The Somerset Herald.

EDWARD SCULL, Editor and Proprietor.

WEDNESDAY.....March 13, 1895.

As a duck-shooter, Cleveland is undeniably one of the greatest statesmen of the age.

MR. WILSON says: "A campaign of education has begun;" and it is to be hoped he means that the Democrats are going to try to learn some sense.

THE organization of the new party has proceeded as far as the selection of leaders, and as soon as it gets some followers it will be ready for business.

UTAH is arranging matters so that she will be in the Union of States early enough to add her quota to the Republican candidates' big total in the Electoral College in 1896.

THE Senatorial contest in Idaho was brought to a close Friday by the election of Senator George L. Shrup to succeed himself. The final ballot stood: Shrup, 27; Sweet, 12; Crook, 14.

THE new Senatorial apportionment bill has been introduced in the House, but it is not essentially new, being the one passed by the Legislature of 1891 and vetoed by Governor Pattison.

CRISP has had two terms in the Speakership, and Reed will have at least two. Not many Speakers beat that record. Carlisle, Blaine and Colfax had three terms and Randall two and a half, but more than half of the Speakers have secured only one term.

THE Harrisburg *Telegraph* says: "The new hall of the House of Representatives is a dismal failure in every respect. The accoustic arrangements are abominable, the decorations gaudy, glaring and offensive to good taste, and the work is botch-work. What a pity to spend so much money for nothing."

IT is officially certified that there are at least 100,000 persons in Nebraska who will have to be supported until another crop is raised, and provided with grain for seeding purposes. The people of other states will certainly not fail to contribute freely in a case which appeals so strongly to general sympathy.

A MOVEMENT has been started in Philadelphia looking toward the pardon of John Bardsley, who, as city treasurer, robbed Philadelphia and the state of hundreds of thousands of dollars. He was tried and convicted in the summer of 1891 and sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment in the Eastern penitentiary.

THE announcement is made in New York of the discovery of the means of producing illuminating gas at a cost of seven cents a thousand feet, the new illuminant being acetylene. Details are not given, but at the figure named there would seem to be a vast margin of commercial possibilities in the discovery, provided the gas shall prove to be in all respects safe and adapted to general use.

THREE HUNDRED colored men in Tennessee have gone to Savannah, where they will embark for Liberia, intending to take up their residence in the latter country. We very much doubt the wisdom of this step. It has been stated that the native Liberians are very jealous of the emigrants from America and do all they can to prevent them from succeeding. It is the better thing to remain in this country.

THE billion dollar Congress of 1890 can no longer be used as a bugaboo with which to frighten Democratic babies to sleep. Each session of the Congress just closed spent over $500,000,000, which brings the total expenditures of the 53rd Congress to more than a billion. The principal things for which this Congress will be remembered are: Adopting the Reed rules, spending over a billion dollars and passing the Wilson disaster bill.

THE bill creating the Department of Agriculture has passed both houses and is awaiting the Governor's signature to become a law. The Grangers are particularly anxious that it shall be signed by the Governor and are flooding him with petitions and memorials from every quarter of the State, urging him to sign it. Nearly all the subordinate granges in the Commonwealth have adopted resolutions endorsing it and notifying the Governor of their action. It is probable that he will sign the bill.

JUDGE PORTER, of Pittsburg, has made a queer decision in a queer case. A mother left a child with a friend, contracting for its support. She failed to pay its boarding and when owing the friend $25 demanded the child. This was refused, the friend holding it for security. Judge Porter decides that the friend is entitled to the custody of the child until the bill shall be paid. The judge seems to consider the child as so much property, but it is quite unusual for property to be seized in satisfaction of a debt except by attachment and legal procedure.

THE seizure of a freight train near Baltimore by tramps, after battle with the train crew, is an indication that the fraternity is waking from its season of hibernation and is preparing to take the road with the return of the spring sunshine. For the individual tramp there may be toleration if not sympathy; for armed and organized bodies of tramps there should not be the slightest countenance either from municipal or corporate authorities. Such organizations are a public menace, and should everywhere be met with disfavor and repression.

THE foreign policy of the present Administration is aptly stigmatized by Senator Lodge as a policy of surrender. In every instance of dispute with a foreign nation, there has been a failure to maintain the dignity and enforce the rights of our country. An ignominious lack of backbone has disgraced our diplomacy, and put us at a standing disadvantage. As often as occasion has been presented to promote our interests abroad, disappointment has ensued by reason of incapacity at Washington. The State Department has counted for less than was ever before known, except as a target for derision, and the national honor has been disparaged accordingly. There is a good deal of force in Mr. Lodge's suggestion that the explanation of this unpleasant spectacle lies largely in the fact that the Democratic policy of tariff reform makes subservience to foreign nations easy and consistent, if not absolutely necessary. "The economic doctrines which the tariff reformers have been urging," he says, "were of course borrowed from England, and all the queer and extraneous fantasies attached to these doctrines were borrowed with them," thus putting American ideas and sentiments in the background.

