as it stands, is a proposition to regulate mining and manufacturing; it regulates trade, regulates labor; it undertakes to say what contract the laborer shall make with his employer, and it prescribes penalties employer, and it prescribes penalties for the violation of the provisions of the act, and makes it special in its character, and is in direct opposition to those provisions of the Constitution. Now, so far as I am concerned my-

Now, so far as I am concerned my-self, I am as anxious as any Senator on this floor to relieve the laboring man of the burdens under which he suffers from day to day, and if there is any-thing that can be done within the limits of the Constitution with a due regard to the rights of others, capital as well as labor, I will join hand in hand with any Senator upon this floor and go as far as he. But this will not accomplish that purpose. It will not and go as far as he. But this will not accomplish that purpose. It will not reach the end sought, and if it is passed I verily believe that unless those engaged in the manufacturing of charcoal iron are permitted to make this profit out of their goods instead of allowing the profit to go into the hands of others, who give labor to permitted to the same and the profit to go into the hands of others, who give labor to permitted the same and the the profit to go into the hands of others, who give labor to no man, who

are intermediate men in society, who create no wealth, who only accumulate from the profits of labor, and if that money is allowed to go into other hands and manufacturing industries are com-pelled to pay cash from week to week, it will not be two months until every one of them will be stopped, and the laboring man will be out of employ-ment and he will have to go elsewere, be will have to become a tramp and ment and he will have to go elsewere, he will have to become a tramp and search for work in some other place, and it seems to me that this bill could be so amended as to render it unobjectionable or nearly so, and if I had been present when this bill was on third reading, I should have made this amendment. If will indicate the amendment, and then will indicate the amendment, and then I shall ask to reconsider the vote by which this bill passed third reading, in order to introduce this amendment. If Senators will pay attention so that they will understand exactly what I propose to accomplish, I think they will agree to the proposition. I propose to move to strike out all of the act after the en-acting clause, and to insert as follows:

acting clause, and to insert as follows:

"That every corporation, co-partnership,
firm or individual doing any business within this Commonwealth in which laborers
are employed shall pay their laborers or
employes at stated periods in money or
merchandise or other commedity, as may
be agreed upon between the parties at the
time of the contract of biring and in accordance with the terms thereof, and shall be unlawful for any corporation, c partnership, firm or individual, doing but ness as aforesaid, to knowingly and wil ness as alloresaid, to knowingly and will fully charge their employes more or greater price for any article of merchan dise furnished than that at which the sam article and quality of merchandise is sol at for cash in the same town or neighbor nood by other merchants or others trading in such articles. That it shall be unlawf ment of labor at less than its face value or to discount the same, or to furnish store goods or merchandise therefor, charging a greater or higher price for the same than he would sell the same quality of goods at for cash, or than the same quality of good or merchandise can be purchased at for cash in the same town or neighborhood That any person violating any of the procash in the same town of his pro-That any person violating any of the pro-visions of this act shall by guilty of a mis-demonance, and upon conviction thereo visions of this act shall by guilty of a mis-demennor, and upon conviction thereof shall pay a fine of not less than ten dollars or more than fifty dollars for each offense, and shall refund to the party to whom such goods or merchandise shall have been sold the difference between the price charged and the cash price thereof."

The first section I propose to intro duce prevents companies and company stores from selling goods at a greater price than they can be purchased at for cash at other stores in the neighbor-

The second section of the bill reaches another class in the community, people who are simply merchants, who are not engaged in manufacturing, and upon whom orders are drawn by farmers, lumbermen, machine shop men, planing mill men, and manufacturing prises of all kinds. These orders are drawn upon them, and the second section is intended to reach that class of our people, and to prevent them from selling upon orders drawn upon them at a greater price than they would have received for their goods if they had been paid for in cash, and it reaches that class of our community and puts everybody on a par, everybody on the same footing, on the same plane. It recognizes the principle that underlies our institutions to wit: the freedom of all our people to make such contracts as they pleas long-as they do not interfere with positive law or the rights of others. But no law should be passed, unless based upon the soundest policy, restricting their right to so contract.

Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which this bill passed third reading.

It would be as unjust to guage industries of the whole North, and the condition of its laboring population, in the matter of wages and the comforts of life, by the actual facts of the anthracite coal region, as it is to judge the South by the exceptional labor troubles in Northern Louisians and some counties of Mississippi. We doubt if the negroes of Louisiana have undergone the last three years the hardships because of three years the hardships because of low wages, uncertain employment, and the "store order system," that the an-thracite coal miners of Pennsylvania have faced. The Kansas emigration, large as it is, bears a small proportion indeed to the army of tramps set affoat by the condition of the labor market of this State, to say nothing of other Northern States.

