

MR. HOLT'S SPEECH

We commence today the publication of Mr. Holt's speech, made to the Kentucky troops at Camp 'Joe Holt' on July 31st. It is a remarkably eloquent and noble patriotic speech. We have few such men as Mr. Holt among our politicians. He is a free, bold thinker, and is not afraid to speak what he thinks at all places and under all circumstances. We honor the manly courage which he exhibits at a time when most of our public men are silent, and vacillating between their partisan pride of opinion and their duty to their country. Mr. Holt is offering them all a brilliant example of true American nobility of soul. His speech will be read with interest by all, and especially by the volunteer soldiers of the country.

THE NEW EXCISE LAW

Our readers probably have little idea of the amount which the new Excise Tax will raise. This tax upon distilled liquors is five cents per gallon, and upon brewed liquors two cents per gallon, or sixty cents upon each barrel of thirty gallons. We know brewers in this city whose annual product is 20,000 barrels, and the tax on this amount for a single establishment would be \$12,000 per year. The amount of ale and beer alone, produced annually in this country would yield a revenue of from \$150,000 to \$200,000.

OIL IN CITIES

Three fires in one week have occurred in consequence of mineral oil being stored or manufactured in the city. We think this is sufficient to indicate that it is against public safety and against public policy to permit oil to be stored in large quantities in the cities.

THE PENNSYLVANIA RESERVE

Major General McCull, now in command of the Pennsylvania reserve regiment at Washington, forming altogether a brigade of about 10,000 men, is bringing all the regiments upon one general camp ground in the suburbs of Georgetown. His object is to have them together for drill, which is practiced during the early and latter part of each day, avoiding the excessive noon day heat.

SICKNESS

There is a great deal of sickness in the city at the present time, and the green fruit and forest, crude and unstruck vegetables with which our markets abound, are not well calculated to improve the public health. While this intensely hot weather lasts people cannot be too cautious in regard to their diet.

TAXATION AND THE WAR

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger complains that taxation will be very high to carry on the war, and he asks cannot an honorable, brave and intelligent people resort to some means of a peaceful tendency to settle this contest. Well, asks the editor, what are the means he would suggest? Are they the consent by the Government to its own destruction, and the establishment of two confederacies side by side, composed of people of the same kind, character, ambition and enterprise?

THE TAX ON FERMENED LIQUORS

Beer, ale, porters and other similar fermented liquors are to be taxed as follows: On each gallon, first proof, or less, one cent; on each gallon, of greater strength than first proof, in proportion to the above.

THE TAX ON DISTILLED SPIRITS

It is also provided that an annual tax be levied on distilled spirits, to be paid by the manufacturer or distiller thereof, as follows: On each gallon, first proof, or less, one cent; on each gallon, of greater strength than first proof, in proportion to the above.

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NOT OF MUCH CONSEQUENCE

We observe a good deal of solicitude in some of the papers about the safety of Congressman Ely, who went one Sunday morning, when he ought to have been at Church, to see the battle Bull Run, and has never come back, the rebels having captured him. In our opinion it is of very little consequence whether Congressman Ely ever comes back. Some of his fellow Congressmen made good time with their legs and thus escaped Ely's fate; but somehow or other Congressman Ely ran the wrong way, and thus has been afforded an opportunity of paying an unwilling visit to the rebel headquarters.

Congressman Ely is entitled to no very great amount of sympathy. What business had he there without a mustache? No one pretends that he had any legitimate business upon the field of battle. He was where he ought not to have been, and must endure the consequences.

The fate of Wilcox, Concoman, and the other brave soldiers who were taken by the enemy upon the same occasion is of real moment to the country. They were in pursuance of duty, where they ought to have been. All efforts of government for their release are not only proper, but absolutely obligatory, and should never be relaxed.

Besides, if Ely is kept by the rebels, he will be standing warning to members of Congress to stay at home and attend to their own business, instead of rushing to fields of battle to act bad examples to the army.

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