It is certainly true that the Democratic party has forfeited the robust and aggressive Americanism that characterized it in former days. There is nothing Jeffersonian or Jacksonian about its present attitude towards foreign nations. It was once noted for its determined opposition to the idea of imitating other countries or of being dictated to by them, but now it is tamely willing to order its course according to foreign methods and in obedience to foreign intimidation. The American spirit seems to have oozed out of it, and it looks to Europe for inspiration and guidance. It is principally animated by what Mr. Lodge calls "the melancholy doctrine that there is no higher aim or purpose for men and nations than to buy and sell, to trade jack-knives and make everything cheap;" and in giving practical effect to this doctrine, it does not hesitate to sacrifice patriotism in order to gain the favor of other countries. This is one of the reasons why it has made such a mess of the great work of conducting the affairs of the Government during the past two years. It is not in sympathy with the best interests and aspirations of the American people, but has become denationalized in its feelings and tendencies. Such a party is manifestly disqualified for sound and effective service, and its present lease of power will be its last one until it learns that the policy of surrender is the policy of disaster and dishonor.

A Democratic Opinion.

N. Y. Sun, Dem.

The Fifty-third Congress, inspired and abetted by the Democratic executive, has preserved McKinleyism, adopted Populism and brought widespread disaster upon the nation.

Exit the congress of dishonor!

Congressional Appropriations.

Representative D. B. Henderson, of Iowa, Republican member of the House Committee on Appropriations, has prepared a review of the appropriations for the past five Congresses, and summarizes the appropriations thus: Forty-ninth Congress $746,342,695.51; Fiftieth, $887,963,859.90, Fifty-first, $888,817,183.34; Fifty-second, $1,027,104,547.92; Fifty-third, $909,758,691.03. Mr. Henderson adds: "It will be seen that thus far we have had but one 'billion dollar Congress'—namely, the Fifty-second, when the Democrats were in control. The Fifty-first Congress came so near to that figure that the present chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Joseph D. Sayers, was pleased to call it the 'Billion Dollar Congress,' notwithstanding the well-known fact that the Fifty-first Congress appropriated $70,154,846 more than its predecessor, the Fiftieth Congress, for pensions to the Union soldiers, and notwithstanding the further fact that its predecessor, the Fiftieth Congress, made deficiencies amounting to $38,617,418.96, which the Fifty-first Congress had to provide for. Mr. Sayers has seen his bills go to the President, carrying $1,921,507.70 more than was carried by the appropriation bills of the Fifty-first Congress, and that, too, in the face of the straitened condition of the treasury; which acted as a restraint upon all the appropriation committees and operated upon the mind of every member of Congress to keep down the appropriations—a condition which did not exist during the life of the Fifty-first Congress. When we further consider the appropriation bills that have just been passed, carrying provisions authorizing contracts to be made involving future appropriations amounting to $21,686,764, we find his appropriation bills provide for $23,098,271.70 more than the appropriations of the Fifty-first Congress."

New Fad for the Schools.

Of all the schemes for the betterment of our common schools that passed by the Senate last week, and now in the House takes the belt. It proposes to compel every school board in the State to purchase a panorama on card-board for the purpose of acquainting the pupils of the public schools with the beauties of art and nature and science. In other words, it is proposed to teach art, nature and science with photographs. This fad, if adopted, is likely to prove a very costly one. In Lancaster alone it is estimated that it will cost the board of control at least $1,000, and as Harrisburg has as many scholars as Lancaster, it stands to reason that it will cost the same here. The worst of it is that unless school boards introduce this scheme of instruction they will forfeit the State appropriation. This is a good bill to kill. School boards need their money for other things now, such as building new houses to accommodate the rapidly increasing army of scholars, and illusionary fads should not be forced upon them. Pictures are for the kindergarten schools, where the little ones get their first ideas of education.

Red Headed at the Age of 103.

From the Minneapolis Tribune.

FARIBAULT, Minn., March 1.—General M. Scott, who resides in the township of Shieldsville, Rice county, is 103 years of age. For upwards of thirty years he has been a Rice county farmer. He had some business transactions in Faribault yesterday that required his presence, and he came to the city on horseback, a distance of twelve miles. Mr. Scott never wears an overcoat nor overshoes, he walks off as briskly as a man in middle life and never wears glasses. His hair, which was always red, has not turned gray, but his whiskers and moustache are white.

Saved by a Dog.

Had it not been for a dog Milton Hirst and George Moss, of Plymouth, this state, would probably have met death in fire. About 2 o'clock one morning recently Hirst was awakened by the furious barking of his dog, which had gained an entrance into the room and leaped upon the bed.

Upon awakening Hirst discovered that the whole building was filled with smoke and after arousing Moss they both made for the staircase, which was found to be a mass of flames, and they were compelled to make their exit through a front window out upon an awning and then down a post to the street. The men escaped with nothing but their night clothes. Had they slept a few minutes more they could not have gotten out. The building was burned to the ground, nothing being saved.

