The Daily Gazette

C. P. JOHNSON, EDITOR and PROPRIETOR

THE DAILY GAZETTE is published every afternoon (sunday excepted,) at 416 Market Street, and served by carriers to subscribers in all parts of the city and surrounding towns and villages, for six cents a week, payable weekly. Yearly subscribers, $3 in advance.

THE DELAWARE GAZETTE, established 1784, is the largest and most flourishing weekly paper in the State, and has a larger circulation than any other on the Peninsula Published every Thursday afternoon, at $2 per year, in advance.

FEBRUARY 14 1879

The DAILY GAZETTE is sent to all parts of the country, postage paid, for THREE DOLLARS a year, in advance. It contains all the local news and most important news of the day. It gives in brief just the news the farmer or the business man need, at half the cost of the two cent papers; and as much as a man ought to read of an evening or morning. Subscribe for it at nce by remitting a money order for a year or six months.

THE BUTLER-CORBIN CASE.—A Washington correspondent says: So far from Senators Conover and Patterson going back on their record in the Butler-Corbin case, it is very positive that the Butler side will be reinforced by two more Republicans, Stanley Matthews and Don Cameron. As already stated, it is generally believed that Mr. Blaine will also vote for Butler.

WE SHOULD not wonder if General B. F. Butler and Senator Jones were not giving the Senators as much uneasiness with their threats to move amendments to the appropriation bill to destroy the monopoly of the Western Union Telegraph Line, as the Democrats do to amend to repeal the test oaths for jurors and the Federal election laws. A great number of Congressmen own stock in the Western Union, and if they vote to repeal the election laws by amendments to the appropriation bills, they could hardly be so inconsistent as to refuse to vote to destroy this monopoly in the same way.

THE QUESTION of Kent and Sussex counties' failure to pay to the State Treasurer the balance due from each of these counties on account of State tax has received some attention in the Legislature and a great deal of criticism from the newspapers. We have chosen to wait and hear what their Representatives had to say in explanation of the tardiness of their counties. We thought this due alike to them and their constituents. The amount due from Kent is $12,000; that from Sussex, $14,000.

The Auditor's Report contains this paragraph:

"The counties of Kent and Sussex are in arrears for the amounts named nearly two years, and it should be collected or made to bear interest to the State, but when paid, the revenue from that source ceases, the law being repealed which created it."

Mr. Dean had offered a resolution and made an excited and violent speech upon the failure of those counties to pay the amounts. His motion to adopt his resolution, however, was not carried; but it was laid on the table, against Mr. Dean's vote only. On Wednesday Mr. Hall called up the resolution and it was read as follows:

Resolved, That the Auditor's Report shows that the county of Kent is in arrears for the amount of $12,000, and the county of Sussex is also in arrears for $14,000 for the State tax. The Auditor says the amounts have been owing for nearly two years. That it is about time this House took some action in regard to the above matter.

Mr. Hall then characterized the resolution as vague and unmeaning, and said it did not suggest any measures for relief if it were admitted any action were needed. The amount which Kent county owed would be paid as soon as a meeting could be arranged between the Treasurer of the county and the State Treasurer. We presume it will not be many days before we have quite as satisfactory information as to the delay of Sussex county also. New Castle county, it may be presumed from the Auditor's Report, borrowed the money with which she paid the State her share, being $25,099.19.

BORROWING MONEY TO PAY DEBTS.—The city is again borrowing money to pay debts. This time, however, it is only a continuance of the loan ordered to be made by the Republican Council in 1877. That Council was by law empowered to sell $150,000 of bonds and pay the mortgage debts of the Board of Education, which amounted to $50,000. They sold $126,000 of bonds, but used the whole of the money for city purposes except $13,000. The Council is now selling the balance of the bonds authorized ($24,000) to pay the mortgage debt of the Board of Education.

There will still remain on the Board about $13,000 of debt, unless the Council makes up the amount which their predecessors expended on purposes to which it was not lawfully applicable.

It appears that the Finance Committee took upon itself the authority to dispose of this lot of $24,000 of bonds to a broker at one per cent. premium; and they are now offered at private sale for such advance as the broker can get. This is all fair enough as a business transaction in the broker, we presume. But it is not what was expected of the Council or the Committee. Bonds were being freely taken in most parts of the country at 4 per cent., and our city should have tried to sell her bonds on the best and lowest rates. Beside just now it would have shown the price of money in this market. The GAZETTE has repeatedly said of late that our city or State could secure money on bond at 4 or 4½ per cent., and we were assured that this could be done readily by a broker, equally as able as the one who took these bonds at 5 per cent., and yet this Committee, in the face of these facts, sold the whole of the bonds the Council were authorized to issue private at that figure when there is little doubt they could have been sold at 4 per cent. Here is another evil from prejudice against the use of the newspapers. An advertisement of a dozen lines, costing not over $10, would have been all that was necessary to have settled all doubts about this matter; rendered every citizen satisfied, and cleared up all doubts as to the shrewdness of the Finance Committee. Now the Committee will be looked upon as having acted hastily and without due consideration, as has already been charged in the Council. In justice to the Committee we must say that they sold at the best offer that was made. After they took a premium of 1 per cent. another broker offered 1½ premium.

