The Easton Gazette,

WILSON M. TYLOR & BRO., Editors.

S. E. SHANNAHAN, Local Reporter; Foreman.

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Easton, Md., February 29th, 1896.

MORTGAGE TAXATION.

THIS week the taxation of mortgages has occupied the attention of our solons at Annapolis to considerable extent. Like all such questions of general interest much of merit may be said fairly in behalf of each side, but the safest plan by which a proper conclusion should be arrived at and adopted, is to carefully consider the effect of similar legislation in the past. In Maryland, the past experience under this system was productioe of distressing results and the taxation of mortgages was abolished. If the conditions existing at that time are at all similar to the present, a return to this method of raising revenue will be equally embarrassing to every branch of trade, and especially to those engaged in agricultural pursuits.

By some who are opposed to such taxation it is claimed that the Legislature has no constitutional *power* to tax mortgages. But this cannot be successfully maintained. In the case of *Appeal Tax Court vs. Rice*, 50 Md., 319, the Court of Appeals said: "As to the expediency of laws imposing such taxation, the Legislature are the exclusive judges. The courts can only determine the question of *power*, and as to this we entertain no doubt. In our opinion the 15th article of the Declaration of Rights does not prohibit the legislature from taxing to the mortgagees investments in mortgages, notwithstanding the property mortgaged to secure such investments may be taxable and taxed to the mortgagors."

While the Legislature, however, is in one sense, the exclusive judge as to the *expediency* of laws imposing such taxation, the people of the State, who are the constituencies of the Legislature, are, in another and broader sense, the proper judges; and the wisdom of snch taxation ought to be carefully considered before it is undertaken.

Mortgages were taxed in Maryland for over a quarter of a century—from 1841 to 1867. This liability of mortgages to bring taxed in the hands of the mortgagees made it very difficult to obtain a loan on mortgage security. Thereupon, almost by common consent, it was provided by the act of 1847, chap. 255, that "the mortgagor in any deed of , in addition to the usual cov- y covenant for the payment ssessments, public dues or or to be levied, by law debt created or secured age." This provision, ou ed to at that time by both lenders and borrowers, imposed, nevertheless, heavy burdens upon borrowers, who in any active community must of necessity be a numerous class. It was, of course, always included in all mortgages made thereafter.

The burden was lightened to some extent by the act of 1867, chap. 341, which exempted from taxation all mortgages for purchase money in the hands of the original mortgagee or his personal representatives. It was entirely lifted by the act of 1874, chap. 394, which provided that no tax of any kind should be assessed, levied or collected upon any mortgage or bill of sale upon any property in this State. The provision thus made was substantially embodied in the general assessment act of 1876, chap. 260 sec 1, and has remained (to the advantage of the people of this State) the rule of taxation upon that subject.

That rule cannot be now modified without working injustice and perhaps ruin, to many citizens of this State. Although taxes upon mortgages on property in this State and on mortgage debts have been abolished since 1874, every existing mortgage no doubt contains a covenant that the mortgagor shall pay the taxes on the mortgaged property and *on the debt secured by such mortgage*. Taxation of mortgages today would not, therefore, impose a burden on existing mortgagees, but would simply add to the burdens of taxation already imposed upon *mortgagors*. There are no statistics within reach showing the aggregate indebtedness upon mortgage of citizens of each county, as well as such of Baltimore city. Every county member and every city member of the Maryland Legislature has abundant knowledge of the fact that this indebtedness is great. When we consider the small profits of borrowers engaged in agriculture or trade, is it right to impose upon such borrowers who have mortgaged their property upon the faith of existing laws, additional charges, which must take from them the last remnant of profit, and, in effect, disable them from meeting their liabilities? The inevitable results of taxing mortgages and imposing this additional burden upon mortgagors must be a failure of many mortgagors to comply with their obligations, and the foreclosure of the mortgages upon their property and widespread financial difficulties is sure to follow.

These certain results cannot be remedied by confining the operation of the proposed law to new mortgages. The new mortgages would be few in number. Municipal and county taxes are so high that capital will seek investments, the income of which is not liable to so large a deduction. The effect will be that the energy and industry of the farmer and trader will be hampered by his inability to borrow the money required to promote his enterprises.

The taxation of mortgages and mortgage debts would produce another extraordinary effect. It is quite certain that a law taxing these properties would reach a mortgagee who is a resident of this State. But such a provision would not reach a non-resident mortgagee. The mortgage which he might hold would be his personal property. It would follow his person, and would probably be taxable, whatever declaration the General Assembly might make upon the subject, only in the State in which the mortgagee resided. In such case the lender residing in another State would have the advantage over the lender residing in this State," and there would be no opportunity for that free competition of capital which has to-day resulted in a low rate of mortgage interest in this State.

