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With twenty indictments filed in one day against members of the New York police, including an inspector and five captains, the surviving members are probably wondering whose turn will come next.

Transporting negroes to Africa is the old story of carrying coals to Newcastle, and a good deal more foolish. The negroes now in Africa should stay there, and those who are fortunate enough to be in this country should do likewise.

England is not slow to demand a big indemnity from Nicaragua for the insult offered her in the expulsion of Mr. Hatch, but before Americans make haste to praise British backbone, self-respect, courage, etc., it is well to remember that Nicaragua is a small, weak government and easily bullied.

Some lawyers are of opinion that the Supreme Court will hold the income tax law unconstitutional. Such a decision might involve very important results. The question of the constitutionality of an income tax has never been passed upon by the Supreme Court. If the present law is unconstitutional former ones were equally so, and suits may be brought to recover the hundreds of millions of dollars collected under the law from 1863 to 1871.

The statement of the captain of the Spanish cruiser which fired on the Alliance differs from that of the American captain in two important particulars. Captain Crossman said the Alliance was six miles from shore, while the Spaniard says she was but a mile and a half. The latter also says that when first hailed the Alliance raised the British flag. This is denied by Captain Crossman and other officers of the Alliance, but the discrepancies show the necessity of a thorough investigation.

Postmaster-general Bissell seems to be in a very self-complacent mood on the eve of his retirement from office. He says: "It is very gratifying to know that one's work has proven in a large measure satisfactory when so many people are directly interested in the results." This recalls the fable of the fly which thought it caused the motion of the big revolving wheel on which it sat. No doubt Mr. Bissell has tried to do his duty, but the machinery of the Postoffice Department was all in good running order before he left Buffalo, and the wheels would have gone round just the same if he had not been sitting at his desk.

Police Superintendent Byrnes does not seem to have won the admiration of the New York grand jury which has been investigating charges against policemen. That body means Byrnes, of course, when it says in its report: "The fact that the executive head of the force has accumulated a considerable fortune as a result of favors granted in the performance of official duty may well have caused demoralization of the force under his command. The distinction between such favors and direct gratuities is not one that his subordinates are likely to appreciate." The Lexow committee, for reasons of its own, handled Byrnes tenderly, but these reasons, whatever they may be, are not in force with the jury. There will be suspicions that Parkhurst had an influence over it.

Some allowance can be made for clerical errors in the closing hours of a legislative session, but it is not easy to condone one that makes a law of a bill that never passed one branch of the General Assembly. The House journal shows that the bill to prohibit fishing in any of the lakes in Indiana between the 1st day of April and the 15th day of June was defeated by a vote of 16 yeas to 56 nays, yet it was indorsed as having passed, and after being signed by the officers of both houses was filed in the office of the Secretary of State. Although the law is not one of great importance, it will prove irritating, and the large majority against it in the House shows that the feeling against it was very decided. Some provision ought to be made to prevent measures from acquiring the force of law through clerical blunders.

Ohio women will have the privilege of voting for school officers this year, and there is an effort on the part of those who advocate equal suffrage to bring out a large vote in order to refute the charge that as a class women do not care for the ballot. In some quarters this is likely to be successful, much interest being manifested, while in others there is a discouraging indifference. The truth probably is that in most places the schools are operated in a way to give general satisfaction, there is no especial demand for a change in methods, and consequently no reason why the women should exert themselves to elect new officers, even those of their own sex. If educational matters had been neglected and there was no hope of betterment save through the aid of women the case might be different. Where there is nothing affecting them personally to be amended or reformed, female voters will not go to the polls in a body, and in that respect they will be following the example of their husbands and brothers.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NICARAGUA.

Another opportunity has offered for the administration to make an international blunder, and its aptitude in that direction renders it highly probable that it will embrace the opportunity. The Washington dispatch announcing that the British government has demanded from Nicaragua a cash indemnity of $75,000 for the recent expulsion of the British consular agent at Bluefields, together with the appointment of a commission to adjudicate damages to other British subjects, and that a British war ship is now on her way to Nicaragua to enforce the demand, is accompanied by the following statement:

The administration is evidently about to be put in a position where it must lay down a new construction of the Monroe doctrine, or else abandon all concern in the future of the smaller republics of Central and South America. On the whole, it is more probable that the President will interpose to secure at least an amelioration of the terms of the ultimatum by an appeal to the British government, representing the great hardships that it would work to Nicaragua under the present depressed condition of her finances to prefer a demand for so large an indemnity as $75,000.

This government has no right whatever to protest against Great Britain demanding indemnity and reparation from Nicaragua, and if the administration offers even a mild protest it will get snubbed and be politely requested to mind its own business.

