C. E. THACKER, Editor and Manager.

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BELL 'PHONE 2514
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1898.

THE LAND GRABBERS.

There has been much adverse criticism of the law passed by the last Leg-

[illegible]

evident that those who have been most strongly inveighing against the measure have lost sight of one or two essential facts in considering the matter.

The collection of taxes is absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the machinery of government. This fact, however, has never made taxation popular. From time immemorial the collection of taxes, whether justly or unjustly assessed, has been a problem. Even in the churches, where men are supposed to be influenced by the highest and purest of motives, it is sometimes found necessary to adopt methods of doubtful expediency in order to make both ends meet.

In the case of real estate it is possible, of course, for the government to collect the taxes assessed upon it by forcible sale, if the owner fails or is unable to pay the amount due. For a number of years the method in vogue in Virginia has been to go through the farce of advertising and making sales of property returned delinquent. That this system was an utter failure was shown by the constantly increasing length of the "delinquent list," many names of persons appearing who were amply able to pay, but who through disinclination or sheer negligence let the matter proceed, and in the meantime the State was forced to get along without the money assessed. This condition of affairs made it necessary to enact a law which would not be a dead letter on the statute books, one which would convince careless property holders that tax paying was not child's play, but something upon which the government of both the State and the nation depend for their maintenance. The new law is by far the most effective one yet adopted. By means of appealing to the instinct of self-interest of both the would-be "land grabber" and of the man who has carelessly permitted his land to get into a "grabable" position, the law accomplishes the desired end.

It is unfortunate that the provisions of the law fall with unnecessary harshness upon any one, but the collection of taxes is absolutely necessary and it is difficult to imagine how such a thing can be accomplished without bringing inconvenience to some one, and we feel sure that a careful perusal of the measure will convince all fair-minded persons that the interests of all the citizens of the State are reasonably safeguarded. Before going into spasms of indignation against the law-makers it might be well to remember that they have to deal with an element of human nature which abhors taxation, and which will sometimes go to almost any lengths to escape payment.

THE WESTERN WAY.

In commenting upon the action of the Chicagoans in their recent fight against the aldermen of the "Windy City," the Chicago Chronicle says:

"We are wild and wooly out this way; we are noisy at times but we don't wait to lock the stable door until the horse is stolen."

This is the only and proper and sensible way of conducting affairs. So long as the citizens of a municipality keep a close watch on those who have charge of the city's affairs there will be little danger of things going very far wrong. It is only when the people become so much engrossed in their own affairs as to lose interest in public matters that corruption has full sway. Whatever is is by sufferance of the people.

A dispatch from Havana says: "On the heels of the announcement that Jim Corbett will open a saloon here comes the news that Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp, of Tombstone, Ari.; Doc Holiday, Ed Casey, the Kid, of Skaguay, Alaska, and Doc Brown, of Spokane Falls, are coming to Havana to engage in various enterprises. From appearances the early history of Western towns of the United States is to be repeated in Havana. Gambling-houses are being opened everywhere." Thus we carry the blessings of Christian civilization to the benighted Cubans.

Items of Interest.

The wives of Siamese noblemen cut their hair so that it sticks straight up from their heads. The average length of it is about one and one-half inches.

Gelatoid, a mixture of gelatine with formaldehyde, is being used for unbreakable goggles to protect the eyes of workmen exposed to flying particles of stone, metal or wood.

The names of the architects of the new South Station, Boston, will be chiseled in enduring granite high up on the front facade of that structure, in accordance with plans duly submitted by them.

Corncob pipes are made by the carload in Missouri, and sell for 25 to 27 cents per bushel. The industry is also an important one in Indiana, and one factory at Brightwood turns out between 4,000 and 5,000 a day.

In 1828 there were 1,085 debtors imprisoned in Philadelphia, their debts amounting to $25,409; the expense of keeping them was $802,076, paid by the city; the amount of debts recovered by this process was $295.

Soap has been in use for 3,000 years and is twice mentioned in the Bible. A few years ago a soap-boiler's shop was discovered in Pompeii. The soap found in the shop had not lost its efficacy, although it had been buried 1,800 years.

Debtors in Siam, with three months' arrears, can be seized by the creditors and compelled to work out their indebtedness. Should a debtor run away, his father, his wife or his children may be held in slavery until the debt is cancelled.

