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EDITORIAL.

THE INHERITANCE TAX.

The legislature of Pennsylvania has enacted and the Governor has just signed an act taxing all direct inheritances of personal property, exceeding \$5,000, at the rate of 2 per cent. This act was passed for the purpose of raising revenue to make up the deficiency caused by the extravagant expenditure of money by the present republican administration. Thus are the widows and orphans of Pennsylvania called upon to contribute towards the support of the corrupt practices of the crowd-that infest the state house at Harrisburg, and compelled to give a portion of what they inherit from their parents to maintain a hord of hungry and entirely unnecessary public officials. Heretofore the principal part of the revenues of the state were obtained by taxing the corporations and commercial interests of the commonwealth, but since the advent of these interests in active politics, they have succeeded in shifting the burden to the extent of at least \$2,000,000 annually upon the widows and orphaus of the state. Now the widow's dower and the minor child's invested funds from which their support and maintenance is derived, is decreased two per cent, and this amount so taken handed over to the state government to make up the deficiency created by the extravagances and corruptions of the present republican administration. The Attorney General is said to have drafted the act, at the direction of Gov. Hastings, and it was forced through both houses under the party lash, thus making it distinctively a party measure, and placing the responsibility of its enactment upon the party in power.

While all this is done under the plea that more revenue is needed to run the machinery of the government, it is not likely that many persons will fail to see that the additional revenues are needed because the expenses of the government were increased by the creation of useless offices, in order to make places for political henchmen. If more revenues were needed to pay the legitimate expenses of the government, there might be some excuse for the enactment of such a law, but then widows and minor children should be exempt from its provisions. Under the existing circumstances, it becomes the more offensive when it is undeniably true, that the money thus taken from this class of people is being used to pay a horde of newly created officials, that are entirely unnecessary. Such an iniquity should stamp its authors with infamy, and doom the party responsible for its enactment to overwhelming defeat. Pennsylvanians are a long-suffering people, but with them even forbearance will in due time cease to be a virtue, and then the grand majority, of which republicanism now boasts, will surely disappear, and honest men will again take the places of those who have so basely betrayed the sacred trust confided to them by the people.

New Jersey has adopted a marriage license law similar to that in our state. This will put a stop to the frequent trips to Camden by ardent lovers, who do not have the good wishes of their parents.

The jingo republican statesman are not very enthusiastic over President Mc-Kinley's message to congress on the Cuban question. . It was predicted that the tale of persecution would move the president to sterner measures, but such is not the case, he only asks congress to furnish supplies for needy and suffering Amercans on that island. As to the distress of the natives, he has not even a word of sympathy.

severely censuring the republican leaders at Washington for their delay in passing a tariff measure. The industries of dured in many manufacturing centers is | States. something that is causing alarm. Something should speedily be done. Let some policy be adopted so that the country can adjust her industries accordingly.

THE recent speech delivered by John Wanamaker, in Philadelphia, created a panic in the republican camp. He declares that business is not improving, rather growing worse since McKinley's election. The reason for this is that the party are not keeping its pledges and is dominated by political bosses to the detriment of the public welfare. Such bold assertions coming from a prominent business man and distinguished republican leader deserve consideration at this time. Wanamaker has not revealed anything to the public. He simply is frank enough to admit and endorse what all the independent and democratic papers have been telling the people for some months. It is evident that the republican administrations in the State and Na-tion is found wanting and adrift. Campaign pledges have not been kept and the public are fully aware of their short

AS TO MACHINERY

A large number of well meaning persons cannot be induced to believe labor saving machinery is anything but a Protests Against the New Inheritcurse to the country, notwithstanding census reports and the evidence of their own senses. Their contention is that and lessens their wages.

congress the United States department of labor, a few years ago, prepared a report showing the effect of the employment of machinery, which report sustained every contention in favor of machinery. It was shown that jucreased production and decreased cost did not debar the employment of labor nor curtail its wages, but the exact opposite. For instance, in the carpenter business at an average annual wage of \$459 each, section of the commonwealth. Gov while in 1890 there were employed 140,-021 carpenters who earned \$675. In the in 1890 there were employed in the business 92,504 persons at \$527. And this in

reporting-1880, 253,852; 1890, 355,401. Average number of employes-1880, 2,-1880, \$947.953,795; 1890, \$2,282,823,265. So long as census reports and official investigation continue to snow such improvement in labor the public can view

Greek forces by their superior numbers | this state owned by residents of a for-It is a Turkish victory which required eign state. It applies to all personal severe fighting. The terms of peace will and mixed property, whether the same be held absolutely or for life, or for be the next quibble, in which the various a shorter period, or where held by a powers will dictate.

