

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

THE GOVERNOR'S EVIDENCE FOR THE COMMITTEES.

Defaulting Ex-Officials To Be Brought to Law. Governor Nichols left the city last evening on the steamer Bat Able, for Baton Rouge, where on the 2nd proximo the first meeting will be held of the Board of Control of the Louisiana Agricultural and Mechanical College and the State University.

This done the Governor will return to Donaldsonville on the morning of the 10th proximo, and on the following day he will visit his plantation, returning to the city on Friday.

The Auditorial investigation during the present week will most likely present something startling in the way of defaulting tax collectors, and the accounts—made from the records—of a dozen or more will show defaultances ranging from \$1000 to \$50,000, which, unless settled for, will have to be paid by the sureties on the bonds of the ex-collectors.

The records which will be presented will show that the entire receipts, as per Auditor's books, from January 1 to July 15, 1876, were \$1,963,312 62, which does not of course include the amounts due by the defaulting collectors. The records will show that on July 13, 1876, Handlett, of St. Mary, owed the State \$2500 32, and subsequently compromised the matter.

On July 15, 1876, Kellogg wrote the Auditor that the collectors of Concordia, Texas, Ouachita, Carroll, Avoyelles, Madison and Claiborne were NOT PAYING UP, and to the action against them, but the orders were not obeyed. He wrote to the District of St. Martin, although removed, was collecting taxes, and directed that the Attorney General's attention be called to the fact.

Some correspondence passed also relative to Banks of Winn, who owed the State \$13,000, one official alleging that he could get about half of that by a compromise, and that may have been the course taken.

Much more information is shown by the records, and enough to furnish the District Attorneys with, when it goes in the hands of the law, they may begin suits, as the law directs "in the parish in which the offense was committed."

In many cases, however, a certain set or ring reside in this city, including several who are known as professional bond-men, and who are on the bonds of a dozen different ex-officials. And in these cases a ring will first be taken against the principals, and then the sureties will be brought up with a round turn.

Attorney General Ogden, having returned from his trip across the lake, will devote his attention to this matter in a few days, and will give the facts in his possession, with instructions, to the various district attorneys.

Railroad Departures. The departures for "cooler climates" by the Jackson and Great Northern route last evening were as follows: A. Z. Dietrich and family, and P. Faulhaber and family, for the Pacific coast; J. Myers (of C. B. Block & Co.), J. F. Sexton and E. Dufur, for New York; H. C. Hyams (of Moore, Janny & Hyams), for Wisconsin; C. W. Conrad and family, for Niagara Falls; T. Bigby, Esq., President A. and M. Railroad, for St. Louis; Gen. L. A. Shildon and family, for Washington, via Cleveland and New York, and Messrs. David Lumsden, Andrew McLean, T. J. Thompson, James H. Patten and others, for the Middle and Western States, and all to escape the high range of the thermometer.

Brevities. On Monday next, at Magnolia Gardens, the Good Intent Social and Singing Club will give their second back picnic to their many friends. The time for the appeal in the Gaines case has expired, and the judgments are now final.

Ex-Auditor Johnson's sentence for contempt of court expires to-day at 3:15 p. m. Messrs. Wilder, Pearson & Co. have established at No. 6 Camp street a Merchant's Detective Bureau, which promises to be of great service to our mercantile community. These gentlemen are thoroughly acquainted with all the intricacies of the police service, and will be a valuable adjunct to our police system in the detection of serious crimes.

The many friends of the esteemed gentleman John J. Salter, Esq., will learn with unfeigned regret of his sudden demise yesterday. Mr. Salter has, for a long time past, been connected with the house of O. A. Whitton & Co. and by his courtesy and urbanity had won for himself an enviable reputation. To the bereaved ones we tender our sincere condolence.

Last evening the Democrat office was refreshed by the audacious appearance of a great sample of ice cream from the hotelier of Frank E. Leas, of 56 Camp street. In this weather this cooling beverage is most enjoyable.

