

The Messenger
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FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1897.

FOR BETTER SCHOOLS.
We give a brief outline of the
new legislation as to the public
schools. It is excellent legislation
on the subject, for which credit
should not be withheld. The tax
rate was raised to 20 cents from 18
cents on the hundred, which will
run the schools about four months,
especially as the districts are made
larger to include a township. This
feature is not wise, as many
teachers will have more pupils
than should be given to one per-
son, especially for the good of the
children.

Besides the regular school tax,
the law was passed appropriating
fifty thousand (\$50,000) a year for
the schools on the following con-
ditions: Any township that votes
to tax itself ten cents on the hun-
dred dollars worth of property,
and thirty cents on each poll, and
raises any amount up to \$250, the
State will give the same amount
for the public school of that town-
ship. If the amount raised in the
township is over \$250, the State
will give only the latter amount.
This does not apply to places hav-
ing local systems of public or
graded schools.

An election in all the townships
of the State will be held in August
next on this question. After a
township votes to tax itself thus,
no counter election can be ordered
for three years. The amount to be
given by the State cannot exceed
\$50,000 a year.

This is a long step forward.
This local taxation feature is a
wise one, and the main one by
which public schools in other
States have been most successful.
The length of the public schools
may be doubled, and townships
should avail themselves of secur-
ing every dollar when, for each one
voted, the State will give another.
The day-dawn for the mass of
children in the Old North State is
breaking. May they soon see its
highnoon of realization. Presi-
dent Aldeman and Prof. Holmes,
of the University, President Mc-
Iver, of the Normal and Industrial
College worked hard for the pub-
lic schools.

Bob Fitzsimmons knocked out
Jim Corbett on Wednesday at
Carson City, Nev., on the 14th
round. If all the "talent" as-
sembled had been knocked out by
law so that the butchering busi-
ness had been broken up, we
would have no tears to shed.
Such a bloody, savage scene is a
disgrace to Nevada and to the
civilization of America. We are
rather more satisfied, if we have
any preferences on the subject at
all, that Corbett loses and that
the Australian wins. Jim and his
crowd will not make so much fuss
hereafter, nor take up so much
space before the public. There is
nothing noble in this to desire our
country's side to win. It appears
that Fitz "fit."

On last Monday in New York
City the importers paid to the
cashier of the custom house over
two millions of dollars to get their
foreign goods out before the new
tariff bill becomes a law. Why
this haste, if the foreigner is the
man who pays the increase in the
tariff tax? Why not wait and call
up Mr. Foreigner at the prop-
erty and have him pay the bills.
No, do not be deceived; the con-
sumer pays the tax.

At the beginning of the year we
noted that for local, and not be-
cause of political reasons, on the
whole the general business of our
community was looking up. The
same is true yet. If for political
reasons, on account of the present
national administration, business
improves we will give due credit.
This would be fair—no more can
be required. Let prosperity come
along.

The bill for arbitration between
the United States and Great Brit-
ain was reported favorably to the
Senate on yesterday. This is a
great source of rejoicing to all
lovers of peace among nations.
May it become law.

It looks now as if war will be
declared between Greece and
Turkey. It is, where would the
end be? Greece and Turkey thus
mingled together would not be
palatable. We hope war may be
averted.

The total expenses of the State
government, institutions, etc., is
given as \$980,890.84. Last year
the same was \$833,000.

McKinley is to allow Democrats
to hold office till their full term of
four years is out. Just think
about it, will you?

**THE EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS—
McKINLEY'S MESSAGE.**
The extra session of the
Fifty-third Congress, as per Presi-
dent McKinley's order, convened
Monday. The main purpose of
this extra session is to enact a new
tariff law. The President was
very brief in his recommendations,
and nothing more than was ex-
pected is given in his message.
Following is the message:

To the Congress of the United States:
Regretting the necessity which
has required me to call you to-
gether, I feel that your assembling
in an extraordinary session is indis-
pensable, because of the condition
in which we find the revenues of
the government. It is conceded
that its current expenditures are
greater than its receipts and that
such a condition has existed for
now more than three years. With
unlimited means at our command,
we are presenting the remarkable
spectacle of increasing our public
debt by borrowing money to meet
the ordinary outlays incident upon
an economical and prudent ad-
ministration of the government.
An examination of the subject dis-
closes this fact in every detail and
leads inevitably to the conclusion
that the revenue that allows it is
unjustifiable and should be cor-
rected.

