EVENING BULLETIN

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PEACOCK, FETHERSTON & CO.

Tuesday, May 17, 1870.

THE TAX BILL AND THE INCOME TAX.

The Internal Revenue bill reported by Mr. Schenck yesterday proposes to reduce taxation nearly to the amount of thirty-four million dollars; but it continues the income tax at the old rate of five per cent., raising the exemption, however, to fifteen hundred dollars. Many of the features of this bill are excellent, and will give satisfaction to those persons whose industry is relieved; but it is certain that the general public regard the bill with disappointment and disgust because of its perpetuation of the oppressive and offensive tax on incomes. It should be a sufficient reason for the adoption of this tax, that it is demanded with remarkable unanimity by the people and the press of all parties. But its retention cannot be justified even upon the plea of necessity. The net amount received from this source last year was about eighteen million dollars. During the same year the public debt was reduced nearly ninety-eight million dollars. Without the income tax the reduction would have been only eighty million dollars, and with this sum the people of the country would have been satisfied, and would have believed as faithfully as they do now in the honesty and efficiency of the Administration. During the first four months of the present year more than twenty-seven millions of the public debt have been extinguished, and it is asserted that Secretary Boutwell expects to apply about fifteen millions more during the month of May. This is very honorable and praiseworthy, and it will exalt our credit abroad, and, to some extent, the fame of the Administration at home. But it is wholly wrong that these enormous payments should be wrung from the people against their wish, and by means of a cruel and injurious system of taxation. Mr. Schenck admits this fact when he effects a general reduction of taxes to the amount of thirty-four millions, instead of cutting down taxes to nearly every other direction, and leaving the most hateful tax untouched, the very first action of the Committee should have been to abolish this source of revenue altogether. This done, Mr. Schenck acknowledges by his figures that he could still have reduced the general taxes by sixteen million dollars, with the surplus, and still have had enough to apply to the expenses of the government and the reasonable reduction of the debt.

It is not worth while to repeat the arguments that have been used against the income tax. Congressmen know that the people object to it and desire its abolition, not because it is a heavy pecuniary burden, but because of its peculiarly offensive character, and of the odious methods provided for its collection. How these men came before the country with this revised tax bill, in open defiance of public opinion, is incomprehensible. It is their manifest duty to respect the plainly expressed sentiments of their constituents in the matter, even if they have to make this reduction *in addition* to that made by the bill offered yesterday. Better that Mr. Boutwell's primary scheme for payment of the debt should be defeated altogether than that we should be compelled to bear this heavy burden. We venture to say that, if Congress adjourns without removing the tax, not even the showy debt statement published every month will prevent the infliction of a serious blow upon the Republican party by the people at the polls next Fall.

THE UNION LEAGUE.

The Union League has astonished the ultra-fashionables with its most brilliant social entertainment given in Philadelphia since the Revolution, so that the "blue blood" of some of our extreme aristocratic circles is disturbed with an untimely regret that it did not invite itself to procure admission to the beautiful scene. The scene, with all its splendor, has passed away, and the Union League House has come back again to its normal condition of sober, steady quietness.

Such festivities are over, and are remembered so pleasantly by all who enjoyed them, will not the Union League take up the work which presses as an immediate duty upon it? It is not yet too late, but it is not a day too soon, for this powerful organization to declare itself upon the important subject of the reform in the Legislature of this State, for which the people are fully ripe, but in which they need just such concentration and direction as the Union League can best supply.

Strong efforts will undoubtedly be made by some of the men whom it is most desirable to leave at home to retain the seats which they have so abused and disgraced; and, no less there is an open, organized, powerful resistance, some of them may succeed in getting nominations. If they do, the Democrats will nothing to do but to put up decent, respectable opponents to beat them. But none of these men will obtain a renomination if prompt and proper measures are taken to prevent it. It