# The Dispatch.

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## THEY OUGHT NOT TO SPLIT.

The intimation that the conference of coal miners and operators will split decisively on the eight-hour question is to be regretted. A gathering which presents such a happy contrast to the strife in the coke regions, in trying to settle questions of wages by reason, instead of force, ought not to be abandoned without an effort.

It will be hard for outsiders to see why the operators should permit a conference to go to pieces, because they will not listen to the eight-hour proposition, where the wages of industry are paid so largely by the ton mined. If the miners are willing to work eight hours, and be paid for what coal they mine in that time, why should the operators object? It is true that the change may require some readjustment in the scales of work paid by the day or week. But whatever difficulty is comprised by that necessity should not be permitted to interpose an absolute veto on the whole eight-hour system. Besides that, there is pertinence and force in the argument of the miners that the adoption of the eight-hour shifts will enable the operators to get absolutely more work out of their machinery than by the ten-hour shifts. If business should ever be active enough, they can by establishing three shifts run their engines continuously.

It certainly is to be hoped that the conference will not go to pieces on this issue. There is surely sufficient merit in the proposition to permit a fair and reasonable discussion of its details.

## A LONG CAREER ENDED.

The death of the Hon. Russell Errett, announced in yesterday's DISPATCH, is an event that attracts attention from the long public services and prominence in politics of deceased. No man living at the time of his death had been prominently with the journalism of Pittsburg before him, while his activity in local and State politics dates back to the anti-slavery period. Since the war his incumbency of important positions in the State, and his services as Congressman, mark the prominent events in a long and useful career.

While active in practical politics and a strict party man, no allegations were ever made against Major Errett's integrity. He was well known to have never used official position for his pecuniary profit, and the honorable eulogy can be pronounced upon him that after a lifetime spent in the public service he died a comparatively poor man.

## SENATOR EDMUNDS' RETIREMENT.

The unexpected resignation of Senator Edmunds, as announced yesterday, establishes the exceptional character of his political career. In most respects the Vermont Senator has stood above the ordinary and petty considerations of politics, and in his retirement from public life he presents the exception to the proverbial rule in politics.

Senator Edmunds' career in the Senate is one which in creditable features has been excelled by none; and the only one that can be regarded as rivaling it in the exhibition of high qualities was the much shorter one of his personal friend and political opponent, Senator Thurman. For broad views, clear constitutional principles and unimpeachable integrity, the quarter-century record of George F. Edmunds in the Senate is alike an evidence of his high character and an honor to the country which he served.

Whatever are the private reasons which induce Senator Edmunds' retirement to private life, the country will be sorry to lose his services. And that sorrow will be shared by his political opponents equally with his political friends.

## LONDON'S AWFUL EXAMPLE.

The possibilities of a smoke-clouded city, in which the artificial obscuration is aided by fogs, is at present a question of much interest to Pittsburg. On the principle that misery loves company and that grave evils are alleviated by hearing worse forms of them elsewhere, it may be some comfort to our city, in contemplating the return of the smoke nuisance, to learn of the much more aggravated form of the same evil in London.

Records of the amount of sunshine in London kept at the Greenwich Observatory for the past fourteen years show that there is a worse depth of darkness than Pittsburg has yet experienced. The statements of the record are curious and possibly instructive. It appears that the darkest month of the year in London is December, in which there is a total of only twenty hours of sunshine or 8 per cent of the possible, and in which there is an average of twenty sunless days. January is but little better, with twenty-six hours of sunshine and an average of nineteen sunless days. February has twice as much sunshine as January, and March shows an equal improvement on its predecessor. On the brightest December day only four hours of sunshine are to be expected, while throughout the entire year an average of sunshine amounting to 1,214 hours, or 27 per cent of the possible amount, is shown.

While there may be some comfort in the thought that the largest city in the world is worse off than we are, there is more pertinence in the warning which it conveys of what may result if we let the smoke nuisance grow unchecked. Pittsburg has learned by happy experience what an immense difference it makes, both in actual monetary value and in the enjoyment of life, to have the city free from smoke. It is at a point where, in returning to the use of coal, it can enact that it shall be used by such economical and improved methods as to avoid the reproduction of the clouds of smoke and soot that formerly burdened our city. With the illustrations furnished by London of the extreme degree to which this evil may be carried with the multiplication of population and industries, we shall be remiss, if we do not at once unite in urgent measures to abolish the smoke nuisance.

## LEA ON THE TAX BILL.

Mr. H. C. Lea's letter, published elsewhere in this issue, is a moderate and in the main sensible review of the character of the bill for local taxation pending in the Legislature. A good deal of the oratory about "inquisitorial assessments" and "spying into private affairs" in connection with this bill has been overdone. Mr. Lea strays in that direction once or twice, but most of his argument is pertinent and moderate.

