

# The Wilmington Sun.

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## PUBLIC POLICY.

### RETRENCHMENT AND REFORM

#### "Facts and Figures" Again.

To the Editor of the Sun: "Tax Payer" in his article in answer to our former communication, has *adroitly evaded* the whole question by instituting a long comparison between the present Criminal Court and the superior Court, as the latter was constituted before the establishment of the Criminal Court.

The question raised by our former article will be shown *properly*, only when the comparison is made between the cost of trying offenders in the Criminal Court in petty cases, as the law now stands, and the cost of trying the same cases in the Courts of the Justices of the Peace.

Now to illustrate this comparison we will suppose a case: Cuffy Jones is arrested for stealing one watermelon remaining un-gathered in the field, the intrinsic value of which is ten cents, carried before a magistrate where the evidence is conclusive, and the magistrate binds him to court for trial, as the law now requires; being unable to procure bail he is committed, and at court is tried and convicted of "larceny," and being insolvent, the cost of the whole proceeding has to be paid by the county. Now let us see how the cost stands, there being three witnesses in the case (about the average).

Amount	Due by County	Due by State
First, Justice's costs about \$2.00	\$2.00	
Second, Constable's costs...	1.45	.75
Total due by county in Justice's Court..... \$3.45		

Now the man goes to jail, say for thirty days (being the average time between the terms of the Criminal Court).

Whole County	Daily Fee	County
Jail fees, thirty days, at 35 cents per day.....	\$10.50	\$10.50
Turkey, in and out.....	.60	.60
Solicitor's fees.....	4.00	2.00
Clerk's fees—indictment 60 cents, capias \$1.10; docketing and filing 35 cents; three Grand Jurors, six weeks, 75 cents; three Court subpenas 75 cents; execution 35 cents.....	3.90	1.95
Sheriff's fees—arrest \$1.00; three Grand Jurors and three Court subpenas at 30 cents each, \$1.80; execution 30 cents.....	3.50	1.65
Three witnesses at \$1.10 per day, for three days each.....	9.30	4.65
(One-fourth day consumed in trial of case.)		
Eighteen Grand Jurors, one office to same, and twelve Jurors, thirty-one persons at \$1.50 per day each, \$46.50 per day and one fourth of day.....	\$111.62	
Judge's salary \$2500, for six weeks' court (tax-payer's estimate), \$161.66 per week, \$808.44 per day and for one fourth of day.....	17.16	

Costs to conviction in Criminal Court, \$50.33. Now in this estimate the case is presumed to be tried at the term the indictment was found, while many cases are continued for one or more terms and criminals frequently occur and costs are doubled and trebled. So that while some cases would cost less than this estimate, others would cost much more, and we believe the case as stated would be a fair average. Now some may say this is a fanciful case. To such we would refer to a similar watermelon case tried in the Criminal Court at October term, 1878. State vs. Jacob Wood, et al.

Now in this supposed case, it has cost the county \$53.05 to convict for larceny of one watermelon worth ten cents, while if the law had permitted the Justice to decide the matter, it would only have cost \$2.75 to convict in such case.

Now there are very many cases for affrays, Peace Warrants, trespass, and other petty offenses, which come in the same category of the case supposed, comprising fully three-fourths of the Docket of the Criminal Court, and consuming fully three-fourths of "Tax-Payer's" six weeks, which would only leave one and one-half weeks in which the important cases are tried.

Now if Justices are given final jurisdiction to try and determine all of these petty cases the Criminal Court could finish the remainder of the cases say in two weeks, which time could be readily granted to our Superior Court and save cost of Judge of Criminal Court. Extending the jurisdiction of the Justices to all of these petty cases would also materially reduce the cases in the Superior Courts of all the counties, thereby saving hundreds of thousands of dollars to the people of our State.

"Economy and reform" is the slogan now, and our greatest need is a cheap system of disposing of our many criminal cases. Our constitution has provided that the Justices may try them. Our Legislature has given them that authority over a small part of such cases only. Now if it is proper that they should try a part of these cases, for what reason are they prohibited from determining others of a similar nature? Now let the Legislature either give to the Justices full jurisdiction to try and determine all these petty cases, or let them take away all final jurisdiction from them and establish some cheap system of disposing of these cases.