The extent to which the American people have been miseducated, misinformed and misled in regard to the import of the so-called Monroe doctrine is amazing. The prevalent idea, even among those who consider themselves well informed, is that the Monroe doctrine pledges the United States to the maintenance of a sort of political protection or guardianship over the western hemisphere, and that any sort of European interference in the affairs of North or South America must be resented by this government. This is far from being the case. The so-called Monroe doctrine is not susceptible of that construction. Following is the declaration as it appeared in President Monroe's message in 1823:

We owe it to candor and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and the allied powers to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power we have not interfered and shall not interfere; but with the governments which have declared their independence and maintained it, and whose independence we have, on great consideration and just principles, acknowledged, we could not view an interposition for oppressing them or controlling in any other manner their destiny by any European power in any other light than as a manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States.

As there was a disposition at the time to misconstrue the declaration the House of Representatives in 1825 passed the following resolution:

That the United States ought not to become a party with the Spanish American republics or either of them to any joint declaration for the purpose of preventing interference by any of the European powers with their independence or form of government, or to any compact for the purpose of preventing colonization upon the continents of America; but that the people of the United States should be left free to act in any crisis in such a manner as their feelings of friendship toward those republics and as their own honor and policy may at the time dictate.

This was a distinct declaration that the so-called Monroe doctrine did not bind the United States to any uniform policy, but that in every case the government should be left free to act as occasion might require. The idea that the United States is pledged to exercise a sort of police protection or big brotherly guardianship over the entire western hemisphere is absurd, belittling and indefensible.

If Nicaragua had expelled the United States consul at Bluefields this government would have a right to demand a cash indemnity for the insult and to enforce the demand at the cannon's mouth. Great Britain has the same right, and no one can doubt she will enforce it. Any protest by the United States will either evoke a pronounced snub or be treated with polite contempt, just as a like protest from Great Britain would have been by this government when it demanded indemnity and reparation from Chili for an insult to the flag and the killing of American sailors.

There is a possible phase of British aggression in Nicaragua that might call for some action on the part of the United States, viz., such an establishment of British power as would threaten the control of the prospective Nicaragua canal. That would be a more serious matter, but there are no indications of it at present.

THE UNHAPPY FRENCH WIDOW.

According to a writer in the New York Sun the lot of a French widow in her own country is not a happy one. If her husband dies without a will and there are no children all his property, even though it may have been held in common during his lifetime, goes to his relatives. If he dies without a will, leaving both widow and children, all the property goes to the children. In such a case the mother may live on the income with her children if their guardian will permit, but if he sees fit he may forbid this, and she will be compelled to earn her living or otherwise provide for herself, no matter how large the estate. She has the right to retain any property which was hers at the time of marriage, but even this is looked upon covetously by unscrupulous guardians and relatives, and she is not infrequently deprived of it in one way and another. As if this financial injustice were not enough, she is put under the same social restrictions and disadvantages that are placed upon young unmarried girls. Unless she have daughters to be chaperoned she is not free to attend dinner parties, receptions or other entertainments which make up social enjoyments. Neither is she free to receive calls from men or to visit or entertain any but the most intimate family friends. In short, she is practically dead to society unless she should marry again, and without influential friends interested in her welfare she is not likely to have opportunity for this. The social freedom and independence of widows in the United States is so great that the regret of a certain young woman that she had not been born a widow was not without reason. As contrasted with the life of a French widow the privileges of the American woman whose husband has died are bright indeed. If French widows of the upper class cannot emancipate themselves by emigration to this country their more fortunate sisters might show their sympathy by helping to ameliorate their lot as they have the widows of India. It is true that the French women are not incinerated upon the funeral pyres of their husbands, but from the American point of view they might as well be burned as to be buried alive. There is room here for another reform organization of busy and benevolent American ladies.

AN UNJUST SLUR.

An A. P. A. paper, in commenting on St. Patrick's day observances, intimates that Irish Americans have not contributed enough to the establishment or prosperity of American institutions to justify them in making so conspicuous the celebration of a distinctively Irish anniversary. The slur is both ill natured and untrue. Without disparagement to other nationalities, it can be truthfully asserted that Ireland has contributed her full share toward establishing and maintaining American institutions. The traces of Irish blood can be followed through thousands of patriotic channels from a period long before the revolutionary war, during that struggle and the formative period of the government down to the present time. History shows that of the colonial governors prior to the revolution twenty-five were of Irish birth or extraction. Of the eighty-three soldiers who bore commissions of major or brigadier generals in the continental army nineteen were natives of Ireland or of Irish parentage. Irish Americans furnished their full quota of private soldiers in the war of the revolution and the war for the Union, and it would be impossible to enumerate all who have held high and honorable positions in American politics. Andrew Jackson was of Irish descent, Gen. Phil Sheridan of Irish parentage, Gen. Grant from the maternal side had Irish blood in his veins, John A. Logan's father was Irish, as was Admiral Farragut's mother, and Admiral Rowan was a native of Ireland. The list might be indefinitely prolonged of men of Irish birth or extraction who have served the country honorably in civil life or on battlefields from Bunker Hill to Appomattox, while in business and commercial life their influence has been as potent and beneficial as that of any other nationality. American character and institutions are composite, and it is narrow and unpatriotic to attempt to discriminate among their various elements on national lines.