It may not be satisfactory to know that many holders of mortgages practically escape all taxation. It may not be satisfactory to this same class of persons to know that holders of United States bonds and holders of certain classes of our State securities enjoy the same immunities. It is well, however, to remember the advantages which the government, the State and the public incidentally derive from the immunity which individual investors have thus secured, and to be content with the general result.

From these considerations it would appear that the safer plan is to let well enough alone. The Maryland Legislature should remember that capital can look out and care for itself. The man who needs capital can't—unless he can get it. Past experience in this State, as well as the experience of other States, would suggest that experiments having a tendency to drive capital away was sure so have a crushing effect upon all kinds of business and commercial activity. Do we want such a state to exist in Maryland? The answer rests with the gentlemen who are at present making laws at Annapolis.

UNDER the caption of "Partisan Politics," the editor of the *Star-Democrat* in his last issue discolors the truth in several particulars, and viewed through his warped lenses the achromatic aberration is pronounced.

He speaks of the dialogue between Mr. Markell, the Republican *chairman* of the *committee*, and our neighbor from Caroline, Mr. Lewis, "the democratic leader of the House," in their positions upon the Calvert election contest, as follows:

In the course of his remarks Mr. Lewis was asked by Mr. Markell, the Republican chairman of the committee, if he had not made up his mind now he intended to vote on the report before he commenced to speak. To this Mr. Lewis responded, "I will answer that by asking another. Did not you make up your mind how you were going to vote before the report was written?" To this Mr. Markell made no reply. He saw that the partisan course of the committee of which he was chairman was known and understood by all, and it was useless to deny it further.

Now, as matter of fact, Mr. Markell did make a reply, and it was such "the Democratic leader" dropped into his seat amid the smiles of the crowd. Mr. Markell replied—"Certainly, I knew how I intended to vote. Does the gentlemen from Caroline think I could have written the report *without knowing what action I and my colleagues proposed taking*?"

The Republicans had decided from the testimony, (and it was very clear as to the disfranchising of some 200 Republican voters in Calvert) to unseat the sitting members from Calvert. How could they vote otherwise if they had formed a conclusion from the testimony and signed the report?

THE Easton GAZETTE was so changed in appearance when it reached our exchange table this week, that we scarcely recognized our old friend in its new clothes. It is now a six column folio and much handier. We rather like the change and consider it a great improvement over the old folio form; besides it is more in keeping with metropolitan journalism. The GAZETTE is an excellent county paper and is always spicy and interesting. Brother Tylor is a good newspaper man and knowns how to get up a good, newsy paper.—*Annapolis Capital.*

Bro. Abbott always did know how to say the right thing in the right time and in the right place. Thanks.

WE are slowly getting shaped up, and present a brand new, unadorned, head. Although it is "simple" we hope our readers will find it full of practical and unadulterated sense.

THE "got left" partisan papers are full of vituperation against the administration of Maryland affairs. It would be more becoming in them to allow the dog to wag its tail, rarher than to bark because the tail can't wag the dog.

THE most horrible sensatton of the week in this state, and perhaps in the country, was the Baltimore holocaust, in which Mr. Armiger, a prominent jeweler, and several others lost their lives.

THANKS to our friends and correspondents for the many flattering and complimentary words for the prosperity of the GAZETTE. We cannot give all space in the paper but assure each one we will keep this old landmark in the line of progress.

LITTLE NEWS NOTES.

The News of a Week Told in Brief Form. Local News Field.

Sheriff Seymour is summoning the jurors for the May term of court.

A large band of gypsies passed through Easton on Wednesday. There were about fifty in the band.

William W. Oliver, of Newark, N. J., has bought a farm of forty acres in Bayside from Joseph Horney for $1,100. Mr. Oliver will make it his home.

Thomas O. Cook has sold out his livery and 'bus business to J. W. Seemer & Son, and will remove to Missouri. The Messrs. Seemer will conduct the stables.

Judge Russum will convene court next Saturday, the 7th. It will be remembered that court was adjourned some weeks ago to meet again next Saturday.

William Cooper, well known here, died at his residence in Philadelphia Monday evening. He was at one time in the brick business here with Joseph H. White.

Superintendent A. J. Benjamin, of the B., C. & A. Railway Co., has offered a reward of $100 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who tampered with the Wigwam side track switch, causing the train to run off on New Year's Day.

A petition was taken to the residents of Railroad Avenue on Wednesday advocating changing the name of the avenue to Maryland Avenue. It is now Goldsborough Street as far as the Deanery of Trinity Cathedral, and from thence to the town limits, Railroad Avenue.