The Justices are all appointed, and were recommended for intelligence and ability, and if it is proper that they shall determine some cases, why not let them take all of similar importance and save the enormous cost of trying such cases in the Criminal and Superior Courts of the State?

Considering the nature of our popula-

tion, the great majority; paying so little taxes and at the same time creating the most of the criminal cases, the cost falls heavily on those who do pay taxes.

Our courts cost are the "big leak," "the bung hole to the barrel," and unless it is stopped, poverty will be the fate of our section for years to come. "Tax-payer" intimates that increasing the jurisdiction of the Justices would increase the cases and therefore increase the cost! Now it makes no difference to the Justice whether he determine a case, or sends it up for trial, as he gets his costs in either event, and as the matter now stands, it is to his interest to get as many cases as he can, and the fact is that very few violators of the law now get off without being called on to answer, and it would be therefore impossible for them to increase cases and costs, as presumed in his article.

Now, if in our supposed case Cuffy Jones had been tried by the Justice of the Peace and fined \$5.00 and cost, it is quite likely he could have paid it, and the whole cost, justice included, would have been saved to the county. Many defendants in petty cases would pay the justice's costs if they could be determined before them, while they are unable to pay the court costs, and have to go to jail and swear out after thirty days.

Now as to committing to jail of offenders by Justices after trial: The county authorities should be given authority to farm out such convicts; or if a work house or house of correction is established in any county, give the justice authority to send directly there.

Now "Tax-Payer" states that "either party would certainly take an appeal," thereby making the impression that all these cases would go to the Superior Court in any event. Appeals from the Justice's decision do not now occur often. In one case in fifty or a hundred determined by them, and it is unfair to suppose that the proportion of appeals would be increased by granting increased jurisdiction.

Now, as to "Tax-Payer's" reflection on the honesty and character of the Justices of the Peace, that they are restrained from abuses by the Criminal Court; the same restraint was formerly exercised by the Superior Court, and would be again in case of the abolition of the Criminal Court.

The Legislature holds but a short time, and another does not meet in two years, and if anything is to be done to remedy this evil and stop these heavy costs, it should be done quickly.

Respectfully,  
PRO BONO PUBLICO.

### No Increase of Salaries for Officers

To the Editor of the Sun:  
POINT CASWELL, FREDERICK COUNTY, N. C., Jan. 28th, 1879.—Increase the salaries of our officials and public men? Whence and by what means can the additional sum be raised to bestow a bounty upon each official, who will *conscience* to accept office at the hands of the people? What fund of inexhaustible resources has been recently discovered to justify the suggestion of increasing the salaries of those who are already enjoying positions of honor and emolument, amply, seductively remunerative? If any, in the name of the poor laborers of the country, generally, the farmer, the mechanic, the citizen and all classes of the yeomanry of the land, devise some plan or system, by means of which they can become the recipients of enough of it, at least, to reward them for their trial. With wages so low as to paralyze every other industry, and drive the once hopeful and energetic to despair, the people utterly unable to secure means to supply the plain substantial necessities of life, mortgaged, sold out, involved beyond redemption, would you increase and extort from them a tax which would irreparably ruin them, at an already extravagant and wasteful policy may be rendered still more injurious and insufferable by pandering to the vitiated and morbid taste of a certain class of avaricious men, many of whom never did a day's work in their lives? Should we tamper with a policy which has already gone from bad to worse? Should we fill our land with meddlers, robbers and outlaws, rather than have a helpful, thrifty, active, energetic, enterprising and reliable people? Should we wear despair upon our workshops—defeat upon our ploughshares—desertion upon our corn fields—ruin upon our pine trees— insecurity and peril upon our homes? If not, rather advocate and urge the necessity of lessening the already too high salaries of officials than that of increasing them. We know, as a principle, that government regulations almost always increase, instead of diminish the evils consequent upon habits formed, from the anticipated realization of great fortunes supposed to be in the hands of debtors; that whenever the regular and harmonizing operation of demand upon supply is disturbed, uncertainty and unavoidably rapid fluctuations must occur; but amidst all such embassament and suffering should we pile "Ossa upon Pelion"? Should we compel the already feeble, exhausted, impoverished and forlorn, to carry a still heavier burden? Should we at any period of misfortune, when want of confidence, stagnation and collapse exist in every department of business and trade, impose new and weightier tasks upon the great propelling power of safety, freedom, wealth and independence? Are we prepared, Mr. Editor, to encourage the advent of and welcome the evil which would result in the establishment of innumerable Octroi or Dona-