Mr. T. J. Thompson, of the popular "Thompson's Rice Mill," left yesterday evening by the Jackson Railroad for the Arkansas Springs. We wish him bon voyage, and twenty pounds more on his return.

The Hope Benevolent Association give a grand July festival at the Fair Grounds, Art Hall, on Sunday, the 8th. Hope Hook and Ladder Company No. 3 will give an open house on Sunday, the 8th of July, with a grand complimentary entertainment.

Rev. C. W. Knapp, rector elect of Calvary Church, having arrived, will officiate this morning at 11 o'clock. The holy communion will be administered at this service.

At a meeting of the Pickwick Social Club, held on Wednesday evening, June 27, which was organized October 12, 1873, the following officers were elected: President, M. J. Simms; First Vice-President, A. B. Bontje; Second Vice-President, W. L. Matthews; Recording Secretary, H. S. Baptie; Corresponding Secretary, John Poshel; Treasurer, Adam S. Perkins.

Two "gators," measuring each about ten feet in length, and captured at Terre Beaufort, were carried to a down town bird store, yesterday, for sale. While standing in front of the store, a large crowd was attracted, and while one of the reptiles was flopping his caudal appendage, one chap waggishly remarked that there was a sad tale. He thought, doubtless, that they were so large for the slaughter-house, but the negro captor said: "They are too much trouble in cooking 'em to trade 'em off to any dam butcher man to make noisance of."

The steamer St. Mary will leave here on Tuesday night with the Continentals for Donaldsonville, and will return from there on Wednesday night. She will also take a few friends of the Continentals and others at a moderate fare.

Ferth, the swimmer, is hawking for a two mile race in dead water on the eighth of July, and left word to this office that he had accepted the wager, but failed to say anything about a forfeit.

Henderson Green, for entering a garden at the corner of St. Patrick and Olympia streets, and setting two cantaloupes, was lodged in the Suburban Station.

At 3 o'clock Friday evening a man named Wm. Conrad, a ship carpenter, while at work on the Ocean Dry Dock, fell from a swinging stage and fractured his right hip, but as he had his arm, and was so severely bruised about the face.

Alice Marshall and Lovinia Williams were locked up in the Third and Precinct Station, charged with the robbery of \$2 50. Louisa Dixon on returned in the Third Station on the charge of larceny of \$1 75.

Robert Junior and James Brown retreated into the Harbor station, charged with attempting to commit a robbery.

Friday Off-icer Miller killed a dog that had bitten a little child of Mr. Philip Hill.

To-morrow, Monday, and during the week, M. L. Byr & Co. 163 Canal street, will offer their entire stock of Victoria lawn suits and brown linen suits at greatly reduced prices.

THE COURTS.

Superior Criminal Court.

B. Clements, found guilty of robbery, was sentenced to fifteen years in the Penitentiary. In the contempt case of George E. Johnson, the ex-Auditor, the term of his sentence expired yesterday, but before such expiration he was brought before Judge Whitaker to respond to questions to be propounded by the Grand Jury. He looked considerably the worse for his incarceration and rather anxious to be loosened from the coils of the law.

After he had put in an appearance the Grand Jury reported to the Court his refusal to respond to questions, and immediately, District Attorney Jno. J. Finney, filed a rule to show cause why he should not be punished again for contempt, returnable forthwith. After quite a lengthy argument on the part of G. E. Johnson, for Johnson and the District Attorney, Judge Whitaker decided that the rule could not be sustained, as at the time of his hearing the defendant's sentence under a previous rule had not expired, and he could not be punished twice for the same offense, or punished before the expiration of the first sentence. The rule was thereupon dismissed.

The judge intimated that he thought he could punish him, but after a careful survey of the statutes involved he had come to the conclusion that he could not. He was a little disconcerted when he heard that Johnson had been guilty of a very great crime in retreating from the Penitentiary, as they would be of great benefit to the State if he could testify before the Grand Jury showed an animus deserving of punishment, but he would have to discharge the rule.

Johnson was remanded to prison, the ten days of his sentence having expired; but as Attorney Finney had not paid the fine imposed, he had to be incarcerated until it was paid.