His strongest point is with regard to the certainty that the attempt to impose taxes on all classes of personal property is likely to defeat itself. Many States have systems of inquiry just as inquisitorial as this; but they present the same case of a practical escape of personal property from taxation, with the corresponding hardship that those who return their personal property honestly are placed at a disadvantage in comparison with those who make dishonest returns. He is also forcible in bringing out the point that the landowner is benefited by the prosperity of capital and business so much that to place any premium on capital and business to locate elsewhere is more injurious to real estate than an equitable system of taxation on land.

Mr. Lea indorses the effort of the bill to make the great corporations pay their share of the public burden, but he strikes a home blow by saying that it would be much better "to devise measures for preventing the discriminations in transportation which exercise so baneful an influence on the prosperity of the public for the enrichment of the few." The Legislature should do this public duty, which it has heretofore refused to do in violation of its constitutional duty.

Mr. Lea's calm and sensible way of criticising this bill is likely to have much more effect than the spreading of declamatory circulars denouncing the bill as "infamous" and "inquisitorial."

## LEGALITY OF THE BOND ISSUE.

Numerous gentlemen, whose opinions are of weight, differ from THE DISPATCH'S reading of the Constitution with regard to the issue of municipal indebtedness. The standing of these gentlemen entitles their views to respectful consideration. It was stated by Controller Morrow to be "that we can issue bonds for this indebtedness to any extent less than two per cent of the total valuation." In other words, the idea is that the city can at any one time, without a vote of the people, issue an amount of bonds not exceeding the two per cent limit.

A first rule of construction is that the language of constitutional or statutory provisions is to be construed, if possible, in harmony with the general purpose of the provision. There is no dispute about the general purpose of this section. It is to place a strict check on the incurring of public debt which, prior to the adoption of the Constitution, had been notoriously reckless. The limit of seven per cent was made absolute, with one exception to be noticed hereafter; and within that limit no one questions that the intention was to place a further check upon hasty and improvident increase of debt by providing for a vote of the people. As to what this check exactly is, the construction quoted above practically impeaches the common sense of the Constitutional Convention by asserting that it gave the weighty character of organic law to a restraint which, by the simplest device in the world, could be made absolutely no restraint at all. It supposes the Constitutional Convention to have said, for instance, to a city with $100,000,000 valuation: "You must not incur $2,500,000 of debt without a vote of the people. That would be so grave an abuse that we prohibit by the fundamental law, and take it out of the power even of the Legislature. But we leave it open to you to whip the devil around the stump and get out $7,000,000 of debt by issuing $2,000,000 in April, $2,000,000 in July, $2,000,000 in October and $1,000,000 in the following January." No, gentlemen! Judge Black, Judge Agnew, Buckalaw, Wayne McVeagh and their colleagues were hardly so foolish as to corporate into organic law so empty a provision as this. It is more in harmony with their character, as well as with the tenor of this section, to recognize that they said: "If a city government keeps its debt within 2 per cent of its valuation it can be trusted so far; if it desires to mortgage the property and revenues of the people beyond that point, it must have the sanction of the people by a special vote; and beyond seven per cent of the valuation it cannot go, even with the sanction of the popular vote."

Moreover, this construction accuses the Constitutional Convention of being unable to put its meaning into unmistakable English. It alleges that the provision meant to say that "the amount of any new debt or increase of municipal indebtedness shall not exceed two per cent;" but in trying to say that these eminent and learned gentlemen, by mistake, used the words that the municipality shall not "increase its indebtedness" (referring plainly to the entire indebtedness) to "any amount exceeding two per centum of the total valuation," which by the grammatical construction refers to the amount of the whole debt. This is again an unwarranted impeachment of the abilities of the eminent minds who composed the Constitutional Convention. The Constitution is as a whole a model of terse, clear and perspicuous language. Conclusive evidence is afforded in this very section that where it intends to convey the meaning advanced by our opponents its language places that meaning beyond dispute. The final clause provides authority for a special increase, by saying that any city whose debt at the adoption of the Constitution exceeded seven per centum could be authorized by law "to increase the same three per centum in the aggregate at any one time." Here we see that where the Constitution refers to the amount of increase, it finds the words to make its meaning clear, and it uses distinct language from that employed with reference to the total amount of debt in the clause under dispute.

Finally, while the debates of the Constitutional Convention do not, so far as we have found, contain any commentary upon the language used, the history of this section in the convention gives a very strong indication of what was meant. The section, which was debated as section 7, originally made the absolute limit of debt two per cent. This was objected to as too rigid a restriction, and after various amendments had been offered, at different times, that drawn up by Mr. Buckalew prevailed. It made the absolute limit seven per cent, with this additional clause. The way in which this clause was adopted, as a modification of the original proposition, agrees with its language in pointing to the conclusion that the absolute limit was raised to seven per cent, and that the limit of two per cent first proposed was retained with the modification that it could be exceeded by a vote of the people.