PROTECTION TO FOREIGNERS.

The recent riot in New Orleans, in which a British subject was wounded by a stray shot, and the lynching of several Italians in Colorado have called attention anew to the fact that there is no adequate provision for the protection by the general government of foreigners against local mobs. In both of these cases the ministers of the countries whose citizens were involved requested the Washington authorities to extend the desired protection, and in both they were given to understand that the federal government had no power to interfere in such cases beyond urging the local authorities to do their duty. The circumstances were precisely similar to those attending the massacre of Italians in New Orleans four years ago. President Harrison, in his annual message of 1891, referred to that event as a "most deplorable and discreditable incident." After referring to the diplomatic correspondence to which it had given rise he said:

Some suggestions growing out of this unhappy incident are worthy the attention of Congress. It would, I believe, be entirely competent for Congress to make offenses against the treaty rights of foreigners dominant in the United States cognizable in the federal courts. This has not, however, been done, and the federal officers and courts have no power in such cases to intervene either for the protection of a foreign citizen or for the punishment of his slayers. It seems to me to follow in this state of the law that the officers of the State charged with police and judicial powers in such cases must, in the consideration of international questions growing out of such incidents, be regarded in such a sense as federal agents as to make this government answerable for their acts in cases where it would be answerable if the United States had used its constitutional power to define and punish crimes against treaty rights.

In view of recent events and of the possibility that similar occurrences may happen in the future, involving perhaps even graver complications, it would be well for Congress to consider this suggestion. It is the suggestion of a lawyer, and it proposes a remedy that could be applied without a change of the Constitution. If Congress would give United States courts jurisdiction of offenses against the treaty rights of foreigners temporarily residing in the United States the national authorities could act promptly, as President Harrison said, "either for the protection of a foreign citizen or for the punishment of his slayers." This would be easier than amending the Constitution, and, as a remedy for the present situation, quite as effective. It seems strange that while the federal government has entered into many treaties with foreign governments guaranteeing protection to their subjects domiciled in the United States, Congress has made no attempt to insure such protection.

The Western Mail, a paper published at Cardiff, Wales, has in its issue of Feb. 28 a report of a meeting of the tinplate trade held at Swansea on the Thursday previous. The report says:

After an explanation that the board was called into existence at the request of the workmen, and that it was approved by a large number of makers, the various matters affecting trade were discussed. It was reported that the men at 397 mills were prepared to hand in notices on Monday next to enforce any decision the board might come to. Replies from a further number of eighty-five mills were expected to be given at the men's council on Saturday at Cardiff. It was resolved, first, that the production of plates in the tin-plate trade be assimilated to the demand; secondly, that each individual works reduce the make by one-third the output, based on 576 boxes per mill per week, work not to be concluded before 8 a. m. on Saturday.

This shows that the manufacture of tin plate in this country has become firmly enough established to have a marked effect on foreign production.

The Chicago Tribune refers to the Monroe doctrine, "by which the policy of this government has always been determined whenever the rights of an American government have been threatened by Europe." During the civil war, when Mexico was invaded by France and Austria with the avowed purpose of establishing a monarchy there with Maximilian as emperor, United States Minister Motley, at Vienna, asked Secretary Seward for instructions. Mr. Seward instructed the minister not to interfere. Following is an extract from his dispatch:

France has invaded Mexico and war exists between the two countries. The United States holds in regard to those two states and their conflict the same principles that they hold in relation to all other nations and their mutual wars. They have neither a right nor any disposition to intervene by force in the internal affairs of Mexico, whether to establish or maintain a republican or even a domestic government there or to overthrow an imperial or foreign one if Mexico shall choose to establish or accept it.

Was the policy of this government determined by the Monroe doctrine in that case?