A Missionary Shortage.

A partial examination of the books of the American Church Missionary Society, with headquarters at New York, shows irregularities amounting to about $20,000.

Expert accountants are still at work examining the books of the Secretary and Treasurer to show if there are any further shortages in the accounts. The Executive Committee met in the rooms of the Society yesterday and relieved the Secretary—Rev. William A. Newbold—of Montclair, N. J., and the Treasurer—Henry A. Oakley—of New York, from further service. The Rev. Dr. Kinsolving, of Brooklyn, was appointed Secretary of the Society.

Dr. Newbold, in an interview, said that at present he could not say anything about the $20,000 shortage in the Society's funds. "Certain it is, however, that I have not appropriated the money. The action of the Society in dismissing me will admit of a full explanation, and this I am determined to have."

Harrisburg Letter.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 10, 1895.

It must be now that the season is near "When the spring-time comes, gentle Annie," and spring business, spring planting, spring fever, spring bonnets, spring suits and spring houses enter largely into and engross the thoughts of our legislators, else why all this rush and bluster? Here's what they've been and done:

A resolution was reported from the rules committee for three sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and that the order of business be third reading on Tuesday nights and second reading on Wednesday and Thursday nights. The resolution was adopted and goes into effect to-morrow. This is six weeks earlier than the House began night sessions two years ago. A resolution was also reported from the rules committee and adopted, providing that petitions shall only be presented on Fridays.

Last Friday's grist of petitions was immense, principally on the Smith bill in regard to religious garbs worn by teachers; oleo, law—against its repeal; a department of agriculture; Boards of Health in townships; an act to prevent the sale of liquor on Memorial Day, &c. No doubt shutting up the saloons on that day will be a good thing, but how will it affect some of our old vets, in case they should forget to lay in a supply of the ardent for the occasion?

The State liquor league held a convention in the opera house, this city, on last Thursday. Some two hundred and fifty delegates were present. It's object, after forming a permanent organization, is to oppose the following bills now before the National Legislature: Increasing the internal revenue tax from $25 to $50; taxing beer at $1 a barrel, and increasing the whisky tax from $1.00 to $1.25 a gallon. The league will also try to reduce the license fees, and endeavor to prevent the granting of a license to dive-keepers and other disreputable persons. The last provision was that the league should not belong to any political party, but should be constructed on the broad plan of liberty. A bill introduced by Mr. Cochran, of Armstrong, levying a tax of sixteen cents a barrel on all malt liquors brewed in the State received its due share of attention.

Senator Quay was the guest of the Governor Thursday night of last week. His visit, it was given out, had no political significance, being purely social, he and the Governor not having met since last September. Some folks seem to think, however, that his coming here so soon after the visits of Mayor-elect Warwick and David Martin might mean something to Philadelphia politicians. The Senator approves the bill creating the office of State Custodian, but thought there was a growing sentiment of opposition to the new revenue bill, a strong argument against it being its failure to provide sufficient revenue. He intends to start for Florida on the 16th, and expects to be back to Harrisburg in April some time, to meet his friends in the Legislature. The Senator declined to be interviewed by representatives of the press.

A statement has been submitted to the Legislature by Auditor General Gregg, showing the deficiencies caused by the action of the General Assembly of 1893 in passing bills to create new offices and increase the salaries attached to others without making the necessary appropriation to cover the additional expense caused thereby. The report shows the following deficiencies: For payment of Mine Inspectors' salaries, $28,000; Mine Inspectors' contingent expenses, $1,000; salary of Superintendent of Public Instruction, $3,000; Commissioner of Banking and Deputy, $2,479.16; Secretary of Internal Affairs, $375; Auditor General, $75.

Douglass memorial services were held in the hall of the House on last Friday evening, under the auspices of the Literary Society of the Capitol street Presbyterian church. Rev. Dr. Heard, late pastor of the African M. E. church of this city, but now the newly appointed Minister to Liberia, was one of the speakers. The hall was crowded, and at the conclusion of the addresses the audience rose and sang "John Brown's Body," after which the benediction was pronounced.

Governor Hastings sent to the Senate the name of German D. Speer, of Uniontown, to be Commissioner of the Cumberland road (National pike) for Fayette and Somerset counties.

Ex-Governor Pattison has opened a law office in Philadelphia. While it is his intention to devote his attention to the law, it is not certain but that he may change his plans, as he has several propositions under consideration, one of which, if accepted, will connect him with a well-known business establishment in that city.