nius, not only on your coasts, but in every township, in every school district, additional tipstaves to seize upon the fruits of honest industry and enterprise, to gratify the pride and vanity of those, who elevated above, have forgotten the people, and, with indifference and contempt, regard the hands which raised them to positions of honor and profit? We know from your editorial on this subject that you would not inflict any grievous wrong upon your people—that generous, noble, brave and patriotic, you would scorn to do anything that would impair, in the least, the mutual obligations and relations which should exist between the people and their rulers—that you would oppose, with all your acknowledged power and ability, any measure or scheme, no matter by what party proposed, which would threaten in the least degree the liberty and happiness of the people; and it is, therefore, that we offer, in our feeble way, these suggestions, believing they will be received and appreciated in the same generous and charitable spirit in which they are given.

Respectfully,  
LIASON.

### Notes North Carolina.

Murphy has five schools—all with a fair roll of students.  
We regret to see the Monroe Enquirer come out for the R. & A. extension.  
No issue this week of the Hillsboro Recorder because the printers are sick.  
Mr. Dumont lectured to a good audience in Commons Hall, Raleigh, Monday night.

Two noted escaped negro convicts, with various aliases were captured in Charlotte. The Charlotte Mining Board protest against the abolition of the Geological Survey.

Goldsboro Messenger says a young German lad named Carl Gladden employed in A. Korb's steam furniture factory, had his left hand badly lacerated last Saturday morning by coming in contact with the machinery.

Monroe Enquirer: We learn that a negro was killed in Anson last week, by having his skull cleft in twain with an axe in the hands of another negro, who was quarrelled. We did not learn full particulars; but hear that the murderer has been committed.

In the Saunton township, Wayne county, murder, the coroner's jury rendered the verdict that Jack Smith came to his death from injuries received from J. R. Hinson and Josiah McKinnie Butts. Butts is in jail, but Hinson was last seen in Greene county.

News: We are informed that Col. Wm. Johnston, of Charlotte, was recently offered the presidency of the construction of a very important railroad in Pennsylvania, with very liberal pecuniary inducements, but declined the same on account of the climate, distance from home and the severance of domestic ties which would result.

The Monroe Express reports the robbery of a nickpoke of 14 young Mr. Henry Kendall, of Anson county, who was on his way to Rutherford College. His pocket-book, which contained a little over \$90, was adroitly taken from his pocket through a slit made by a sharp instrument. Our contemporary says it is the first instance that ever took place in the town, and must have been done by an expert from abroad.

Messenger: A warrant was issued at Fremont last week, by Justice Barnes, for the arrest of Mr. Richard Newall, charged by his wife with attempting to poison her, but Newall had gone for parts unknown. In justice to the good people of Fremont, we deem it proper to say that they are new comers to that usually orderly town, and have not lived there but a short while. Family trouble appear to be the cause. Newall has not lived with his wife much the last few years.

Sundlight.  
Senator Johnston, of Virginia, is very ill at Washington.

Senator Hill's speech against paying any Southern war claims seems to be generally regarded with approval in Georgia.

Mrs. B. F. Wade, the widow of Senator Ben Wade, lies very ill at her residence in Jefferson, Ohio. She is over seventy years of age.

The Indiana State Senate is considering a bill which declares it unlawful for a candidate even so much as to treat for the purpose of influencing votes.

Philadelphia Times: Some men are born nephews, others achieve nephews, but Mr. Tilden throws out the sad impression that he had a nephew thrust upon him.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat having remarked that "January, 1879, may be set down as a very good month for Grantism," the Baltimore Gazette retorts very neatly: "November, 1880, however, will not be so good, judging from indications."

Professor George S. Morris will leave the Michigan University at Ann Arbor to take the chair of philosophy and ethics in the Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore. It is said that there will be other desertions from the Ann Arbor school, the regions of which have wrangled a great deal lately.

A dispatch received in New York to-day by cable from Panama, announces that a serious revolution has broken out in Antioquia. No particulars given.

