

The Dispatch

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TWELVE PAGES

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THE CITY AUDIT. The ordinance providing for an audit of the city accounts was again introduced by Councilman O'Donnell yesterday. There seems to have been a good deal of unnecessary discussion on this issue, but the true significance is understood, it is probable that those opposing it will recognize that by doing so they place themselves in a false position.

There can be no good reason for objecting to a proper and thorough audit of the city's affairs. It is to be taken as a matter of course that any institution handling the public funds should have its accounts audited at proper periods; and if any criticism were to be offered on this proposition, it is that it has been too long deferred. To be complete, it must extend back to the date of the last audit. An audit which leaves any period unexamined would be equivalent to no audit at all.

With the recognition of the indisputable propriety and business necessity of properly auditing public accounts, it is to be presumed that all who favor conducting city affairs on business principles will unite in passing a measure for an audit that will be complete and indisputable in its findings.

ENGLAND'S BUDGET. In submitting his annual budget Mr. Goschen has had another opportunity of demonstrating his ability as a financier by the close approximation of the expenditure to his estimates. This year the slight balance is due to an increase in revenue from tobacco instead of from liquor, as on other occasions. This is an improvement, inasmuch as tobacco is not the curse to England which drink is.

The Chancellor's logic is weak in drawing a favorable conclusion of the conditions of wages and prosperity among working men from the increase in the consumption of the weed that soothes and the spirit that inebriates. It cannot for a moment be maintained that men in steady work at good rates of pay seek as much in drink as do men whose condition leads them to seek forgetfulness. If Goschen has no stronger proof of the happiness of English artisans than is afforded by an increase in the expenditure on tobacco and spirits he would do better to hold his peace on the matter.

It is noticeable that in England the consumption of spirits has increased six and one-half per cent as compared to one and three-fifths per cent in Scotland and one per cent in Ireland. Yet the party in power to-day professes to believe that it can manage the business of Scotland and Ireland at Westminster better than it could be done in Dublin and Edinburgh respectively. Mr. Goschen is a good financier, but he goes astray on his special deductions from the condition of the Exchequer.

AN ILLOGICAL INVESTIGATION. The newspaper assignment of sending a reporter in the guise of a destitute workman around among the organized charities has been tried again in New York. The Telegram, which undertook it, gives an extended report of the experiment, and upon the fact that its reporter did not get enough relief to amount to anything bases the conclusion that "city organizations intended to benefit the deserving poor fall to fill the bill."

In this conclusion the esteemed Telegram is illogical. It may be the case that the deserving poor are not relieved; but its investigation does not prove the fact. The idea that it does, comes from a failure to recognize that the person sent to apply for relief does not belong to the class of deserving poor. He was a pro tempore impostor asking for charitable aid under false pretenses. The fact that he did not get it proves that the charitable organizations were not taken in by this imposture to the extent of wasting their substances. As far as this goes it is much more of a vindication for the missions than if they had wasted their relief upon a person applying for it under a false impersonation, which may have been innocent enough of its intent, but which it is not their business to accept.

hard lot for them. The difficulty of curbing the female tongue stands out in equal prominence with the discreditable behavior being filled full of hotly an offended by expert duelist. If the conservative view of woman makes the result of a few social remarks that the father, brother or husband of the remarker must make himself a target for the father, brother or husband of the remarker, we hazard nothing in saying that the fathers, brothers and husbands will go in for Progress with a large P and the advanced woman with capitals all through her title.

Better, far better, for the peaceful though inebriated masculine soul that the woman of the latter day shall be addressed in words than for the unfortunate man to become the situs of a lead plant and leave the fair and old-fashioned woman a disconsolate widow—until she finds a fresh spouse to shoot and be shot on account of her social *jeux d'esprit*.

SHARPERS IN STATEFAIT. The latest exchange of maneuvers between the Powers on the Egyptian question suggests the inspiration of a frontier fever over a line fence. Together with a distinct remark that the advice of the Chesapeake-James merchants palm off on their customers an article wholly inferior to the one they exhibit in their windows at startlingly low price. The trouble commenced with the sending of the firman from the Sultan investing the young Khedive in the Government of Egypt. As this indicated a universal agreement that Abbas is to be Khedive, there would seem to be on the surface no objections. But the English diplomatists fear the Moslems as well as the Greeks, when they bear gifts, especially when the eminent Greek, a Russian and French Ministers were close to the Porte. The event proved that the distrust was not misplaced. The amiable Eyouf Pasha journeyed to Cairo with the firman in his possession, and proposed by virtue of its authority to invest the young Khedive at once. But the English advisers of the Khedive were wary birds, and there was a suspicion of something in the return demand was made for the inspection of the firman.