We find by the reports of the
Secretary of the Treasury that the
revenues for the fiscal year ending
June 30, 1897, from all sources
were \$425,868,260.22, and the ex-
penditures for all purposes were
\$415,963,806.56, leaving an excess
of receipts over expenditures of
\$9,904,453.66. During the fiscal
year \$49,572,467.98 were paid upon
the public debt, which had been
reduced from March 1, 1895, \$259,-
076,892, and the annual interest
charges decreased \$11,684,577.60.
The receipts of the government
from all sources during the fiscal
year ending June 30, 1893,
amounted to \$461,716,561 and its
expenditures to \$459,374,887, show-
ing an excess of receipts over ex-
penditures of \$2,341,674. Since
that time the receipts of no fiscal
year, and with but few exceptions
of no more than a few hundred
thousand dollars, have exceeded
the expenditures. The excess of
receipts of the government from
all sources, during the fiscal year
ending June 30, 1894, were \$372,-
802,498 and its expenditures \$442,-
605,758, leaving a deficit, the first
since the resumption of specie pay-
ments, of \$69,803,260. Notwith-
standing there was a decrease of
\$16,769,128, in the ordinary ex-
penditures of the government as com-
pared with the previous fiscal
year, its income was still not suf-
ficient to provide for its daily
necessities and the gold reserve in
the Treasury for the redemption of
greenbacks was drawn upon to
meet them. But this did not
suffice, and the government then
resorted to loans to replenish the
reserve.

In February, 1894, \$50,000,000
in bonds were issued, and in
November following a second
issue of \$50,000,000 was deemed
necessary. The sum of \$17,171,-
795 was realized by the sales of
these bonds, but the reserve was
steadily decreased until, on Feb-
ruary 8, 1895, a third sale of \$62,-
315,400 netted \$65,116,244
was announced to Congress.
The receipts of the government
for the fiscal year ending June 30,
1895, were \$390,872,203 and the ex-
penditures \$433,178,426, showing a
deficit of \$42,306,223. A further
loan of \$100,000,000 was negoti-
ated by the government in Feb-
ruary, 1896, the sale netting \$111,-
166,246 and swelling the aggregate
of bonds issued within three years
to \$262,315,400. For the fiscal year
ending June 30, 1896, the revenues
of the government from all sources
amounted to \$409,475,408, while
its expenditures were \$434,678,654,
or an excess of expenditures over
receipts of \$25,203,245. In other
words, the total receipts for the
three fiscal years ending June 30,
1896, were insufficient by 137,811,-
729 to meet to total expendi-
tures.

Nor has this condition since im-
proved. For the first half of the
present fiscal year, the receipts of
the government, exclusive of postal
revenues were \$157,507,603,
and its expenditures, exclusive of
postal service, \$195,410,000, or an
excess of expenditures over re-
ceipts of \$37,902,396. In January
of this year the receipts, exclusive
of postal revenues, were \$42,216,-
991 and the expenditures, exclu-
sive of postal service, \$30,269,389,
a deficit of \$11,947,602 for the
month. In February of this year
the receipts, exclusive of postal
revenues, were \$24,400,997 and the
expenditures, exclusive of postal
service, \$28,796,056, a deficit of
\$4,395,059, or a total deficiency of
\$186,061,580 for the three years
and eight months ending March 1,
1897. Not only are we without a
surplus in the Treasury, but with
an increase in the public debt. There
has been a corresponding in-
crease in the annual interest charge
from \$22,893,883 in 1892, the lowest
of any year since 1862, to \$34,387,-
297 in 1896, or an increase of
\$11,493,414. It may be urged that
the revenues of the government had
been sufficient to meet all its ordi-
nary expenses during the past three
years, the gold reserve would still
have been sufficient to meet the de-
mands upon it, but that it is not
clearly manifest, without deny-
ing or affirming the correctness
of such a conclusion, that the
debt would have been decreased
at least the amount of the
deficiency, and business confi-
dence immeasurably strengthened
throughout the country.