As to the financial policy advocated by the Controller, as well as by numerous other gentlemen, in showing how the bonds may be used, there has been little dispute. It is clear that the money in the sinking fund can be employed in the purchase of these bonds, *provided their constitutionality is placed beyond doubt by a vote of the people.* No one has yet offered any reason why this method of placing the status of the bonds beyond all dispute should not be adopted. No one has made any attempt to answer the obvious argument that even if the people should vote against the issue of bonds—which is unlikely if the matter is presented in proper form and is shown to be necessary—they have the right, if they prefer, to pay the money by direct taxation. In view of this fact, the determination to take a course of doubtful constitutionality at best is something remarkable and well nigh incomprehensible.

THE wool tax question is to be further complicated by doubling the duty on sorted wools under paragraph 383 of the McKinley bill. The wool duties have got beyond the comprehension of the average man, and, to judge from some of the decisions, beyond the comprehension of the revenue officers, and it seems likely that the last puzzle will furnish occupation for the courts.

THE news that Boulanger has turned up in Brussels, and is occupying very handsome and expensive quarters there, provokes a new inquiry as to who is foolish enough to put up the money for him.

IT is announced that Secretary Foster intends to institute general reforms in the New York Custom House, and many changes in officials may be looked for. The changes may be taken as in the natural course of events, but that they will be in the direction of reform is something for which the public would like plans and specifications.

IT may be said for Mr. Blaine that the letters he is writing at present on diplomatic subjects are not of a kind which he is under the necessity of calling upon the recipient to burn.

SENATOR HEARST'S widow, in her petition for an allowance, estimates the estate at $10,000,000. This is a very comfortable sum; but if the estate had had to bear the cost of the Congressional funeral it might not have panned out so well. The heirs in this case are so fortunate as to escape the undertaker's bills.

ON the whole the great victory in Rhode Island, in which the Republican candidate got 1,800 votes less than his Democratic rival, does not seem to be a matter to brag about.

THAT an American pistol should be found on the person of the would-be assassin of the Czar was bad enough, but the news that an American arranged the private marriage of the Grand Duke Michael will no doubt cause the ruler of Russia to be chary about expressing admiration for this country.

PLON-PLON'S will after death is worth just as much as his will was in life—nothing. Somebody else's won't always carried the day.

COLONEL INGERSOLL does not know one note of music from another, but made a magnificent speech on Wagner and Wagner's compositions before the New York Liederkranz Society the other night. Knowledge of music does not disqualify a man from being a eulogist of Wagner.

THE triumph of American pork in Germany does not justify the adoption of that sort of manners in negotiations with Canada.

IF the astronomers should be successful in getting the National Observatory out of the control of the Navy Department, the people in the latter will not suffer hardships. They can still continue star-gazing in the observatory most popular with them—the Washington theater.

VERY often the only thing settled by an argument between two persons is that neither knows what he is talking about.

SENATOR HOAR'S declaration that if the Mugwumps would be affected by the loss from free silver coinage he would not care so much is a frank and touching confession that what Senator Hoar objects to is the legislation that touches the Senatorial pocket.

THE English clergyman who refused to toast the Queen improved his opportunity to roast the Prince of Wales.

THE fact that the English soldiers at Manipur were slaughtered because they were armed with Snider rifles and had only cartridges for Martini rifles, proves that official mismanagement is just as costly now as it was during our war.

LA GRIPPE has gone to the dogs, but it was dog-goned long ago.

A MONTHLY magazine prints an article entitled "A Defense of Lawyers." If it gets as well paid for defending lawyers as the lawyers do for defending other people it is enjoying the high tide of financial prosperity.

### Ingalls Inspired This.

Lincoln Journal.]

Mrs. Lease, the Alliance female Anarchist, is now called the "Amazon of Kansas." The Amazon, you know, has a mouth 150 miles wide.

## PEOPLE PARAGRAPHED.

SENATOR-ELECT FELTON, of California, is a bookworm.

THE Crown Princess of Denmark is 6 feet 10 inches tall.

DUKE NICHOLAS, of Leuchtenberg, who died recently, was a victim of the cigarette habit.

REV. R. L. KIDD, a Canadian evangelist, boasts that he can recite the entire Bible from memory.

SENATOR PALMER, of Illinois, is a man of only moderate fortune, his estate being estimated to be worth $100,000.

PROF. D. S. JORDAN, the newly-appointed President of the Leland Stanford University, of California, will receive a yearly salary of $10,000.