The Pennsylvania School of Industrial Art, located in Philadelphia, gave a very interesting exhibition of the handiwork of its scholars in the hall of the House of Representatives on Tuesday night. This institution not only gives boys and girls an education of "book-learning," but it also teaches their hands, and when the American boy and girl learns to use head and hands at the same time it is a long step towards the benefit of the nation. There were exhibited many fine specimens of cloths and silks woven by the pupils, and exhibits from the drawing, designing, chemistry and dyeing, wood carving, decorative painting, decorative sculpture, and architectural designing departments. It was stated that in the three years' course in this school a young man can acquire a more comprehensive knowledge of textile manufacturing than can be attained in twice that time in the best mills in the country. The School of Industrial Art gives one free scholarship to each county, which includes a three years' course in the art or textile department. If Somerset county is not represented in the school by the holder of a free scholarship, here is a fine opportunity for some bright boy or girl to get a knowledge of art or textile working that will simply be invaluable.

The bill repealing the act of 1883 to prevent the consolidation of competing pipe lines, of which we spoke in our last week's letter as having passed, has been signed by the Governor, who in giving executive sanction to the bill gives the following reasons for so doing:

Gov. Hastings vetoed the bird book bill for economical reasons. The vote was sustained by the House. He signed the Marshall pipe line bill and gave his reasons for it. After reciting the provisions of the act of 1883 the Governor says:

"The act of 1883 is of a most unusual and extraordinary character. It applies not only to corporations, but to individuals as well. The provisions of the act are highly penal. A sale of a pipe line that competes with another is absolutely forbidden under penalty of the loss of the entire property by escheat. Why legislation of this character, applicable alone to pipe lines, should be permitted to stand is not apparent, when, under existing law, street railway companies, water companies and other corporations doing a like business may be merged and consolidated, the only inhibition upon such consolidation and merger being that provision of the constitution which forbids consolidation of parallel or competing lines of railways and canals; and even as to them the question whether or not they are 'parallel or competing' is made determinate by a jury as a question of fact. This right is denied by the terms of the act of 1883.

"It would seem that when a new oil field is opened there may be for some time room for two or more pipe lines for the transportation of oil, but later on, by reason of the decrease of production, one is abundantly sufficient to do the business. To permit the act of 1883 to remain upon the statute books is to prevent non-paying and useless pipe line companies or individuals owning pipe lines from selling their stock, their bonds or their corporate franchises to any person or corporation that may be willing to buy them.

"In addition to the objectionable features already noticed, the act contains another, in the proviso relating to the distribution of the proceeds of the sale, that innocent bondholders entitled to participate in such distribution, shall be construed to mean only those who, neither directly or indirectly, aided or consented, either by their acts or silence, in the violation of sections 1 and 2 of the act.

"This is a practical confiscation of the property of the holder of such stocks and bond without any act upon their part, but because of their silence, although they may have been in entire ignorance of what was transpiring.

"Moreover, an innocent mortgage or the holders of any lien against such pipe line company, partnership or individual, after a violation of the provisions of the act, is obliged to suffer the loss of his mortgage or other lien.

"I am convinced, after a hearing of both sides of this controversy, and upon the fullest investigation, that the effect of the act is directly the reverse of its ostensible object. Instead of encouraging competition and fostering the building of pipe lines to compete with each other, the fact that when the property becomes unprofitable the owners are prohibited by law from selling it must necessarily discourage investors in such enterprise.

"All legislation, the tendency of which is to control, hamper or restrain individual enterprise, should, in my opinion, be closely scanned, and, unless some great public reason exists to the contrary, it is much better that all commercial enterprises remain unfettered by legislation."

Among the reasons urged before the Governor in favor of the repeal was the fact that the act of 1883 interferes with the rights of individuals as well as of corporations and further that inasmuch as no similar inhibition exists against the owners of gas lines, water lines, electric light lines, &c., selling and transferring their property to each other, the act as it stood was class legislation, which is always dangerous.

The Biddle road bill, which was reported from the Committee on Agriculture on the 7th, appropriates one million dollars annually to aid in the construction, improvement and maintenance of the public roads of the state, payable in warrants drawn by the Auditor General to the several county treasurers in proportion to the number of miles of public roads in their respective counties, to be ascertained by the several township supervisors by actual measurement, and returned to the County Commissioners under oath.

The vote by which the bill regulating the blockading of roads by snow by the construction of plain wire fences was defeated was reconsidered in the House, and further action postponed.

A bill was read in place in the House fixing the time within which teachers institutes shall be held in the several counties, and providing for the payment of teachers attending the same. The months of July and August only are fixed as the time.

Mr. Seyfert's House bill, No. 286, provides that female teachers shall in all cases receive the same compensation as is allowed to male teachers for like services, when holding the same grade of certificate, and employed to teach an equal grade as male teachers.

The compulsory education bill passed the House finally on Tuesday last, by a vote of 134 to 13. It may strike a snag in the Senate.

The Smith religious garb bill was called up on second reading in the House last Wednesday morning, and after a somewhat heated discussion, and the addition of a new section and an amendment attaching a penalty for violation of its provisions, passed. Its provisions are: No teacher in any public school in this Commonwealth shall wear in said school, or while engaged in the performance of his or her duty as such teacher, any dress, mark, emblem or insignia indicating the fact that such teacher is a member or adherent of any religious order, sect or denomination. The penalty for violation is, for the first offense, upon conviction, $100; for the second offense, the same sum and loss of office as school teacher; a person thus twice convicted shall not be eligible to re-appointment in the state within a period of five years from the date of conviction.

