

It requires \$80,000 less this year than it did last to pay the interest on the State debt.

Congress and our State Legislature both were in session on the 23d—Washington's birth day. This attests the pressing nature of the public business.

The House of Representatives of Massachusetts lately defeated by a vote of 120 to 85 a resolution to amend the constitution of that State so as to give the right of suffrage to women.

The Senate has passed bills admitting Colorado and New Mexico. As the House had previously passed these bills, there appears to be little doubt that we will have two more States added to the Union in 1876.

There appears to be very little doubt entertained at Harrisburg as to the repeal of the local option law. The bill repealing the act has passed its readings in the House by a vote of 125 to 56, and the friends of the bill think that, with this two-thirds vote in the House for repeal, the Senate will not set itself up in opposition to it.

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U. S. SENATOR BROWNLOW, Tennessee, who retires on the 4th inst., to be succeeded by ex-President Johnson, has purchased a half interest in the Knoxville Whig and Chronicle.

"Nor do I read the signs of the times" says one who believes that the country is to be afflicted with the success of the Democratic party in the Presidential election of 1876.

No one is better acquainted with Southern politics, or understands the Southern rebels better than does Brownlow, and his views are entitled to weight and credit.

The labor strikes in the anthracite mining regions in this State, are developing incendiarism, murder, and general lawlessness.

Several attempts have been made to set fire to shaft frames, or blow them to pieces with nitro-glycerine, thus endangering the lives of hundreds of men laboring down in the mines.

The Railroad Commission has offered a reward of ten thousand dollars for information leading to the detection and conviction of the persons who fired the shaft frame of one of the mines of that company, and so certain it is that the informant would be murdered, that in addition to the reward he offers protection to his person, and safe transport and expenses to another country.

From this proposition may be gathered the lamentable state of society in that portion of our State, when it is thus publicly admitted that the law is powerless, and that a citizen disclosing the name of a murderer or murderers would have to flee the country to save his own life.

Day by day, the impression is growing in the minds of some of our most intelligent and coolest statesmen, that a very grave crisis is impending, that may lead to a renewal of the late civil war.

The New York Herald says: "In the country at large the Democrats have not gained since the fall elections. The failure to re-elect Schurz, the refusal of some other Democratic Legislatures to select first class men as Senators; the evident lack of harmony among the party leaders on the currency and tariff questions, and the feeling that the party has no policy except opposition to the Republicans, and is not ready to welcome recruits from even the liberal Republican ranks, combine with the general distrust of Democratic politicians to make the country slow to give them its confidence."

The risibles of the Democracy were wonderfully exercised over the defeat of Ben Butler for Congress, and there wasn't an individual Democrat who didn't feel as if he had gained a personal victory.

"I had a two hours' talk this morning with a member of the Investigating Committee which has just returned from New York, and he has been reported as to the terrible condition of affairs in the South does not begin to give the whole truth. Unless one has visited New Orleans, the imagination cannot conceive the dreadful reality.

Again, the New Orleans correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, who attended the Democratic meeting in the former city opposed to all compromise, says: "To have heard the speeches on that occasion, one would suppose that the people of the North, in their elections last fall, had not only given a direct expression against the outcome of the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment, but had also confessed their error in entering into the war in defence of the Union, and most humbly apologized to the South thereby."

And then in the Louisville Courier-Journal we find the following opinion: "When war comes, as coming it is, it shall be civil war."

And this is not mere idle bravado on part of the Courier-Journal. It is a Democratic journal of high authority in the party, that does not indulge in idle talk and threats, and it undoubtedly reflects the sentiments and opinions of the Southern Democratic Congressmen elect.

The Philadelphia Election. The resolution authorizing the Committee on Elections to investigate the case of Ringgold, of Philadelphia, was called up. The yeas and nays were called, and less than a quorum voting, at eleven o'clock a call of the house was ordered, and the doors were shut. One hundred and one members answered, when the resolution was adopted—yeas 79, nays 26.

The House adjourned at half past eleven.

HARRISBURG, PA., Feb. 23, 1875. SENATE. The following were read in place: Mr. Newmyer—Relative to granting domestic spirits.

Mr. Porter—Supplement to the act regulating the rights of parents and children.

Mr. Cooper—Authorizing corporations to change the par value of their stock.

Mr. Housh—Supplement to the acts relating to the duty of execution. Mr. Davis—Authorizing common carriers to sell goods on which they have a lien.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, PA., Feb. 22, 1875. SENATE. Mr. Anderson, of Crawford, offered resolutions instructing Congressmen from this State to vote for the aid of the Texas Pacific Railroad. Passed—yeas 16 to 6.

FIRST READING. The following bills were read the first time: An act to create a State Board of Health for the protection of life and health and to prevent the spread of disease in this Commonwealth.

An act to provide for the re-land and redemption of the existing indebtedness of counties, boroughs, townships, school districts or other municipalities or incorporated districts incorporated by bonds or certificates issued prior to the 20th day of April, A. D. 1874.

An act to prevent the unlawful taking and using of the horse, carriage, or other property of another and to punish the same, in cases where such taking and using does not amount to the crime of larceny.

An act to enable guardians and others to bind minors over the age of sixteen to the age of twenty-one years, and to appoint a commission of National Guard officers to co-operate with the Central Commission, for the purpose of securing from the other States of the Union a representation of their recognized fraternal organizations at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876.

The joint resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, was amended by striking out the paragraph which authorized the judges of the several judicial districts and of the several orphan's courts, was taken up. It elicited a discussion which lasted till six o'clock.

Mr. Yerkes moved amend so as to make the salary of city judges five thousand dollars, and city judges five thousand.

HOUSE. The following bills were read the first time: An act to provide for the election and appointment of trustees for the State normal schools and to further regulate their management.

The bill to provide for the removal of county seats was passed first reading.

HOUSE. The following bills were read in place: Mr. Chalfant—For the better protection of fish.

Mr. Shimer—Relative to bonus on renewed charters.

Mr. Strang—To place inmates of insane asylums under protection of law.

Mr. Dill—Authorizing stockholders of bridge companies to vote each share of stock at elections.

HOUSE. The following bills were read the first time: An act to confer jurisdiction on Courts of Common Pleas in cases of Matrimony.

The General Appropriation Bill. At the afternoon session Mr. Lusk introduced a bill enforcing the penalties for the illegal sale of liquors on Sunday, and prohibiting the obtaining of the same.

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Execution of Ortwain for the Hammett Murder at Pittsburgh.

PITTSBURGH, PA., Feb. 13.—The execution of Ernest Ortwain, the murderer of the Hammett family, took place in the jail here at noon today. The crime for which Ortwain suffered death was committed on the night of April 10th last, near Homestead, a village on the Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston Railroad, six miles above this city.

At the time of the murder Ortwain was engaged as a farm hand by Mr. Hammett, and treated as one of the family. He had been in this country about two years. After his arrest he made a confession, and has since expressed himself willing and ready to pay the penalty of his crime.

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OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

New York may be extravagant, but it is neither parsimonious nor mean. St. John's Guild is a charity celebrated for the thoroughness and system with which it does its work.

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THE WEATHER AND BUSINESS.

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INCENDIARISM AND JAIL BREAKING.

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