MISS HELEN BETTS was an instructor on the sewing machine in Ohio 20 years ago. Now she is an M. D., and is going to Berlin to study the Koch method.

EX-PRIVATE SECRETARY LAMONT will extend his Washington trip into the South, they say. It is possible that he will go tarpon fishing with Senator Gorman in Florida.

MISS JULIA MARLOWE is said to have the most wonderful faculty of memorizing of any woman on the stage, and she finds that this faculty has been intensified by her recent illness.

PROF. HALSEY C. IVES, who is likely to be made Manager of the Art Department of the World's Fair, is a resident of St. Louis, and is connected with the School of Fine Arts of Washington University. He is 43 years old.

DR. DANIEL G. BRINTON, Professor of Ethnology at the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, has recently been elected an associated member of the Russian Society of Anthropology. This distinction has rarely been conferred on Americans.

PRINCE DOLGOROUKI, the perennial admirer of Mrs. J. C. Ayer and her millions, is now at Monte Carlo, dividing his time between the widow and the board of green cloth, upon which, it is said, the croupiers are raking in big piles of his Napoleons.

## LEA ON THE TAX BILL.

**An Open Letter From the Philadelphian—Real Property the Fairest Basis—Alleged Absurdities of the Pending Measure—Its Obscurity Dangerous—How to Relieve the Taxpayer.**

Mr. Henry Charles Lea, of Philadelphia, of Harrison letter fame, has transmitted the following open letter to State Senator Penrose on "The Bill for Local Taxation:"

I have looked over the "Act to provide revenue for local purposes," of which you kindly sent me a copy, and I take the liberty of calling your attention to some of its remarkable features. I may premise that, as a large holder of real estate, I feel the burden of local taxation acutely, and having comparatively but a small amount of capital invested in personal property, "tangible" or intangible, I should profit largely by any legislation which should shift the burden from real estate owners to capitalists, if it can be done without indirectly causing greater evils than it removes. I can, therefore, sympathize with the objects of the bill, even though I think its methods unwise, and that if enacted it would inflict serious injury on the prosperity of the State.

As a heavy taxpayer, I have naturally given the subject of taxation some thought for many years past, and my conviction is settled that real property is the surest and fairest basis on which to levy the public revenue. It cannot elude the assessor, as the great bulk of personal property can; its value can be estimated with reasonable accuracy, and is not subject to violent or sudden fluctuations; moreover, the tax levied upon it is sooner or later diffused through all classes of the community by the medium of rentals, in a voluntary and equitable way. Besides all this the land owner is specially interested in inviting capital and business to maintain or increase the value of his ground. Legislation which attracts business to his neighborhood helps him; legislation which cripples or injures business hurts him more than it does the trader or manufacturer directly affected, for they can remove to a more hospitable region, while his investment is immovable. The difference between land at $25 an acre and $25 a square foot is simply that the latter is surrounded by capital and business while the former is remote from these sources of value. Of all classes in the community, the land owner is the one most interested in having capital and business untrammeled to earn the largest profits. He gets, sooner or later, his share in those profits, and it is suicidal for him to drive away that which alone give his land its special value over Government lands in the Territories.

### Personal Property Elusive.

Experience has shown, moreover, that all devices to secure the complete and equitable assessment of personal property have proved failures, except when it is in the hands of corporations. Nothing is more elusive than intangible personal property. After legislative ingenuity is exhausted, the assessor must rely, for the most part on the honesty of the taxable, which results in the honest paying both for themselves and for the dishonest. If the pressure becomes too severe for the honest, capital is easily transmitted elsewhere and is lost to the community. The draftsman of the bill under consideration has spared no pains or rigor to accomplish his purpose, and has only succeeded in inventing a system odiously and insufferably inquisitorial to the honest taxable destructive to the privacy which is the right of every citizen in his private affairs, and wholly inefficient to prevent, detect, or punish fraud, despite the lavish threats of fine and imprisonment. Thus section 12 threatens three years at hard labor and a fine of $1,000 for corrupt combination between an assessor and a "taxable person," wholly overlooking the fact that as both are liable to the punishment each can depend on the silence of the other, just as we have already found the same principle work in rendering nugatory our statutes against bribery. In fact, the enormous power which this bill lodges in the hands of the assessor throws too much temptation in their way for us not to expect that it would be largely abused on the one hand for oppression and on the other for unlawful gain. The wise legislator will always take into account the weakness of human nature and will not imagine that by piling up penalties he can avert the consequences of exposing it to too severe a strain.