This was not a welcome demand, as may be judged from the subsequent disclosure that the firman the sublime Porte had graciously provided, under the advice of Russian and French Ministers, were close to the Porte. The event proved that the distrust was not misplaced. The amiable Eyouf Pasha journeyed to Cairo with the firman in his possession, and proposed by virtue of its authority to invest the young Khedive at once. But the English advisers of the Khedive were wary birds, and there was a suspicion of something in the return demand was made for the inspection of the firman.

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retaining control of offices without regard to the will of the people, and thereby they have shown how extreme partisanship becomes the enemy of popular government. When cases like those of Connecticut and West Virginia occur, they demonstrate that partisans are incapable of doing what should be the only effort of real public leaders after election, namely of untiringly obeying the expressed will of the people. If the maintenance of an official in power by preventing the decision of an election is not usurpation, it is but a step from it, for the next thing is to maintain power by preventing or nullifying the election altogether. As long as partisanship produces such results, the politicians display themselves as the worst enemies of republican government.

It is announced that passenger cars for the special train to the World's Fair are to be made with a view to their easy conversion into freight wagons after the rush. It is estimated that the cars will be converted into passenger conveyances, as force or habit might lead to an unpleasantly rough handling of the human goods.

An Illinois woman celebrated her hundredth birthday on Sunday. The supply of "oldest women in the country" is not exhausted yet.

The block house at the Point, what there is left of it, should be gone, where it is, be repaired with a minimum of alteration, be allowed some breathing space, and then be preserved for future reference. Surely Mrs. Schenley and the Daughters of the Revolution can manage this between them.

ONLY four more days of mortification, but much can be done in the time by sacrificing winter clothes on the altar of spring fashions.

It appears that the voting on the \$5,000,000 loan for the World's Fair is to be largely guided by jealousy of Chicago's success in securing the Democratic Convention. Such action would be well in keeping with the customary Congressional methods of doing national business.

The Third Party is not satisfied with its present ability to blow its own trumpet, and therefore establish an organ in the Capital.

So far as England is concerned, the disturbance on the Afghan frontier as a mere bagatelle, as the Amer. has recommended its princely subjects to put not their trust in Russia, but remain friendly to British rule.

A PRESIDENTIAL candidacy is like an amateur photograph—it is sure to bring out all a man's worst features.

We congratulate the Chronicle Telegraph on the prosperity and energy which has enabled it to reduce its price. The city, too, is to be congratulated on the business progress of which journalistic success is indicative.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth has his way Harrisburg will become Harrisburg-to-morrow.

SENATOR ALDRICH says that the Rhode Island election was decided by the tariff and the currency. Of course there must be no misinterpretation as to the way in which the currency affected the result.

SOME GOOD PLAYS. A Change for the Better at the Eastern—Theater is Fanny—Boston Athenaeum First-Class and Other Shows Worth Seeing.

Chas. E. Hoyt has distinguished himself hitherto in the realm of screaming farce, and he may be said to be to a large extent the inventor of the American farce comedy, which has since degenerated into a disease of great virulence. Last night a comedy of his far greater merit than anything Mr. Hoyt has done before was presented at the Duquesne Theater. "A Texas Steer" is not a large comedy at all, and its name is misleading in its suggestion of riotous predecessors, such as "A Hole in the Ground" and "A Tin Soldier." Once before Mr. Hoyt put on a more serious style in "Midnight Bell," but that play was neither one thing nor the other, it was mechanically farcical in spots and mechanically pathetic in spots and really and truly effective nowhere. But "A Texas Steer" is a well-planned play with something like a sober presentation of several phases of American life and lots of fun all through it. The characters in it are firmly drawn and Maverick Browder, the Kansas farmer, the part of the play, is as good a citizen, and a third class, rapidly growing in numbers especially throughout the great West. The play is really a masterpiece of its kind, and it is to be wondered at that statesmanship is declining, or that such a comparative few of officials in the arena desire the pleasure of those selected by men who are in politics as a source of revenue to themselves and their families. It is an appreciation of what the general good demands. But those men who act under the influence of such a narrow and selfish ambition from several classes. There are those who plead a want of time as an excuse for neglecting their duties. Another class say that there is no money in politics for them, meaning that they cannot get a cash interest. A third class, and the most numerous, are those who would any other commodity. In these three classes money is placed above the demands of citizenship. 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