For the WEEKLY GAZETTE.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The law in relation to Insurance Companies in this State are in singular contrast with the laws of other States. For instance, in Delaware, the home companies pay a tax of one hundred dollars, and companies of other States can come here and establish agencies without one cent of expense. At the end of the year if the agent or agents of foreign insurance companies remain in the State and continue in the business and make a return of the premium collected the previous year, they pay a tax of 2½ per cent. on money collected But if the company withdraws or the agent removes the tax is lost to the State. How is it if a Delaware Insurance Company desires to establish an agency in any of the adjoining States, say Maryland for instance, they must file a copy of their charter, and for that they must pay $25 00
Filing statement annually, 20 00
License, 200 00
Tax for each and every agent they have in the State, 10 00

Total, $255 00

And if they should have ten agents, the tax would be $100 more and formerly their license alone was $300. But their home companies work free of any license. There is a law in Delaware that requires an Insurance agent to pay annually a license of $50 and I have no doubt but the intention of that law was to make each company to pay that same amount before they could transact business in this State. But what is the result? A gentleman opens an insurance office and pays his license of $50, and secures the agency of twenty-five or fifty different companies which all work under the same license of $50, so that the expense to the company is nothing. There is not a State in the Union except Delaware, where an Insurance company establishing an agency does not have to pay for that privilege in advance. No matter whether that agent transacts any business or not, the fees on tax must be paid before the agency can lawfully be opened.

There are over one hundred Insurance companies organized in other States that have agencies in Delaware, and if these companies had to pay the same tax that the home companies now pay it would put about $10,000 annually into the State Treasury.

Why should we not have a law in Delaware that would require the same fees having agencies in Delaware that the State or government from which they come, would require of a Delaware company if they, when desirous of establishing an agency in that State, or government. And would it not be a great protection to the policy holders in this State if the Secretary of State or some other State officer, was empowered by law to make an official examination of the assets and liabilities of all companies offering their policies to the people whenever he might have good reason to doubt their solvency. Let the home companies pay for said examination at the rate of five dollars per day, and let him charge companies of other States the same fees that their Insurance Companies would charge a Delaware company for a similar examination. It seems to me that this is a subject of such great importance to the State, and some kind of special legislation is much needed on this subject that it is only necessary to call the attention of our legislators to it, in order to secure a law that will be just and equitable to all, and that will secure a handsome increase in the revenues of the State. M.

Telegraph Lines.

THE WESTERN UNION BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON RAILROADS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The Western Union Telegraph Company presented itself in force to-day before the Senate Committee on Railroads to prevent if possible the passage of an act authorizing railroad companies to own and operate telegraph lines. The particular subject under consideration was the bill of Senator Jones, of Florida. It contains the same idea embodied in the amendment which General Butler had attached to he post office appropriation bill in the House, but goes a little further and authorizes railroad companies to connect their lines and the Government to use them for pos, milita y and other purposes. The day's session was devoted to hearing President Green of the Western Union Company, at whose instance the hearing had been called and who desired to make a statement. He claimed that Congress was acting without sufficient knowledge of the subject and that the bill would not accomplish what was desired. These two points were the burden of his argument, and their object was evidently to secure delay. He claimed that the Western Union was not a monopoly, and then went on to prove that it was by asserting that it owned nineteen out of every telegraph lines along railroads, and had contracts with these roads which enabled the telegraph company to successfully restrain the railroads from opening up lines that were in direct opposition.

Congress Yesterday.

In the United States Senate, yesterday, the bill was passed giving the consent of Congress to the compact entered into, between the States of Maryland and Virginia respecting the boundaries of those States. The remainder of the session was devoted to discussing the bill to restrict the immigration of Chinese to the United States. Without reaching a vote on the bill the Senate adjourned.

In the House, the consideration of the contested election case of Finley vs. Bisbee, from the first district of Florida, was after considerable filibustering on the part of the republicans fixed for Wednesday next. Considerable progress was made on the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill, after which the death of Hon. Julian Hartridge was announced and a number of eulogies delivered.

A Delicate Question.

The constitution of the State of Delaware provides that "no member of Congress, nor person holding any office under the United States, shall exercise the office of Governor," and the question has been raised whether a lawyer, being nominally and sometimes in reality an officer of the court, and so regarded in every State except South Carolina, he is not disqualified from holding the office of Governor in the State of Delaware under the constitution. The New York Journal of Commerce, while admitting that a lawyer may be said to be thus disqualified, doubts if such was the intention of the disqualifying cause, says it knows of no case in which it has been judicially construed. Ministers of the gospel, it may be mentioned, are excluded from civil office in Delaware.—*Balt. Sun.*