The impossibility of accomplishing the object aimed at in the bill—the subjection to local taxation of every fragment of personal property owned by each taxable in excess of $300 in value—is sufficiently proved by the grotesque provisions for the assessment of tangible personal property. Each taxable is required by section 5 to present to the assessor a complete inventory of everything owned by him, and business firms and corporations are expressly made "taxable persons" for this purpose. The minuteness with which this is to be done is ludicrously illustrated by the fifth special clause in this section prescribing that "musical instruments," including, I presume, jews-harps and tin trumpets, shall not be omitted. Every householder thus must hand in a catalogue of all the contents of his house, every business concern a full and detailed account of stock, every manufacturer a complete statement of all materials, tools and machinery. Everyone, moreover, must set forth in detail all debts and accounts due to him, for if he fails to enumerate any of them they become outlawed and uncollectible, but no permission is given to deduct liabilities, so that all business indebtedness within the State will be taxed twice, which will be severely oppressive to the debtor class.

### Every Taxable a Rogue.

There is no provision that any values are to be affixed to these enormous inventories, for the bill regards every taxable as a rogue and will not trust him, but it imposes on the assessor the impossible task of affixing to every item "the price or value the same would sell if such piece or parcel of the same were sold singly or separately at a bona-fide sale after full public notice." It seems incredible that so preposterous a suggestion should be made to a legislative body, but I suppose the framer of the bill had in view only the simple contents of a barn or farmyard with their comparatively easily ascertainable values, and never contemplated the consequences of applying his plan to the complicated interests of a large city. Even he, however, I suppose, can imagine what would be the task of the assessor on whom would fall the valuation of the inventory of Mr. Wanamaker's grand depot, or Messrs. Cramp & Son's shipyard, or the Baldwin Locomotive Works. Such a system as this would be inoperative through its cumbrous impossibility, and it would disappear under a storm of public execration and detestation, but not before it had had time to work unimaginable annoyance to the people. A minor evil would be the swarm of assessors let loose upon the community, like the locusts of Egypt, for it would require several hundred in our own city to value the contents of the houses, stores and factories of Philadelphia, which are estimated, I believe, at between 175,000 and 200,000. Another evil would be the necessity, under Section 3, lines 42-43, of printing all these voluminous inventories, the accumulation of which in a few years would require vast storehouses.

To crown the offensive absurdity of all this, Section 21 requires that all these lists with their valuations shall be printed, and a copy be delivered to every taxable. With the obscurity customary in the bill it is not stated whether all the items in the several inventories of each taxable, with their valuations, are to be printed in full, or only the totals, but the former is presumably intended, as the latter would fail in the manifest object of setting every man as a spy upon his neighbors. In either case, many volumes would be annually required in a city like Philadelphia, and as there are 225,000 taxables in the city to be supplied, the printing bill would exhaust a notable percentage of the revenue accruing to the city.

### Its Obscurity Is Dangerous.

I will not weary you with the many other impracticable or injudicious features of the bill, for I think the above shows sufficiently how unsuitable and injurious it would prove as a social and financial factor in the larger cities of the State. I will only in conclusion call your attention to one characteristic peculiarly dangerous—its obscurity. The drafting of a bill requires a thorough knowledge of the subject and a capacity for clear thought and expression. The framer of this measure unfortunately possesses none of these faculties, and his work in consequence is almost unintelligible. If enacted it will fill the State with confusion, for its obscure and doubtful points will be interpreted differently by the authorities of different counties; taxables and assessors will inevitably take antagonistic views; the courts will be burdened with the questions at issue, and, if it is left on the statute book, years must elapse before the Supreme Court will interpret its numerous doubtful clauses and establish a tax system which will be judge-made, and not the work of the Legislature.

A few instances of this unintelligibility, arising either through ignorance or inability to use language intelligibly, will suffice. In Section 1, lines 18-22, "all other moneyed capital in the hands of individuals, corporations, etc.," is by strict construction excepted from taxable "moneys and credits," though apparently it was the intention of the draughtsman to include it. Section 1, line 42-49, is the kernel of the whole bill, for it defines the "local purposes" for which the new taxes levied are to be used. After declaring these to be "the expenses of the government of counties, cities, wards, etc.," it proceeds to add certain objects, such as schools, the insane, roads, bridges, sewers, paving and lighting thus by necessary inference excluding everything not strictly "government" and not especially mentioned.

