

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

Quoted in New York Government bonds were listed at 107 for 4s of 1897; 103 for 4s of 1891; 103 for 4s of 1894; sterling, 84 5/8 for 4s; silver bars, 112; silver coin, 4 discount; bullion, silver bars, 107 1/2; London Saturday, 107 1/2; gold, 107 1/2; 10 1/2; 5 per cent. United States bonds, 106; 4 1/2; 10 1/2.

San Francisco half dollars are quoted at par; Mexican dollars, 30 selling, 31 selling.

At Liverpool Saturday wheat was quoted at the \$1.81 1/4 for average California wheat, and 11 1/2 to 11 3/4 for club.

There was some demand for Union Consolidated at the Stock Board on San Francisco Saturday morning, and the price was carried to 89 1/2, a gain of 3/4, but subsequently fell off a little. The changes in other securities were immaterial.

A few values of business was transacted, considering all the adverse conditions of the market.

John Terry was fatally shot at Stockton Saturday by James Parker.

Henry McCosker was stabbed thirteen times at Fort Townsend, W. T., Saturday, by a man named McGinnis.

Six men and several teams were buried in a snowslide Friday at Logan, Utah, but subsequently four of the men were rescued.

The delivery from the British Arsenal of \$12,000 worth of arms and ammunition to the Governor of California has been ordered by the Secretary of War.

Yellow fever prevails on board the U. S. steamer Marion at Montevideo.

The Postmaster-General's recent order in regard to the Star mail service has been suspended.

The Senate has confirmed Howard E. Trowbridge, Michigan, as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The coinage at the Minto during February was 3,885,000 pieces, of the value of \$5,129,620.

The wages of employes on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad have been advanced five per cent.

Several municipal officers have been indicted at Elizabeth, N. J., for a conspiracy to defraud the city.

Two men have been ordered to Coffeyville, Kan., to prevent the threatened invasion of Oklahoma.

In a fight at Quiero, Tex., one man was killed, his mother mortally wounded, and another participant seriously injured.

The waters at North Adams, Mass., are on a strike.

Several men were wounded on Friday night in a row near South Beach, San Francisco.

A man died at Mendocino, Feb. 29, on Saturday, aged 104 years.

Three men were killed and several others injured by a boiler explosion at Bardsfield Colony, Miss.

Francis O'Brien, Long Beach, N. Y.

A party occurred at Philadelphia on Saturday, in which one of the participants was fatally injured.

A woman perished in the lower Mississippi river.

The Sunday law was again enforced in New York yesterday.

The work of the St. Gothard tunnel was satisfactorily completed yesterday.

In the fight on the Lower California Frontier Friday one white man and five Indians were killed.

The Sunday law was again enforced in New York yesterday.

HERZ ZIMMERMAN, a member of the German and Prussian Parliaments, is dead.

The State Senate adjourned on Saturday, after three hours of the time being passed in discussing the Probate Act. The Assembly spent the day in discussing the bill on revenue and taxation, completed the amendments thereto and ordered it printed.

TAXATION.

A great deal of nonsense has been talked in the Legislature lately about the manner in which taxation is evaded, the unwarrantable assumption being generally made that a closer collection of taxes can be secured by changing the revenue laws. It is a demonstrated fact that if at any time in the past the old revenue laws had been faithfully and rigorously enforced, the taxes would have been collected as closely as they are ever likely to be. But the truth is that the defect in the system of taxation lies mainly in its administration, not in its scope. The Assessor does not obey the laws as a rule, nor can he be made to do so while the office is elective. No man can take the office and administer it rigorously, save at the certain sacrifice of all future hopes of political preferment. If our Assessors were independent of the taxpayers upon whose property they must operate, they could afford to make close assessments. As it is they are practically deprived of all independence by the system under which they obtain office, and the consequence is that the law is loosely and unevenly administered. To make the law more stringent, however, will not remedy this state of things. So long as the Assessors are named and paralyzed by their dependence upon the taxpayers the old evils will continue. We might take a lesson from the history of the Judiciary in this connection. Just so long as Judges were appointed by the Crown, and held office at its pleasure, the Bench was corruptly subservient, and the people were denied justice. From the day the independence of the Bench was secured corruption vanished from the English Courts, and they have ever since been conspicuous for their impartiality and integrity. We shall in vain seek to amend the tax laws while we deny independence to the Assessors, and if the Legislature realized this it would save itself the expenditure of a great deal of valuable time, at present thrown away upon the discussion of points which are really of very inconsiderable weight and importance.

A CURIOUS REVELATION.

It appears to have been just discovered that the attempt to blow up the Car in his Winter Palace was really a feat demanding no particular care or skill, inasmuch as the Winter Palace has always been a sort of refuge for tramps and bed characters, adding to its other characteristics that of a Russian Alsatia, or Sanitarium for fugitive criminals. As five or six thousand persons found shelter in the great pile of buildings, and as no serious attempt seems ever to have been made to ascertain the business of all of them, nothing was easier than to carry on such a plot without arousing suspicion. In fact, the real wonder is that the Car should have remained so long for it does not seem that he had any impingement to the designs of the nihilists in the arrangements of the palace police. After this revelation of the Imperial household, the Car can hardly feel much confidence in any precautions that can be taken, for it is evident that no efforts were made to secure the safety of his person, and that practically there was nothing to prevent his assassination at any time.

