

official return of the vote for one of the state senators, thereby causing his defeat and the seating of an opponent who was a friend of the Hill party. As a reward for this criminal action, he was given the nomination by the Tammany machine for judge of the state court of appeals. The action so incensed the more honorable members of the New York bar that at least two enormous popular gatherings have assembled for the purpose of protesting against such an indecent proceeding on the part of the demagogue leaders. The meetings were called and participated in by the most eminent Democratic lawyers in the state, and their zeal in the matter, together with the insulting and defiant attitude of Senator Hill in support of Maynard, have made of it one of the most important and interesting issues of the campaign.

If Maynard has actually been defeated, there are yet some chances that the politics of New York are not, as many believe, hopelessly debauched by the ring which makes no concealment of its intention to rule. When the politics of a state grows so corrupt that an audacious upstart can so far control conventions and elections as to parcel out the judgeships to his companions in intrigue as rewards for crime, what will become of the people's liberties?

LEASING OF SCHOOL LANDS.

A Davis county correspondent asks the following question:

If a man occupying school lands is notified by the county authorities that they are now prepared to lease said lands, what course can he legally take to protect himself and his interests?

The briefest answer to this question is that if the protection of himself and his interests requires that he remain on the land in question, the only thing for such occupant to do is to pay heed to the county authorities' notification and enter into a lease with them for the land. The law under which the counties are now leasing school lands was approved March 10th, 1892, and will be found in the session laws of the Territory for that year, beginning on page 94. Its provisions are very plain and simple, and, as the intent and purpose of the law are generally approved, most occupants of school lands have thought it proper to comply. We are not aware that the law has ever been tested as to its constitutionality, and we cannot advise our correspondent to undertake to test it—he would probably be defeated. An exorbitant or even a high rental has never been exacted to our knowledge; on the contrary, the usual price is merely nominal, this through a low appraisal of the lands, for the law is absolute in fixing the rental at five per cent of the appraised value. The only wise thing for our correspondent to do is to apply for a lease and otherwise comply with the rules set down. Either this, or move peaceably off the land without forcing the county authorities to take legal means to eject him.

Of course we assume that the lands referred to have all along been understood to be school sections. If a settler had located upon them before they were surveyed or before they were

set apart by territorial law and confirmed by U. S. statute as school land, other and more complex legal questions would be raised. But these need not be answered in this connection—the case in point is doubtless one in which they have no bearing.

PURIFYING THE PRESS.

The Society for the Purification of the Press is an association which has branches in various large cities of the Union, and which is holding a mass convention in San Francisco at 3 p.m. today, Nov. 6th. The purpose of the organization is stated to be the exclusion from the newspapers of the country of the revolting details of murder and of personal scandals which appear so frequently.

While the object is highly commendable, it is questionable whether much improvement can be made in the line in which the society's efforts are now directed. Respectable journals throughout the country now seek to avoid relating the revolting details of such events as those referred to, and give them as little notice as the occasion permits. But papers devoted to sensationalism will continue to publish nauseating particulars. They do this because it panders to the taste of the public. The remedy lies not in restricting the freedom of the press in its publications except when these under upon the immoral, but in removing the cause which brings forth the publication.

The business of newspapers is to publish the news. They must give a record of current events. If there would be fewer accounts of murders, it must be because less of these awful events occur, and this could be reached by a more thorough enforcement of the criminal law. The same rule will apply to other classes of objectionable publications. The remedy for the wrong complained of lies in good government and proper sentiment among the people. Then sensational newspapers will not be eagerly sought after and the disgusting details of crimes read with avidity. But to restrict by statute the recording of current events in a proper manner by public journals would be to destroy their efficacy as newspaper—would be, in other words, to take away their principal reason for existence.

GRADUATED LAND TAX.

The pinching of the government income, together with the slow but sure narrowing in of the resources of the tax-paying classes, have set a great many speculative brains at work on the question of national revenue. Henry George was early in the field with his proposition to exempt every form of property from taxation except land. By this he hoped to compass two of the most important achievements of modern public economy. The first was to secure a reliable and permanent source of revenue; the second, to accomplish in fact, by indirect and unobjectionable means, what Herbert Spencer propounded in a rather vague theory; namely, the vesting of all land titles in the nation instead of the citizen, thus wiping out

forever the practice of either hoarding or speculating in land.

Another revenue scheme which received a considerable impetus from the Butler campaign and which is now sharing public attention with the single tax theory, is known as the graduated income tax. By this nothing is to be subject to tax but income, and the rate per centum of tax is to be graduated from nothing in the case of the workingman's income up to an extreme rate in the case of the millionaire. The hope of this scheme is that it will wipe out million dollar incomes as effectually as the land tax would wipe out the million acre farms.

Now comes forward a scheme which is clearly an attempt to combine the practicable features of both the single tax and the income tax ideas. It is in substance to levy a graduated tax on land, by which small farms will be exempted and large holdings will be assessed at a regularly increased rate. It goes almost without saying that the principle involved in this proposition will appeal to a great many people who would reject the others as altogether impracticable. The injustice of permitting wealthy corporations, and in many cases foreigners who have never set foot upon American soil, to hold vast tracts of productive land for purely speculative purposes, while whole communities of industrious citizens are being buffeted about with nothing to eat and nothing to do, has been apparent for a long time. But there has never before appeared any remedy for the evil short of a revolution. Without formally endorsing this graduated land tax proposition we do not hesitate to say that it is something upon which thinkers can bestow a little attention with good chances of profit.

THERE ARE three million bachelors in the United States—men over thirty who have never married. The census of the old maids was more difficult to take, and the figures are not yet forthcoming.

THAT AMERICAN bay is not good for German cattle is a discovery quite in line with those that American pork is not good for German stomachs and that grapes on high trellises are not good for unathletic foxes.

NOW LET'S all put away politics for a year or two, and attend to the business of making Salt Lake City the best and happiest town, and Utah the greatest and most prosperous commonwealth, in the whole country!

SINCE THEY were made ambassadors instead of mere ministers, the chief business of some of America's foreign representatives is declining invitations to dinner.

NOTHING FURTHER as to the duration of the session of Congress need be said than that it was long enough to permit Senator Stewart to finish his speech.

WITH SOME men at this season the russet shoe indicates subservience to fashion's edicts. With others it merely emphasizes the prevailing autumn stringency in cash.

WHAT is properly called "bustle" in the real estate men of a city is that