NEW ORLEANS BULLETIN

Office No. 109 Gravier Street.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

LARGEST DAILY CIRCULATION IN NEW ORLEANS.

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Subscriptions for the DAILY BULLETIN received at our counter, 109 Gravier street.

The BULLETIN inserts WANTS and TO RENTS, not exceeding One Square, for Fifty Cents each.

NOTICE—No Orders taken on the Bulletin Office unless indorsed by the PROPRIETOR.

The New Orleans BULLETIN can be had of the News agent in Mobile, at the depot, on the arrival of the 2 P. M. train.

JOB PRINTING.—We now possess facilities to enable us to execute every description of commercial, railroad and steamboat printing, lawyers' briefs, blanks and other legal documents, on the shortest notice, in the best style, and at the most reasonable rates. We will guarantee full satisfaction to those of our friends who favor us with their orders.

SUPPLEMENT.—With our regular Sunday edition will hereafter be issued a supplement, which will enable us to lay before our readers greater amount and diversity of reading matter.

LIST OF LETTERS.—The BULLETIN will publish hereafter the List of Letters in the Sunday edition.

Counter claims—Your wife's shopping bills.

He who invests one dollar in business should invest one dollar in advertising that business.—*A. T. Stewart.*

Hot pop corn was never dropped more suddenly than Blaine has been since his smart amnesty speech.—*Troy Press, (Dem.)*

A son of Dion Boucicault, the famous American author and actor, was killed a short time since in a railway accident near Huntingdon, England.

The Detroit *Free Press* says that the Mississippi River is "eating" its way around Cairo. A river that can eat anything fifteen hundred miles from its mouth ought never to be in danger of starving.

Detroit policemen don't seem to be very good marksmen. "I want you to either hit me or stop making such a blamed racket," said a thief in that city, at whom a policeman was shooting.

Mr. Morton is always the scheming wire-worker, never the large-hearted, large-minded statesman. He would sooner maintain a perpetual race war than gain a peace which might hazard a party victory or a personal advancement.—*St. Paul Pioneer-Press (Ind.)*

We are in receipt of the dedicatory address delivered at the opening of the new hall of the Merchant's Exchange, in St. Louis, Mo., by James B. Eads, Esq, on the 21st of December, 1875. The address is very logically and elegantly written, and was, we understand, delivered in the most eloquent manner.

Marshal Soult, once showing the pictures he stole in Spain, stopped before one and remarked: "I value that picture very much; it saved the lives of two estimable persons." An aid-de-camp whispered in the listener's ear: "He threatened to have them both shot immediately unless they gave it up."

We are much pleased to see in our city Mr. Andrew Jackson, who, in ante-bellum times, was attached to the New Orleans *Crescent.* Mr. Jackson is now engaged in a most profitable business in Baton Rouge, and his old newspaper friends in this city heartily wish him a continuance of prosperity.

A Chinaman in California, whose life was insured for a very large amount, was seriously hurt by falling from a wagon. There was some doubt of his ever getting better, and at length one of his friends wrote to the insurance company. "Charley half dead; like half money."

ST. PATRICK'S FAIR.—No entertainment announced during these many years has awakened more interest than the fair for the benefit of St. Patrick's parish, which will open on Friday evening, 28th inst., at St. Patrick's Hall. The splendid span of horses and buggy, which appeared on Camp street yesterday and attracted the attention of all who saw the turnout, is one of the prizes for which there will be a most exciting contest. The ladies who are to have charge of the tables are requested to meet in the hall to-day, Thursday, at 12 o'clock M.

A white demagogue named Miller is reported to be going about in the northern counties of Alabama, urging the blacks to petition Congress to assign them a part of the State as a reservation from which the whites shall be rigorously excluded. Planters are complaining that his untimely and seditious addresses are producing much discontent and restlessness among their laborers, though there appears to be no law under which he can be abated, even as a nuisance.

Yesterday evening the New Orleans BULLETIN furnished its readers with the following information:

"The transcript in the Newton case has been received at the Executive office and is in possession of the Governor."

