

The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURGH, FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1892.

TWELVE PAGES

CHALKING CORPORATE HATS. Nothing quite so audacious has been claimed or granted so far in city affairs as the exemption of a lot of profit-making corporations from their share in those taxes which all other business concerns and individuals in Pittsburgh have to bear.

These are the only Companies so far designated as having been exempted. But if these are to be exempted, any corporation which can make any show at all of dealing with the general public—and getting usually paid two prices therefor—will be a fool if it does not at once step out to City Hall with a demand to be put upon the free list. It is needless to say that there is not the slightest ground in equity for any of these exemptions. It is difficult to think that had the Assessors and Controller adhered to their original position of allowing the assessments against these Companies to stand, the Companies would have made a discrimination in their favor. The contention that because these Companies pay a specified tax on their capital stock to the State, therefore they are not obliged to pay a local tax for their real estate and personal property, should apply no more to them than to the hundreds of other companies which are subjected to a like State tax, and are yet, of course, obliged to pay the local tax also.

It would have been very much better had the Controller and the Assessors adhered to their original position and permitted the assessments against these Companies to stand, leaving this inequitable doctrine of exemption to be enunciated directly by the Court itself, if indeed it is to be assumed that any such unwarranted and monstrous injustice would find sanction there. Now that attention is drawn to the matter the abuse is one that will not long be permitted to stand.

NEW YORK CARELESSNESS.

Examiner Hoffman, of the Department of Charities, has sent back to New York a German dying of consumption, and his wife in destitute circumstances, that they may be returned to the Fatherland. It is about time that the Immigration Inspectors at New York should learn that if they insist upon permitting ineligible pauper immigrants to land in Pittsburgh will not consent to be made a dumping ground for their reception. This is by no means the first case in which the Pittsburgh authorities have found the New York Inspectors at fault, and suffered inconvenience and expense by their carelessness.

TIN PLATE FACTS.

A careful report on the present condition and an estimate of the future achievements of the tin plate industry in America has been filed in the Treasury Department by Mr. Ira Ayers, the special agent detailed by the department to inquire into this subject. He very clearly demonstrates that the manufacturers will do much more than comply with the requirements made by the McKinley bill for a continuation of the duty on foreign tin plate. He more than bears out that the friends of Protection have claimed for this infant industry, and shows the remarkable strides which it has already made.

This industry could never have been established without Protection, and it could not hold its own now if the barriers which defend it from competition with the products of foreign cheap labor were removed. The Democratic inability to do more than disregard and break its pledges, secured its election by a series of misrepresentations. None of the free-trade party's outcries were louder or more shrill than its false prophecies that the manufacture of tin plate could never be established in this country, and that the attempt to establish it would result in a disastrous increase in the price of the commodity. Facts have established the fallaciousness

of their statements in both respects. Yet the men who made these arguments and failed to try to put them into practice, and who have received such unanswerable refutations of their flimsy calumny theories, are to the fore again with a more radical demand that American industries shall be disregarded than they have ever made hitherto. Judged by their own utterances, weighed by their own acts and convicted by the palpable evidence of their advanced Protection, as shown by American prosperity and an approach to American industrial independence, nothing but a sweeping defeat awaits the free trade forces in November.

HALF-WAY MEASURES CRIMINAL.

There will be a general sense throughout the country that the Government at Washington is too slow and too limited in its announced programme so far for keeping out the cholera.

It sounds like criminal idly to hear of the Washington authorities proposing ports for rags from Europe, until September 30, when the notice is before the world that the cholera now abounds in Europe. This order gives a full month's start to infected rags against the health authorities.

About as weak and unconvincing is the assumption that mere casual inspection and disinfection of immigrants from infected ports will answer; and that they can then safely be allowed to step ashore.

The public sense—in this matter it is better sense than official sense—is that all traffic should be absolutely prohibited until the cold weather from ports like Hamburg and Havre, where the disease is known to be widespread and virulent. If this is thought too much there should at least be such a protracted period of quarantine as will make absolutely certain that no infected person or cargo is permitted to land.

Not only should that most prolific source of disease, the importation of rags, cease before September 30, but it should cease once, and cargoes now on the ocean be sent back without further ado.

It is a terrible policy to take half-way measures when dealing with such a possible visitor as the Asiatic cholera. In no uncertain tones the country should at once make the Washington authorities aware of its sense of the utter inefficiency and unsatisfactory character of their proposals.

THE PROHIBITION LETTER.

Nothing daunts the Prohibition people. Mr. John Bidwell, of California, their selection for the Presidency, is the first candidate to publish a formal letter of acceptance of his nomination. After making an urgent appeal for the abolition of the liquor traffic, an impassioned plea on behalf of female suffrage and a vaguely non-committal statement of the money plank of his party, the writer makes the startling assertion that there is no practical difference between the tariff policy of the Republican and Democratic parties.