THE NEED OF ACTION ON THE DEBRIS QUESTION.

It is very generally perceived by this time that the opposition to the Parks bill is being engineered by parties whose interests are opposed to the adjustment of the existing difficulties. It would, however, be a reproach to the majority of the Legislature to realize that their interests in this regard are not identical, and that it is for their good that the litigation which is desired should be avoided. It would be a still greater reproach upon the intelligence of the public generally if in a matter so broad and far-reaching, the selfish cunning of any person or persons was permitted to interfere with the prosecution of those protective and remedial works which the investigations of the State Engineer have shown to be at once necessary and practicable. The time for action has arrived, and no rational excuse for further procrastination can be advanced. The measure now before the Legislature, and known as the Parks or Brown bill, is the only attempt which has been made to apply the conclusions reached by the State Engineer. It is a carefully drawn and sufficiently guarded bill. It proposes to put in the hands of an engineering Board the task of framing a working plan for the solution of the debris problem. The cost of carrying out this plan is to be defrayed by a tax which, extending over twenty years, is limited to four and a half per cent. of the property interested. The utter absurdity of the assertions made by the opponents of the bill are made apparent the moment this fact is stated. They have been talking the most wild and reckless nonsense about the "danger" of "unlimited taxation," of "burying the community for generations" upon an appalling load of debt; and so forth, ad nauseam. They would have been equally regretful if the truth had been that they declared that the passage of the bill would change the climate of California, or that it would turn every man's hair pea-green in twenty-four hours. There is no such danger in the bill. There is no danger whatever of "unlimited" taxation. It limits the taxation strictly to four-and-a-half per cent., and four-and-a-half per cent., as the price of redemption from impending ruin, cannot be regarded as a tremendous burden for any community to carry. The real question is, whether those who are threatened with the destruction of all their property by the debris, prefer to let the mischief go on, or to pay a tax of 4 1/2 per cent. to secure relief from it? The allegations of the opponents of the bill as to the "power" bestowed upon the Board, are equally nonsensical and false. No power capable of being abused in any way is conferred upon the Commissioners. The character of the plan to be adopted depends upon the judgment of the engineers. The bonds to be issued are placed beyond the manipulation of any one connected with the Commission. With the amendment in regard to the condemnation and purchase of property proposed by Mr. Parks himself, it will be impossible to squander any part of the funds. The devotee of the money must of necessity be devoted to the legitimate purposes of the bill. The entire amount proposed to be raised is to be held when the importance of the undertaking is considered, and it would be distributed over so large an area that no severe strain could be placed upon any part of the community. It must be pointed out that the objections to the bill have misrepresented it scandalously and shamelessly. They have endeavored to create prejudice against it by unscrupulous resort to the most audacious falsehoods. They have alleged that it contained provisions altogether foreign to it, that it would involve things which could never result in. They have, in short, tried to present a kind of lying about the bill. This consistent course of opposition will not answer. We intend that if the bill is beaten it shall be beaten on its merits. We have not labored for years to secure remedial legislation in this connection, to suffer the public interest to be thrust into the background by the introduction of parties interested in the indefinite postponement of litigation. And we call attention specially to the highly significant fact that the opponents of the Parks bill have nothing better to offer. It is not a practicable scheme that they want. No practicable scheme would suit them. What they want is the abandonment of all legislative remedies, to the end that the lawyers may enjoy a perennial stream of fees from the protracted litigation in that case to ensue. The simple farmers who are said to have pledged their lands for contingent fees would then find that they had "lawed" themselves out of house and home before the end arrived, and by the time the attorneys had and sold the orange dry the vines would be destroyed, and Sacramento and Marysville would be in a fair way to bankruptcy. It is to avoid these dangers that we wish to see the Parks bill made law.

CONGRESS AND THE CHINESE QUESTION.

The Wright Congressional Labor Committee has made strong recommendations against the Chinese in California, and has proposed the modification of the Burlingame Treaty to such an extent as would make it possible to legislate against the subjects of the Brother of the Sun and Moon. At the same time news comes from China that the Government appears strongly disposed to revert to its ancient policy of exclusion and isolation; a policy from which the Government would never have departed had not the Western powers undertaken to "open up" trade with China through the characteristically Christian medium of broadsides and bayonets. There is a poetical retribution about this which is not sufficiently appreciated. China never wanted intercourse with the rest of the world, but the rest of the world forced it upon her; and now those who have had the most of it are imploring an alliance from her. There is little doubt that if the Chinese Government is not subjected to foreign pressure it can be easily brought to resume its old habits of non-intercourse, and such a change would of course enable us to ship all our Mongolian visitors home again. But should Congress propose a modification of the Burlingame Treaty, and the Chinese Government propose to follow suit by revoking all its concessions to foreigners, the Western Powers would infallibly fall foul of the whole policy, and insist that "in the interests of commerce," the intercourse between the nations should be unrestricted. This is what has always happened in the past when China evinced symptoms of restlessness under the Western gospel of civilization, and we shall have to make our act as if we had no objection to the whole thing, beyond a reasonable doubt. Nevertheless, it is to be hoped that the proposition to modify the Burlingame Treaty may be pressed upon Congress.

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