

in no particular is the sincerity of the revival more clearly indicated than in the universally expressed desire that in the choice of officers and directors the only qualifications sought shall be energy, public spirit, willingness to consult and labor for the public good and general fitness for the important duties on hand. As already announced, the election, in which all members in good standing are requested to take part, occurs on Thursday evening next; and the officers to be elected are a president, two vice-presidents and eight directors.

The announcement is also made that the members and their friends will meet in the dance on the evening of the 18th inst., the Salt Lake Theater being the place where, and a large number of leading citizens being the persons under whose direction, the grand affair will take place. Socially it gives every promise of being one of the greatest successes of the season; and financially it can scarcely fail to be all that its promoters desire.

### OF INTEREST TO WARRIORS.

The New York *Sun* of recent date, quoting from the *Scientific American*, gives a long description of the new magazine rifle adopted for use in the United States service, speaking also of several of the models exhibited at the trials conducted by the army board, and a number of illustrations being employed to render more clear the distinctive points of the various weapons exhibited. The object sought was not only a rapid magazine arm but also an efficient single loader; and it may be supposed that in finally receiving the award of superiority the successful gun had to undergo the most severe tests as to its perfection on both the lines indicated.

The principal interest locally felt in the subject is that a Utah firm, Browning Brothers of Ogden and Salt Lake, are the inventors of one of the most marvelous specimens of light ordnance that the whole history of gunmaking discloses. They ironically call their weapon "the Peace-maker"—if it were spelled "piece-maker" the title would seem to be quite as appropriate. It has a firing capacity of sixteen shots per second and as the cartridges are conveyed to the breech by a continuous belt, the only limit to the number of shots before reloading, depends on the length of the belt. The almost incredible rapidity of fire, which would enable it by a slight lateral motion to mow down a whole line, or at closer range to cut across a plank as with a saw, is not its only merit; it is an effective single loader as well, and the mechanism throughout is simple and strong.

It would take an expert to describe the workings of this wonderful arm, and then an expert to understand the description. We lay no claim to that distinction; but we cannot suppress wonder that the owners of the patent—who are easily in the front rank of American gun inventors—should have failed to compete in the case above alluded to, or, if they did compete, that they should have failed to receive any mention at all where it is clear that numerous inferior weapons received learned and detailed description.

### THE COUNTY COURT MUDDLE.

If there is room for a legal controversy as to the status of the two amusing but rather undignified bodies calling themselves respectively "The County Court" and "The County Court," by all means the matter should be inquired into by a competent tribunal and determined in accordance with the law in the case. We confess that to us the technical points in the issue have seemed too trivial and absurd, and the whole contest too ridiculous, to be received by sensible people with other than a feeling of gentle disgust. So long as the respective performances furnished pleasure to their participants and did no harm to the public service, there was no very pronounced opposition to the continuance of the holiday diversion. But there is danger that if not now checked the conflict will lead to costly if not serious difficulties, the full effect of which may not be apparent at present. There is a general desire, therefore, that there be a truce to all further childishness, a speedy recognition of the legal body, and on its part an earnest beginning upon the weighty and responsible duties entrusted to it.

### GENEROUS MILLIONAIRES.

All rich men are not close-handed, nor do all of them confine their generosity to members of their own family, as was the case with the late Jay Gould. Philip D. Armour's magnificent gift of \$1,500,000 in one sum to Chicago is an example to the contrary, and Baron Hirsch, presumably the wealthiest man on earth, is exceedingly benevolent. But so far as heard from none of them equals or at all approaches Mr. John D. Rockefeller, the coal oil magnate, in open-handed generosity; his donations to one institution alone—the Chicago University—up to date are:

June 1, 1890, \$600,000 in cash.  
September, 1890, \$1,000,000 in cash.  
Feb. 23, 1892, \$1,000,000 in 5 per cent gold bonds.  
Dec. 23, 1892, \$1,000,000 in 5 per cent gold bonds.

Making a total of \$3,600,000. This is "doing the grand" truly; and who shall say he will not be just as well off by reason of it, if not a little better, when his final accounts are made up?

### RENDER CÆSAR'S THINGS TO CÆSAR

Not a little sarcasm is indulged in at the expense of the nimble-fingered, neatly pompadoured, immaculately clothed bank teller, whose vocation implies a scornful disdain of the glut of gold and greenbacks in which he revels, yet whose occasional festiveness as indicated in the tour to Canada comes in for its full share of pharisaical taunt and oracular criticism. A good word now and then in his behalf is received therefore with considerable relish; and a recent plea for him, put forth in connection with that mysterious account known as the "conscience fund," is given publicly with pleasure. The "conscience fund," as most readers are aware, consists of contributions

received at the treasury department from parties, usually anonymous, who are moved to remit amounts which at some previous time they had unjustly received or had withheld from the national strong-box. The length of time which they permit themselves to enjoy the ill-gotten means varies presumably according to the moral activity of the conscience involved. It is needless to say that some of the greatest frauds are not even tardily rectified in this manner; while on the other hand there are doubtless many cases where no fraud whatever has been committed or profited by, and yet a reimbursement for an imaginary wrong is determined upon. How much less this fund is than it ought to be, and how much of it ought in justice to be returned to the contributors, cannot for obvious reasons be determined; it is enough for all ordinary purposes to know that it has assumed vast proportions, and is being steadily augmented all the time.

The plea for the bank-teller, after this much of introduction, may now be presented. It is a theory advanced by an officer of the cash room of the United States treasury, and is referred to by the *American Banker* in a late issue. He says he has no doubt that a large portion of the money returned to the treasury, on the ground that it was not rightly the property of the sender, is due to overpayments by tellers. He thinks it right that the public generally should be informed that all mistakes made by government and bank tellers in the way of overpayments, result in a corresponding loss in their compensation and in no wise affects the resources of their employers. He gives many instances where government tellers had inadvertently paid out more than was called for and had been compelled to rectify the mistake out of their own pockets. And he mentions all this solely in the interest of the tellers, in the hope that it will be remembered by all persons whose conscience troubles them concerning money received in this way, so that it may be returned to the officer who has been compelled to pay for his own carelessness, rather than to the government or bank which has been already reimbursed for the error.

### RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION LAST YEAR

The past year was marked with such a palpable quietude in trade all along the line—amounting to nearly stagnation in places—that the impression prevails that inaction existed in every department, that railway building, for instance, was at a complete standstill. This is a case in which the appearance and the reality are widely at variance. Notwithstanding the falling off in activity in commercial circles, upon which of course the railways largely if not principally rely, it is a fact that over 4000 miles of track were laid in the United States last year, while grading was completed for the greater part of 1000 more. This does not relate to new or to grand trunk lines, but to extensions and feeders. The routes surveyed, and upon many of which work has been done to some extent, number many thousands more, but these need not at present be counted.