This assumption that one party posing as the protector of American industries, establishing and maintaining American industrial independence, is on a par with another which makes a point of being utterly unkind of those things, is thoroughly characteristic of a document which is remarkable rather for the force of its fervor than the power of its logic.

AGRICULTURAL GROWTH.

A statistical point is raised by the New York Press in dispute of an assertion often made by the country, that the population from the country to the cities. The question is one which has an important sociological bearing entirely outside of the tariff question; although the disputants regard the latter as its most important relation. The Press says:

White towns have grown and industries have developed to such an extent that the system, the growth in agriculture has not been less remarkable. Indeed, when it is borne in mind that we were an important agricultural country in 1860, the growth has been surprising. Here are the facts, in millions of dollars:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Millions of Dollars, Millions of Acres. Rows include Agricultural value (1860: \$3,958, 1890: \$32,960), Farm value (1860: \$1,495, 1890: \$12,110), Implements and machinery (1860: \$90, 1890: \$480), Live stock (1860: \$1,099, 1890: \$2,468), and Total (1860: \$6,642, 1890: \$32,028).

THE PITTSBURGH DISPATCH.

PUMPKINS VS. PRIMARIES.

CONGRESSMAN BROUST SAYS THE FORMER RECEIVE ATTENTION DUE TO THE LATTER—CLOSING DAY OF THE FARMERS' ENCAMPMENT—REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES ADVOCATED BY TWO SPEAKERS OF THE SAME NAME.

MR. GREENA, Aug. 25.—A number of distinguished citizens combined to mark the complete success of the day of the farmers' encampment. Occasional showers undoubtedly affected the attendance, while a number of the orators who had been expected failed to appear in person. A telegram was received at the last moment from General Hastings, stating that a press of business, including the opening of a new railroad, would prevent his coming.

That assault on Grand Master Sweeney, of the Switchmen's Union, by one of the strikers is every bit as much an act of lawlessness as the destruction of the railroad company's property, and it only emphasizes the existence of a spirit that must lead to the defeat of labor wherever it is allowed free scope.

A CHANGE in the policy governing this country is only justified when it is followed by an improvement of national conditions. The idea that any advantage is possible of attainment by substituting a Free-trade President for a strong Protectionist is too ridiculous to be seriously entertained.

EVERY parade of the Knights Templar at Denver created less excitement than the discovery of rich gold placers in Colorado.

IT is perfectly natural that Cleveland should receive the support of European editors since he advocates a policy for the benefit of Europe at the expense of America. These editors would be glad to teach the American people the extreme folly of voting for him.

IT needed no cyclone to lay waste the Iron Hill. It collapsed spontaneously by reason of its own inherent weakness.

WITH prohibitions for bull fights as adjuncts to Alabama's State Fair and the World's Columbian Exposition, it is evident that America might have made a good deal more progress toward civilization than it has done since the times of Columbus four hundred years ago.

THE police of Tiffin, Ohio, are to be provided with bicycles. The common wheel should run smoothly there now.

THE chief value of the Allegheny County Teachers' Institute lies in the fact that the most essential qualification for a teacher is that of the ability to teach.

STRIKES should join duels as an obsolete and non-determinative method of settling differences of opinion.

THERE is a great outcry in New York over the proposed amendment to the Charter of that city which would give the Tammany-ruled city were troubled by no grosser and more dangerous evil than this it would not have become the by-word that it is for municipal maladministration.

APPARENTLY the Coolidges are taking a vacation as well as the officials of Fayette county.

HAMBURG with its free port and enormous shipping tonnage, untroubled by cholera, has made a good deal of headway for worldwide distribution of the epidemic is increased tenfold.

THE Sun is making it unpleasantly hot for the World these days in several directions.

If the Canadian Cabinet prefer mutilating its treasury to removing its unfair discriminations against America, that is its own lookout and the fault of its ministers' shortsighted stubbornness.

WASH and be clean is the motto for every municipality while cholera is abroad.

WHEN any reference is made to "the canal question" just now, it is safe to assume that the matter of Canadian toll discriminations and not the appearance of the surface of Mars is referred to.

THAT vagrant who escaped from the workhouse is still indulging in vagrancy.

CANADA would be ill-advised to abandon its exhibit at the World's Fair in a city of the West. The loss to Canada would be a good deal greater than that to this country or the Fair.

A SWITZ strike is by no means an automatic block system.

THOSE Republican conferees in the Twenty-first Congressional district are emulating Tennyson's brook too closely. They and their babble threaten to go on forever.

MASTERS OF MEN.

