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BY
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SATURDAY, JAN. 24, 1891.

Abolish the Grand Jury.

A bill has been introduced in the present legislature favoring the abolition of the Grand Jury, and several very able speeches the tenor of which were in that direction have been made.

For the present however, we believe, the grand jury system will continue.

It is, however, an entirely one-sided affair and has often worked great injury to upright and well meaning citizens.

This matter of a secret council of six men consulting

against you to put you in trouble, humiliation and expense, and often upon the representations

of some enemy, without giving you an opportunity to be heard in your own behalf, looks unfair and is unfair, yet it would seem impossible to do without some such system to head off rogues and rascals who do violate the law.

If the actions of the Grand Jury are open to the world at all time, it would give law violators every opportunity to escape the punishment they deserve.

Now if some one can devise some medium by which the difficulty would be avoided then it may do to safely abolish the grand jury system at present in operation in this country.

It will not do to abolish it until something fully as feasible is originated to take its place.

In many instances it has been the means of greatly injuring innocent men; again it has been the cause of bringing scoundrels to justice.

PERSONS scanning the proceedings of the legislature as daily published in the Indianapolis papers will notice the same costly and nonsensical desire among a few members to achieve a little notoriety by talking upon every subject that comes up. They are ambitious to see their names in print and to be considered among the prominent men of the state. Their talk in too many cases amounts to nothing, besides is expensive to the tax-payers of the state who want laws enacted where needed and not the positions occupied by the men as reporters for the frequent discharges of natural gas. Messrs. Magee, Grose, Kelley and Mount, appear to be among those who consider it absolutely necessary that they should air their rhetoric on every occasion; that the state could not get along without their jabber every day. Now these men are really all very small potatoes and few in a hill. At home they are not half as important as in the halls of the senate and house, where they seem to be seen much in love with the sounds of their own voices, as to require the sounds to be repeated of em. There is entirely too much talk and not enough work thus far shown in the present legislature. Near one-half the session has passed and we fail as yet to see any important service rendered for the benefit of the people. It is not time to work more and talk less?

NO FREE COINAGE.

The bill so long before congress known as the free coinage bill is undoubtedly laid on the shelf for this congress at least. The committee to which it was referred, and which has

two democrats upon it, oppose it, and will report that it not pass.

It has been strongly favored by many republican as well as democratic senators and as strongly opposed by members of congress in both parties.

Whether it is the correct thing we are not prepared to say.

The monetary question in this country is one requiring much thought as to what may be best.

The defeat of the free coinage bill, it will be argued, is in the interest of money sharks and usurers of the east while on the other hand many will claim that our money will be depreciated by unlimited coinage of it.

There seems to be a general understanding that President Harrison will veto the bill.

Everything with him now would seem to be a determination to push the force or election bill through.

Several republican western senators who all along desired the passage of the silver bill, will probably, from spite, oppose the force bill, on the principle that what is

suicid for the goose is suac for the gander, and while Harrison may carry his plans through in one way may loose in another.

Farm Mortgage Facts.

While Thomas G. Shearman of New York has been demonstrating beyond peradventure that one-half of all the wealth in the United States is owned by 40,000 families, and that three-fourths of it is in the hands of fewer than 250,000 families, the U. S. census bureau is preparing the other terrible and startling side of the picture, in showing the wide prevalence of farm mortgages. From a hasty survey it is found that the schedules will show close to eight and a half millions of farm mortgages for the decade. There is no general data with which to compare these figures, mortgage statistic never before having been taken in the census work, but it is shown that there has been a steady increase of mortgages since 1880 and that an overwhelming majority of them have fallen within the last five years. As was anticipated, this indebtedness is found principally in the west and northwest, Kansas, Illinois and Missouri taking the lead, but to the astonishment of the officials here, a comparison of the schedules exhibits Cook county, Illinois, as the most heavily mortgaged county in the union.

Brush, of Crawfordsville, member of the

Republican State Central Committee, like the poet Byron, woke up the other morning to find himself famous—not because he had written a poem, but because he had told the truth about how Indiana was carried by the Republicans two years ago with boulds distributed where it would do the most good. They pretend to want to kick him out of the party—just for this little. But Brush won't be kicked.—Indiana People.

ONE of the Honorable Senators has three of

his family feeding at the State crib—jointly drawing over eighteen dollars a week. The

family has no cat, or it, too, would be a stipendary and draw its per diem.

SOME men as they grow older are satisfied

with trifles. Horey, governor of Indiana, was quite jubilant over his nomination by a republican caucus for U. S. Senator, although his chances for ever serving in the place are about as sure as would be a passport to him to

Paradise.