As evidence of the prosperity of street railways it is said that railway materials, railway equipment and railway construction at present is from 20 to 50 per cent. lower than three years ago. The long cars of 1892 cost on an average $4,200, while contracts were awarded recently by a St. Louis company for better cars than those of three years ago, with all the latest improvements, which the manufacturing company agrees to turn out for $2,600. Steel rails in 1892 were worth $40 per ton, compared with $25, in 1895. Car wheels, $8.25 to $8.50 each, now, $6 to $6.75. Insulated wire 20 cents per pound, now 14 cents. Electric equipment, per car, $1,400, now $800 to $850, and thus all along the line. With this large reduction in fixed charges companies under tolerably good management ought to make large profits.

It is a handsome compliment President Cleveland has paid Mr. Joseph Herod, of this city, in renominating him for the place to which he was first appointed by President Harrison, but in which the Democratic Senate refused to confirm him. He is understood to have performed his duties as secretary of legation at Tokio so acceptably that his retention is desired by the consul and other Americans there. Special fitness does not, however, always suffice to retain a man in office, and the reappointment of Mr. Herod is therefore to be considered an unusual token of appreciation.

It is scarcely necessary for the clerk of the late monument commission to say that at the last two meetings of the board there was not an unkind word between Messrs. Langsdale and English, much less any act that would warrant the ridiculous story sent out by the purveyors of sensationalism.

A later will than the one first probated has been produced by the heirs of the late James G. Fair, but how is the court or anyone else to know whether it is the last will? There may be others in reserve in case this is not found satisfactory.

It is very wrong for that Morristown ghost to wear black, and so frighten people nearly to death. It ought to know that reform dress has not yet been adopted by members of its profession, and that white is still the rule.

A ninety-year-old Chicago woman has committed suicide after forty years' residence in that city. Forty years! No wonder she thought the Lord had forgotten her.

With 80,000 elephants still in existence on their native heath, as stated in a consular report, there is no immediate danger that the American circus supply will fail.

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

Sad State of Affairs.

"I sometimes feel as if I would like to be a real bad man," sadly said the small gentleman, "but I fear I am not a good enough man to back it up."

What She Is At.

She long has had undying fame,
She's had a share of riches;
And at this time her little game
Is wearing of the trousers.

The Cheerful Idiot.

"Slumber," said the scientific boarder, "is said to begin at one's feet."

"Certainly," said the Cheerful Idiot. "Didn't you ever have your foot go to sleep while you were wide awake?"

Anecdote of Napoleon.

Napoleon, as is well known, had a playful habit of pulling the ears of those of his acquaintances he fancied. On one occasion, when on horseback, he took hold of the ear of Talleyrand and absently rode off with it, carrying it four miles. The unhappy diplomatist was, of course, forced to accompany the ear. Suddenly the great Corsican realized what he had been doing. "What can I do," he asked Talleyrand, "to atone for pulling your ear so?"

"Only this, sire," replied the statesman. "Give me a chance to pull the public leg." Thus it was that Talleyrand got his hocks in.

THE FUTURE OF CUBA.

Cuba is a costly colony to Spain, and under different conditions she would become one of the richest spots on earth—but that is another story.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Cuba is a little larger than Ohio, and has only 1,600,000 inhabitants. Annexed to the United States its population would double in ten years.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

For years it has been one of the roseate dreams of certain American public men to buy Cuba, a project which, to say the least, demands serious consideration, as the plan has extremely ticklish possibilities connected with it.—Boston Transcript.

It would be impossible to Americanize Cuba. It would be very easy to protect the island, if free from foreign molestation. The people will understand this when they come to think about the matter, and therefore any Democratic campaign cry for the annexation of Cuba, if raised, will accomplish little.—Chicago Tribune.

The Spaniards accuse us of a selfish motive in our sympathy with Cuba, but no such motive is needed to explain the sympathy of a free government which has achieved its own freedom with arms for a colonial dependency in revolt against a despotism the most cruel and conscienceless of modern times.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Forty years ago annexation was the last hope of American slave owners struggling against modern progress; and the people of the island with their European trade connections, were opposed to it. To-day the only hope of a permanent restoration of Cuban prosperity lies in political or social union with the only country where the island's products can be marketed.—New York Tribune.

The unsettled state of Cuba has been a source of irritation to this country for many years, and we are quite justified in insisting upon assurance against annoyance to our commerce, and even upon enforcing the assurance, if necessary, by military means. This would mean so much to Spain that there is very little likelihood of her giving us the opportunity. Yet there can hardly be a doubt that if the liberation of Cuba could be brought about with no sacrifice of national honor it would meet with universal approbation.—Philadelphia Times.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

Mrs. Maria Lawrence, of Palmer, Mass., has obtained a position as a member of its fire department.

The Marquis of Downshire is the wealthiest Irish peer. His estate in that country totals 114,621 acres, with a revenue of $460,000 a year. His English estates add $25,000 to this amount.