William C. Meintzer, who has been running a job printing office in Easton, has formed a copartnership with N. C. Cutting at Middletown, Va. and the new firm announces their intention of publishing a live wide awake weekly. They will also conduct a job office in Middletown.

On Monday last some of the members of Tred Avon social Fox Huting club started out for a little skirmish in Miles River Neck. The result of the day's work was one dead fox and four run to earth. The fox caught started across an open field while he was fresh, and the dogs being fresh also made the prettiest race that has been seen in these parts for many a day.

The people of Matthews will have to come to Easton hereafter for their mail. Beginning today, Leap Year Day, the business of that office will be transferred to Easton, and all mail for Matthews will be delivered at Easton. This will be a great inconvenience to the people of Matthews, but will increase the business of the Easton postoffice. Easton led all other peninsula towns last year in the increase of postoffice revenues.

Go see the Minstrels at Music Hall on Wednesday night.

Prizes to Be Given Away.

The publishers of *The Happy Home* will give an elegant fine-toned Upright Piano valued at $350, absolutely free to the person sending them the largest list of words constructed from the letters contained in the name of the well-known publication,

"*The Happy Home.*"

Additional presents, consisting of Bibycle, Gold Watches, Silver Watches, Sewing Machines, Music Boxes, Silk Dresses, China Dinner Sets and many valuable and useful articles, will also be awarded in order of merit, and every person sending not less than ten words will receive a present of value. Use either plural or singular words, but not both and use no letter in the same word more times than it appears in the text, "THE HAPPY HOME."

This is a popular plan of introducing into new homes this popular publication, which has in its three years existence received a happy welcome in many thousands of homes

As the object in giving away these valuable presents is to advertise and attract attention to the *Happy Home* which is a handsomely illustrated monthly publication devoted to Literature. Fashion, Stories and Art, every list of words must be accompanied with three two-cent stamps (six cents) for a trial copy of this favorite home journal containing full particulars, list of presents, and rules regarding contest. You may receive a valuable award for your trouble. Address THE HAPPY HOME, 360 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill. 29seb-3t

First Flags Floated.

Tunis Mills, Feb. 27, '96. Mr. Editor:—Tunis Mills celebrated the 22nd, Washington's Birthday, by floating three large American flags over the school house, which is the only school that has a flag in the county.—P.

Harder to Rub it in.

The country newspaper in days gone by has been a free horse well nigh ridden to death. Launched, usually, while a town is still in the throes of birth, it is not only expected to boom the town as a whole but the business of each individual citizen. It is expected to subist on unpaid subscriptions and promises of future advertising. The advertising agent who has patent medicine ads. to distribute bluffs the poor country newspaper follow into accepting any rate offered, while the sewing machine company and its ilk offer to give him a sewing machine for something like a hundred dollars' worth of advertising and $10 in cash the machine costing the maker possibly $5. In the days gone by the country newspaper grabbed all such business, but it is fast getting harder to rub it on the country press.—*The Trade Press.*

Cures; absolute, permanent cures have given Hood,s Sarsaparilla the largest sales in the world and the first place among medicines.

Minstrels Wednesday night.

They May Have Seen Bettor Days.

One of our country editors, in alluding to a rival town says that "it takes several of their pigs to pull up a blade of grass; and they are so poor that the foremost pig seizes the spear in his mouth, the balance having taken each other by the tail, when they all give a pull, a strong pull, and a pull together—and if it breaks—the whole gang tumble to the ground for want of sufficient strength to support themselves. It takes three or four to make a shadow."

Another exchange commenting on this says: "There are a number of pigs of this stripe in this town, and some of them are so lazy that their shadows won't follow them."

We are glad our town is not haunted with any lazy pigs, but Dame Rumor says that we have a fisherman so lazy that fish must be chloroformed before ae can catch them.—*Ex.*

Piles Itching Piles!

Symptoms—Moisture, intense itching and stinging, most at night, worse by scratching. If allowed to continue tumors form which often bleed and ulcerate, becoming very sore. Swayne's Ointment stops the itching and bleeding, heals ulceration, and in most cases removes the tumors. At all druggists, or by mail for 50 cents. Dr. Swayne & Son, Philadelphia. 6-22-1y



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From High Scoring Poultry.

Barred Plymouth Rocks	$1.50	for 13
White " "	1.50	" 13
Buff Leghorns	1.50	" 13
Brown "	1.25	" 13
Rose Comb White Leghorns	1.25	" 13
Black-Breasted Games	1.25	" 13
White Pekin Ducks	1.26	" 12

Anyone sending an order for 2 Sittings or more may deduct 25 cents from each Sitting.