In republishing this item the *Republican* will add just these additional points: 1. The case of Alexander Newton is still before the courts and has not reached a final result. 2. The transcript in the aforesaid case has not been received at the Executive office. 3 It is not in the possession of the Governor.—*Republican.*

The information "furnished its readers" by the BULLETIN was correct, and the "additional points" added by the *Republican* are incorrect. First, the case of Alexander Newton is not before the courts, and has reached a final result. Second, the transcript in the aforesaid case has been received at the Executive office. Third, it is in the possession of the Governor. Try again, and then talk again of "the imaginative powers of the reporters."

THE RAILROAD MEETING.

The assemblage at St. Patrick's Hall last night was a remarkable manifestation of public interest in an enterprise on which the future welfare of our city largely depends. We remember no gathering of our citizens in which there was so much of the solid element, both in respect of intelligence and of the amount of capital and business represented. Gentlemen were present who have seldom before been seen in a secular public assembly, being drawn by an intense interest in the matter at issue. They feel the slow destruction that is settling down upon the commerce of New Orleans, and they are earnestly seeking the means to avert it. A spirit of serious, almost anxious, attention pervaded the large audience, and the facts, very ably presented and illustrated, were eagerly appreciated and will not be forgotten.

We have, to the exclusion of much other matter, made room for the eloquent and able addresses delivered, to which we invite the studious attention of those who had not the opportunity to hear them. The speech of Col. New was one of the ablest of that orator's efforts. He seemed to have more than his usual brilliance, force and pathos, doubtless inspired in part by the grandeur of his theme, and the full appreciation of unusually intelligent and appreciative listeners. The speech was not only full of fervor and electric energy, but it was classically elegant in style.

We trust that the meeting and the addresses will have a wide, salutary and permanent influence, and give to the great work a new and strong impetus. A railway connection between New Orleans and Northeastern Texas is a vital necessity, which the brains, the will and the public spirit of this city and State can and must supply.

We commend the able speeches made by Gen. Bussey, Gen. Hawthorne and Judge Elam to our readers and to all those interested in this grand project for the relief New Orleans. They will be found full of cogent reasoning and unanswerable arguments in favor of this route to Texas, and we suspect will convince every doubting Thomas, if any there now be in our city, of the feasability of the work and of its imperative necessity to New Orleans.

COST OF CITY GOVERNMENT.

In spite of the opposition of Mayor Leeds, the City Council has mapped out for the current year a schedule of expenditures amounting to a grand total of $3,449,182. Equally without the consent, and in spite of the earnest argument and protestations of his Honor, the Board of Administrators have resolved to meet these expenses, in part, by levying a tax of one hundred and fifty cents on each one hundred dollars of taxable property as assessed, the now corrected roll of assessments amounting to $119,045,515. There are four distinct taxes included in the above: To redeem and pay interest on city bonds, a tax of twenty-six cents on each hundred dollars; to support the police force of the city, a tax of forty-two cents; to support public schools, twenty-five cents, and to pay the current expenses of the city fifty-seven cents, or a total tax of one and a half per cent, which, if collected in full, would yield $1,785,682. Judging from the experience of the past few years it is not probable that more than one and a half millions will be collected before the end of the year. If business is no better than it has been for the past three years a still larger proportion of the tax of 1876 will pass into the class of back taxes. Much property is wholly non-productive, and a great deal more is producing less than enough to pay for repairs, insurance and a very moderate tax. Tax defaults for 1875 and preceding years amount to millions of dollars, and as the means of enforcing payment are no greater, while the ability to pay is not increased, the Council can not calculate upon a much smaller percentage of delinquency than heretofore.