The standard of height for admission to the British army is to be raised to five feet four inches, except in the case of candidates under twenty years of age, for whom a quarter of an inch is knocked off.

Mr. Stephen O'Meara, who has been the editor and manager of the Boston Journal since the death of Colonel Clapp, in 1891, has resigned, and is succeeded by Mr. Francis M. Stanwood, a kinsman of the late James G. Blaine. Mr. Stanwood has been in the tea trade since 1871, though he has been an occasional contributor to the Journal.

Kate Field says she thinks that Worth made for her the only dress that he ever made of American material. She took him a piece of American satin for the purpose and at first he refused point-blank to touch it. "The manufacturers at Lyons would never forgive me," he said. "They would accuse me of treachery." But eventually Miss Field's persuasion prevailed. Worth was exceedingly frank to his customers. "Choose that color if you like," he said one day to a rich American woman, "but you'll look like a fright and your husband will refuse to pay the bill."

THE NEW ROAD LAWS

FULL TEXT OF TWO MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE MEASURES.

Logansport Does Not Like the Water Works Law—Numerous Demands for Certified Copies.

Deputy Secretary of State Wright is kept busy these days answering letters about the laws that were passed and telegrams demanding to know why he does not forward the certified copies asked for. It would take fifty stenographers, he says, to keep up with the procession in this regard. The water works bill, which crept through the Legislature without much public interest in the question, has now aroused a strong interest in nearly every city in the State. The law applies only to cities of less than 14,000 population. It includes Mr. Wright's town, therefore, the census on which the question turns having given Logansport a few hundred less than 14,000. This was not desired by Logansport, and things are said to be mightily upset there.

The Secretary of State received several letters yesterday asking if the bill relating to the close season in lakes for fish, as published in the morning's Journal, was correct. It was correct, and was printed from a certified copy of the law as obtained from the Secretary of State. The laws given below are certified to be correct by the Secretary. They relate to the roads of the State. There are six or seven laws passed on this subject, but these two, as printed, are those about which the inquiries principally center. Senate enrolled act No. 205, amending the act of March 3, 1893, concerning the construction of free gravel, stone or macadamized roads, and declaring an emergency, reads as follows:

Section 1 (as amended). The County Commissioners of any county in this State, when petitioned therefor by fifty freehold citizens of any township or townships contiguous to each other, including therein any incorporated towns or cities of less than thirty thousand (30,000) inhabitants in such county where any such road or roads are to be improved by grading, graveling, paving with stone or macadamizing material, shall submit to the voters of said township or townships, at any regular spring or fall election, or at any special elections which may be called by the Board of County Commissioners when no spring or fall election is near at hand, giving at least twenty days' notice in a newspaper of general circulation published in said county, if there be any, and by posting up written or printed notices thereof (which posted notices shall be sufficient in counties where no newspaper is published) in each voting precinct in said township or townships, town or city, the question of building such road or roads in such township or townships in such county. At such election each voter who is in favor of the construction of such road or roads shall inscribe on his ballot, "Building of road—Yes," and each voter opposed thereto shall inscribe on his ballot, "Building of road—No." The vote on said question shall be certified by the proper officers of said election to the Board of County Commissioners of the county, and if at such election a majority of those voters on said question are in favor of building such road or roads the commissioners shall at once proceed to the construction of the same, but not otherwise. Provided, that after such petition shall have been so filed by the fifty freeholders, as aforesaid, and before the election on such question shall be advertised, it shall be the duty of such Board of County Commissioners to appoint a surveyor or engineer, or both if necessary, of such county, if such there be in said county, if not any that can be secured elsewhere in the State, and two disinterested freeholders of the county as viewers, to locate and view such proposed road or roads and determine the width of the same, make a profile of the grade, determine the penalty and depth of gravel, stone or other material to be used, and make an estimate of the cost of construction of said road or roads, including bridges, culverts, drainage and all other things necessary for its or their completion; and provided, further, that said viewers shall not be required to assess damages to any person or persons except minors, idiots or lunatics, in consequence of any appropriation of any private property for the making of said improvement, unless the owner or owners thereof, or their agents, shall have filed a written application with the viewers, giving an accurate description of the premises on which damages are claimed by them within ten days after the completion of the survey of said road or roads by the said viewers and engineer; and provided, further, that all applications for damages shall be barred unless they are presented as above specified; and provided, further, that any person or persons feeling aggrieved by the assessment of damages as aforesaid made may demand of the commissioners to have the same assessed by a jury, which jury shall be composed of five disinterested citizens, two of whom shall be chosen by the commissioners and two by the claimants, and the fifth by the four thus appointed, who, after being duly sworn for the faithful discharge of their duties, shall examine premises and determine the question in dispute, and their decision shall be final; provided, further, that if the amount of damages awarded by this jury is not 20 per cent. greater than the amount assessed by viewers the claimants shall pay all costs made by said jury. The said viewers and jury shall at the next term, whether regular or special, of the Commissioners' Court report their proceedings as to location, length, plans, plats, profiles, together with an estimated cost of said road or roads, including all damages assessed, which report shall be published in full in some newspaper of general circulation, published in such county, for at least four consecutive weeks preceding such election, and written or printed copies of said report shall be posted in each of the voting precincts of said township or townships, and if there be no newspaper published in said county then the posting of notices shall be sufficient, and it shall be the duty of the Board of Commissioners to submit the question to the voters as above provided; provided, further, that the petition of the fifty freeholders aforesaid shall clearly and definitely describe the beginning and terminus of each road or roads, giving the common name and general direction of all roads, together with their measured or estimated distance. If any part of the road or roads is to be new road or roads they shall be described with a definiteness as will enable any practical land surveyor to locate them; provided, further, that the petitioners shall pay all costs of election.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That Section 2 of the above entitled act to be amended to read as follows: Section 2. If the said petitioners desire to have improved more than one road or part of road, which are disconnected, it shall be lawful for them to include descriptions of all of said roads or parts of roads in one and the same petition, and all of said roads and parts of said roads shall be voted upon as a unit. If two or more petitions are pending at the same time they shall be voted upon at the same election. The ballots for each petition shall clearly designate the road for which the voter intends to vote.