That the South is fairly prosperous and the relations of capital and laborof employer and employed—are as ami-cable as elsewhere in the country, we have pretty conclusive evidence in the have pretty conclusive evidence in the great products of that section. The South has done an important part in creating that balance of trade which has brought about specie resumption. The cotton-production of ten Southern States growing the staple, in 1878 amounted to nearly five millions of bales and the exportation of cotton to foreign countries, to nearly two hundred milcountries. to nearly two hundred mil lions of dollars, a sum that very nearly covers the balance of foreign trade in our favor. This one fact is sufficient answer to the partizan contention of the Republicans, that the Southern laborers are ill-treated as a rule and the whole section in a constant state of political turmoil and lawlessness. Such an in-dustry as that of cotton production could not thrive as it does under such conditions. This with sensible business men, who do their own thinking, over men, who do their own thinking, over-throws volumes of sectional tirades and misrepresentation based on a few isolat-ed facts. We presume the South, like the North, is no better than it should be. It has had a rougher legacy from the war, and crimes against person are more common with them, as crimes against property are more common at the North. But time will right these the North. But time will right these evils to a great extent, and the progress made and making is most encouraging to the sincere patriot, if not to the politicians who are striving to keep alive the hates engendered by the civil war.

What is supposed to be the largest tree in the Southern States is a tulip-bearing poplar near Augusta Ga., which is 155 feet high and nine feet in diameter, its lowest branch feet from the ground. its lowest branches being fifty-five

## DICTATING AN ITEM.

The following little story teaches

ution in the use of pronouns: Mr. Tucker came into the editorial room of a local paper, and sliding up to the reporter's table, he took a seat and nudged up close and said:
"Just take it down now, and I'll

give you a good item. Ready?"
"Yes. Go ahead!"

"Well, this morning, Mrs. Tuckermy wife, you know-and her daughter Bessie were driving out with a bay mare, named Kittie, along the river road, to see her aunt.' Whose aunt?"

"Mrs. Tucker's aunt. To see her aunt. Bessie was driving the mare, and a little after they had passed Stapleton Place she threw one of her

"No, Kitty, the mare. And Bessie said to her mother that she thought she was behaving queerly.'

"Mrs. Tucker was "The mare; and she felt so worried that she had a notion to turn back." "Are you speaking of the mare or of

"I mean Bessie, of course. But she kept on limping and going kinder un-even until they were down by the gas works, when she laid back her ears and..." and-

"You don't mean Bessie's ears?"

"Certainly not." "Go on, then. Mrs. Tucker laid back her ears."

"The mare's ears. And just as they got on the bridge over the creek the mare gave a tilt to one side, and as Mrs. Tucker screamed, she let drive with both of her hind-legs, against the

"Are you referring to Mrs. Tucker or to the

"Kitty, the mare-and snapped both shafts off short. The next moment, before Mrs. Tucker or Bessie could save themselves, she went over the side, turning a complete somersault." You are now speaking of the mare?"

"Yes, the mare turned a complete somersault into the water. One of the traces remained unbroken, and of course, as Kitty went over she dragged the carriage after her, and Mrs. Tucker and Bessie went floundering into the The mare at once struck out creek. for the shore, and Bessie fortunately had presence of mind enough to graher by the tail. She had the blind-staggers, but it had passed off—"

'Not Bessie?"

"No-the mare; and as soon as she was being towed past Mrs. Tucker, she caught hold of her dress—" "The mare's dress?"

"Bessie's dress; and it seemed for a minute the mare would bring them safely to land. But Mrs. Tucker's hold on the mare's tail loosened somehow, and-

"You said Bessie had hold of the "Did I? Well, so it was; and Mrs.

Tucker hold of her dress."

"Whose dress?" "Didn't I say Bessie's dress? Well, then, somehow Mrs. Tucker's hold loosened and—"

"Her hold of what?"
"Her hold of the mare—no, I must be mistaken; Bessie had hold of the mare's tail, while the mare was swim ming, and the mare had hold of Mrs. Tucker's dr— That is Mrs. Tucker had hold of— Well, anyhow, she let

"Mrs. Tucker let go?"

mare swam ashore.'

"Oh, I dunno; whoever had hold of the mare let go, and she went to the that public sentiment is fast shifting to "Oh, I dunno; whoever had hold of bottom like a stone."

"If I follow your meaning, it was the mare that went to the bottom?" "My goodness man! Can't you unkerstand? It wasn't the mare. The

"What did you say she went to the bottom for, then?"

"I didn't; it was Bessie."

"Bessie never said a word about it." went to the bottom "And Mrs. Tucker swam ashore?"

"No. she didn't. "Very well, then. Mrs. Tucker went to the bottom too?"

o, she didn't either."

"Mrs. Tucker flew up in the air, then? "You think you're smart, don't you?"

"Well, go on and tell your story; we'll discuss that afterward. What did Bessie say when she got to the bottom ?"