ANTON DVORAK, the great composer, who may come to New York and teach, was a poorer employer's boy than Thoma, the masterpiece of the graduate from sweetbread in his Suite D.

MAJOR WARNER, the Republican candidate for Governor of Missouri, is speaking in that State at political meetings which are attended by vast crowds. He makes a favorable impression wherever he goes.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR HAILL, of Massachusetts, now seems to have a sure thing of the Republican nomination for Governor this year, all other candidates, it is reported, having withdrawn from the field.

THE Rev. F. B. Meyer, whose preaching at Northampton has attracted so much attention within the last week or two, has accepted a call to the pastorate of the church in London to which Dr. Newman Hall ministered so long.

FIELD MARSHAL GENERAL COUNT VON BISMARCK, who celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of his birth last Sunday at Quellenborn, near Koethen, is the oldest officer of rank higher than that of Colonel in the Prussian army.

THE PITTSBURGH DISPATCH.

A LOOK AROUND.

THERE is a prospect of a decided change in an important branch of house building. Several architects are considering the use of structural steel or iron in dwellings for frame-work.

The cholera scare has had its effect upon the programmes of several Pittsburgh families who had expected to go to Europe. It has also had its effect upon the programme for the city of September 1st.

"I DOUBT very much whether the United States will be troubled with cholera this year," said an old physician yesterday.

"Perhaps some sporadic cases may develop in sea coast cities, but it is very unlikely that it will try its hand on us until next spring if it comes at all.

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ONE of our iron manufacturers remarked the other day that there were about 20 kinds of cast-iron in which the Pittsburgh district is prominent.

WHAT has become of the Southside free bridge? It is taking its usual vacation and will have it with us again in the fall.

AN Ohio man recently announced his candidacy for Congress, and a leading politician publicly remarked that he was crazy to think of such a thing.

MR. ALICE LEHMAN will leave for Cremona on Saturday to spend a few weeks of the autumn there, where she will give a series of lectures on the beauties of the grandest presentations.

MR. McCULLOUGH and the Misses McCullough of Marlborough street, who have been enjoying at considerable length a visit to Asbury Park, returned home this week.

MR. EDWARD H. WILLIAMS, of the Kenmore Hotel, returned this week from Morgan county, Md.

MR. WILLIAM H. MYLICK is visiting with his people near Zanesville, O.

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CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

—New York makes 55,000 watches a week.

—American street railways employ nearly 70,000 men.

—It takes nearly five years to tan an elephant's skin.

—An irrigation canal in Utah and Idaho will irrigate 100,000 acres of land.

—An ice yacht has been known to travel a mile in one minute and ten seconds.

—New York City is reputed to eat 50,000 bushels of buckberries every season.

—Decatur, Ala., has one negro Alderman, one negro Justice and two negro policemen.

—The last postoffice opened its doors in Paris in 1402; in England, 1681; in America, 1710.

—In May the New York police found 4,137 children who could not tell where they lived.

—Insects are destroying whole forests in Virginia, and among other things the famous pope's pine.

—A Chinese sect believes that women, by embracing vegetarians, will become men.

—An Atlantic City bath-house keeper has a sign reading "Hire a suit and try our assortment of cool waves."

—Chicago postal clerks are charged with soaking off rare stamps from foreign letters posted through the mails.

—Telegraphic communication by land and sea was first established between London and Constantinople in 1838.

—London has been experiencing a cold summer, in which the thermometer ranged between the 40° and the 70° mark.

—Queen Victoria's private cabins in the royal yacht are said to be the only parts of the boat not lighted with electricity.

—When a child dies in Greenland the native parents bury a living dog with it, the dog to be used by the child as a guide to the country.

—A Milford, Ind., woman was bitten on the cheek by a mosquito a few days ago. Blood poisoning resulted and her life was saved with difficulty.

The pioneer vineyard of Northern Ohio, now famous for its American wines, was planted by Hiram T. Dewey, in 1857, one mile from the city of Sandusky.

THE PITTSBURGH DISPATCH.

SOCIAL CHATTER.

THE First Presbyterian Church of East Pittsburgh, which has been closed since its consecration, will be opened again after an absence from work since August 1.

THE Rev. Mr. Stewart has had a very enjoyable evening with the church, a most enjoyable evening was spent by the citizens of that part town.

By next Sunday the choir of Shady-side Presbyterian Church will be organized again after an absence from work since August 1.

THE young lady who leaves in a few days for New York to enter the National Conservatory of Music there to prosecute musical studies with Miss Pitts, one of the best American masters.

MR. SAMUEL M. BROWN, organist of Shady-side Presbyterian Church, will give a concert at his home, on Wednesday evening next.

MR. CLARK E. STEWART has entire charge of the choir in the Sunday school and at the religious services on Wednesday evening.

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