About 10 o'clock this morning an embankment at Ziegler's ore beds, 15 miles from Allentown, Pa., caved in, burying 15 persons, instantly killing one man and seriously injuring four others.

W. B. Fleming has been elected to Congress, from the Savannah District, to fill the place of Hartidge, deceased. There was no opposition. The vote was very small in Chatham county, only 636.

The Savannah News, the able senior editor of which was a candidate for the position, speaks in high terms of Judge Fleming who was nominated for Congress in the First Georgia District to fill Col. Hartidge's vacancy.

## SUN TELEGRAMS.

### EARLY AND MIDNIGHT REPORTS.

WASHINGTON.

#### Two Brazil Lines to be Provided—River and Harbor Appropriation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—SENATE.—The Committee on Appropriations this morning agreed to add to the Postoffice Appropriation bill a section authorizing contracts to be made for a semi-monthly Steamship Mail Service between the United States and Brazil, by two lines, one from New York via Norfolk, and the other from New Orleans via Galveston, each to receive compensation not exceeding \$150,000 per annum. The Committee recommend the appropriation of \$200,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary to provide for this service during the next fiscal year, the expectation being that the steamships for the New Orleans line will not be ready to commence running before the expiration of about two-thirds of the year.

Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, from the Committee on Finance, reported, without amendment, Senate bill authorizing the conversion of National gold bank. Placed on Calendar.

He also reported from the same Committee, without amendment, Senate bill to amend Sections 5157 and 5171 of Revised Statutes of the United States, relative to the deposit of bonds. Placed on Calendar.

These are two bills introduced by Mr. Morrill, yesterday.

Mr. Sargent, of California, submitted a resolution requesting the Secretary of State to furnish to the Senate with information in the possession of the State Department, or that may be obtained through the Consular Service, relating to the methods in the production of the various kinds of fermented and alcoholic liquors imported into the United States, also, the laws and customs of the trade in force, and prevailing at the various places affecting the purity of such liquors and genuineness of the labels and marks, and designating them.

He also submitted a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish similar information, and said, as an object of these resolutions was to ascertain whether we received any pure wines, he hoped that the committee on finance would give the subject early attention.

Mr. Conkling, referring to the last resolution, said it was not usual to "request" the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish information to the Senate, but "direct" him to do so.

The resolution was amended as suggested and then referred to the committee on finance.

Mr. Kernan introduced a bill to authorize the President to appoint George Foster Robinson to be paymaster in the United States army; which was referred to the committee on military affairs.

Mr. Robinson is the man who defied Secretary Seward from the assassin Payne.

The Senate agreed to the conference report on the Naval Bill, which was passed.

A bill was passed removing the political disabilities of the following: Asa Wall, E. C. Oliver, D. M. W. Nash, Henry G. Thomas, Chas. F. M. Spotswood, John D. Simmons, C. H. Kennedy, W. B. Sinclair and W. L. Page, of Virginia; Isaac R. Tremble, Henry II. Lewis and W. E. Wislizen, of Maryland; C. H. Williamson, of New York; John T. Tucker, of the District of Columbia; and W. T. Walker, of California.

A joint resolution, providing for a commission to consider and report upon what legislation is need for a better regulation of commerce among the States, was submitted to the Committee on Commerce.

The Postal Appropriation Bill, with sundry amendments, was reported back from the committee, and placed on the calendar.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill for the erection of the Library building on Judiciary square.

Horse.—The House has agreed to the conference report on the Naval Appropriation bill, and is now in Committee on the Legislative Appropriation bill.

Mr. Dorsey, of Arkansas, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported back the post office appropriation bill with various amendments. Placed on the calendar.

He also reported from the same committee an amendment to the bill submitted by Mr. H. W. Hildreth, of California, on post offices and post roads, some days ago, providing for the reclassification of mail matter, and the readjustment of the compensation paid to the railroads for its transportation of mails, by substantially the same provisions as were agreed upon in the post route bill of last year, and which failed to become a law on account of the Brazilian mail subsidy, and other objectionable amendments thereto.

In the House today the majority and minority reports of the Committee on Elections in the Florida contested election case of Finley vs. Bisbee were submitted and laid on the table for future action. The majority report is in favor of Finley's claims and is signed by all the Democratic members of the committee except Furney of Pennsylvania, who joins the Republicans in the report in favor of Bisbee.