REPRESENTATIVE BEASLEY, of Sullivan county, has introduced a bill in the legislature which abolishes the office of township assessor, and requires the assessor to be elected for the whole county. They are to select their deputies, subject to the approval of the county commissioners, and are required to choose for the different classes of property to be assessed men who have a practical knowledge of the several classes. For instance, a farmer must be chosen to assess agricultural property. The assessors are required to assess all property at its face value. All notes must be stamped, and unless so stamped, the owner or holder cannot collect them. The salary of assessor is fixed \$5 a day, the work not to occupy more than sixty days each year. Provision is also made by which eight hours' service shall constitute a day's work, and by a system of reports to the County Commissioners it can be ascertained whether an assessor has put in his full day. The bill is now being considered by the ways and means committee.

GOVERNOR HOVRY estimates the amount required to meet the expense of the state for the year 1891 at \$2,000,000. The total net receipts from all sources of taxation for the present fiscal year were \$1,448,45. This plainly shows that taxation will have to be increased. The question for the legislature to solve is from what source the additional revenues may be obtained. The tax levy for state purpose could be largely increased without becoming burdensome, but it is likely that the legislature, guided by the experience of other states, will levy a tax on corporations and leave the present levy as it is—12 cents on the \$100. The state of New Jersey collects from corporations annually for state purposes over a million dollars. New York and Connecticut also secure nearly all the revenues required to maintain their states by taxing corporations. Indiana has been very generous toward corporations.

A BILL allowing the people to elect the county school examiner at the regular election instead of the township trustees, as now, has been introduced in the legislature, the member offering it saying that it was aimed to do away as much as possible with any political feature attaching to the position. This change would be doing away with politics in that office with a vengeance. Educational qualifications would be much less thought of than now. His political influence and ability to manipulate this or that faction would be much more looked after than any scholastic advantages he might have. No, let the office remain just as it is now. We believe trustees in general can make better selections for school examiner than the majority of the voters, from the fact that in their own offices they have more occasion to know of the fitness of a candidate, and the qualifications necessary for him to successfully fill the position.

Vick's Floral Guide for 1891. No lover of fine plants or garden can afford to be without a copy. It is an elegant book of over 100 pages 8½ x 10½ inches, beautiful colored illustrations of Sunrise Amaranthus, Hydrangeas and Potatoes. Instructions for planting, cultivating, etc. Full list of everything that can be desired in the way of vegetable and flower seeds, plants, bulbs, etc. Also full particulars regarding the cash prizes of \$1,000 and \$200. The novelties have been tested and found worthy of cultivation. We hope it will bring good luck to see the Nellie Lewis Carnation and taste the Grand Rapids Lettuce. It costs nothing because the 10 cents you send for it can be deducted from the first order forwarded. We advise our friends to secure a copy of James Vick's Seedsman, Rochester, N. Y.

FOR many years past most legislatures have considered it absolutely necessary to send millionaires to the United States Senate. We are glad to know that Indiana legislators have never done this, and we trust that the matter of wealth alone is considered the main requisite they never will. Neither Morton, McDonald, Harrison, Lane, Voorhees, Turpie or any who have ever represented Indiana in the senate, have been even the tenth part of a millionaire in wealth, and yet they very generally have occupied the high position given them with credit to the people and themselves. Observation shows that the most intellectual and laborious senators are not generally the millionaires. The wealthy generally represent private or individual interests and apparently have nothing in common with the poorer or middle classes.

AN attempt is to be made through the State legislature to re-organize the state Fair Association. There is perhaps no necessity for this whatever. The annual exhibition given by the State Association has always been well managed and almost always successful. The movement toward the change is probably in the interest of Indianapolis parties who have generally imagined they owned the Fair, or that it was to be run strictly for their benefit. They in fact could not run a chicken show with success let alone a State Fair. The "exposition" feature of the State Fair years ago was as afar of their own creation, was managed mostly by Indianapolis people, and came near bankrupting every one having anything to do with it. The legislature in this matter will do right to let well enough alone.

THE London Times says that the exportation of pocket cutlery to the United States has been seriously interfered with by the McKinley bill, which is, perhaps, a good thing so far as the American makers of cutlery are concerned, but the Times also says that the English manufacturers are proposing to cut down wages. This will effect us two ways. These English workmen are large consumers of American products, and the reduction of their wages will be the reverse of a benefit to the American farmers. If a few of these English workmen come to this country the American cutlery manufacturers will share wages down, and the American workman will get beautifully left.

MICHENER, late state's attorney, has gone to Washington City to form a partnership with Dudley in the pension business. The business card of the firm should read: Dudley & Michener, pension agents and managers of blocks-of-five election systems. Business solicited and satisfaction guaranteed.

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