

The Daily Astorian. ASTORIA, OREGON: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1883. TAX ON BACHELORS.

The republic of France and the state of Georgia have resolved to impose a tax on bachelors. In France the tax will amount to \$10 per annum, while in Georgia it will be but one-fourth that sum. The motive for levying the tax in France is said to be a desire to increase the population of the country, which has for years been at a standstill. The bill was reported by the same committee that recommended the offer of a premium for the seventh child in every family. The reasons that prompted the legislators of Georgia to place a tax on bachelors have not been presented to the public. Possibly the tax was imposed with a view to adding to the revenue of the state; perhaps moral and social reasons directed the action of the legislature. The feeling is quite general in this country as well as in France, that luxuries should bear the burden of taxation rather than the necessities of life. The legislators of the empire state of the south may have regarded the condition of single blessedness in man as a luxury that should be taxed like imported wines and cigars. If they took this view of the subject it appears strange that they did not put the tax much higher. The duty on a bottle of choice Hungarian wine is \$2.50, while the tax on a box of Havana cigars is more than twice that sum. If bachelorhood is a luxury, it should be taxed in proportion to its value or the amount of pleasure it confers. A bottle of wine will be drunk in a single evening, while a box of cigars will not last a moderate smoker more than a month. The pleasure of wine drinking is of short duration, and it often ends in pain; a box of the best cigars is soon reduced to smoke and ashes. Not so, however, with the pleasure of bachelorhood. That is continuous, and for this reason should be taxed high and often.

The ancient Romans at one time imposed a tax on all abedded and well-to-do bachelors between certain ages. They, like the French of our own day, desired more native-born citizens who could bear arms. Like the lawmakers of Georgia, they believed that bachelors had more pleasures than married men, while they were exposed to fewer dangers. Livy informs us that at one time 170 women were condemned to suffer death for attempting to poison their husbands. Another Roman historian states that Cataline and his fellow conspirators obtained large sums of money from wealthy women who longed for a revolution that would result in the extermination of their husbands. One very crusty old censor in the days of the Gracchi lamented that women were necessary to the perpetuity of the human race and the continuation of the state. He looked upon women, at least upon wives and mothers, as necessary evils. Such being the case, he exhorted his associates to make the best of the situation and not to murmur or complain. He said: "As nature has decreed that we cannot dispense with the infliction, it is best for us to bear it manfully, and rather to look to the permanent conservation of the state than to our own transient satisfaction."

As the condition of bachelors in Rome was so much more pleasant and safe than that of married men, the lawmaking power thought it eminently just and right to tax them. Still this tax did not cause them to marry. The emperor Augustus sought to encourage matrimony by giving a preference to married men in the disposition of offices. He declared that a bachelor was incompetent to succeed to a legacy, since he had no heir to succeed to it. In the military and civil service he promoted men who were married and had several

children, over their seniors who were unmarried.

But neither rewards nor punishment, legislative enactment nor executive preference, resulted in increasing the number of marriages in Rome. The bachelor class increased as wealth increased. The foreign population of the city of Rome became larger every year. It is hardly likely that the legislature of Georgia will induce the bachelors in the state to marry by imposing fines on them. If there are fewer marriages in Georgia than are desirable, the fault may not be with the men. Perhaps the girls have not studied the art of pleasing men as their sisters have in portions of the world where bachelors are few. A writer of several very popular society novels declares that any woman can make any man marry her she chooses to make love to in the proper way, though she has a homely face, a bad figure, and a wooden leg. The mothers of marriageable daughters in Georgia may not understand matchmaking as well as women do in some other states and countries. They may not be ambitious to become mothers-in-law; their daughters may be very useful girls, whom they are not anxious to part with. Thrifty Georgia mothers may not display much enterprise in trying to get their daughters off their hands so as to reduce family expenses. The Georgian legislature may find that it would have been better to have offered premiums for entering the matrimonial state than to impose a tax on bachelors. In stead of making every man pay a fee for a marriage license, it might be wise to issue them gratuitously and to present the recipient with a \$5 gold piece. A bounty might be offered to every man who takes a bride, as one is offered in many states to the man who captures a wolf or bear, or a law might be passed authorizing county treasurers to pay a specified sum on the presentation of a marriage certificate, as in this state on presentation of coyote scalps.

