

THE TIMES

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J. B. MORROW, - BUSINESS MANAGER.

THE SCHOOL BOOK QUESTION.

The Baltimore Sun, usually fair-minded and quick to anticipate questions of great public interest and moment, in a recent issue discusses editorially the question of free school-books in the counties.

The Sun points out that the proceeds of a State tax levy of two cents on the \$100, amounting to about \$100,000, would not be sufficient to attain the end sought; that each county already has the power to lay taxes for free books if they are desirable; that after all the burden rests upon the tax-payers and it would be better to levy and use the money directly than to go through the needless formality of paying it into the State treasury and having it redistributed from there; that increase in the State tax postpones the time when it is hoped to abolish direct State taxation; that the law now provides free text-books for those unable to pay for them, and others, who are beneficiaries of the free school system and able to pay, ought not to object to the comparatively small annual charges for necessary books.

Our big metropolitan neighbor might have gone further and lifted up its mighty voice in behalf of the underpaid teachers in most counties of the State. These are the people who seem to have long needed and lacked a champion. They deserve the most liberal treatment at the hands of school boards and school patrons. We believe that the school boards in all the counties are doing the best they can in the way of paying salaries, but lack of public school funds is a great handicap. It is so in Howard county. If additional taxes are to be laid just now, let the proceeds go to the public school fund, where the need exists, and not to those who are able to help themselves. Let it be applied to giving Howard county better paid teachers, modern school houses, conveniences and appliances, and after we have emerged from the era of the log and old-field school-house, then we may talk of free books for every body.

In this connection we coincide with and warmly endorse the assertion of "The Sun" that "all classes of citizens are warmly in favor of good free schools and no public tax is more willingly paid than that for the support of public education."

TRANSFER OF A NEWSPAPER.

"The Howard County Progress newspaper, the Republican organ of the county, has been purchased by James Wigram, Jr., of Hominy, W. Va., who formerly conducted the Leader at Winchester, Va. Since July, 1892, the Progress has been published by Wilbur F. Earp. It was published several years by J. B. Morrow, now of the ELLICOTT CITY TIMES. Mr. Morrow, through a life-long Democrat, had become indifferent to politics, believing that all questions of national polity were for the time being settled. Seeing the Republican acts in Congress of 1890—a year made memorable by the most outrageous proceedings ever intended to enthrall a free people—believed that the time had come when all men having a spark of patriotism within them should act. The subsequent election of Mr. Cleveland proved that his action was in conformity with the sentiment which grew and flourished throughout the country. He wrote several editorials at the time disavowing any sympathy with the Republican program, and as soon as it could be arranged abandoned the paper to accept his present position. The paper was subsequently carried on by Clinton G. G. Brown and George Mercier and later by Mr. Brown alone. We regret to lose our late courteous Republican contemporary, Mr. Earp, who enjoyed the respect of and won many friends among the people during his brief editorial career here.

A WARNING TO THE LEGISLATURE.

To not demonstrate your inability to meet the lawyers in dealing with assessment legislation. In other words do not make an assessment law which will do violence to the constitution, particularly Article 15, of the Bill of Rights, and consequently be broken down by the courts. That would mean a repetition of history, and no assessment at all.

Why all this manufactured excitement?

The provisional government is in control of Hawaii, and will continue in control, unless Congress, to which the whole matter has now been referred, shall decide otherwise, or the government shall be overthrown by Hawaiians. Why not let Congress deal with the matter without excitement and clamor?

Republicans now admit that the Wilson bill cannot be defeated in the House. In the near future they will arrive at the same conclusion about the Senate. Tariff reform is in sight, and it cannot be stopped by manufactured opposition, paid for with money wrung from the consumers of the country by the millionaire beneficiaries of McKinleyism.

One might suppose from the twaddle that is being printed that the mistake by which a few of Secretary Morton's speeches were sent through the mails under his official frank was one that had never occurred before. It is a well-known fact, shown up in numberless cases, that Republican officials for years franked their private correspondence, not by mistake, but intentionally.

A remarkable feature of the tariff debate in Congress has been entirely overlooked by the Republican press. The most prominent Democrats who have been advertised as opponents of the Wilson bill made strong speeches in its favor.

No better evidence could be given of the soundness of Uncle Sam's credit than the blind offers that have been made to Secretary Carlisle by a number of bankers, to take all the bonds of any sort that might be issued.

There is in the U. S. Treasury a surplus of silver bullion over and above that required to redeem all of the certificates now outstanding amounting to something in excess of \$57,000,000 in value. Why should not this surplus be used to meet the necessary payments?

DOWN BY THE SEVERN.

THE LEGISLATIVE WHEELS STILL GO MERRELY ROUND.

Synopsis of the Field Reassessment Bill—Svorn Answers and Statements with Fines for False Representations—Work of the Week.

The assessment bill introduced in the House of Delegates by Mr. Field, and which has Governor Brown's endorsement, is now before the Senate. It is a twenty-two section bill, and the counties are likewise divided according to their size, population and property. Howard county constitutes one assessment district, and is divided into three, Baltimore county into three, Carroll four, Frederick six, Montgomery one, Prince George's three, and so on. There are to be three assessors for each assessment district, and a board of control and review of three persons for each county. Members of the board and assessors are to be elected for three years, and a clerk at \$350 a day.