Congress should promptly cor-
rect the existing conditions. Am-
ple revenues must be supplied not
only for the ordinary expenses of
the government, but for the
prompt payment of liberal pen-
sions and the liquidation of the
principal and interest of the pub-
lic debt. In raising revenues,
duties should be levied upon
foreign products as to preserve the
home market, so as to protect our
own producers; to revive and in-
crease manufactures; to increase
domestic and foreign commerce;
to aid and develop mining and
building, and to render to labor in
every field of useful occupation
the liberal wages and adequate re-
wards to which skill and industry
are justly entitled. The necessity
of a tariff law which shall provide
ample revenue, need not be further
argued. The imperative demand
of the hour is the prompt enact-
ment of such a measure and to
this object I earnestly recommend
that Congress shall make every
endeavor. Before other business
is transacted, let us first provide
sufficient revenue to faithfully ad-
minister the government without
the contracting of further debt, or
the continued disturbances of our
finances.

[Signed.] Wm. McKinley,
President of the United States.

THE HOSPITALS ACT DEFECTIVE.
The Old Doctors of the Western, Central
and Eastern Hospitals Employ
Congress to Restrict the Practice of
New Act of Removal—Why Russell
Removed Dr. Murphy.

The Raleigh correspondent of
the Charlotte Observer, under date
of March 15th, says:
"It was common talk here a
month ago among republicans who
claimed to be well informed that
Governor Russell did not desire to
see Dr. Murphy interfered with as
superintendent of the Western
Hospital. A republican of promi-
nent position was asked yesterday
what started the movement of the
Governor against Dr. Murphy. He
replied that Burke county declared
for Russell and that the Burke re-
publicans wanted 'pie'; that they
were the people who clamored for
Dr. Murphy's head. This particu-
lar republican had no words suffi-
cient to express his abhorrence of
this movement.

"The assertion is now made that
the legislative act which was
drawn, it is understood by Gov-
ernor Russell's own hand, to take
the control of the three hospitals
from the insane from the democrats,
is defective, and does not really
repeat the former charters of the
hospitals, but re-enacts them and
gives the officers the same duties
and rights as before. The old
boards of directors have retained
counsel and all will act in concert.
It is understood that among the
counsel are James E. Shepherd, F.
I. Osborne, Busbee & Busbee, W.
C. Monroe, C. B. Aycock, Isaac J.
Dortch and F. A. Daniel. The
new boards of directors are called
to meet next Thursday. The ad-
vice of the republicans and bolting
politicians in grabbing the hospitals
is everywhere condemned."

CORN CRACKER'S TROUBLES.
Accused of Stealing a Bee Gum and
Seed Turnips.
HE IS IN A BAD FIX.
Don't Know What to Do—He Hopes,
However, That He Won't Wind Up in
the Gaol—He Wants Letters to
"The Herald" Will Be From Cuba.
Correspondence of The Messenger.

Those who have been reading
the correspondence from this sec-
tion are aware that it abounds in
stirring occurrences. What would
be called a rousing sensation in
other quarters, does not here rank
as more than commonplace. But
now and then we do have some-
thing that causes wisecracks to
turn their heads, and gossips their
tongues. Very recently the shadow
of a great grief settled on this
section of the mortal vineyard. It
was a murder, for we can spare a
man, and it is no trouble for a
widow to remarry. It was not a
murder, for any man of sense
would not want one of our best
and ablest delegates. Our jockey street
journeymen can talk horse till they
give you the night-mare, but their
charges are not of the fiery, un-
tamed order. The dark crime to
which we refer was stealing a bee-
gum with its store of winter honey.
The owner had the grip, and the
grip left between two days. He is
a righteous man who lives in the
sweat of his face, and the face of
his bees. When he found his gum
was gone, he lifted up his voice
and went. He likewise cast ashes
in the air, and covered himself
with sackcloth and gave thanks.
His voice of lamentation was heard
mingling with the deep roar of
Hinton's creek. The chief of the
Cherry Mountain Detective Bur-
eau reported with a "Yanger"
rifle and a hatchet to know why
this thushness and whence these
weeps. He said some man who had
not the fear of God before his
face had stormed his picket fence,
and his favorite bee gum was but
a bitter memory. That the grip
was bad enough, but now the
preacher would have to eat chicken,
sallad, pies and other roughness,
with no honey to cool his parched
tongue. That he had been shot in
both hind legs and in the neck
while fighting at the head of his
column, but never before had he
felt such sore bereavement. The
detective gave the alarm that a
"haysous" crime had been com-
mitted, and everybody sprang to
arms like the highland clans rose
at the bugle blast of highland
Roderick Dhu. Tracks were
measured, conjurers consulted, and
every man girded up his loins and
put his rabbit foot in his jeans.
But no bee-gum was found, and
no thief was discovered.