The House was in Committee of the whole on legislative, judicial and executive appropriation bill. After a protracted discussion the House proceeded to consider the bill by paragraphs for amendment.

After making some progress the committee adjourned.

Mr. Reagan of Texas, chairman of the Committee on Commerce reported the River and Harbor appropriation bill which was ordered printed, and recommitted.

In the executive session of the Senate today the renomination of Gen. N. P. Banks to be United States Marshal for Massachusetts was reported from the Judiciary Committee, with the recommendation that it be confirmed, to take effect upon the expiration of the term of the present incumbent, which will occur next month.

The House Committee on War Claims today agreed to report the bill appropriating about \$5,000,000 to pay the claims which have been approved by the accounting officers of the Treasury under the act of January 4, 1864.

The river and harbor bills which were concluded by the committee on commerce to-day, contains the following among its appropriations.—For the removal of the snags, &c., on the Mississippi river, \$1,000,000; a snag boat for the upper Mississippi river, \$20,000; for the improvement of the Mississippi river from St. Paul to the Des Moines rapids, \$1,000,000; for the Mississippi river near the mouth of the Illinois river, \$40,000. Southern States.—For the James river, \$60,000; for the Appomattox river, \$10,000; for the Rapahannock river, \$10,000; for the Norfolk harbor, \$5,000; Mobile harbor, \$10,000; river, \$25,000; for the Cape Fear river, \$25,000; for the Neuse river, \$15,000; for the French Broad river, \$5,000; for the Charleston harbor, \$100,000; for the Savannah harbor, \$100,000; for the St. Augustine in Georgia, \$5,000; for the Coosa river in Georgia, \$45,000; for the Alabama river, \$30,000; for the Chatahoocbee and Flint rivers, \$22,000; for the Apalachicola river, \$5,000; Cedar Keys, Florida, \$15,000; Choctawhatchee river, \$50,000; Warrior and Tom Mingo rivers, \$30,000; New Orleans harbor, \$60,000; Mobile harbor, \$10,000; Pascogonia river, \$14,000; Brunswick harbor, Georgia, \$10,000; Sabine Pass, Texas, \$25,000; Galveston harbor, \$100,000; Ship channel, Galveston, \$50,000; Narrows Sabine Pass, \$6,000; Pass Crevalle and Matagorda Bay, \$25,000; Indian Pass, \$6,000; Atansas Pass, \$5,000; removal of raft, Red river, \$15,000; Surveys of South Pass, Mississippi, \$24,000; removal of obstructions, Red river, \$22,500; mouth of Red river, \$40,000; Ouachita river, \$10,000; gauging the waters of the Mississippi, \$5,000; Tennessee river, above Chattanooga, \$11,000; Tennessee river, below Chattanooga, \$21,000; Natchez river, \$5,000; Memphis harbor, \$37,000; Vicksburg harbor, \$27,000; Yazoo river, Mississippi, \$15,000; Cumberland river, below Nashville, \$25,000; Cumberland river, above Nashville, \$39,000; there is an appropriation for the improvement of the Mississippi, by the mouth of the Illinois and Ohio rivers, of \$29,000. The amount appropriated for examination and surveys is \$150,000. Total amount appropriated by the bill, \$5,786,000.

The caucus of the Republican Senators held to-day. The purpose of the signers of a call was to secure an arrangement at some early date for the action upon the Corbin-Buller contest. No determination was reached. There was some informal discussion as to what course should be pursued in the case, also the amendments providing for the repeal of the Federal supervisors and the test oath laws are attached by the House to one of the annual appropriation bills. Although no action was taken the general tenor of opinions expressed was to the effect that effort to enact such legislation upon an appropriation bill as should be resisted even to extend the causing bill to fail.

The Potter Committee met this morning and immediately went into secret session. The chairman read the letter from Dr. Green, President of the Western Union Telegraph Company. A few comments were made upon the explanation therein given and with regard to its publication before received by the committee. The Democrats have no more witnesses to examine, though the Republicans wish to call one or two.

Gen. Ord was before the House Committee on Military Affairs, to-day, advocating the passage of Senator Massey's bill, which provides for the erection of more suitable military posts for the protection of the Rio Grande frontier.