Assessors and members of the board of control and review shall have power to examine property holders under oath, and persons failing to answer questions or refusing to be sworn or affirm are subjected to fines for each offense not greater than \$200 in the first instance nor than \$500 in any subsequent one. Officers of corporations are also required under oath to inform boards of county commissioners what stock of the corporation they own, and to be residents of respective counties, and to failure so to do fines of \$100 a day after a specified time are imposed in each case.

Section 10 provides: "Beginning the first Tuesday in June and the second Tuesday in September in the year 1894 the assessors of the several respective assessment districts in every county and city of this State, and in every city, where they may deem it necessary, view all goods and chattels in their respective assessment districts, and shall diligently assess the same, and make a return thereon and by all lawful means inform themselves of all property therein or belonging to residents thereof; and shall value each item of the same at its full value, but without looking to a forced sale. All shares of stock in any national bank, or in any bank, corporation, association or company, in incorporated cities of this State, and belonging to any non-resident owner, and all other personal property located in this State belonging to any non-resident owner, shall be valued and assessed to the extent thereof in the assessment district in which said bank, corporation, association or company may have its principal office located in the State, and in which said personal property may be so located. All personal property belonging to a resident of this State shall be valued and assessed to the extent thereof in the assessment district in which the owner may reside, except goods and chattels permanently located in any city or county of this State which shall be valued and assessed to the extent thereof in the city or county in which they are so located. Lands shall be described by name, if possible, number of acres, quality of soil, and other facts, where these can be given, and improvements shall be valued separately. Bonds and other securities assessed shall also be described."

THE BILL'S OBJECT. "The Times has stated that this bill merely furnishes the machinery for carrying on the reassessment. Changes in the present law as to the kinds of property subject to taxation or exemption therefrom are not included in this bill. In the event of no such bill being reported there reassessment would be conducted under the laws already on the books. Gov. Brown's speech in support of the bill is in another bill, and is to separate the two questions. He would make reassessment a sure thing by passing the Field bill, an easy matter, as he opposes reassessment, and would consider in another bill indications of the present law defining taxable property. Senator Hayes, on the other hand, wishes to bring all the questions in a single undivided, but voluminous act. The Governor's plan is decidedly simple.

SPENCER AND THE G. O. M. The action of the Democratic caucus in selecting Spencer C. Jones to succeed Charles S. Jones as Speaker of the House was duly ratified by the legislature last week, and John Q. A. Robinson, G. O. M., was elected public commissioner of Baltimore for six more years.

EXTENDING JUDGE LYNN'S TERM. Senator Rogers, of Howard, chairman of the committee on judicial proceedings, Wednesday reported favorably the joint resolutions extending the term of office of Judge Lynch, of the sixth judicial circuit, until November 1897, and they are ordered engrossed for a third reading.

In reporting the resolutions Senator Rogers said he felt a special privilege, and honor to extend the term of office of one who had practiced his profession before the Judge, to take part in this action. For the past twenty-seven years nearly Judge Lynch had served the people of Maryland and of his circuit with an unflinching and uncompromising fidelity. "Although he will have reached the age of seventy years, in his body, his physical and mental qualities are unimpaired and to-day he is as completely able to perform his duties as when he entered upon their discharge in 1867. This extension of his term, endorsed by every member of the bar in that circuit, and I feel sure the Senate will, with me, feel it an especial privilege and honor to extend the term of office of so worthy a public servant."

LEGISLATIVE NOTES. Upon motion of Senator Towden, a message was sent to the House Wednesday that all bills and leaves to sanction bequests, sales, gifts or conveyances to religious bodies or objects shall be referred to judicial committee, and that the committee be instructed to report thereon March 9 a general bill embracing them all, except where there is a special reason for the speedy action, in which case separate bills may be introduced.

By unanimous consent a bill was introduced out of the regular order by Senator Hubner Wednesday to sanction a deed executed by James W. Sindall and Charles H. Herchenroter to that college, and to amend an act of the Legislature, approved August 11, 1887, in which Senator Hubner has introduced a bill.

Table 1 shows that there was still one-third of the year ending Dec. 31, 1893, amounting to \$1,331.95.

Statement A shows that Jno. H. Owings, clerk of the Circuit Court, received fees and emoluments for the year ending Dec. 31, 1893, \$4,390.16. Expenses—no much on account of salary of interest, \$2,292.21. Salary of deputy clerks, \$1,777.95.

Statement B shows the receipts of the Register of Wills office for fees and emoluments for the year ending Dec. 31, 1893, amounting to \$1,331.95.

By statement C it is shown that the State's Attorney received as fees and emoluments for the year ending Dec. 31, 1893, \$1,154.49.

HOOD'S PILLS FOR CURE

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"Twelve years ago my wife was picking raspberries when she scratched herself on a bilar, and soon developed into a running sore. Between her knee and ankle. We tried medical skill on every side, with no effect. About a year ago she read of Hood's Sarsaparilla and concluded to try it herself, and while taking the first bottle she felt better, and continued with Hood's until she had taken seven bottles. Her sore was healed up in seven weeks. Her mind is perfectly sound." J. N. ANTHONY, 117 E. 7th St., St. Paul, Minn.

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SAFETY AUTOMATIC HARNESS.

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