TOO MANY RAILROADS.

While in the last ten years the railroad mileage has nearly doubled, the increase in population has only been 23 per cent, the railroads having increased more than four times as rapidly as the population. The number of inhabitants to a mile of railroad in 1867 was 925, while in 1876 it was only 577. The experience of the New England States demonstrates that to enable railroads to be operated at a profit, a population of at least 850 to a mile of railroad is necessary in this country. The history of the railroads in the Western States also proves it. In the earlier days of the system nearly all the lines built in the Western States brought handsome returns to the builders, but with the increasing profits came a still greater increase of railroads. The success which attended them in the early days of the development of the system, the construction of buildings were also changed, and the depression which has attended their operations during the last three years is largely owing to the undue stimulus which the first successes created. In the Western States in 1867 there were 747 inhabitants to a mile of railroad; in 1876 there were but 427 inhabitants to a mile. The inevitable result has followed, and the result cannot be averted until the population shall again increase to the necessary proportion.

A FRENCH RELIGIOUS UNION.

A National Organization to Resist the Innovations of the Free-Thinkers. A new movement has been started, says a Paris telegram to a London paper, with the view of uniting all religious persons, without reference to particular dogmas, in a great army of defense against the free-thought innovations intended to be introduced with the new elections. This proposal to group together the adherents of all the religious systems with the object of defeating socialist schemes, which have all, more or less, a foundation of materialism or agnosticism, is an old idea, but peculiar force has been given to it by recent events. A letter in the Gaulois puts the matter before the electors in clear and vigorous language. What it suggests is a "provisional alliance" of all conservatives—including Bonapartists, Orleansists, Legitimists, and even Moderate Republicans—for the common weal. With this object it proposes to embrace in the new defense party all the religions recognized by the State, which may be general, but given up under the heads Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish. The motto of the new party will be "God and Fatherland," and its object will be to repulse all encroachments on the principle of Church and State. In some quarters the proposal of the new combination has been received with enthusiasm, but it has hitherto been ignored by the recognized Protestant organs.

MAJOR GENERAL ORD.

He is not of Royal, But of Pennsylvania Birth.

[Philadelphia Bulletin.] It appears that Major General Ord is not the grandson of George the Fourth, by Mrs. Fitzherbert, but is almost a Pennsylvania. Soon after Gen. Ord took command of the third brigade of the Pennsylvania reserves late in the fall of 1862, he was presented with a sword. In his reply to the presentation address, the General stated, in effect, that there was a kind of historic justice or fitness in his appointment to the command of Pennsylvania, for he was intended for a Pennsylvania himself; that his grandfather came to America intending to settle in Pennsylvania, and did so, as he supposed, but it was near the Maryland line. After time Mason and Dixon, in running their historic line, threw the old gentleman's farm within the Maryland territory, so much to his disgust that he refused to acknowledge the Maryland authorities, and actually suffered an imprisonment before he yielded. This is Gen. Ord's account of his paternity.

Mrs. Belknap Again in Society.

[Archives Patriot.] Mrs. W. W. Belknap has taken up her residence in Keokuk, Iowa, and is the leader of society in that burg. The once proud and haughty Secretary of War lives in seclusion.

The Potato Bug in Europe.

[New York Sun.] COLOGNE, June 25.—The Colorado beetle was discovered yesterday in a potato field near belonging to a butcher who had purchased some American

CLARENCE BALE.—Messrs. Max Beer & Co., 167 Canal street, will, on Monday, the 3d of July, and for the next thirty days, sell their large and varied stock of dry goods at a discount of from fifteen to twenty per cent. less than cost price. Blue silks are reduced from \$2 to \$1 50; colored silks are reduced to ten per cent. below cost—3a fact, everything in this popular dry goods establishment has been reduced in the same proportion.

To-morrow, Monday, and during the week, M. L. Byr & Co., 163 Canal street, will offer their entire stock of Victoria lawn suits and brown linen suits at greatly reduced prices.

CUSTOM-HOUSE GOSSIP.