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Improved Passenger Train Service.

place in service May 17th inst., new the case of legacies or shares in the ceeding with the investigation. It is between Sunbury and Wilkesbarre. A cash upon the appraised value of his three members of the senate. The story train will leave Sunbury on arrival of securities. The tax is to remain a lien upon which the present investigation train 8 from the West and train II from upon all property until paid. It is to train 8 from the West and train 11 from the East, at 2 p. m. for Wilkesbarre, eral inheritance tax is now paid, and Scranton and other points. Passengers the act expressly declares that it shall can leave Canandaigua 7:50 a. m., not in any way modify or alter the Elmira 10.05 a. m., Kane 6:30 a. m., Du- law relating to collateral inheritance Bois 7:10 a. m., Beilefonte 9:28 a. m., tive intention that this act shall tax Lock Haven 11:20 a. m., Williamsport at the rate of 2 per cent all estates not 12:40 p. m., Harrisburg 11:35 a. m. and subject to a collateral inheritance tax reach Danville 2:24 p. m., Catawissa of 5 per cent. 2:45 p. m., East Bloomsburg 2:50 p. m., vited by the new capitol building com-Nescopeck 3:15 p. m., Mocanaqua 3:42 mission to enter the competion for p. m., Nanticoke 4:02 p. m., Wilkesbarre plans for the new state house. A pro-4:15 p. m. and Scranton 5:22 p. m. Re- gram to regulate the open competion turning train will leave Scranton 4:41 specifications are also out for the tearp. m., Wilkesbarre 6 p. m. stopping at ing down of the ruins of the burned other principal points connecting at Sun- building. Proposals for this latter bury with trains 6 and 13 for points East

be greatly appreciated by the traveling public and will be well patronized from

Growth of the Lutheran Church.

The growth of the Lutheran church in the United States is something phenomengl. In 1820 there were only 35,000 Lutheran communicants in the country, being one communicant to each 275 of population. In 1830, 55,000 or one to of deputy sheriffs in Philadelphia from 234 population; 1840, 220,000, or one to \$1,000 to \$2,500 a year, the house was 141 population; 1850, 144,000 or one to induced to reconsider its action, and 162 population; 1860, 225,000 or one to sent the bill to the governor. Elated Business men all over the country are 132 population; 1870, 338,000, or one to take the back track, Sheriff Crow call-100 population; 1880, 693,000, or one to ed on the governor to ask him to ap-72 population; 1890, 1,100,000, or one to prove the bill. He was given to under-55 population. This places the church the county are suffering from the long numerically fourth in the rank of Procontinued suspense. The privations en- testant denominations in the United

A Big Concern.

An exchange contains the following: "One of the largest game preserves in the United States will shortly be located in this state. It will contain twenty thousand acres and will be owned by New York and Pennsylvania sportsmen. The tract embraces the eastern section of Centre county and part of Clearfield.

The preserve is the best in the state and game of all kinds thrive on it. It is proposed to stock it with woodcock, quail, grouse and imported French and En-glish game birds. Thousands of redleg French partridge are to be put in the

Short Time Only,

Schaeffer, the photographer, has reduced his fine Carbon photos to \$3 per dozen, regular price has always been \$6. This is a rare opportunity to secure high

Shaeffer's gallery for \$3, former price have been reported to the house, be-was \$6. This is a special offer. was \$6. This is a special offer.

