

**"A GOOD SUGGESTION."**

"When you come to the river leap it, it's only twenty feet across," said a monkey to a sloth. "That's a very valuable suggestion, indeed," replied the sloth, blinking his eyes. The London Times is equally pleased with Secretary McCulloch's proposition to pay off the national debt. "By all means," says the Times, "it's a most excellent idea; we'll do so too."

They owe about as much as we; they have as numerous a population; why should not the English pay off their national debt if the Yankees do? This is evidently the reasoning of the Times. Perhaps it may save the Times some trouble and ink, if we point out a few of the causes which will prevent them from following our example.

In the first place, we have got the cheapest form of government in the world, and they the dearest. There are probably a hundred officers about the British Court who receive twice, and some four times, the pay of the President of the United States. There is scarcely a bishop of the English Church but receives more than we pay the President; and one of Queen Victoria's grandchildren draws a greater sum per annum than the British Treasury than the President and all his cabinet take from our own. Because offices are numerous, the pay extravagant, and the pension and gratuity list as long and nearly as costly as the pay list, therefore the British debt will not be so easily paid off as ours. That is one reason.

Then again, owing to the fact that she has troublesome neighbors, an Emperor given to building iron-clads and keeping up an enormous army, and a whole continent full of rulers who are for the most part either rogues or fools, or both, England must spend vast sums every year on a mighty army and navy. She lives, in fact, in the state in which a man would be who should barricade his house, stick guns out of all his windows, keep half a shop full of workmen day and night under arms, and spend a third of his income in powder and shot, and new inventions for killing men. We, on the contrary, have no dangerous neighbors, and do not stay up of nights or keep up armies for fear of an attack from some treacherous friend. That is another reason why the British debt will not be paid off as soon as ours.

Again, we have free trade over the greatest and best part of our continent; a producer here has an unrestricted market over a region as great as all Europe except Russia. But the English producer cannot set foot outside of his little island without meeting with vexatious restrictions, and having to pay duties and bribes without number. He does not get out of sight of his own chalk cliffs before he comes upon custom houses and all kinds of ingenious commercial barriers. That is another reason why the British debt will not be paid off so easily as ours.

Moreover, education is far more generally diffused, the mass of the people are made by our free-school system more energetic and ingenious, and they are able therefore, to produce more per man than the mass of the English people, to whom free schools have been denied by their ruling class. That is another and a very important reason why the British debt will not be paid off so easily as ours.

Again, the system of land tenure in England grinds down the poor man, and prevents him from becoming other than a tenant, while the whole social organization represses individual enterprise and by so much lames the Englishman and makes him move in clogs. But with us land is cheap and easily obtained; the workman, if he is intelligent and industrious, may always expect to become an employer, and the entire freedom of movement over a vast region encourages enterprise, stimulates intellectual activity to the utmost, and increases production to the highest point, because brain and hand work together. That is another reason why the British debt will not be so readily discharged as our own.

There are many reasons, as an anatomist could tell the Times, why the sloth did not leap across the river, while the monkey did. So there are many reasons why the Times' pleasant proposition to pay off the British national debt will not for the present be adopted. We have presented only a few of them; but the longer any intelligent man considers the subject, the more he will be convinced that, if the British wisely leave their debt alone, there is no excuse for us. We ought to pay, because we can pay; and in every plan of taxation a scheme for the extinction of the debt ought to have a part.

Over a million of Springfield rifle muskets, and immense supplies of ammunition for small arms and cannon, are stored away in Northern arsenals.

The notorious counterfeiter named Roberts whose arrest in New York was noticed some weeks ago, has escaped from the jail in Brooklyn.

American securities are now the most acceptable of all the loans offered for sale at Frankfort-on-the-Main.

A treasury clerk was sent to jail in Washington, charged with stealing \$35,000 in United States bonds.

The cashier of the sub-treasury at San Francisco is a defaulter in the sum of \$500,000.

A constitutional amendment reported in the U. S. Senate, provides that no claim shall hereafter be recognized for the payment of losses by the emancipation of the slaves.

**THE JOURNAL.**

Coudersport, Pa.

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1866.

M. W. McALARNEY, Editor.

**Senatorial Delegate.**

Hon. John S. Mann, of Potter County, is presented by that county as a Senatorial Delegate to represent this District in the March Convention. Mr. Mann is a gentleman of ability, and would do credit to the District in the Convention. Before we commit ourselves in his favor, however, we would like to know how he stands on the gubernatorial question. We believe the sentiment of this County is decidedly in favor of a military man for a candidate, provided he is competent for the place. If such an one cannot be found, then we want a candidate selected from the Republican party—a man who has worked in the traces of the party at least for five years past. We are opposed to nominating "water-drawers." We have had a number of these kind of nominations within the past few years, and we now propose to go in for men who have been "tried and found wanting."