Lewis in Command of the Naval Office—More Civil Service Reform. Packard swinging around the Circle—He Makes a Flank Movement Upon Omaha.

The Custom-House Commission having nearly completed their labors, the members thereof will quietly subside to their daily avocations within the next few days, to rest two weeks or so, satisfied that they have served the people in the matter of civil service reform at least.

A partial report was forwarded yesterday, and the finale will go forward later in the season. It may be possible that the Commission will not recommend that the

NAVAL OFFICE BE SUFFICIENT, as it is stated now that section 2653, which authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to abolish that office, does not, strictly speaking, give such authority, but merely names such offices, which can only be abolished by an act of Congress.

The section alluded to seems to contain a clerical error or two, and as that was a portion of an act amendatory to section twenty-nine of an act approved July 16, 1866, and that again is a revision of section nine of an act approved May 7, 1823, which provides that the Secretary of the Treasury may turn into the treasury all fees of certain customs officials in excess of

A CERTAIN AMOUNT, and thus the whole matter settles down to that question. In conversation with the Collector, Judge King, yesterday he stated to a Democrat reporter, in substance, that he would not approve any recommendation that would give the auditor an office independent of his unless that official was a bonded officer which, as stated in Saturday's Democrat, would not accomplish the desired civil service reform by the abolition of the Naval Office.

That office was turned over last evening by Bird to James Lewis, the new appointee, who assumed the honors without any set speech on the part of the "bird" or the "new" Lewis will retain Mr. Starr as chief clerk, and while he may make several changes in the business office, he will not do so immediately.

The Collector having addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury recommending that on October 1 the business hours of the customs offices be, as before, from 9 a. m. until 3 p. m., the Secretary replies that the recommendation IS NOT APPROVED.

In consequence of which the central hall (sweat box), which has scarcely any ventilation, will continue to be the chief cause of the extra hour in the afternoon.

The Collector is also informed by general order from the Secretary of the Treasury that the office of the Superintendent of Bonded Warehouses at this port has been abolished, and that the duties thereof must be performed by one of the deputy collectors, which is another slice of civil service reform.

ITS PARTIAL REPORT.

As above stated, and adjourned for a couple of days, the report of the Commission on the subject of what would have been submitted at Washington. They have not yet submitted even the partial report to the Collector, but expect to have a copy made by his inspection to-morrow.

No further changes in the prominent positions in the building are likely to be made at present, the only two at all comestible by the hungry and exultant Republicans being the Pension and the Land Office. If that which was stated to President Hayes concerning the fitness of one of the pensioners for the former position (Twitchell) prove it is not at all likely that he will trouble the Pension Office, and so far Darrall and Morey have never secured the Land Office for their men.

Mr. Warburton, the to-be chief of the Deputy United States Marshal, was in the Marshal's office on Saturday.

LEARNING THE ROPES.

As it were, and getting an idea of the system of office. The other appointees are Messrs. J. O. Ches (reappointed), W. J. Elliot (colored) and Phas (reappointed), who will continue the force of the office until November, and who will assume their positions to-morrow.

A telegram received from Packard, on Saturday morning, announces his safe arrival at Omaha, Neb., where a Republican State Convention is about to assemble.

LONG RANGE NOTES.

A Few Suggestions for the Wimbledon Marksmen. The practice shooting to-day by the long range shots of the Crescent City Rifle Club, for positions on the Creedmoor team, will be the seventh competitive match, and will no doubt be more exciting than any that has yet taken place at Frogmore. As it is pretty well settled now that five of the six that are to compose the team have already made by them cannot be beaten by newcomers, it is suggested that the team go into practice as soon as possible as a team, leaving the sixth to be selected from the scores made previously and that made to-day, and then to spur the shooters up a little, it is suggested that sometime during the week a team match be shot against the highest score yet made by any team in the United States. As

THE INTER-STATE MATCH.

does not occur at Creedmoor until the 15th of September, the sixth man on the team will not be selected, unless the course advised is taken before the 15th of August, and then the team will have no time to practice as a team. The suggestion is made as practice.