HARRISBURG LETTER.

ance Tax Law.

such machinery deprives men of work THE FIGHT FOR IMPROVED ROADS

Under authority of a law enacted by The Amended Hamilton Bill Awaits Action by the Senate and the Governor-The Insurance Bribery Investigators Meet For Organization.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, May 18. - Since the passage and approval of the Elkin bill taxing direct inheritances 2 per cent of the people of the state are just beginning to realize what the measure means. It was rushed through on special orders, with the backing of the state administration, and already there were employed in 1880 53,547 men the protests are being heard from every ernor Hastings approved the bill within an hour after it had been signed by the presiding officers of the senate making of furniture there were employed and house. Nobody can estimate prein 1880 55,644 persons at \$453 per annum; cisely the amount of revenue which this act will produce, but a low figure is \$1,000,000 for the next two years. Some say it may even reach \$2,000,000. spite of, or rather as a result of, the use of but the guess of one person is as good labor saving machinery, for the machine as that of another under the circumworker earns more than the hand work- stances. The bill was drafted by John P. Elkin, the chairman of the Republican state committee, and had the in-The latest census report of manufac-tures shows: Number of establishments leaders of the legislature. Mr. Elkin says the act will uncover a vast amount of property in the shape of securities which have heretofore been hidden 732,595; 1890, 4, 711,832. Total wages- from the eves of the commonwealth until death brought them to view through the settlement of estates.

The bill taxes all personal and mixed property which shall pass by will of by the intestate laws of this state labor saving machinery with the serenest from any person to the heirs. It taxes the personal and mixed property both of residents in the state and of residents who may be domiciled in another TURKEY has thoroughly subdued the state. It also taxes like property in trustee, the income to be paid to beneficiary, and to charges on land in favor of any heir or legatees. It also applies to any estates of personal and mixed property which shall be transferred by the owner prior to, but in contemplation of his death, or where the transfer of such property is in tended to take effect after the death of the transferer. It applies not only to the estates of persons who may die in the future, but also to the unsettled estates of those who have died. It does not apply to real estate.

How the Tax Will Be Collected. This new tax is to be paid at the rate of 2 per cent on the amount of money left by a decedent, and at the same rate upon the appraised value of his securities. It is also to be paid directly by the executor or administrator of the estate, and such officer is prohibited from making any distribution or from being discharged from his trust until he has deducted the tax The Pennsylvania Railroad Co. will from money legacies or shares, or in able speculation as to the delay in prothe legatee or distributee 2 per cent in taxes. It is declared to be the legisla-

Six expert architects have been infor plans has also been issued, and work will be received until the 26th inst. Under the specifications the contractor will be required to remove all This new train service will no doubt debris and exercise great care in the removal of the marble washstands, lavatories, tanks, and the marble wainscoting and flooring in the main hallway. He will also be required to exercise especial care in the removal of the old cornerstone, so that the historic records therein may be preserved. It is expected that the contract for the

new capitol will be let about Aug. 1. Governor Hastings has been giving some of the factional leaders a few unpleasant surprises. Having defeated the senate bill increasing the salaries with his success in having the house stand that a veto would accompany the measure when it left the executive

The Fight For Better Roads. During the present session no bill has excited more general interest than the measure drafted by Professor John Hamilton, acting secretary of agricuiture, for the improvement of the highways. It has been debated at length, and its enemies have tried over and over again to so burden it with amendments as to make its passage impossible. But they have falled, and the bill will doubtless go to the governor this week. An amendment was in serted a few days ago providing that the bill shall not become operative until \$1,000,000 has been appropriated by the state to be distributed in proportion to the number of miles of public roads in each township; that no township shall receive more state money than it raises by local taxation, and the money so appropriated shall be expended in making and maintaining public roads. As amended it was laid aside for printing, and having passed the house now awaits the concurrence of the senate in the house amendments. Whether Governor Hastclass portraits. Don't fail to take advantage of this bargain. It will be for a short time only.

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revenue to justify the legislature in making an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for good roads. The sentiment in favor of better roads has been largely stimulated through the enthusiasm and organized effort of the wheelmen of

the state. One of the most important bills defeated in the house requires county commissioners to advertise for proposals for the erection of any county building of bridges, or for any alterations or addition thereto, involving an expenditure of \$1,000, and to award the contract to the lowest and best bidders under a penalty of \$2,000.