G. A. PHILLIPS,
feb29-2m Easton, Maryland.

Sallow complexion,

dull yellow eyes, offensive breath, and skin covered with pimples and eruptions are caused by indigestion. Bright eyes, a clear skin, and rosy cheeks follow the use of Dr. Deane's Dyspepsia Pills. White wrapper if constipated, yellow if bowels are loose.

Dr. Deane's Dyspepsia Pills.

Eat good food and avoid all pills and other medicines which simply act on the bowels.

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NOTICE.

OFFICE OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
Easton, Md., Jan. 7th, 1896.

Notice is h reby given, that the County Commissioners for Talbot County will sit to hear applications for TRANSFERS AND ABATEMENTS on the assessment books every Friday, beginning with Friday, Jan. 17th and ending with Friday, March 20 1896.

These meetings of the Board on the days above named are for the sole purpose of hearing applications for Transfers and Abatemen's, and all persons having business of this character are requested to bring it forward on these special Fridays, and not on the regu'ar Tuesday meetings.

By order of the Board,
1-11t14-3 CHAS. F. STEWART, Clerk.

CHARLES E. SHANNAHAN,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
102 E. LEXINGTON STREET,
Near St. Paul St., opposite northwest corner Court House Square, first floor front,
BALTIMORE, MD.

Practices in all the Courts—Federal, City, County and the court of appeals.
Will attend promptly to all business entrusted to him either in County or City.

FOR SALE.

I have a good sound horse, suitable for general work and driving, for sale. Apply to
THOMAS FITZGERALD,
2 15 3t* "The Rest."

Wheeler Transportation LINE.

Daily Steamers for Great Choptank, Trappe and Tuckahoe Rivers.

On and after March 29th, 1895, Steamers will leave Pier 5 Light Street Wharf, daily except Sundays, at 7 p. m.

For Oxford, Trappe, Cambridge, Chancellors', Clark's, Medford's, [Choptank], Lloyd's Dover Bridge, Kingston, McCarty's, Ganey's Downes', Towers', Williston, Reese's, Coward's, Covey's, Hillsboro and Queen Anne.

Returning will leave Hillsboro, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 a. m.; Covey's, 10.30 a. m.; Coward's, 11 a. m.; Williston, 1 p. m.; Ganey's, 1.30 p. m.; McCarty's, 2 p. m.; Kingston, 2.15 p. m.; Dover Bridge, 2.30 p. m.; Medford's [Choptank], 4 p. m.; Clark's, 4.20 p. m.; Cambridge, 6 p. m.; Trappe, 7.30 p. m.; Oxford, 9 p. m. Stopping at intermediate landings, arriving in Baltimore early the following mornings.

Steamer leaves Hillsboro, Saturdays, at 4 p. m., for Williston, leaving Williston, Sundays at 7 a. m. Medford's, 10 a. m. Cambridge, 11.30 a. m., Trappe, 12.30 p. m., Oxford, 1.30 p. m., arriving in Baltimore at 8 p. m., Sundays.

☞ Freight received until 6 p. m. daily, for all landings. E. E. WHEELER, Agent,
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In 1896 you should ride the Famous Rambler, if you wish to be "in the Regiment" with your friends. Have you seen the

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A $100 Bike for $75.00. The wheel is full of merit from top to bottom. Sizes to suit boys and Girls now on hand. The Crescent keeps company only with the best of wheels. Behold

The Ideal, The Stormer and The Shannahan Special.

These are not "flirts" with coy and uncertain ways, but partake of staid and lasting qualities, reciprocating to the fullest degree every bit of trust, affection and confidence placed in them. Ask for an 1896 Catalogue. We have great Bargains for the Bicycle buyer of 1896.

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Having recently bought a new line of tools we now have the most complete repair department on the Eastern Shore. Bring along your sick wheel and we will fix it up at small cost.

Choice Western Clover Seed, Timothy Seed, Kentucky Blue Grass, Pennsylvania Seed Oats, Orchard Grass.

A full stock of New and Fresh Seeds on hand. These Seeds have just arrived and are of beautiful quality. The prices are down to rock bottom and now is the time to save money. We invite closest inspection.

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NO DULL MONTH WITH US.

We propose to keep business alive during February by knocking the bottom out of prices.

All our fall and winter stock of Dry Goods, and Millinery will be sold regardless of cost.

We have just received the handsomest line of Cambric Swiss and Nansook Edgings and Insertions ever shown in Easton and prices the lowest.

A new lot of Percals, all the new Spring Styles.



Have you tried the Feather-Bone Corset.

If not, try them they are sure to please.

Satisfaction guaranteed.



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