This above from the McKean Miner meets with our hearty approval. We believe in supporting men for all and every position, who have been "weighed in the balance" and not "found wanting." We cannot speak knowingly for Mr. Mann, but a friend informs us that he is positive, his inclinations and influence lean strongly to the side of Gen. John W. Geary. That he has approved of Gen. Geary's course ever since the Kansas gubernatorial question, we know. The people in this county seem to think of no one but Gen. Geary in connection with that position; the people of Tioga through their organ have signified their desire for his nomination; McKean county, if we can judge correctly the tenor of the above article, is influenced by the same spirit;—and finally Mr. Mann is representative, and we know would safely, ably, and conscientiously support the choice of his constituents. We have not an opinion from our friends in Clinton, but we have great faith in their republicanism, and believe that "they feel as we feel." It has been a long time—so long that the memory of the oldest inhabitant runneth not to the contrary—since we were represented in a State Convention by a Senatorial Delegate, and as Mr. Mann was one of the pioneers of Republicanism in this section, we felt that it was a compliment which he deserved, and are glad that it has met with the just approval of our neighbors.

**Legislative.**

The crowded state of our columns prevents our giving a very extended report of the Legislative proceedings. The Atlantic and Great Western and Pennsylvania Railroad quarrel occupies much of the time. The instruction to the members of Congress from this State was ably discussed. On the 1st of February the House considered the joint resolution urging Congress to resist the admission of any Southern States into full fellowship until the organic law of the nation shall be so amended as to protect the credit of the Government, to prevent the payment of the rebel debt, to define the paramount authority of the General Government, etc.

Mr. Mann delivered a speech in which he assumed the position that the rebels were as yet unrepentant, and that they should not as yet be admitted to full membership in the Union.

Mr. Mann presented a lengthy petition from the Grand Lodge of Good Templars of Pennsylvania, against the sale of intoxicating liquors, which was read. Referred to Judiciary Committee.

A resolution has been introduced in the Senate to appoint a Committee to report a more uniform system of revenue for Common School purposes, and such other improvements in the system as they may deem necessary.

Mr. Humphrey reported a bill entitled: An act to extend the provisions of the act of the 31st day of March, 1865, entitled: An act increasing the fees of justices of the peace, and aldermen and constables, in certain counties of this Commonwealth, to Tioga and Potter counties.

Many of our justices and constables labored under the wrong idea last year that the act in relation to those fees already extended to our county.

Mr. Mann reported a bill entitled: An act to change the time of meeting of the return judges of elections in the several counties of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Mann also offered the following resolution: Resolved, That the great number of applicants for pensions and gratuities for soldiers of 1812, and of their widows, renders it inexpedient to report and take action upon a bill for each applicant; and the Committee on Pensions and Gratuities are, therefore requested to dispose of all such applicants by a general bill.

Which resolution was adopted.

The County Convention of Lancaster county have nominated Hon. John W. Geary for Governor. Gen. Geary is gaining in strength every day and at present seems to have the best chance for the nomination in the March Convention. A good man with an honorable record both in civil and military life he would make a strong and popular candidate and an able and honorable Executive.

**Large Fire in Franklin.**

FRANKLIN, Feb. 1.—A fire which broke out here at 4 o'clock, A. M., to-day destroyed twenty-four buildings in the centre of the town, including the postoffice, the Lambert House, Stearns' Theatre and the Masonic building, which was just completed. The entire loss is estimated at \$600,000, about one-half of which is insured, principally in Eastern companies. When the fire broke out a strong wind prevailed, which ceased about 6 o'clock, A. M. The firemen were then enabled to get control of the flames; but for this nearly the whole business part of the town would have been destroyed. All the mail matter was saved. The fire originated in a broom.

**OUR OIL WELL.**

Mr. Gordner informs us that he has procured the lease of one thousand acres of land, and has the promise of as much more, besides two thousand acres from parties who leased the land some time ago, but did not improve it, and who have stated their willingness to assign their leases to this company. He reports forty shares subscribed on his list but cannot report from the other, as he has not seen it lately. The engine is at Wells-ville, and will be brought to this place some time this week. He will leave the latter part of the week for Titusville to procure necessary tools to commence the work. If the lease of the Eulalia Farm, south of the village, can be procured, one of the first wells will doubtless be put down on it.