The Committee appear disposed to report the bill favorably, and are now in communication with the Secretary of War as to the best methods of complying with provisions thereof.

A. A. Mabson is nominated for postmaster, at Union Springs, Alabama.

Buried in a Railroad Cut.  
St. Louis, Feb. 11.—A Kansas City dispatch says a terrible accident occurred this morning at the foot of Grand avenue, in a cut being made for the Chicago & Alton Railroad. At that point the cut, which is almost perpendicular walls 90 feet high, caved in and buried the workmen and their teams under 6,000 yards of falling earth. There were four teams in the cut at the time and ten men working at each team. Besides these there were the foreman, Jas. Matherly, his clerk and two men working with the pick. Mr. Stoten, the contractor, was not in the cut. Six persons were killed outright and several wounded. The following are killed: Peter Bagley, Jas. Hagen, Thos. Casey, Ed. Hines, Dan Lucit and Richard Kine. All the bodies have been recovered. The scene is heartrending.

Alleged Swindling of the Government.  
BOSTON, Feb. 11.—A statement is published here, alleging that the Apollinaris Company of London and Germany have defrauded the Government out of the revenue, amounting to six hundred thousand dollars. It is asserted that the water imported by the company, is compounded, a treated liquid and not the product of nature, as claimed; and that the treasury has already taken the matter in hand, and a resolution will be offered in Congress during the present week, whereby it will be proposed to place a tax on all foreign bottles. The Government will also take steps to recover the money due from the concern.

The Tennessee State Debt.  
NASHVILLE, TENN., Feb. 11.—The Legislature reassembled to-day after a recess of ten days. Gen. Roger A. Pryor, legal representative of the Tennessee bondholders, arrived this morning from New York to renew the offer of the bondholders to compromise the State debt by a reduction of forty per cent. of the principal or a reduction of the interest. He claims that those he represents are in no way interested in the suits against the railroads brought by one of the State's creditors to enforce a supposed lien on railroad property in favor of the creditors. Mr. Pryor will remain during the present week.

Death of a Noted Priest.  
NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 11.—The Very Rev. Cornelius Moynihan and a native of the county of Cork, Ireland, and for 30 years pastor of the St. Peter's church, and one of the best known and most distinguished Priests of the South died this morning. The funeral will take place on Thursday.

## OVER THE CABLE.

### The Old World Yesterday.

MADRID, Feb. 11.—On receipt of official reports from Puerto Plata of the Spanish Government will if necessary dispatch a man-of-war to San Domingo to exact a heavy indemnity for the families of two Generals taken from a Spanish steamer and shot by the San Domingo authorities and for the satisfaction to the Spanish flag. The Spanish Government has purchased all the private rights in Cabrera one of the Baleaive Islands in the Mediterranean. They intend to establish there a penitentiary and agricultural colony.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 11.—By order of the private council adopted yesterday revoking after March 3rd, 1879, article 13 of the foreign amendments, the order so far as it relates to the United States was a great surprise to the trade here. All cattle from the United States after March 3rd, will have to be slaughtered in abattoirs now being prepared on the dock estates of Birkenhead and Liverpool within ten days after landing.

The steamship owners have appointed a committee to confer with the delegates appointed at yesterday's meeting of the strikers. Much firmness is manifested on both sides.

The City of Brussels is ready for sea, and will sail this afternoon. Owing to the delay in the arrival of the Celtic, the White Star Company has chartered the Cunard steamship Marathon to take her place. The latter will sail for New York on Thursday.

PARIS, Feb. 11.—Monsieur Desprez, Archbishop of Toulouse, has been created a Cardinal.

The governments amnesty bill grants amnesty to all persons heretofore, or hereafter pardoned, except offenders against the common law, and condones all political offences since 1870, not heretofore presented a decree relative to the changes of the Procurator General, it is expected will be signed to-day.

President Grevy has signed a decree making appointments and changes, affecting eighteen general and twelve commanders of the corps. Gen. Wolff replaced Duke D'Aumale at Resancon. Le Temps says, Duke D'Aumale has been appointed Inspector General.

BERLIN, Feb. 11.—Specie increase, 8,940,000 marks. It seems now settled that the Emperor will open the Reichstag in person and deliver his speech from the throne to-morrow.