The rural members of the House are confident of being able to defeat the attempt to repeal the oleomargarine law. Oleo. has more friends in the Senate than in the House, but the Senator from Somerset, who is Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, hopes to be able to defeat the repeal in committee in case it goes to his committee. The oleo. people will use every effort in their power to have all bills in which they are interested go to some other committee. Representatives Miller and Maurer are both actively hostile to the repeal of the oleo. law.

Senator Critchfield has looked happy ever since the defeat of the bill to increase the minimum length of the school term to seven months. He was the recognized leader of the opposition to the lengthening of the term both at this session and the session of 1893, and the members of the Senate who made the fight for the seven months term blame him for its defeat. When spoken to with regard to his opposition he stated that it is not because he is less friendly to popular education than his fellow Senators, but because he can see no propriety or justice in laying increased burdens upon the people to lengthen the term until the whole of the six months now provided for is shown by the reports to be utilized.

The Senate adjourned on Thursday, and the House on Friday. Both meet again on Monday evening, March 11.

Hard Trial for a Groom.

ALTOONA, March 8.—Jonathan Kelchner, a prominent shoe dealer in this city, was arrested this morning by Deputy Sheriff Eby. Kelchner is charged with breach of promise by Miss Annie Dressler, of this city. He was married to a young woman of Huntingdon only a week ago and is greatly concerned over the affair, claiming to know nothing about Miss Dressler. He furnished bail for court.

Negroes are Debarred.

COLUMBUS, S. C. March 8.—Governor Evans yesterday removed from office W. T. Andrews, a notary public at Sumter, S. C. Andrews is a colored lawyer, and as notary had been swearing witnesses to affidavits necessary for obtaining registration certificates his clients being Republicans. When asked why Andrews was removed, Governor Evans' private secretary, Mr. Gunter, replied: "Notaries are appointed on the recommendation of decent white men, and on the request of decent white men we remove them. The Governor had such a request as to Andrews."

When asked if any reason was assigned by the persons making the request, Mr. Gunter answered that there was none. It is stated that no other notary in Sumter will act for negro applicants for certificates, and negroes are, in consequence, debarred from registration, which amounts to disfranchisement.

Believes She is Bewitched.

BRAZIL, Ind., March 8.—The indications are now that the witch episode in Police Court last Monday will end in a tragedy, as Ella Stapleton, the 15-year-old wife of Andrew Stapleton, aged 65 years, lies in spasms at her mother's house, and physicians say that unless the strain is lifted she will either die or lose her mind. Several days ago Stapleton's son swore out a peace warrant against the child wife's brother (William Johnson), asserting that Johnson had threatened the aged Stapleton's life because he said his sister's husband was a wizard, and left his young wife under a "spell."

During the trial the wife and two lady friends, believing they were under the spell, fainted away and were taken from the Court room. Since the trial Mrs. Stapleton, who firmly believes she is bewitched by her aged husband (who is ill at home, and lies in spasms) believes that nothing but the services of a witch doctor can save her.

A GOOD BILL TO PASS.

Following is the text of a bill recently introduced into the Legislature by Hon. J. B. Niles, of Tioga county:

An Act requiring county commissioners to advertise for proposals for certain public work and supplies and to award the contracts to the lowest bidders.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the county commissioners of the several counties in this Commonwealth before making any contract in an amount exceeding the sum of one hundred dollars for the erection of any new building or buildings, bridge or bridges or for any alteration of or addition thereto or for such clothing food and articles and materials of labor and manufacture as they are required by law to provide for county jails or for the office furniture books and stationery required for the following county officers whose offices are located in the county buildings at the county seat namely prothonotary clerks of the several courts register of wills recorder of deeds county commissioners and treasurer or for fuel and light shall by public advertisement printed in not less than two weekly newspapers of the county if so many be published therein where the contract is to be awarded for not less than four weeks one of which shall be published in the county town invite sealed proposals for the same according to specifications which shall be written or printed in a book to be kept by the commissioners for that purpose and kept open for the inspection of all persons for at least four weeks before the time appointed by said advertisement for the opening of said sealed proposals and which at the time fixed shall be publicly opened and the contract awarded to the lowest bidder or bidders who shall within ten days thereafter give security to said commissioners for the faithful performance of said contract according to said specifications Provided That no contract shall be awarded by county commissioners until the same with the sureties for its faithful performance shall be approved by one of the judges of the court of common pleas of the proper county.

SECTION 2. That any violation of the first section of this Act by said commissioners shall be deemed a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof said commissioners shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars.

SECTION 3. That in the case of bridges the specifications may be for iron stone or wood all or either of them and at the time of opening said proposals the commissioners may elect which kind of structure said bridge shall be and then award the contract in accordance with the provisions of the first section of this Act.