Sec. 3. Be it futher enacted, That Section 5 of the above entitled act be amended to read as follows: Sec. 5. For the purpose of raising money to pay for such construction the Board of Commissioners shall issue the bonds of the county for the full amount of the contract in denomination not less than fifty dollars, in such form as they may direct, the first series payable in one year, the second series in two years, the third series in three years, the fourth series in four years, the fifth series in five years, the sixth series in six years, the seventh in seven years, the eighth in eight years, the ninth in nine years, the tenth in ten years from the 15th day of November after the date of their issue, said bonds bearing interest not higher than 5 per cent. per annum, and interest thereon to be paid annually on the fifteenth day of November. The county treasurer shall sell bonds at not less than their face value, and the proceeds shall be kept as a separate and specific fund to pay for the construction of the particular road or roads for which they were issued, and shall be paid by him to the contractor upon warrant of the auditor as directed by the Board of Commissioners.

The commissioners shall order the same to be paid in such amounts and at such times as they may agree, but no payment shall be made by the commissioners for more than 80 per cent. of the engineer's estimate of work done by the contractor, nor shall the whole amount of the contract be paid until the road shall have been received as completed by the board of commissioners.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted that Section 6 of said act be amended to read as follows: Section 6. For the purpose of raising money necessary to meet said bonds and interest thereon the board of commissioners shall annually thereafter at the time the general tax levy is made levy a special tax upon the property of the township or townships, including the towns or cities, if there be, of less than thirty thousand inhabitants, in such manner as to meet the principal and interest of said bonds as they shall become due, and such tax shall be collected as other taxes and shall be applied to the payment of such bonds and interest. If the road or section thereof so constructed runs into or through two or more townships the amount paid thereof shall be divided and charged upon the property of each township in the same ratio that the assessed valuation of all the property in each township bears to the assessed valuation of all the property in all the townships through which the said road or roads run, and said special tax be levied accordingly. That when any contract shall have been awarded to any contractor for the construction of said road or roads under this act he shall give preference in employing labor for the construction of said road or roads to the citizens of the township or townships, towns or cities in which said road or roads are to be constructed; provided, however, that said preferred labor shall be as good and effective as that which could be procured elsewhere at no higher cost. And provided further, that any taxpayer of the township or townships where said roads are who may render any service or labor or may furnish any material for the construction of said roads may, if he shall so elect, demand of the contractor a certificate stating the value of the amount of service or material furnished, and if any such certificate shall be issued the county treasurer shall receive the same, and it shall act as a quietus against a similar amount of taxes against the property of said taxpayer, and all such certificates shall be deducted from the contract price for the said construction of the said road or roads by said contractor.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted that Section 7 of the above entitled act be amended to read as follows: Section 7. All roads built under this act shall be free of toll and shall be kept in repair the same as other free gravel roads constructed under the other laws of the State are repaired.