The father of Major Marchand is an old carpenter at Thoissey, in the Ain, and he is vastly proud of his son's achievements.

General Otis, now in Manila, is said to be ignorant of his candidacy to succeed Senator White, of California. The general is editor of the Los Angeles Times.

A brochure, by Mary Foote Henderson, wife of ex-Senator J. B. Henderson, of Missouri, advocating a new White House to be erected on Meridian Hill, is being distributed at the capitol.

Dr. Shweninger, who won fame and fortune through Prince Bismarck, has accepted the headship of a big hospital which is being built in Steglitz. He will open a college of medicine in connection with the hospital.

Miss Wiesch recently won the first prize for marksmanship at the little town of Attinghauser, made famous by Schiller. She won from over 100 competitors, including her father, seven brothers and three sisters. The family took nine prizes in all.

Arthur T. Hadley, professor of political economy in the academic department of Yale university, is at present considered the most likely successor to President Dwight. Professor Hadley is a graduate of Yale of the class of '76. New York Yale graduates are booming Judge Henry W. Taft of the class of '80 for the place.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

PLEASANT FURNISHED ROOMS, southern exposure, with or without board, private family. 131 Thirty-fourth street dec29-1t

WANTED—To buy or lease for a term of years a Livery Stable, or a building that can be converted to such a use. Address D. C. Perkins, North Brookfield, Mass. dec-28-3w

WANTED—To buy or rent Second hand Remington Typewrited. Address "T." care Daily Press

FOR RENT—Flat of four rooms, furnished or unfurnished. Apply at 210 26th street. dec-28-3t*

WANTED—Three unfurnished rooms. Address R. G., Postoffice Box 23, City. dec-28-1t*

Notice of Dividend.

Citizens & Marine Bank,
Newport News, Va., Dec. 15, 1898.

The directors of this bank have declared a dividend of three (3) per cent. out of the profits for the past six months, payable to the stockholders on and after January 2, 1898.

W. B. VEST, Cashier.

dec28-1w

DIVIDEND NOTICE.

At a meeting of the directors of the First National Bank of Newport News, held December 23rd, a dividend of three per cent. was declared out of the earnings of the past six months, payable to the stockholders on and after January 2, 1899

J. A. WILLETT
Cashier.

12-29-5t

ALONG THE WATER FRONT.

Flotsam and Jetsam of the Tide of Current Maritime Events.

Weather Forecast

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Forecast for Thursday—Virginia: Increasing cloudiness, with probably rain at night; warmer; light southerly winds.

Calendar for This Day.

Sun Rises ... .7:17 A. M.
Sun Sets..... ... ...4:57 P. M.
High tide 9:19 A. M., and 9:55 P. M.
Low tide 3:00 A. M., and 3:49 P. M.

Vessels Arrived Yesterday.

Steamship Phoebe (Br.), Story, Galveston.
Steamship Stella, Galveston.
Schooner John S. Beacham, Richmond.

Vessels Sailed Yesterday.

Steamship Leander (Br.), —— New York.
Steamship Riojana (Span.), Guerrica, Liverpool.
Steamship Kanawha (Br.), Maxwell, Liverpool.
Steamship Drat, ——, Bristol.
Steamship Betty (Aust.), Bleecinch, Trieste.
Steamship Prazathus, ——, Trieste.
Steamship Stella, ——, Aarhaus.
Barge Mary Whitridge, New Bedford.
Barge George Moon, New York.
Barge Raeitan, New York.

AN INSPIRING SCENE.

Hampton Roads presented an inspiring scene yesterday with something like a hundred schooners at anchor, and dozens of steamships. The former vessels had, most of them, put in for fear of the prospective storm which it seems is not scheduled to materialize. Many of them took their departure yesterday.

DIED ON THE MARYLAND.

One of the crew of the bark Maryland, formerly the Spanish bark Carlos F. Roses, now anchored in Hampton Roads, died on that vessel outside the capes and was buried at Fisherman's Island. The Maryland is bound to Baltimore from Havana by way of Tortugas, where she performed a strict quarantine and was fumigated. The death of the sailor makes the fourth which has occurred in connection with the vessel since her capture.

