

Pension Problem

Change Proposed by the Comptroller General.

GLANCE AT HIS REPORT.

The various State officers are hard at work on the preparation of their annual reports to the general assembly. Many of them cannot be closed up until the 31st, but officials are already able to tell what they will say in them.

Comptroller General Norton's annual report is now in course of preparation. Yesterday, when approached, he talked very interestingly about it. His department has found during the past year that the machinery was very much hampered by being charged with the handling and distribution of the pension fund. The matter has become so much of a drawback to the smooth operation of the department that the comptroller will ask the general assembly, in his annual report, to transfer the entire pension matter to the office of the adjutant and inspector general, which has but little to do in comparison with the work in the comptroller's office.

Mr. Norton says that he is pretty well satisfied with the present laws governing the tax machinery of the State, and will only suggest a few improvements that seem to him to be necessary to obtain the best result.

He will recommend that all school laws, special and others, be approved by the county superintendent of education in each county so that that official can check up with the county treasurer and know at all times how the school fund stands. At present the county superintendent has nothing whatever to do with the payment of the school funds, and is in the dark.

There is another troublesome feature in the present law to which he will call attention. At present the circuit judges can create a debt for a county about which the county authorities can know nothing until the time comes for paying it. This trouble comes from the system of issuing pay certificates to witnesses and jurors. No report is made to the treasurer of the amount of certificate issued, and there is no way that the amount can be ascertained until they are unable to discover where they stand financially at any time.

In one county he knows of a debt of \$2,000 that has been created. In regard to the few counties in which shortages have occurred, Mr. Norton says that the Sumter matter is in statu quo. He hired an expert to go to Edgefield to straighten out the middle reported there by the grand jury. By the time his expert could get there another grand jury came along, reported everything all right, and refused to pay the expert he had secured. In order that everything can be kept straight in the several counties henceforward he is going to ask the general assembly to give him an extra man—an expert—who can be kept moving about the State from county to county, keeping auditors and treasurers straight the year round and helping them out of any difficulties that may arise. He says such an inspector is very badly needed.

Gladstone's 87th Birthday.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Mr. Gladstone celebrated his 87th birthday at Hawarden to-day, surrounded by his family. There was the usual demonstration by the villagers in honor of the occasion, consisting of the ringing of church bells and the assignment of deputations proceeded to the castle and congratulated the venerable statesman. Throughout the day there was an enormous flow of congratulatory telegrams into the castle from all parts of the United Kingdom, the United States and the continent.

Among those who sent messages of congratulation to Mr. Gladstone were the Prince and Princess of Wales, Sir William Vernon Harcourt, who it is generally conceded will be recognized as the leader of the Liberal party, and Baroness de Rothschild.

Mr. Gladstone is enjoying good health, and this afternoon he went out for a walk.

Hospital for the Insane.

The board of the State hospital for the insane held their annual meeting at the institution yesterday. They made up the outline of their annual report and passed upon the various matters to be printed in that report.

After carefully examining the books and looking over the estimates for the coming year the board decided to ask the general assembly for the usual appropriation of \$100,000 for the maintenance of the institution. They also decided to ask for an appropriation of \$19,000 for the purpose of carrying on the work on the new negro building, and for \$5,000 for the purpose of meeting the payment upon the Wallace property, with interest due in April.

The management of the institution has figured close during the year just ending, but more has been done in the way of repairs and improvements out of the appropriation than the entire appropriation for 1896. The appropriation for 1897 will be practically exhausted, Dec. 30.

FROM THE WIRES.

December 30.

Recent steamers from China and Japan bring reports of an epidemic of small pox in Japan and of cholera in China. Famine also prevails in several Chinese provinces and people are dying by hundreds from starvation.

William M. and John S. Nortwick, of Chicago, made an assignment yesterday. They were rated at \$2,500,000 and were the owners of the most extensive paper mills in the west and besides were interested in various banks and manufacturing industries.

The Commercial National Bank, of Roanoke, Va., suspended yesterday. The liabilities are placed at \$80,000, assets \$90,000. The suspension was caused by heavy withdrawals of deposits.

The Columbia and Washington banks of Minneapolis went to the wall yesterday. The liabilities of the first are \$450,000; of the second \$540,000. The officers of both banks claim that all depositors will be paid in full in time.