Sec. 6. Be it further enacted that Section 8 of the above entitled act be amended to read as follows: Section 8. After the payment of the cost of construction of said road or roads should there be any surplus collected or due on delinquent taxes for that purpose it shall be paid to the trustee of said township and be by him kept and used as a fund for the maintenance of the roads of his township.

Sec. 7. Be it further enacted that Section 10 of the above entitled act be amended to read as follows: Section 10. The board of county commissioners shall have power to permit amendments to be made to the petition of the said fifty freeholders or report of viewers, and to extend the time to the viewers to make their report and to continue the hearing from time to time so as to subserve the ends of justice.

It shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners to appoint a competent superintendent, to be governed by such rules and regulations as the commissioners may impose, to supervise the construction of such road or roads. He shall be a resident of one of the townships in which the roads are located, and his compensation shall not exceed $1.50 per day for the time actually employed, and he shall render an account of his time to the commissioners quarterly at the regular term of their court subscribed by oath. He shall give bond in the penal sum of $5,000 for the faithful discharge of his duties.

FREE GRAVEL ROAD REPAIRS.

Enrolled act No. 335, H. B., amends sections 5104 and 5106, R. S., of 1881, which act has been amended a number of times. The Legislature of 1893 passed certain amendments to it. These sections are now made to read as follows, with an emergency clause, the subject matter of the bill being the repair of free gravel roads, and the making of the board of county commissioners a board of directors of such roads:

Sec. 1. That by virtue of their office the commissioners of each county in this State are hereby constituted a board of turnpike directors, under whose management and control all free turnpikes in such county are hereby exclusively vested. It shall be the duty of such board of directors at their first meeting after the taking effect of this act to divide the free gravel roads of such county into three systems, and as nearly as possible to cover the same number of miles in each system. Said systems shall, as far as practicable, include entire roads, but where this cannot be done, roads may be divided and part included in one system and part in another. Said commissioners shall by lot assign one of their number to each of said districts. And such commissioners shall have charge of the district or system so assigned to him. He shall have authority to employ for such system a superintendent, who shall be a real-estate owner, and who shall reside in the district assigned to said commissioner, and who shall have charge of the repairs in such district and the employment of the necessary labor and the purchasing of material to keep said system in repair. It shall be his duty to oversee and superintend the labor employed and see that faithful work is done and time put in by such laborers. He shall give preference to the employment of labor for such repairs, when the same is equal in character and price to that to be had elsewhere, to the real estate owners and laborers along the line of such free roads. Said superintendent shall receive as compensation for such services the sum of $2 per day out of the gravel road repair fund for each day actually employed in directing and superintending the repairs on such free highway. He shall give bond in such sum as said commissioners shall determine for the faithful performance of his duties as such superintendent, for the honest employment of labor and making of contracts for materials. Such superintendent shall keep a strict account of all labor employed and all materials purchased, with the names of the parties employed and persons from whom said materials are purchased, together with the price thereof, and shall make a semi-annual report thereof to the board of commissioners. Said report to be made in June and December of each year, which report shall be recorded in a book to be kept by said board for that special purpose, which shall be open for examination to all persons interested, on all proper occasions. Said superintendent shall give written orders or certificates for the amount due any laborer, employe or person, which order shall be presented by the parties entitled to receive payment thereof to the board of commissioners, and the same shall be audited by them and paid out of the gravel road repair fund as other claims are ordered paid by said board, provided: That when, in the opinion of the board, the interest of any free turnpike requires they may enter upon any lands in said county and take the gravel or other material necessary for the repair of such turnpike, and shall give a certificate to such owner or owners of such material so taken, which shall state the value thereof, together with the amount of damages to such lands by reason of the removal of such material, and the county auditor, upon the presentation of said certificates, shall issue an order upon the county treasurer for the amount so certified, who shall pay the same out of the turnpike fund; provided, further, that in case said owner or owners are not satisfied with the value so certified by said board, he or they shall have the right to appeal to the Circuit Court of said county, subject to all the provisions of the statutes now in force relating to the condemnation of material for road purposes.

Provided, further, that a notice of such appeal shall be filed in the Circuit Court of said county within ten days after the delivery of said certificate.

PURCHASE OF TOLL ROADS.

The following is the new law, containing an emergency clause, which relates to the purchase of toll roads:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That the board of commissioners of any county in this State, when petitioned so to do by one hundred freeholders of the county, may purchase any or all toll roads in said county and pay for the same as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 2. Upon the filing of such petition said board shall make an order directing that the road or roads named in such petition shall be appraised, for that purpose shall appoint one appraiser, and request the judge of the Circuit Court of said county to appoint another; the company or corporation owning said road or roads a third, whose duty it shall be to appraise such road or roads as hereinafter provided and report such appraisement to said board of commissioners: Provided, however, that where such petition asks for the purchase of more than one road, the company or corporation owning each road shall have the right to select one appraiser, who, with those selected by said board and said judge, shall appraise the road owned by the corporation appointing him.