MANITOBA AND JAMESTOWN.

The shipyard officials have as yet received no advices about the time of arrival of the quarantine ship Jamestown and the United States transport Manitoba, both of which will be overhauled here.

The Cape Charles quarantine station has been closed for the season and the Jamestown doubtless will come here from Old Point, where she is stationed, in the next few days. It was expected that the old ship would be sent here as soon as Quarantine Officer Pettus, at Old Point, left her.

The Manitoba is now at Charleston, S. C., taking on soldiers and military supplies for Cuba and is expected to sail from that place daily. While it is not known just when she will be here, it is believed that the transport will make for Newport News after loading this detachment of men.

Both of the ships need overhauling and the Manitoba will be refitted as to staterooms and saloons. The Jamestown will be placed in condition for the next quarantine season. The contracts to overhaul these two vessels aggregate upwards of $200,000.

THE BADGER IS HERE.

The converted cruiser Badger arrived in Hampton Roads on Tuesday from League Island. She will be further equipped for her trip to Pacific waters at the Portsmouth yard. The Badger and the Yosemite, which is soon to sail, will each carry a complement of 350 men.

The collier Sterling has arrived at Montevideo on her way to Hampton Roads. She was one of the vessels sent ahead of the battleships Iowa and Oregon to supply them with coal on their voyage to the Pacific. She landed her cargo at Punta Arenas, in the Straits of Magellan, and then started back.

CLEARING AWAY THE RUBBISH.

Two tugs and crews of the Merritt & Chapman Wrecking Company are at work clearing away the rubbish and burnt parts of the steamer Cape Charles taking on coal, and it is said will sail for Portsmouth today.

SAILING OF THE SANDOVAL.

Yesterday morning the captured Spanish gunboat Sandoval sailed out of Hampton Roads en route to Portsmouth, N. H., where she will be repaired.

The Sandoval is commanded by Lieutenant Edwin A. Anderson, who distinguished himself by cutting the Cienfuegos cable during the late war.

Her sister ship, the Alvarador, commanded by Lieutenant Victor Blue, is mouth and then commissioned for service.

TO DELIVER RELICS.

NORFOLK, VA., Dec. 28.—The former Spanish gunboats Sandoval and Alvarado, commanded respectively by Lieutenants Anderson and Victor Blue, sailed today for Portsmouth, N. H., via Annapolis, where they will deliver relics to the Naval Academy and give the cadets a chance to see the captured vessels. They will be overhauled at Portswith a view to raising her. That will require several days yet, but the wreckers declare that they will raise her.

It is probable that this yard will bid on the work of rebuilding the Cape Charles.

NOTES.

When the late Calvin S. Brice failed in his earliest ventures he was about to give up entirely had it not been for the encouragement and aid given him by Mr. Foster, who was afterward secretary of the Treasury under President Harrison.

Lord Curzon, before leaving London, completed a book on "The Indian Frontier," and had arranged for its publication, but the book has been withdrawn from the publishers, at the suggestion, it is believed, of the queen, who has pointed out the impropriety of a book about India by the viceroy during his term of office.

While on the bench Associate Justice McKenna, of the United States Supreme Court, is the personification of dignity, in private he is the most democratic member of "the highest tribunal in the land." In pleasant weather he always walks to the court, stopping frequently to chat a moment with a friend or gaze with interest at the shop windows.

The young Chinese emperor, having outlived the reports that he had committed suicide or been assassinated, is now described by Dr. Dethere, a Frenchman, who is one of his physicians, as merely a sufferer from fits of depression and lassitude, his real ailment, so far as there is any, being abnormal melancholia.

Governor Wolcott, of Massachusetts, has recovered from his recent attack of the grip and expects to resume his duties in a day or two.

A memorial window to the late Governor Luzon B. Morris, of Connecticut, has been placed in Center church, New Haven, by his daughter, Mrs. Pratt, of Brooklyn.

A. W. Millspaugh, aged 85, has been ticket agent at the Union Depot, Kansas City, Mo., since 1870 and has been in the railroad business for over fifty years. Mr. Millspaugh is as active as though only half his age.

The Princess of Wales never carries any money about with her. It was not so long ago that the Princess, on attempting to enter an entertainment incognito, found herself without the two shillings required to pay the entrance fee.