There are indications now of an earlier adjornment of the legislature than most people here had reason to expect three weeks ago. It is stated that the leaders are so arranging the calendars that the legislators will be able to adjourn finally about the second week in

\$40,000,000 in Appropriations.

Mr. Marshall, chairman of the house committee on appropriations, says the revenue bills once out of the way his committee can get down to business and report such bills as are likely to pass. Appropriation bills have been introduced aggregating over \$40,000,000 for the next two years, but as the estimated revenues are only about half that amount the necessity for wholesale pruning by the committee is apparent. Chairman Marshall says it will be impossible to give the usual hearings on appropriation bills. All that the committee can hope to do is to go over the bills as carefully as possible and distribute the money of the state as equitably as may be. It is very evident that the charitable institutions throughout the state not directly under the control of the commonwealth will fare badly in the distribution. First the state institutions, after those the semi-state hospitals and other institutions will be taken care of. What is left will be distributed among the more deserving private charities. Of course, the committee is figuring on a million dollars for the building and furnishing of the new capitol.

Politically the gossip this week has been centered in the attitude of Senator Quay toward his lieutenants in Philadelphia and his probable attitude toward the bills providing a new charter for Pittsburg and the ousting of the present administration in that city. At the Friday morning session of the house one of the Quay lieutenants from Allegheny county moved the postponement of the Rogers charter bill, which fact gives color to the statement that Senator Quay has decided to abandon the reform legislation for Pittsburg at

The record of Governor Hastings in the matter of filling vacancies in the judiciary of the state surpasses that of any of his predecessors. Including the appointment of the new superior court justices, he has appointed one judge for every three weeks of his term. The death of Judge Thomas Ewing, of Pittsburg, has given him another opportunity to reward some legal

The Insurance Bribery Investigation. The insurance committee appointed to investigate the \$50,000 insurance scandal met today for organization. This committee was appointed some time ago, and there has been considerstated that a number of sens was started was in effect that a demand had been made upon a large insurance company in New York city for \$50,000 to wipe from the calendar certain objectionable bills.

A bill has been introduced in the senate during the last week providing for the selection of a site and the erection of a state hospital for the insane for the counties of Luzerne, Lackawanna, Bradford, Carbon Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Tioga, Wayne and Wyoming, to be called the state hospital for the insane for the northwestern part of Pennsylvania. The bill carries an appropriation of \$30,000 for the necessary preliminaries.

A strong effort is being made by the steam railroad corporations to defeat the Young bill providing a method of assessing damages to the owners of property abutting on highways occupied by electric railway companies. This measure is not exactly an eminent domain bill, but possesses some of the features of the right of eminent domain. That is why it is being so vigorously fought by the steam rivals of the electric companies. Before the adjournment of the house on Thursday Mr. Young attempted to have the vote by which his resolution giving the bill a special order was defeated reconsidered, but the opponents of the bill were on the alert, and promptly got in a motion to adjourn. It carried, and the efforts to advance the trolley bill were again blocked. It is probable that another attempt will be made to get this bill in position for prompt consideration. Should it ever reach a vote it is believed that the bill will pass.

A School Tax on Allens. Among the bills which have passed the house finally is one authorizing school directors and controllers to levy a per capita tax of from \$1 to \$2 annually for school purposes on aliens over 21 years of age. This measure is intended to be enforced particularly in the mining regions of the state, where there are many alien parents whose children go to school, and who do not contribute to the support of the schools. During the discussion of methods of raising additional revenue for the state

it has cropped out that many of the lawmakers favor a reduction of appropriations for public schools. They contend that \$11,000,000 is too great a sum to appropriate in this way. It is also argued that the generosity of the state in this respect has not been appreciated in many districts, where the minimum school term is still six months and where the salaries of teachers, instead of being increased, are frequently cut down by the parsimonious and nonprogressive boards of directors. Unless some of the counties change front In this respect it need not surprise them see the appropriations reduced \$1,000,000.

Many of the boys in the rural districts will be sorry to hear that Governor Hastings has vetoed a concurrent resolution authorizing Dr. B. H. Warren, the state zoologist, to prepare and have published in pamphlet form 15,000 copies of an article on taxidermy and zoology. The governor thinks that the money is needed in other directions at

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