Sec. 3. Such appraisers, in making an appraisement of any such road, shall value it at its fair cash value, taking into consideration the manner of its construction, its condition as to repair and its net annual income, to be determined by the average amount thereof, for the five years next preceding such appraisement, as shown upon the books of such company, which average income they shall also report.

Sec. 4. After the return of such appraisement, which shall be filed with the county auditor, such auditor shall convene said board in special session, if it is not at the time in session, and shall notify the president of the company owning the road of the time of such meeting, and if said board and such company can agree upon terms, said board shall make an order upon their records for the purchase of such road or roads, setting forth the price and manner of payment, and which price shall in no case exceed the appraised value thereof, nor shall the amount be such that if loaned out at 7 per cent. interest it would yield a greater sum than the net annual income, to be determined as above provided and reported by such appraisers.

Sec. 5. Whenever an agreement to purchase any toll road has been entered into as herein provided the purchase money may be paid in whole or in part out of the general funds in the county treasury, not otherwise appropriated or needed for other purposes, and if the funds in the treasury that can be used for such purpose are not sufficient said board may issue tne bonds of the county in the usual form, bearing 6 per cent. interest, and to an amount sufficient to perfect such purpose, and falling due at such times as they shall determine, not exceeding ten years, and sell them in the market to procure the amount required, or deliver the same to the vender of such road in payment thereof.

Provided, however, that no money shall be paid or bond delivered to such vender until a conveyance has been made of such toll road, including its franchise, to such county. And when so conveyed said road shall thenceforth be free, and shall be kept in repair as provided by law for the repair of other roads.

GOOD CITIZEN PLANS

CHAIRMAN NICHOLSON, OF THE LEAGUE, ISSUES A LETTER.

He Will Start Out to Organize Leagues in the State—What He Says.

The executive committee of the Indiana Good Citizens' League has issued a circular to the citizens of the State asking support of the league's effort for good government, and pledging support to the enforcement of the Nicholson bill. The appeal is signed by S. E. Nicholson, author of the bill, and president of the league. Satisfaction is expressed over the passage of the bill, which is called a triumph over the liquor traffic and a victory for good government and purer politics. It says that the passage of the bill shows that the best citizens are taking an active part in legislation. The co-operation of all is asked, in the efforts of the league to work in the lines set down. The league will be nonpartisan and yet not hesitate to promote the interest of both men and parties, if it shall become necessary to secure the objects of the organization. The league stands ready to resist every movement of the liquor power "so far as it seeks to disregard law, influence legislation, or lull the public conscience into inactivity." The league will insist upon purity in politics and endeavor to get honest and honorable men to attend all primaries and take an active part in politics. The circular says the motives of the league are honest and the members have no axes to grind. It urges that county organizations be formed throughout the State, to the end that the work can become more effective. All Christian organizations are asked to interest themselves in the work. Mr. Nicholson will go at work at once organizing the league in all parts of the State and promote the work of the league. The key note of the circular is found in the following:

"Political parties have been censured in the past, and justly, too, for truckling to corrupt methods and for giving audience to the depraved and vicious, but when it is known, that in the main, good citizens have keep aloof from political affairs and allowed designing politicians and selfish aspirants to make their power manifest, it must be concluded that the blame is not altogether with the party organization. It is gratifying to know that the better elements are beginning to see and appreciate this fact and their power is already beginning to be felt throughout the commonwealth. To organize and crystallize this sentiment into effective, practical activity all over the State, the league will use its best endeavors. The league will not waste its time on glittering generalities, but in every municipality where it is possible to use positive means to gain desired ends, these means and agencies will be at once appropriated."

Mr. Nicholson, president of the league, says:

"I have accepted the presidency of the league at the earnest solicitation of a number of the best citizens of the State. I realize the difficulties that will confront us and the criticisms that may be made by enemies of the work, or by persons who do not understand the purpose of the movement. But knowing full well that such a union of citizens as is contemplated in the circular letter is necessary to retain the good work of the past two months, I cannot do otherwise than accept the position. Our greatest difficulty will be in having to resist the suspicions of many well-meaning people who think the good intent and direction the movement will take, but to these I desire to say that the work of the league is only what it appears to be on its face, as set forth in the letter of the executive committee. Any man who signed a petition for the new bill recently or who was friendly to it (and there were thousands of them who had no opportunity to sign), may properly become members of the league. Any citizen who believes in the enforcement of the law, who believes the better