In order that the club may see the pertinency of the suggestion we append the total scores made by each shooter at the six competitions and the average score made by each. They are as follows:

NAME	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Average
Dudley Selph	161	197	207	213	197	194	189
R. G. Eyrich	195	198	174	202	197	191	193
John A. Burt	187	188	200	207	190	195	192
Wm. Arms	190	182	169	169	189	189	183
John K. Renaud	197	181	190	190	182	186	186
A. D. Burt	187	188	190	175	165	170	179
L. E. D. Pitt	176	157	164	154	162	164	159
James Buckley	189	157	163	145	164	159	159
E. T. Manning	163	192	121	171	159	163	155
James Piffaut	163	167	167	167	167	167	167

Off for Donaldsonville. The approaching fourth of July promises to be one long to be remembered here. A coveted badge of invitation from the Washington Artillery to participate in their pleasant expedition, is a reminder of the delightful trip in store for those who are the fortunate possessors of an "invite." The day will be most appropriately celebrated and that those who accompany our boys will have an enjoyable time is beyond the peradventure of a doubt.

The gallant Continentals will add their ever-pleasant faces to the occasion, and with their veteran Pierce at the head will surely make a strong fare to the gala display. With their kades fluttering, 75 hats shimmering in the sunlight, Donaldsonville will be taken by storm. The gallant private ex-curians are making preparations to start thitherward.

A Good Institution. The Fruit Growers' Association of the Gulf States will hold its fourth annual exhibition of fruits, plants, vegetables, flowers, etc., on the 15th of July at 2 P. M. at the Exposition grounds. We think that this association is one of those that ought to be encouraged by our population. All those interested in gardens ought to send their finest fruit and vegetables to the exhibition so that the best products of our soil may be seen by the visitors, who are invited from all parts of the Gulf.

The star of St. Paul is said to have been seen. He has been seen by Gold's white book store, on Exchange Alley, near the corner of Canal street, where crowds besiege him, all the latest papers and periodicals. To those who will pay him a visit there is much good reading in store.

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CITY AFFAIRS.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

Notice to Taxpayers—A Fine New School-House.

We publish to-day a notice from Col. Denis, Administrator of Finance, to taxpayers, embodying section 79 of act No. 96 of 1877—the general revenue law.

It will be noticed that our legislators had a commendable object in view when they framed that section of the law. Regarding our city taxes, a failure to pay them within a prescribed time entails upon the tax payer a penalty of ten per cent and costs of court and sheriff's fees, for the full amount of which a mortgage is entered against the owner of the property in favor of the city.

By giving the power to the State, parish or municipal corporations, with the consent of the owner of the property taxed, to subrogate all its claims to a third party, the law enables the taxpayer to

BORROW THE MONEY from whomsoever he may please for one month, two months, six or even twelve months, in a great majority of cases, at a cost far below what he would have had to disburse in consequence of his delinquency arising from temporary financial embarrassments, the person from whom he has borrowed the money taking the place of the State, parish or municipal corporation, and receiving a mortgage on the property taxed as security for the payment of the amount loaned.

For example, take a laborer or mechanic, who keeps an account with a savings bank; he may find himself unable to meet the demand for his taxes when the same becomes due, from the want of the necessary funds. Without touching

THE LITTLE TREASURY which he is hoarding for a rainy day, he can borrow from the same bank the sum needed to pay his taxes, at eight per cent per annum, instead of undergoing the penalty of ten per cent and the costs of a suit. And it can make no difference to him whether his property is mortgaged in favor of the bank or in favor of the city. Rich and poor can even apply to the land sharks of Carondelet street for the loan of money in such a case, at one and a half to two per cent a month, for two or three months, and still be saving money.

Without the State or city having received its revenue in cash, and the machinery of government works on the more smoothly on that account, and the more smoothly governments operate the lower taxes must be

PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Mayor Filabury, Administrator Denis, Will A. Fryer, Esq., the architect, and a Democrat reporter, on Friday visited the McDonough school No. 7, at the intersection of Milan and Chestnut