BRIGHT GEMS IN OUR
CLOTHING DEPARTMENT
PUT ON SALE FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS WEEK.

TOP COATS
Nobby and Stylish.
Handsomely Tailored.
$8.75

WOULD BE CHEAP AT TWELVE.

GARMENTS TO PROTECT YOU FROM COLD

STORM COATS
Extra Long
Cassimere Lined
$6.75

Hirshberg,
THE BANNER CLOTHIER
2606 Washington avenue.

SOMMERS'
Reliable Store,
2906 Washington Avenue. - - Newport News, Va

Wondrous Values
Again for Xmas Gifts.

15c
Infants' Soft Soled Colored and White Kid Moccasins. Regular value, 25c.

75c
Children's Genuine Dongola, solid leather, patent tip, lace and button Shoes. Regular value, $1.00.

98c
Misses' Vici Kid, hand-turned, patent leather tip, solid throughout, in lace or button. Regular value, $1.50.

$1.24
Ladies' Genuine Vici Kid, soft and flexible, patent leather tips, in lace or button, in all the latest shapes. Regular value, $2.00.

$1.98
Ladies' Hand-Sewed Imported Vici Kid, silk fitted, in all styles, in lace or button. Regular value, $3.00.

$1.48
Men's Satin Calf, heavy sole, bull dog toes, lace and Congress Shoes. Regular value, $2.50.

$1.98
Men's Tan Russia Calf and Box Calf, leather lined, heavy soled Shoes, in bull dog and all the leading toes. Regular value, $3.00.

$5 00
Men's patent leather Shoes, hand sewed, in all the latest styles. Guaranteed not to crack.

98c
Men's black and brown Derbys and Fedoras, in all the latest shapes. Regular value, $1.50.

$1.48
Men's black and brown Derbys and Fedoras in Dunlap and Knox styles. Regular value, $2.50.

H. SOMMERS,
2906 Washington Ave., Newport News, Va.

PURE ICE,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,
GOLD STORAGE,
ARC LIGHTS
Incandescent Lights,
METER OR CONTRACT
MOTOR POWER.

ARC, Incandescent and Bell Wiring done on short notice. Inspection guaranteed.
Electric and Combination Fixtures at Factory Prices
'PHONE 2515.

Electric Lights;
Safe and Convenient.
No Dirt,
No Odor,
No Matches.

Peninsula Electric Light and Power Co.
NEWPORT NEWS, VA.
(Board of Directors meet third Tuesday in each month.)

Schmelz Brothers, Bankers,
NEWPORT NEWS, VA.
Off r Their Customers Every Accommodation Consistent With Safe Banking.
Accounts of individuals, firms and corporations solicited. Collections ma.. on all parts of the country. Foreign drafts issued on all parts of the world.
Dime Saving Department.
Deposits received from 10 cents to $5,000, and interest allowed at the rate of FOUR PER CENT. PER ANNUM.
SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES FOR RENT.
Only Safety Boxes in the City Secured by Time Lock

W. A. Post, President; J. R. Swinerton, Vice-President; J. A. Willett, Cashier.
First National Bank
OF NEWPORT NEWS, VA.
CAPITAL $100,000. SURPLUS$ 30 000
DIRECTORS:
W. A. Post, J. R. Swinerton, M. B. Crowell, M. V. Doughty, R. G. Bickford, C. B. Orcutt, I. Eugene White, J. A. Willett.
Accounts of banks, corporations, merchants, individuals and firms invited. We offer depositors every accommodation which their balances, business and responsibility warrant. Sell our own drafts drawn on all principal cities of the world.
SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES FOR RENT.

G. B. West, President; D. S. Jones, Vice-President; W. B. Vest, Cashier.
Citizens and Marine Bank
OF NEWPORT NEWS, VA.
CAPITAL $50,000. SURPLUS $15,000.
PAID IN DIVIDENDS, $15,500.
A general banking business. Every facility offered for safe and prompt transaction of business on favorable terms. The accounts of corporations, firms and individuals solicited. Special attention given to collections. Drafts drawn all parts of the world.
SPECIAL SAVINGS DEPARTMEN
INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS OF $1 AND UPWARD.
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