Licenses are expected to yield another large sum, between $400,000 and $500,000. A smaller proportion of the revenue from this source is liable to be lost to the city than of taxes, owing to the liability of any unlicensed place of business to be closed and to other stringent penalties for non-payment. The license tax is put upon about two hundred and sixty kinds of business, and reaches almost every profession and vocation. The largest license is that paid by a lottery company, $2500. A license of $1000 is charged for a bar-room with theatrical performances, while a bar-room or coffee-house without a theater is $100, and a theater without a bar-room $250. Banks, banking-houses, companies and agencies pay $1000, as do insurance companies if mixed or combined. A license of $500 is charged for each pawn-broker, to each fire, river, marine or accident insurance company, race course, slaughter-house, sugar-shed, private underwriter. A license of $250 is charged for each commercial agency, amphitheater, cock-pit, junk store, museum, opera-house, premises not strictly private, or theater. Exchange dealers pay $300, also private markets. A license of $200 is charged for dry-docks, express companies and transportation companies. A license of $100 is charged for ship agencies, agents selling by sample, auctioneers, bar-rooms, ball-rooms, billiard saloons, boarding houses selling liquors, ship brokers, cabarets, cotton gins, cotton pickeries, coffee-houses, confectionery where liquors are sold, commission merchants, iron foundry and machine shop, wholesale grocery, public hall, wholesale merchant, sugar refinery, restaurant, stock dealer or undertaker. A license of $50 is charged to freight or ticket agents, lottery agents, bottlers, brass foundry, produce and merchandise brokers, real estate, house and stock brokers, confectioneries, cotton brokers, family grocery where liquors are kept or sold, hawkers of imitation jewelry, clothing or dry goods, private hospital, towboat or job-boat, saw-mill, ship yard, steamboat agent, cake and soda water stands, stock dealer and ten-pin alley. Each cotton press pays $150, each warehouse $75, each coffee-house with instrumental music $750.

The most numerous avocations are assessed for license tax ranging from $20 to $5.

If taxes and licenses for 1876 were paid in full, there would still be a large deficit, which it is expected will be made up out of receipts from back taxes.

The estimated expenditures are, in part, as follows: The office expenses, salaries and disbursements of the several departments: Improvements $408,050, Waterworks and Public Buildings $135,600, Police (Administrator of) $52,450, Commerce $25,800, Finance $22,000, Accounts $15,000, Assessments $21,500, Mayor's office $6500, City Hall Building $5000, City Council $3000, Surveyor's office $23,640, printing $10,500, tax-bills, etc., $12,000, and City Attorney's office $11,400, amounting to $752,440. The Board of Health calls for $20,000, lighting the city $177,000, Fire Department $169,400, salaries of the Mayor and Administrators $49,500, criminal justice $181,600, law charges, orphans, Coroners, judgments, etc., $115,288. For interest and redemption of city debt, the budget allows $1,307,500, metropolitan police $400,000, public schools $223,200, park $50,000. The metropolitan police tax collected in full would amount to $499,000, and the full school tax $297,600, but only the amounts supposed to be collectible are given. From this it would appear that the council estimate a general default in tax collections amounting to twenty per cent.

Such is a condensed statement of the resources and prospective expenditures of the city government, which constitutes about as strong an appeal as can be presented for such immediate legislation by our General Assembly as will remove a part of this crushing and destructive load.

A SUGGESTION.

Trusting that our comments will be received in the proper spirit, and that we shall not be considered as traveling out of the field of journalistic functions, we would suggest to the members of the General Assembly, and especially to those of the House, that they would save much valuable time by giving wider authority to their presiding officer.

When dilatory motions are made, which the speaker knows to be contrary to the wishes of four-fifths of the members present, it ought to be left discretionary with him to refuse to entertain them or not, at his personal option. Rules are made to facilitate, to regulate, to systematize and to render effective the work of legislation; but they are often invoked for the very evident purpose of hindering, retarding and disorganizing that work. They are intended for the protection of membeas in the enjoyment of their privileges, but they are abused by the few who have no respect for the wishes or comfort of the many. They are designed to secure a due degree of deliberation in the passage of bills, but they are invoked for the palpable purpose of defeating all proceedings at their successive stages. They are intended to protect minorities, and when carefully made and enforced in a proper and honest spirit they benefit all; but they are abused when minorities invoke them merely to waste time and defeat action. A rule that is designed to serve as a brake to the machinery of legislation is perverted from that design when it is thrust in to block the wheels.

The Speaker, having the confidence of a large majority, ought to have sufficient authority to check this abuse and to protect himself and all other friends of fair dealing in the House against these shuffling tricks of parliamentary tactics. The House can give to their presiding officer all the discretion he needs by merely adopting a resolution which will authorize him to refuse to entertain dilatory motions when it is evident that such motions are made with a view of merely consuming time and causing annoyance to members in general. Such a resolution would have the force and effect of a supplemental rule to prevent a wanton abuse of other rules.