### Some Omissions Pointed Out.

So little has the framer of the bill realized the complexity of a modern municipality that he omits from his schedule the following departments of our city organization, for which, therefore, no tax could be collected under the bill: The Bureau of Street Cleaning, the Bureau of Water, the Electrical Bureau, the Fire Bureau, the Board of Fire Escapes, the Boiler Inspectors, the Building Inspectors, the Bureau of City Property, the Bureau of Health, the Municipal Hospital, the Bureau of City Iceboats, the City Morgue, the Port Wardens, the Park Commission, the Harbor Commissioners, the Oil Inspectors, and the Nautical School. Even in what he does mention his diction is so confused that he provides "for the support of the poor and indigent insane," thus taking care of the insane and literally excluding paupers. Section 7, line 7, assumes that the school tax is to be levied by the school district, which is a novelty, at least so far as Philadelphia is concerned; and in line 11, "class seven" is alluded to when "class six" is obviously intended. Section 20 is devoted to raising the poll tax to $1 25, a very commendable thing in itself, but it requires this payment to be made by "all natural male persons over 21 years of age," thus including all strangers who may chance to pass through the State or to reside here temporarily. Fortunately the complications which the enforcement of this curious regulation would create, are avoided by the precaution of omitting all penalty for non-payment and all instructions as to how such a tax is to be collected, whether from strangers or citizens.

It will not do to disregard all this as captious or verbal criticism. Such is precisely the criticism to which all laws are subjected, and which they must be drafted to meet, first from the officials entrusted with their execution, and then from keen lawyers and able judges, when doubtful points require to be settled. The bill fairly bristles with such obscurities and incongruities, and this is the more inexcusable, as it affects every household, every store, every factory and every corporation within the boundaries of Pennsylvania.

### How to Relieve Taxpayers.

The effort in the bill to make the "transportation and transmission" companies pay their fair proportion of the public burdens is a move in the right direction, but I would suggest that much more could be accomplished for the relief of the taxpayer if the Legislature would devise measures for preventing the discriminations in transportation which exercise so baneful an influence on the prosperity of the public for the enrichment of the few.

The bill has evidently been drawn to fit the agricultural counties of the State, and we are told that they demand its passage. If they think it would be beneficial to them we of the cities have no right to prevent them from experimenting with it, but we have the right to demand that they shall not inflict upon us a measure utterly unsuited to our needs. It would require but a simple amendment excluding from its operations cities of the first and second, and, perhaps, third class, and then both parties will be satisfied. As the State revenues are not involved, and as the sole object of the bill is local taxation, there can be no pretense that uniformity is necessary, and the rural and urban population can each have a system adapted to their wishes.

## OHIO'S SHARE OF THE DIRECT TAX.

**Governor Campbell Points Out a Method of Disposing of It.**

COLUMBUS, April 8.—Governor Campbell sent a special meassage to the Legislature this afternoon relative to the disposition of the direct tax recently refunded to the States by the General Government.

Ohio secured $1,332,000. He recommended that $600,000 of the amount be set aside to obviate the necessity of making advance drafts on the county treasuries, a custom which, the message says, has been necessary since 1885.

### He Won the Booby Prize.

Speaking of progressive euchre, a Texas editor says: "It is an abominable, damnable practice. It is the curse and blight of society, a blast and mildew to young men, a canker worm in defiance, a soul destroying sin is this horrible, detested, deplorable, outlawed gambling. It must, like moles and bats, hide itself; slip into dark corners; lie up in the day and prowl at night; cover itself with the cloak of secresy; love darkness rather than light, because its deeds are evil; it is a twin brother to theft, a near relative to robbery and a cousin to burglary, fit only for the society of devils, and none but his slaves will indulge it."

### A High-Priced Mule.

SEDALIA, Mo., April 8.—John R. Gentry, of the Locust Grove Stock Farm, is here to-day, and reports the sale of Kentucky Prince, one of the best known mules in Central Missouri, to D. A. Hancock, of Saline county, for $1,900. This is the highest-priced mule ever sold.

### A Mean Trick.

Washington Star.]

The attention of Mr. Jay Gould is called to the fact that there are 35 individual railroads in operation in the State of South Carolina, and 29 of them are making money.

### A Good Idea.

New York World.]

The Chicago end of the World's Fair is in good shape. Now let all the rest of us set to work to make the celebration worthy of our great country.

## DEATHS OF A DAY.

### Mrs. Ann Eliza Buchanan.

Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Buchanan, a noted lady, formerly of Pittsburg, died on Tuesday at her home, No. 1738 Pine street, Philadelphia. Mrs. Buchanan was the wife of the Rev. Dr. Edward Buchanan, of Philadelphia, the only surviving brother of ex-President James Buchanan. She was the daughter of Colonel William B. Foster, the founder of Lawrenceville, and was born in Pittsburg in 1812. She spent her life here until her marriage, and for many years has resided in Philadelphia. She was the last surviving sister of the late Stephen C. Foster and of William B. Foster, Jr., formerly Vice President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. One of her daughters is the wife of A. J. Cassatt, Esq., of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and another is the wife of Mahlon Sweny, Esq., of Philadelphia. Mrs. Buchanan was a lady of very brilliant mind and high intellectual acquirements, an accomplished musician and a model of the dignity and elegant manners of the olden time. Above all she was a Christian, pure in heart and earnest in good works. Upon her guitar laid upon the floor, the infant fingers of her little brother, Stephen, at 2 years of age, first learned to tune the notes of harmony which in after life made him so famous. The last survivor of the family is her brother, the Hon. Morrison Foster, who resides at Sewickley.