SECTION 4. That in the event of the destruction by fire flood or otherwise of a bride or bridges on any important thoroughfare or where delay in rebuilding will be of serious inconvenience to trade and travel the commissioners may reduce the time of advertisement for sealed proposals as also the time the specifications shall be open to inspection on the books of the commissioners to two weeks.

SECTION 5. That all acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith or that are supplied by this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

The above is a much needed piece of legislation and we hope to see it become a law before the present Legislature adjourns.

The following from Friday's Pittsburg *Dispatch* is pertinent in this connection:

"Blair county's auditors having caught some of the prevailing desire for investigation have started a quiet little inquiry that has already produced results. Witnesses have been examined who admit securing contracts in extraordinary ways. They have paid no attention to any advertising for bids. One contractor testified he gave the county commissioners carte blanche to prepare a bid in his name at their own figures and while they were writing up his bids he went out and engaged boarding places for his workmen several weeks in advance of the letting of the contracts. He neglected to divulge the reason why he had such implicit confidence in the commissioners, however.

No doubt when the county officials are called to testify they will be innocent of any intention of wrong. Either they are able to make better terms by a private contract, or they were shielding themselves from the bids of irresponsible contractors that would be sure to pour in as a result of any public advertisement. They were protecting the public against having bad bridges built by contractors who could give no better assurance of good work than a bond with sureties who might get into financial difficulties after signing the bond.

In case any harsh court shall hold the law to mean what it says they will have a bill introduced to repeal the law. That is the accepted procedure in such cases. There are so many people prepared to put in bids, secured by bond, in answer to public advertisements that the only way officials can protect the public from loss is to make secret contracts with friends whom they know to be honest, so honest they disdain to give bonds. Of course, a contractor who assumes his own risks instead of having bondsmen to help him out in case he gets in too deep must have some extra compensation. He cannot afford to bid so closely as others. It is the same way with depositors. Those which take the sole risk upon themselves of losing the public funds cannot afford to pay interest. This theory of public business is not only logical but seems to be supported by almost universal official practice. There are exceptions, but they only prove the rule. Even these few exceptions might disappear if it were not for the interference of meddlesome investigators and kickers acting upon the erroneous idea that laws are made to be obeyed, that contracts should be open to competition or that the public ought to know how its own business is being conducted."

A Blow at the Lotteries.

Assistant Attorney-General Thomas, for the post-office department, has given out the following statement regarding the new lottery law just passed, which prevents express companies from carrying lottery matter:

By virtue of this act it is made punishable by imprisonment for a term of not more than two years, or a fine of not more than $1,000, or both, to cause to be brought to this country from abroad, or cause to be carried from one state to another in the United States, any paper, certificate, ticket or advertisement concerning a lottery.

The act of March 2, 1895, clothes the Postmaster-General with additional power. It authorizes him to refuse to deliver to a party who he finds upon evidence satisfactory to him, is conducting a lottery or fraud through the mails, any letter or other mail matter, whether registered or not; and to have it returned to the senders, where known, or to the dead letter office if unknown, marked "fraudulent."

It is confidently predicted that this new power conferred on the postmaster-general will greatly tend to suppress the lottery traffic in our country, which has been up to this time scotched, but not killed.

An Eager and a Nipping Wind.

A continuous down pour of rain, inclement weather, generally in winter and spring, are unfavorable to all classes of invalids. But warmth and activity infused into the circulation counteracts these influences and interpose a defense against them. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, most thorough and effective of stomachics and tonics, not only enriches the blood, but accelerates its circulation. For a chill, or premonitory symptoms of rheumatism and kidney complaint, particularly prevalent at these seasons, it is the best possible remedy. It is also invaluable for dyspepsia, liver complaint, constipation and nervousness. Never set out on a winter or spring journey without it. Elderly persons and the delicate and convalescent are greatly aided by it.

DIED.

SWANK.—Mr. George Swank, of Lincoln township, died of paralysis, March 4, 1895, aged 72 years, 11 months and 3 days. Mr. Swank was a well-to-do farmer and highly respected by all his neighbors. He was a member of the Evangelical Church for 23 years. On the 6th inst. his remains were laid in the cemetery at Edie. Rev. W. Houpt preached a funeral sermon to a large and appreciative audience.

A Jekyll and Hyde Case.

NEW YORK, March 8.—Philip Hone, a wine merchant, leading citizen and grandson of Philip Hone, who was mayor of New York in 1825-6, disappeared on the evening of January 23, and has not since been heard of. The circumstances connected with Hone's disappearance are so strange that they suggest one of those sudden changes of personality on which the story of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" is founded, and which have from time immemorial been the favorite subject of societies for psychical research. A man suddenly and without warning forgets his identity and becomes somebody else. He does not remember who he was, what he was, where he came from or where he was going. To all intents he is a new being, created at whatever age he may happen to be at the time of his metamorphosis.