Senator DuBois, of Idaho, left Washington for that State yesterday to be present when the election of his successor comes before the legislature. He will be supported by free silver Republicans, Populists and free silver Democrats, and will probably be re-elected.

The current report in Europe is that Spain is carrying on underhand negotiations with the United States with a view of ending the war in Cuba.

The secret service division of the U. S. Treasury reports another ten dollar national bank note counterfeit. It is a photo reproduction of a note issued by the Detroit Union National bank.

The electric light plant in Newark, N. J., was burned yesterday and the city will be in darkness for at least a week. Loss \$175,000.

December 31.

Wm. Euclid Young was formally expelled from the New York stock exchange last night for irregular dealings.

The Bankers' Exchange Bank of Minneapolis failed yesterday. Depositors will be paid in full in time and stockholders will obtain a portion of their investment.

The Northern Trust Co., of Minneapolis, liabilities \$500,000, has gone into the hands of receiver.

The Commercial Bank of Selma Ala., failed yesterday.

A freight train on the Seaboard Air Line was wrecked near Raleigh yesterday. The fireman was killed and the engineer seriously injured.

Mrs. Becker, wife of ex-Sheriff Elias Becker, aged 45, and Mrs. William Seidel, her daughter, aged 30, were killed by an explosion of dynamite at Tuckerton, near Reading, Pa., Wednesday evening. Mr. Becker had placed a quantity of the explosive in the oven of the kitchen stove for the purpose of thawing it out. Shortly after doing so he left. He had not gone more than five minutes when there was a terrific crash, and he hurried back to the house. He was horrified to find the mangled remains of his wife lying on the floor. His daughter, Mrs. Seidel, was not killed outright, but her body was so badly shattered that she died 20 minutes later. The dwelling, a handsome stone structure, caught fire, and was consumed by the flames in spite of the gallant work of the neighbors.

January 1.

Joseph B. McCullough, editor of the St. Louis Globe Democrat, committed suicide yesterday morning. He was ill with nervous prostration, brought on by hard work during the recent election and had acute melancholy.

Edward C. Flannagan, an employe of the Standard Oil Company, on yesterday killed Dixon Allen, his wife and Miss Ruth Slack, of DeKalb county, Ga.

County Treasurer, A. J. Jernigan, of Austin, Texas, committed suicide yesterday morning. He had loaned out \$4,500 public funds and could not restore.

Geo. A. Wilkins, Vice President of the Commercial Bank, of Selma, Ala., which failed on Wednesday, committed suicide yesterday.

Eugene V. Debs, the well-known labor agitator has declared himself a socialist.

The Raleigh, N. C., electric plant was burned yesterday. Loss \$50,000, insurance \$12,500.

The Japanese Government has ordered two cruisers to be built in the U. S., one by Cramp & Sons, of Philadelphia, the other by the Union Iron Works of San Francisco.

Tennessee has raised the \$500,000 necessary to make the government appropriation recently passed by congress available.

A cablegram from Madrid says: The Imparcial and the Herald to-day publish articles condemning the military administration in Cuba, and pointing out that despite his oft-repeated promises Captain General Weyler has accomplished very little in the direction of suppressing the rebellion. Both papers demanded that General Weyler be recalled and that General Aczarraga, minister of war, be appointed in his place. The articles caused a great sensation in the city, and the government, fearing trouble would follow,

ordered that the issues of both papers be seized. The Gazette Official will tomorrow publish a number of decrees regarding the administrative and other reforms to be put into effect in Porto Rico.

Chas. W. Wilson was killed at Waycross, yesterday by Warren H. Williams, manager of the Southern hotel. Wilson became a guest of the hotel three days ago, and paid marked attention to the pretty wife of Williams.

The prisoners in the penal institutions of New York discontinued work yesterday on manufactures which come in competition with outside labor. The new Constitutional provision which goes into effect provides that they shall be employed in making articles needed by the public institutions of the State and its political divisions.

A dispatch from Raleigh says that Jim Green colored, was lynched near Gibson, N. C., by a party of white men who rode across the line from South Carolina.