### Governor Daniel G. Fowle.

Governor Daniel G. Fowle died of apoplexy at Raleigh, N. C., yesterday. He was 60 years of age. No previous announcement has been made of his indisposition, but he had for a day or two been suffering from indigestion, and had not attended at the Capitol yesterday. He aided his children at their lessons last evening; retiring at 10 o'clock, and at 11:30 called his daughter to his chamber, saying he felt quite unwell, about to faint, and then suddenly expired. Governor Fowle graduated at Princeton in 1851. He was Adjutant General of the State under Governor Vance during the war, and Judge of the Supreme Court in 1867, but resigned rather than obey General Canby's military orders. He was inaugurated Governor in January, 1889. The body now lies in state at the Capitol with a guard of honor.

### Patrick Brennan, Centenarian.

Patrick Brennan, aged 102 years, died yesterday morning, at his home in Hurley, Wis. He had perfect health and an excellent memory. Brennan leaves 104 descendants. He voted yesterday, and has a record for voting for the last 20 Presidents since John Quincy Adams.

### Obituary Notes.

MR. JAMES CARNAHAN died yesterday at his residence, 401 Wylie avenue, at the advanced age of 81 years.

MRS. SAMUEL LATHROP, an actress and the wife of Sam Lathrop, an old-time clown, died on Monday in New York.

WILLIAM R. JUSTUS, a very well-known resident, died at his residence at Mansfield yesterday. The deceased gentleman was in his 84th year.

MRS. BLANCHE SLADER, a supporting actress well known to the profession, died in New York of consumption Tuesday. She came of a professional family.

A. R. WANDER, artist, of Arlington, N. J., who sketched many battles of the Civil War for the Harpers, died Tuesday while visiting in Marietta, Ga.

MRS. ANN ELIZA BUCHANAN, wife of Rev. Dr. E. Y. Buchanan, and daughter of the late William B. Foster, of Pittsburg, died of old age at Philadelphia Tuesday.

BRIGADIER GENERAL LUCIUS J. GARTRELL, formerly of the Confederate army, died at Atlanta Tuesday. He was a Congressman at the breaking out of the war.

MRS. SARAH HAUGHEY, the first white child born in Newark, O., died in Thornville, O., yesterday at the advanced age of 88 years. She retained her strong mental faculties up almost to the last moment.

EDMUND DEHAULT DE PRESSENSE, the well-known French pastor and writer, died in Paris yesterday. He was born January 7, 1824. In 1871 M. Pressense was elected to the National Assembly. He was the author of a large number of religious works.

## SPRING NUPTIALS.

**Two Pretty Weddings—W. S. Kuhn and Miss Kate Hill and W. W. McBride and Miss Mame Ziegler Join Hands and Fortunes—Patriotic Celebration—Society Gossip.**

Mr. William Speer Kuhn, a prominent young East End man and general manager of the American Water Works Company, was married yesterday to Miss Kate Hill, of St. Louis. The wedding was celebrated at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Hill, the bride's parents. The hour was 5 o'clock and a reception from 6 to 8 followed. Mr. Kuhn is a very popular young man in this city, possessed of a host of friends, both ladies and gentlemen, who anxiously await the opportunity of welcoming the fair young bride into social circles, who, if rumor is not incorrect, is fitted by nature and education to shine brilliantly in the most refined society.

A number of Pittsburgers were in attendance last evening at the nuptials of Miss Mame Ziegler, daughter of E. E. Ziegler, of the West Penn road, and Mr. W. Wilson McBride. The wedding was in the evening, and in all was witnessed by about 50 guests. The residence of the bride's parents on Main street was the scene of festivity. The bride's only attendant was Miss Mann, of Lewistown, who acted as maid of honor. After a wedding trip the young couple will go to housekeeping in Oakland.

The month of May seemed a dim, distant future when the May festival was first talked of last fall; but it is now almost a present, and all concerned in the vast musical enterprise are doubling their efforts and devoting their time to the project, that all pertaining to the affair may be the acme of perfection, as far as circumstances and environments will permit. Carpenters and workmen have possession of Mechanical Hall, and with their skilled labor will soon transform it into an auditorium of comfort and elegance. Mr. Carl Retter and competent assistants are conducting the rehearsals and report the most gratifying and delightful returns in that particular line. The demand for private boxes is on the increase, and altogether the financial, social and musical success of the undertaking is encouraging.