Hone's business was prosperous, and has so continued since he disappeared. He had no known troubles, and lived very happily with his wife and family in a fine West Forty-seventh street mansion. He had been ill, and complained of some trouble in his head, but had the appearance of being otherwise a healthy man. On the night he disappeared he was in a drug store near his home with his wife, drinking soda. He paid for the soda and went out of the door, followed by his wife, who was not a dozen feet behind him. When she reached the sidewalk to join him he was nowhere in sight.

The police have scoured the city for Hone, to no avail. Some of his friends feel confident he will turn up or be heard from. A strange feature of the case is that within a few months before he disappeared, Hone's appearance greatly changed, his hair turning color and becoming straight instead of curled as before, and his face taking on a peculiar expression.

The Relief Ship Cheered.

ST. JOHN, N. F., March 7.—The steamship Grand Lake from Halifax, with donations for the suffering poor here, from Boston and vicinity and Halifax on board, arrived this afternoon, and was welcomed by more than 2,000 persons, who cheered with the wildest enthusiasm. A feature of the demonstration was the wild manner in which the crowd responded to cheers for the Stars and Stripes. Cheers were also proposed for the American people, and the frenzied throng shouted until almost exhausted.

The goods will be handed over to-morrow to the representatives of the various religious denominations, for distribution among the unfortunate people throughout the island.

The destitution in New Foundland is dreadful. About 2,000 families in St. Johns alone are in dire distress, and the same state of affairs, and in many cases worse, exists all over the island. It is feared the worst has not yet been seen. Five thousand persons are fed daily from soup kitchens.

Torture and Robbery.

PITTSTON, March 7.—While George Wagner, his wife, his sixteen year-old grand-daughter and a hired man were sitting around the fire in their farmhouse near this city last evening five masked men entered. The men seized and bound Wagner and the hired man and threatened Mrs. Wagner and her grand-daughter with death if they made an outcry. The men then searched the house, but finding very little money, they demanded of Wagner where he kept his cash. The old man denied that there was any more in the house, and maintaining this despite threats, the robbers heated a shovel red hot and taking off Wagner's shoes they held his feet close to the fiery surface. As there was no more money in the house Wagner was compelled to submit to the torture and repeat his denial. Finding they could extort nothing more from Wagner, the men threatened to put the women to torture also, but they did not carry the threat into effect.

The robbers secured hardly anything of value. Wagner believes that the men came from the immediate neighborhood and thinks he recognized one of them. It is expected that arrests will be made in a day or two. Mr. Wagner was not seriously hurt, but his grand-daughter is prostrated from the fright.

For His Mother's Sake.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 8.—Cheers filled the Senate chamber at noon to-day when the vote upon the Nicholson liquor license bill was announced. The bill, with the local option feature intact, was passed 28 to 9. Senator Cramer, who has opposed the bill in many sections, said as he voted:

"The Republicans who have left their party on this question are sorheads and hypocrites, but there is one person in this world for whose opinion I care, and she is my mother. For her sake I vote for the bill."

The galleries cheered. The bill makes it unlawful for druggists to sell liquor without a prescription from a physician. Imprisonment may be added on a second violation of the law, and only men can hold saloon licenses. Most of the Democrats voted for the bill, as did others who had fought it right along. It is believed the House will pass the bill. The Governor will sign it.

Hayward Found Guilty.

After the jury had been charged by Judge Smith in the Harry Hayward murder case, at Minneapolis, the prisoner said: "In two hours I will be a free man." In less time than he had predicted, the jury came into court with a verdict of "guilty as charged." With the same stolidity which characterized him during the seven weeks' trial the prisoner was unmoved by the fateful words. Hayward was taken back to jail under a strong police guard. In the belief that trouble might occur if the verdict exonerated Hayward, a special force of officers had been detailed to duty at the court room and vicinity. An immense crowd awaited the prisoner's coming. He grinned at the mob, and was taken across the street on a dog trot, with the yelling multitude at his heels. On the night of December 3 Catherine Ging was murdered by Claus A. Blixt at the instigation of Hayward, who at the moment the murder was committed was occupying a seat at the Grand Opera House. The jury took one ballot and found Hayward guilty of murder in the first degree. G. A. Grindall and Maggie Wachter, two witnesses for the defense in the case, were arrested on the charge of perjury, upon complaint of R. R. Odell, attorney for Blixt. Grindall testified that on the night of the murder he saw a man enter the buggy which Catherine Ging was driving, near the West Hotel. A number of other witnesses said he was a mile or more away from the hotel at the time. Maggie Wachter testified that Blixt told his attorney in her presence that Adry Hayward had instigated the murder, and that Blixt and Adry had planned to throw the crime upon Harry. The murder was committed for the purpose of securing the amount of an insurance policy on Miss Ging's life.

A Woman Prevents a Hold-up.