"I've a good mind to wollup you."

"What did she say that for?"
"You mud-headed idiot," said Mr. Tucker, "give me any more of your insolence, and I'll flay you alive. going to give you a good item about that mare, and what Mrs. Tucker said about her turning somersaults all the way home, but now I'll see you hanged first."

The reporter got behind the desk, lifted up a chair to ward off a missile, and then he said calmly: "What was Mrs. Tucker's object in

turning somersaults all the way home?

COMPAINT is made in Leadville that

the whiskey is nothing but snow water scented with vitrol. When 800 gallons can be drawn from one barrel it is time for even a dairyman to blush.

Ar the evening celebration of the ,800th anniversary of the destruction at Pompeii a bottle of wine taken from the ruins, where it had lain since A. D. 79 is to be opened.

A BURLINGTON blacksmith has just established a "conservatory of horse shoeing."

## For Better or Worse,

From the Detriot Free Press

The old man Bendigo keeps a pretty sharp eye on his daughter Mary, and many a would-be lover has taken a walk after a few minutes conversation with the hard-hearted parent. The old chap is struck this time, however, and cards are out for a wedding. After the lucky young man had been sparking Mary for six months the old gentleman stepped in as usual, requested a private confab, and led off

"You seem like a nice young man, and perhaps you are in love with

Mary?"
"Yes, I am," was the honest reply.
"Haven't said any thing to her yet, Well, no; but I think she recipro

cates my affection."
"Does, ch? Well, let me tell you something. Her mother died a lunatic, and there's no doubt that Mary has inherited her insanity.' "I'm willing to take the chances,"

replied the lover.

Yes, but you see Mary has a terrible temper. She has twice drawn a knife on me with intent to commit murder.'

'I'm used to that-got a sister just

like her," was the answer.
"And you should know that I have sworn a solemn oath not to give Mary a cent of my property," continued the father

Well, I'd rather start in poor and build up. There's more romance in

The old man had one more shot in his carbine, and he said:

"Perhaps I ought to tell you that Mary's mother ran away from my home with a butcher, and that all her relatives died in the poor-house. These things might be thrown up in after years, and I now warn you."

"Mr. Bendigo," replied the lover, "I've heard all this before and also that you were on trial for forgery, had to jump Chicago for bigamy, and serve a year in state prison for cattle-steal-ing. I'm going to marry into your give you a decent reputa-There-no thanks-good-by tion

Mr. Bendigo looked after the young nan with his mouth wide open, and when he could get his jaws together, he said:

"Some infernal hyena has went and given me away on my dodge."

NEW HAMPSHIRE is having a rather ingular experience in regard to taxation. The last Legislature passed a law providing that schedules should be furnished citizens, which they must fill up with inventories of their property and swear to, as the basis on which taxes are to be assessed. The old system left the rating to the assessors, and the new law was at first very unpopular. Pret-ty much everybody seemed to be down on it, and no doubt was felt that the next Legislature would repeal it. But now that they are beginning to enforce it, people find that the new plan works a great deal better than they expected.
The most striking result is the great increase in taxable property reported, which, in some towns, reaches \$100,-000; over four times as much money is returned as being at interest in the towns thus far heard from as last year. Of course, this increase in the amount of property liable to taxation renders it possible correspondingly to reduce the percentage of taxation and the net result promises to be so much more approval of the new law and there is little probability of its repeal.

A QUEER PIONEER .- A fellowtraveler was a dapper young man, dressed in the latest style, with white tie and lavender kids. Now he would brush his immaculate stove pipe hat and now adjust his eye-glasses to scan some new-comer. His incipient mous-"You know what I mean. Bessie tache seemed to be a source of constant care but he divided his attention between this and a couple of hounds, his traveling companions. On either side of the aisle hung his two canaries in seperate cages and on a brilliant rug slept a Spitz dog. As learned during the forencon, he had come from Chicago and was going to Leadville, and proposed to rent a few rooms in some first-class hotel and in the afternoon go out and prospect a little. In this way he expected to realize a fortune within six months. Just now he is picking his way daintly across the muddy street, with a cage in each hand and the dogs at his heels

A VERY remarkable wedding anniversary occurred a few days since in the town of Weston, Fairfield county, Conn., in a house whose great stone chimney and siding of long weather beaten shingles indicate that it was built before the Revolution. In this house Mr. Zalmon Sturges, aged nearly 98, and Ann, his wife, aged 94, elebrated the seventy-fourth anniversary of their marriage. Mr. Sturges is a healthy, well-preserved gentleman, and both he and his wife remember the principal events of the past seventy-five years.

How was the world made? is being discussed in scientific magazines. weren't there, but we suppose they got all the subscriptions they could raise along the survey and then bonded the rest of the work and pushed it through.

WHEN a rooster gets mad does he become a crow-cus?