LONDON, Feb. 11.—The Cabinet Council has to-day decided to send six battalions of infantry, two regiments of cavalry, two batteries of artillery, a company of engineers, three companies of the Army Service Corps and a company of the Army Hospital Corps to reinforce Lord Chelmsford in South Africa.

The Times, commenting on the news from Capetown, says: "Nothing can exceed the frankness of the recital, for it would be useless to deny either the sadness or the extreme gravity of the catastrophe. Whether there was or was not any want of vigilance on the part of our own forces, it is clear that the Zulus are even more formidable than our military authorities expected them to be. It was known that they are well drilled, that great numbers are armed with breech loaders, and that they could fight courageously. We now know but too well how large a force they can mass at one point. Sad as the loss of our troops is, still graver is the peril which must arise with defeat. The Zulus will be emboldened, and the colonists will be exposed to fresh and formidable dangers. In these circumstances the duty of the government cannot admit of the slightest doubt, and it is to send ample reinforcements to the Cape, without the needless delay of a single hour. It may be that they can be more quickly sent from Mauritius or India than from England, but at all events, no effort and no expense must be spared to save the colony from disaster and the power of the country from grave injury. It is a melancholy consolation, meanwhile, that the gallant troops of the Twenty-fourth regiment did their duty and died at their post like Englishmen."

Lord Chelmsford, the commander of the expedition, sets down the British loss at thirty officers and about five hundred non-commissioned officers, rank and file, of the Imperial troops, and seventy non-commissioned officers, rank and file, of the Colonial troops. A court of inquiry has been ordered to collect the evidence regarding this unfortunate affair. It would seem that the troops were entriced away from the camp as the action took place a mile and a quarter outside of it.

Summons were issued this morning for the Cabinet Council, to be held this afternoon, to deliberate on the reverses to the British troops in Zululand. An official telegram announcing the defeat was received at the Colonial office at 12:30 o'clock this morning. They substantially confirm the details of the affair heretofore given in these dispatches. The news of the defeat has caused a sensation throughout London. The demand for newspapers at all the suburban stations was greater than since the outbreak of the Franco-German war.

The following communication has been received at the War Office from Lord Chelmsford: "I regret to have to report a very disastrous engagement on the 22nd of January, between the Zulus and a portion of the No. 3 column, which was left to guard the camp about 10 miles in front of Rorke's Drift. The Zulus came down in overwhelming numbers, and in spite of the gallant resistance by 5 companies of the first battalion of the 24th Regiment, one company of the second battalion and 24th Regiment, 2 guns, 2 rocket tubes, one hundred and sixty-four mounted men and about 800 natives, were overwhelmed and the camp, containing all supplies, ammunition and transportation of No. 3 column was taken, and but two of its defenders escaped. Our loss, I fear must be set down at 30 officers and about 500 non-commissioned officers to rank and file of imperial troops and 70 non-commissioned officers to rank and file of colonial troops. A court of inquiry has been ordered to assemble to collect evidence regarding this important affair which will be forwarded to you as soon as received. Full particu-

lars as far as can be obtained have been sent in my despatch which will reach you by the next mail. It would seem that the troops were entriced away from their camp as the action took place about a mile and a quarter outside of it. The remainder of Colonel Glyn's column reoccupied their camp after dark on the same night, having been with me 12 mile away all day. On the following morning we arrived at Rorke's Drift post which for twelve hours had been attacked by 800 men to 400 Zulus. Its defence by some 80 men of 24 to a regiment was most gallant. Three hundred and seventy bodies lay close around the post. I compute the Zulu loss at 1,000 here alone. At camp where the disaster occurred the loss of the enemy is computed at 2,000. Colonel Pearson commanding the No. 1st column has been attacked but he repulsed the Zulus.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 11.—The St. Petersburg sanitary committee has proposed to close the canals and to organize a large hospital in Novha, which could be anchored in the Gulf of Bothnia, and also to organize a sanitary committee in each district of the city and province of St. Petersburg.

Gen. Levis Mellick, Governor-General of the plague stricken districts, has summoned the Governors of the governments of Astrachan, Lameria and Saratoff, to Taurizta, and proposed to them that all the old paper money now circulating be exchanged for new, through the Kam Volga bank, and destroyed.

The attention of the medical authorities is now concentrated on Selitreno and the neighboring districts inhabited by the Khirgis.