When John H. Mitchell's name recently began to be prominently mentioned in connection with the senatorship, the Oregonian said that if he came up as a candidate it would make some damaging assertions regarding him. In yesterday's issue it fulfills its threat. It charges him with fraud, dishonor, infamy and crime, and at great length villifies the object of its attack. Its side of the case is stated, and however indignant the friends of the assailed man may be, it will be well to wait. For John H. Mitchell will certainly reply. Of what nature his reply may be, what form it may assume, is problematical. At present the editor of the Oregonian presents the pitiful spectacle of a man who uses the columns of his newspaper to gratify and satisfy personal revenge. No true man would do that; no editor or proprietor of a newspaper should wreak personal spite in such a manner, and the day may come when no one will feel keener anguish or more poignant remorse for yesterday's act than the editor of the Oregonian himself.

SHARON is dead, dying of a loathsome disease, the fruits of a life that points its own moral. Let it be said to his credit, however, that when Ralston suicided and the Bank of California failed in September 1875, it was Sharon that came to its assistance and pledged his fortune to redeem the deficits caused by the daring and luckless Ralston.

NOTWITHSTANDING the earnest canvass made in Ohio, the vote as officially canvassed shows a falling off of 52,625 from the presidential vote of 1854. Last year the total was 784,610; this year it is 731,985. FOXES have holes to hide in, and the fowls of the air have roosts on which they may abide, but the unhappy mugwump, yes, even he of New York, hath no where to bag his head.

BORN. In Astoria, November 14, 1883, to the wife of Jos. Sinnott, a son. NEW TO-DAY. F. D. WINTON. ATTORNEY AT LAW. Rooms No. 11 and 12, Pythian Castle Building.

PROGRAMME Cushing Post Cornet Band ENTERTAINMENT. Following is the programme of the entertainment to be given by Cushing Post band at Rose opera house next Tuesday evening the 17th inst. PART I. 1--Grand March: Colossal Band. 2--Male Quartette: Wm. Barker, Fred Barker, J. N. Griffin, H. G. Smith. 3--Piano Solo: Concerto Mendelssohn. A. L. Bettlinger. 4--Grand Fantasia: Songs of the day, Band. 5--Solo: Mrs. F. R. Stokes. 6--Instrumental Quartette: Day of the Lord, Band. 7--Concert Waltz: City and Country, Band. 8--Duet: Mrs. C. W. Fulton and Mrs. T. W. Eaton. PART II. 1--Cornet Solo: Song of the Roses; with band accompaniment, A. W. Utzinger. 2--Solo: H. G. Smith. 3--Instrumental Quartette: The Chapel, Members of the Band. 4--Operatic Medley: Band. 5--Mixed Quartette: Mrs. T. W. Eaton, Mrs. C. W. Fulton, H. G. Smith, Wm. Barker. 6--Tableau: Goddess of Liberty, with band accompaniment, for New Stockton. 7--Overture: Crown of Victory, Band.

Sign Painting, Gliding, Banners, Oil Cloth Signs, SHOW CARDS, Fence Advertising, Price Marks, etc. C. LANE, Shop and office on Cass street: Pike Bros' old stand. Notice. THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS of the Masonic Land and Building Association of Astoria, will be held at the office of Capt. George Flavel on Wednesday, December 16, 1883, at two o'clock P. M.; for the purpose of electing five directors for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting. S. T. M'KEAN, Secretary. Astoria, November 12th, 1883.

A. V. Allen, Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Groceries, Provisions, MILL FEED. Glass and Plated Ware, TROPICAL AND DOMESTIC FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. Together with Wines, Liquors, Tobacco, Cigars

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