Finally, it was decided, by a rising
vote, to get Tommy Elliott's fox
hounds. Why they are called
fox hounds nobody has ever been
able to explain. They may have
some time or other met a fox, but
it is certain they never overtook
one. Nor have they ever been
known to trail a criminal. Yet,
when any man is hiding, from a
hen thief to a decamped bank
cashier, somebody suggests "Tom-
my Elliott's dogs." They were
sent to the scene of the crime,
armed with a kettle of hot water
and a meat axe. The meat axe
was wide of its mark, but sundry
yelps of mortal agony from the
hounds, with bald spots on their
flap pastures, showed that the hot
water had gone home. The dogs
were tenderly and reverently borne
to their tanyard kennel, while the
martial spinster with her beliger-
ent Thomas remained masters of
the situation. Sympathy is very
active in favor of the dogs, while
the fading damsel and the red-
oubtable cat are voted common
enemies of society. At length
two boys hauling pine discovered
the gum in sections, but rifled off
its contents to the scene of the crime,
of broken hearts and burnt shirt
poisoning. As the old shirt bore
a striking family resemblance to
one worn by this unholly scribe, he
was then and thereupon accused
of the "haysous" crime. He was
known to have a constitutional
weakness for a medical prepara-
tion known as peach and honey,
but it was also in evidence that he
fears bees about as much as he
does rattlesnakes and bold hornets.
Some of his accusers say he never
saw a snake except those in his
boot, and that he is a coward in
case, he has a wholesome dread of
them, for they are bad looking
snakes. The chief of detectives
said they did not have conclusive
evidence against me, for he saw
me since the theft and I had my
shirt on, and he knew I had but
one. Still, that did not satisfy
that assembly, and they think yet
I took that bee gum. I proved
seven alibis, but their suspicions
were not shaken. One of the best
customers of our Cherry Mountain
laboratory, where I was at three
different places twenty miles
apart at the same time. Even his
alibi was not believed. It's an old
saying that if you give a dog a
bad name you had just as well shoot
him, and the same rule applies to
a great statesman out of a job.
Every sore eyed, red nosed hood-
lum in this badlied world now points
at me as I pass, and says: "There
goes the man who stole the bee-
gum."

And behold one woe quickly
trudeth on the heels of another.
Two days since a wild eyed son-
of-a-gunsmith came before the tri-
bunal and charged me with steal-
ing his seed turnips. Nobody
could be found who would testify
that he ever had any seed turnips,
or any other kind of turnips, for
that matter, or a place where tur-
nips would grow. All this was
proven, but I was found guilty in

the face of evidence that I don't
eat turnips, and that I don't like
a man who is a slave to the turnip
hatch. I was turned out of the
church for being a democrat, and
found it hard work to get a foot-
hold in the society of the non-eat-
ers. Now I don't know what to do.
Some say my chances are golden
to be elected to the next Legisla-
ture, but it would be less of a
stigma to go a session to the peni-
tentiary. A blamed fortune teller
tried to cr-h my hopes once by
telling me I would wind up in the
Legislature, but I hope to escape.
Here I am in the heyday of life,
with a prospect of dying unwept,
unhonored, and unsung. I could
live down a term in the pen, learn
a trade, pick my flint, and try it
again in a new home and under
new management. But the Bal-
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