DULUTH, Minn., March 9.—The pluck of Mrs. Richards, the Northern Pacific station agent at Kimberly, prevented a train hold-up last night. Just before midnight she overheard two men outside of her window planing to rob the eastbound express. One wanted to throw ties on the track, but the other thought that the best plan would be to wreck the train at the east end of the bridge. It could be done in such a way that the express car would not fall into the river.

The woman got out of her bed to give the alarm. Before she touched the telegraph key, one of the robbers proposed to go inside the station and await the train, which was not due for several hours, at the same time trying to smash the door in. The woman grabbed her revolver and put several bullets through the door, causing the surprised desperadoes to flee.

Betrayed by Cartoons.

PITTSBURG, PA., March 9.—His vanity as an artist led John Heitz, an alleged rogue of the first water, to his downfall. He was arrested here to-day by Louisville, Ky., officers as a thief and an escaped convict. Heitz was employed on the Pittsburg *Post* and made the cartoons for that paper. Evidently he could not refrain from publishing his identity by the signatures to his caricatures. He is a clever artist and wanted the world to know it.

The penitentiary authorities at Frankfort, Ky., want Heitz very badly and to-day two Louisville detectives captured him.

The prisoner, it is alleged, is a desperate burglar and has several times escaped from prison. The first heard of the man was about eight years ago, when, it is charged, he stole a tray of diamonds in Rochester, N. Y., and was sent to the Elmira Penitentiary for three years. In February, 1889, he robbed a music store in Louisville. He went under the name of Heiney.

He was arrested and it was discovered that he also robbed a jewelry store, and he got three years on each charge. April 15, 1890, he climbed over the wall of the Frankfort Penitentiary and escaped. Bloodhounds were put on his track, and he was captured 4 days later in an almost starved condition. On September 3, 1890, by knocking a guard senseless he escaped again and was not captured till now.

Heitz always signed his real name to his cartoons, and this finally aroused the suspicion of the officers, as it resembled the name of the man they sought. The prisoner is a rather stylish looking young man.

Twelve Persons Drowned.

CINCINNATI, O., March 7.—Twelve persons were drowned in the Ohio River opposite this city to-day by the wreck of the great steamboat Longfellow, on the channel pier of the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad bridge. The packet was hurled against the pier by the swift current and went to the bottom in five minutes.

Only the swift assistance of the men of the tug boat, accompanying the Longfellow, saved fully 100 souls from drowning.

Items of Interest.

The Oklahoma Legislature passed a law to prohibit the manufacture or giving away of cigarettes.

Wild animals are believed to have torn to pieces Rev. Elijah Teller, of Logan County, W. Va., pieces of his supposed body having been found.

In Holland railroad managers are held to a strict personal responsibility for the safety of their passengers. As a result railroad accidents are rare, and an average of only one death a year results from them.

Gas that escaped from a coal stove killed Mary and Eliza Shaffer, two aged residents of Shrewsbury, York Co. They had not been seen for some days and neighbors Friday night made an investigation and found them dead in bed.

Chicago has over 50 elevators, which handle 140,000,000 bushels of grain every year. The Union Stock Yards cover 350 acres and cost $3,000,000. They have eight miles of street and receive 8,000,000 head of stock every year. The meat exports exceed $100,000,000.

On information made by Postoffice Inspector Hugh J. Gorman, Benjamin F. Swan, formerly postmaster at Portage, was arrested at Ramey and taken to Altoona, charged with having aided Postmaster David Mehaffey, at Coalport, to make false returns and thus increase the salary of the office.

A native of this country, born of Chinese parents, recently applied to Judge Rose, at Youngstown, O., for naturalization papers. Judge Rose asked the supervisor of elections at Columbus if the papers should be granted, and received a reply that under United States and Ohio statutes the man cannot be naturalized.

Senator Chandler says: "I heard Horace Greeley swear twice. First, in 1868, when I was secretary to the National Republican Committee, and John Sherman had suggested paying the national debt in greenbacks. The second explosion occurred in 1869, on the night of Grant's inaugural ball. I have never been to an inaugural ball since that awful night."

A discussion is raging in Erie, says the *Dispatch*, over this question, propounded by a school teacher to her class: "If a tree located in a forest should fall and no one should see it, would it make a noise?" The question has created much discussion among the pupils to whom it was presented, and it has spread into older and wider circles. The debate turns upon the theory that sound exists only in the ear, and that there can be no sound where there is no ear to receive and respond to the atmospheric waves.

A plasterer named Taylor, living at Lower Tooting, near London, cut the throat of his wife and six children Thursday morning, and then took his own life. The crime was the outcome of the extreme destitution that prevails among many of the working classes. Taylor was a sober, steady workman, but had been thrown out of work by the remarkably cold weather, which brought all building operations to a standstill. Not being able to provide for his family, his mind became unhinged.

Sir Benjamin Richardson, M. D., of England, thinks that the normal period of human life is about 110 years, and that seven out of ten average people could live that long if they lived in the right way. They should cultivate a spirit of serene c