Such is a statement of the progress of those who are in pursuit of oil in Potter. That they have every reason to believe they will be successful in their effort is being every day more fully proven. The recent "strike" of oil in Bradford county, which we publish below and about the truth of which there seems to be no doubt, is a strong practical argument in favor of immediate action in our valley. The very nature of the country is such, that if oil is found in paying quantities east of the region denominated the "oil region," it surely must be here. We have the coal, and many surface indications which they have not at many places where traces of oil have been found. They found oil at Whitesville, but just when they had succeeded their tools became fast in the well, since which time they have not been able to do much. We were informed a few days since that they would soon be in active operation again, with a very fair show of getting a sufficient quantity of oil to make it pay. Let our citizens accept this opportunity, and make such use of it as wise men should. The Shares are put at a low figure that all might take part—the amount will be paid in instalments. There are very few who are not able to take one, two, or three shares, at least. If success crown our efforts, there are none so blind but that they can see the great advantages which must accrue to them—if we fail, the loss will be small, and we will have the satisfaction of knowing that we did our duty. Remember the old motto: "Nothing ventured, nothing won."

OUR OIL AT SYLVANIA.—We are informed by an individual coming from the Sylvania Well-tooth, that there is nothing surer than the striking of oil there, and that the well has been flowing since Tuesday morning at a rapid rate. Mr. E. G. Tracy was in town yesterday with specimens of this oil, which he himself took from the well, and which is pronounced by all those who have seen it, as being of a superior quality. Operations with the drill have been suspended, and we doubt not but that immediate preparations for procuring Tanks, Barrels, etc., are now being made by Superintendent Geo. W. Pomeroy who is the "right man in the right place," and who possesses the energy and snap to push this thing to its fullest extent. This certainly is good news for this section of Bradford, and it gives us pleasure to herald it. Hurrah! for Sylvania say we—Troy Times.

Sir Monro Peto.—The subjoined brief sketch of Sir Monro Peto, the leading spirit in the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad Company will be read with interest.

Morton Peto commenced life as a mechanic and by dint of honest industry and enterprise has gained the title of "The Railway King of the World." He is represented as being a talkative and agreeable person, careful in his bearing and speech, and a devoted member of the Baptist church. He heads the railway interest of England, and is largely interested in several American lines, prominent among which is the Atlantic & Great Western. He controls the employment of one hundred thousand men, and his speculations embrace the United States, Canada, Russia, Austria, Italy, Peru, New Zealand and Australia. The laborers on the lines he regulates; are said to really outnumber the fighting British army. He is largely interested in the operations of subterranean London, where his workmen are "picking" night and day, and his engines rumbling under the foundations of quiet houses. It is said that in the empire of Austria alone, eight thousand men eat his bacon, and this is but a small portion of his army of laborers. His late visit to the United States will likely result in still larger investments. He is certainly entitled to the name Railway King, though his habits during his visit have been of rigid republican simplicity.

Predictions for the Year 1866.—The year 1866 will be a very eventful one to every maiden who gets married.

Throughout the whole course of the year, whenever the moon waxes the nights will grow dark.

If a dandy wear their beards there will be less work for barbers. He who wears a moustache will have something to sneeze at.

Whoever is in love this year will think his mistress an angel. Whoever gets married will find out whether it is true.

He that loses his hair this year will grow bald.

He that loses his wife will become a widower.

If a young lady should happen to blush she will look red in the face. If she dreams of a young man three nights in succession, it will be a sign of something. If she dreams of him four times or more, it is ten to one that she is a long time getting either of them out of her head.

If any one jumps overboard without knowing how to swim, it is two to one that he gets drowned.

If any one lends an umbrella, it is ten to one he is obliged to go home in the rain for his pains.

Whoever runs in debt this year will be dunned.

Many an old sinner will resolve to turn over a new leaf this year, but the new leaf will turn out a blank.

It is probable that if there is no business doing, people will complain of hard times, but it is certain that those who hang themselves will escape starving to death.—Attention Democrat.

DIVIDEND.—The Pennsylvania Railroad company have declared a semi-annual dividend of five per cent, clear of all taxes. It is understood that after declaring this dividend the company have left in the treasury a reserved fund of three millions of dollars.

**TREASURER'S SCHOOL REPORT.**

A. F. Jones, Treasurer of Potter County, in Account with the several School Districts for the year 1865.

Dr.	Cr.
To amount collected on School tax in 1865	1792 99
To amount collected on School tax in 1864	2307 79
To amount collected on School tax in 1863	2710 70
To amount collected on School tax in 1862	3500 51
To amount collected on School tax in 1861	474 11
To amount collected on School tax in 1860	2224 45
To amount collected on School tax in 1859	610 00
To amount collected on School tax in 1858	897 00
To amount collected on School tax in 1857	879 46
To amount collected on School tax in 1856	650 00
To amount collected on School tax in 1855	144 88
To amount collected on School tax in 1854	16 00
To amount collected on School tax in 1853	144 88
To amount collected on School tax in 1852	137 75
To amount collected on School tax in 1851	106 45
To amount collected on School tax in 1850	104 08
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