THIS has been almost a Fourth of July week, with patriotic doings in both cities, and a continuation of such will this evening commemorate the twenty-sixth anniversary of General Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House. The meeting will be a public one, and held at Turner Hall, Forbes street, under the auspices of the Union Veteran Legion. The programme is to be a very interesting one, and among the distinguished men expected to be present are General Daniel Butterfield, General E. S. Bragg, of Wisconsin; Colonel Palmer, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; National Commander Miller and staff, of Philadelphia. At the conclusion of the programme a banquet will be served the officers and visitors, and toasts will be the last course.

### Social Chatter.

MRS. JOHN L. OBER, of Troy Hill, gives a euchre this evening.

THE Fownes-Filley wedding occurred yesterday in Philadelphia.

MRS. SLACK DAVIS' dancing class will have the postponed reception this evening.

PROF. LEISFELD will entertain his friends and pupils at Cyclorama Hall to-night.

THE postponed entertainment of the Dean Society of the High School will take place tomorrow evening.

MR. AND MRS. LOUIS S. CLARK, the bride and groom, are expected home this morning from their Southern tour.

MISS GERTRUDE HENPHILL, of Sandusky street, Allegheny, and Mr. Norton Harsford Byam were married last evening at 6 o'clock at the Hemphill home.

R. S. DAVIS, JR., yesterday claimed as a bride Miss Eleanor Elliott, of Lexington. The wedding was celebrated in that city with considerable brilliancy.

THE Woman's Press Club, of Pittsburg, will hold their regular meeting next Saturday, at which the draft of the constitution and bylaws will be up for final discussion before adoption.

A LECTURE will be delivered to-night by Rev. P. Maurice Kaeder, O. S. B., at Old City Hall, on the subject of "Nuns, Ancient and Modern, or the Praise of Womanhood." The lecture will be given with the approval of Rt. Rev. R. Phelan, Bishop of Pittsburg.

## BLAIR AND THE CHINESE.

**The New Minister Intimates That Many False Reports Are Spread About Him.**

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

NEW YORK, April 8.—Henry W. Blair, United States Minister to China, who is at the Astor House, said to-day that he was not feeling very well, but he had the impression that his illness was only temporary and would not interfere with his trip to China. "I don't know when I shall start for China," he said finally. "I suppose I'll start from here in two or three weeks. Can't tell, though." Mr. Blair declined to say what he thought of China or the Chinese. "Mr. Blair," said the visitor, "you are quoted as saying something very disagreeable about China and the Chinese. The saying is that two years ago you made the statement that the Chinese were a leprous race. That was before you wanted the place of Minister to China. Now it is said that as soon as you received the appointment you passed off your previous remark by stating that it was simply a campaign argument; that California had to be carried by the Republicans, and that that would help to carry it. Have you any idea how such a story could get about?"

"The wind bloweth where it listeth and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh nor whither it goeth. So is everyone born in the spirit," remarked Mr. Blair. "You must not believe the various reports your hear."

## NEW EDUCATIONAL METHODS.

**What Prominent Collegians Think of the Chicago University Innovations.**

CHICAGO, April 8.—The *Herald* to-day, in an article on the projected university at Chicago, shows that some radical innovations upon the old established higher educational systems of this country are to be tried. General Francis A. Walker, President of the Institute of Technology, when asked what he thought of the plans, said: "I can't foretell the issue of new and unprecedented projects. If a new university proposes to change precedents, it can't be judged fairly till some time after the experiments have been tried."

As to the effects of the new university upon similar institutions in the East, President Capen, of Tufts, thinks that it will be but slight, even if noticeable, especially after the first few years. "It is all right, I suppose, for the Baptists to have a university of their own, though I think it might have been as well not to make that restriction."

President Eliot, of Harvard, said that he thought the restriction with respect to religious belief a very unfortunate one. Other educators looked upon the matter as an experiment, and all were positive in their opinions that the State endowment of $2,000,000 is far short of the necessary amount to carry on such a vast system on the lines laid down.

## AFTER EDMUNDS' SHOES.

**Secretary Proctor, Congressman Powers and Several Other Noted Aspirants.**

ST. ALBANS, VT., April 8.—The announcement of the proposed retirement of Senator Edmunds from public life will be received with profound regret by the people of Vermont. The event constitutes the most notable and interesting move on the political chessboard of the Green Mountain State that has been made for a quarter of a century.

There promises to be a most interesting and spirited contest for the succession to the Senatorship. There will be several candidates for the office, including Hon. Henry Powers, Congressman-elect from the first district, and Hon. Redfield Proctor, Secretary of War. The name of Judge Wheelock G. Veazy, of the United States inter-State Commerce Commission, and ex-Governor John W. Stewart may also be included in the list of possible candidates. Ex-Governor J. Gregory Smith