The Laurens correspondent of the Greenville News reports an incident that occurred in that town a few days ago, which opens a new question in the administration of the dispensary law. He says: "A man, who may be described as poor, comparatively, ordered four gallons of whiskey, which reached him by express in this city some days ago. A constable seized the whiskey and confiscated it, alleging that the consignor was under suspicion and could hardly need whiskey or afford it for his private purposes. The poor man applied to an attorney for advice, who urged that his remedy was in asking for contempt proceedings in the Federal Court, but that the remedy was expensive and unless the injured party had money, he had best submit for economy's sake to the loss of the whiskey. Being of a practical turn of mind and poor to boot, he elected to sacrifice the spirits and thus the hope of his Christmas joys. So it would seem that the law as it stands now in practical operation is unequal for the poor and rich and our late revolution was defeated of its purpose to put all the people on a dead level. The excuse that suspicious should operate against a poor man is a quality of tyranny that ought not to characterize an Evans or Tillman administration." The question is whether a constable is the sole and final judge as to whether a man "needs" the whiskey he imports, and whether he can afford to buy it for his own use. Any man is liable to fall "under suspicion" in one or the other of these particulars, if the constables are to decide. We should like to see the case in question tested in the United States Court.—News and Courier.

How to Prevent Pneumonia.

At this time of the year a cold is very easily contracted, and it left to run its course without the aid of some reliable cough medicine is liable to result in that dread disease, pneumonia. We know of no better remedy to cure a cough or cold than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. We have used it quite extensively and it has always given entire satisfaction.—Olagah, Ind. Ter. Chief.

Can't Eat

This is the complaint of thousands at this season. They have no appetite; food does not relish. They need the toning up of the stomach and digestive organs, which a course of Hood's Sarsaparilla will give them. It also purifies and enriches the blood, cures that distress after eating and internal misery only a dyspeptic can know, creates an appetite, overcomes that tired feeling and builds up and sustains the whole physical system. It so promptly and efficiently relieves dyspeptic symptoms and cures nervous headaches, that it seems to have almost "a magic touch."

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier. are the best after-dinner pills, aid digestion. 25c.

Land Surveying.

H. D. MOISE, will give prompt attention to calls for surveying and plating land. Can be found at his office, next door to office of Lee and Moise, Sumter, S. C. Nov. 18.

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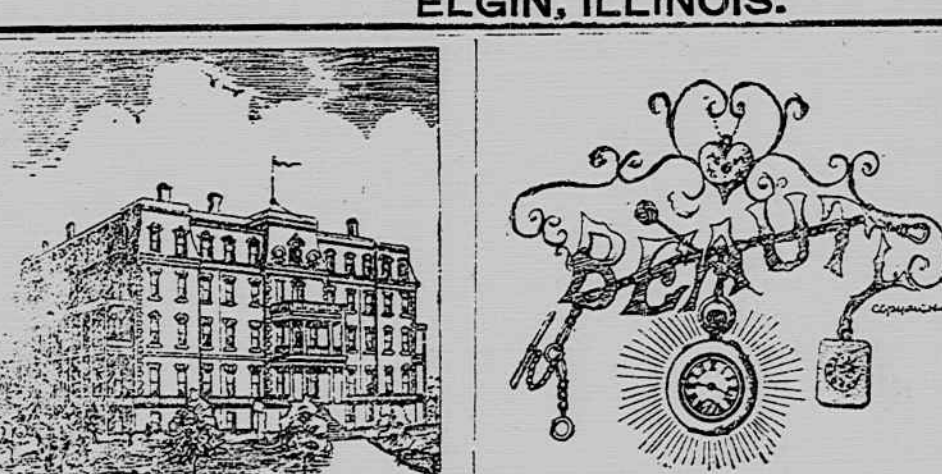
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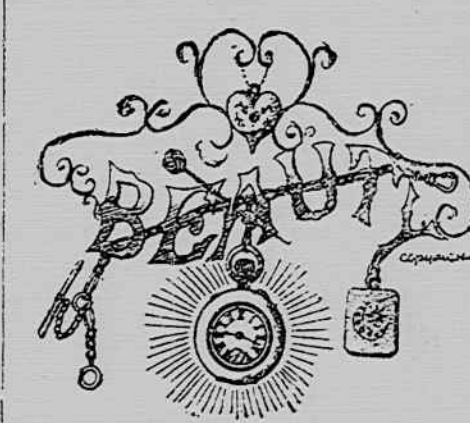
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Oct. 16.

D. M. YOUNG

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Dec. 1

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