It is a common trick of those members who are bent on annoying their opponents to call for the yeas and nays with no other purpose than to consume time. This is an abuse of privilege which can be restrained, but can not be completely prevented. Each call assumes ten minutes or more of time which costs the State about $600 an hour. If it is the constitutional right of members to call for the recorded vote of the House, it is no less the parliamentary right of the Speaker and members to have the call formally made by a member who rises and is recognized by the Chair as having the floor, and the call should then be seconded in the same decent and formal manner. When a call is made and seconded in due form, and with proper respect for the Speaker and members, it must be entertained, but those few who are inclined to give annoyance by needless calls for the yeas and nays, seldom make much by their action in the long run.

BUNKO INVESTIGATION REDIVIVUS.

The House Committee on Metropolitan Police Affairs, it appears, after digesting the testimony taken before the Board of Metropolitan Police in the matter of bunko, have come to the conclusion that the decision of the board in acquitting the Superintendent of Police was not warranted by the facts, and they propose, as we are informed, to take up the matter themselves. The committee's sessions are held with closed doors. The evidence given before them does not involve the same publicity as that given before the ordinary courts of justice.

We commend this great advantage to the many victims of mysterious bunko, who silently chew the cud of bitter disappointment and egregious fleecing. In the committee they will find a sympathizing body of gentlemen, who are hard at work seeking after the truth that lies at the bottom of this mysterious abomination, bunko. The committee are straining every nerve to reach the "head and front of this offense." They are on the track of and intend to find whose is "the gilded purse that buys off justice," and just exactly how it is done.

We are assured that no individual evidence on this subject will be published, thus removing the two great obstacles to investigations and trials before courts of justice: the sense of shame in the victim and the fear of publicity. Let all who "have been there themselves and know how it is," pour their grievous experiences in the friendly ears of the committee. The committee intend to boil down their evidence, dilating on no individual case or mentioning names. Come up, ye victims,

"And find relief in bidding sorrow flow."

THE INJUSTICE OF FREE HIGH SCHOOLS.

Eliot, President of Harvard University, reports that 31 in each hundred of the students of that institution have been prepared for entry at public schools. In a recent letter to Prof. Jones, of the Vanderbilt (Methodist) University of Tennessee, he says that he is not in favor of supporting schools above the grammar-school grade completely by taxation. It is his opinion that the means of acquiring a plain, primary, or English common-school education should be given free by the State, but that scientific or classical education should be paid for chiefly by the parent, except in cases of a few very promising lads who may properly have the benefit of free scholarships when too poor to pay for their tuition in academic schools. Scarcely one boy in fifty in cities or one in a hundred in the country receives an academic education sufficient to fit him for entering college, and it is in the opinion of Prof. Eliot an unjust burden upon the parents of the many to tax them for high-schools for the benefit of the few. The eminent scholar's letter concludes as follows:

So far as is possible, money raised by taxation should be applied to objects of direct universal benefit, and should not be used for the direct benefit of what must inevitably be a small class in the community. In good times and in a prosperous State perhaps one child in fifty can go to a high school. The indirect benefit which the community will probably receive from that one child out of fifty is just ground for some public contribution to its advanced education, but does not justify the State in paying the whole cost of that education. Now, elementary education, on the contrary, is of direct and universal benefit, and is not only a legitimate, but the most legitimate public charge. I am an advocate of compulsory elementary education, and of an enforced reading and writing test for the ballot, because, although education alone will not preserve free institutions, diffused elementary education is one of the essential conditions of the formation of that sound national character upon which the safety of our political institutions does absolutely depend. But the secondary and superior education seem to me to stand upon a different basis. They, too, are necessary to the State; but the selected individuals who receive such prolonged training profit so much personally that they or their parents should pay part of the cost. Our system of schools must be a just one, or it will not be enduring. To tax a town of 8000 families for the whole cost of educating up to their eighteenth year the children of 400 families, is a conspicuous injustice which can not be said to be without remedy. Therefore, I think this practice a detrimental one, the interests of the public schools alone being considered. I have been told that this is an aristocratic view; but on the contrary, it seems to me an eminently democratic principle that people who have special privileges should pay for them, at least in part. As to trying to make fine culture the possession of the many, we all know that that is quite impossible. As well expect to make all men poets. The real essence of the solidarity of primary schools and universities seems to me to be in their common aim and motive. Together they work in purity and uplift humanity; alike they "make for righteousness."