The New Orleans Bee.

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NEW ORLEANS DAILY BEE
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TERMS OF THE BEE.
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The Semi-Weekly is published every Tuesday and Saturday. Subscription, $5 per annum, invariably in advance.
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Semi-Weekly Bee.
TERMS—PER YEAR.....$5.
NEW ORLEANS:
TUESDAY MORNING, FEB. 14, 1871.

Amusements This Evening.

OPERA HOUSE—"Faust."
ST. CHARLES THEATRE—"Fire Fly."
ACADEMY OF MUSIC—Ostes' Comic Opera Company.
CRESCENT CITY MUSEUM—Nos. 42 and 44 St. Charles street.

Changing the Laws of Succession.

It seems that the Senate of the State have passed a bill changing a law of succession which has stood on the statute book ever since the settlement of the State.

The bill provides that where a husband or wife dies without a will and leaving no children, the survivor shall be entitled to take all the property of the decedent. This cuts out father and mother, grandfather and grandmother, hitherto forced heirs of their children, and brothers and sisters, and nephews and nieces, hitherto collateral heirs. It also cuts out grandchildren, who are also forced heirs, under the Civil Code.

We should like to ask who called for this change in the succession law of Louisiana. A bull in a china shop could not do half the mischief that these kinky-headed legislators of ours are doing in repealing laws which have commended themselves to the people of the State from the time of its first settlement until now—laws which are eminently just and satisfactory to the whole population. Pray, Messrs. Senators and Representatives, meddle with what your limited intellects enable you to comprehend, and leave untouched laws which have been consecrated by time and regulated the transmission of property in Louisiana for nearly two centuries.

Opposition to the Annexation of Jefferson Parish.

A meeting of the citizens of Jefferson parish (east bank) was held on Sunday last at the town of Kenner, for the purpose of protesting against the proposed annexation of a part of Jefferson parish to that of Orleans.

Resolutions were adopted embodying the views of the meeting on this subject. It is contended that the proposed annexation would be a violation of the Constitution of the State, and that the inhabitants of the territory contemplated to be annexed have a right to be consulted before the law be passed.

A committee was appointed for the purpose of presenting the resolutions to the Senator and Representatives from Jefferson parish, and requesting their support of the same before the Legislature.

The Confiscation Act of Congress.

On Tuesday last two cases were argued and submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States, involving the validity of sales of property belonging to parties adhering to the Confederate States, under the confiscation act of Congress of July, 1862. The objections to those proceedings are thus stated by the Washington *Patriot* in its court report. Hon. Caleb Cushing maintained the unconstitutionality of the confiscation act as counsel for Dr. Garnett.

Dr. Garnett against the United States, (two cases,) from the Supreme Court of the District, and McVeigh against the United States, from the Circuit Court from the District of Virginia. Cases on confiscation. The decrees sustained the sale, and the claimants insist here, on appeal, that the act was intended to punish treason, and that such being the case, the trial of the offender upon the charge of crime by a proceeding against his property, is unconstitutional. The offence of treason can be tried only as prescribed in the Constitution, by jury, and there can be no conviction then without the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or upon confession in open court. The punishment of crime by proceedings against his property and by default in such proceedings no longer and franchises as may hereafter be granted to or conferred upon said company, by the government of the United States or of any of the States interested in the construction and maintenance of levees on the banks of the River Mississippi, or its tributaries or outlets, and that it may consolidate with any company chartered in any of the said States for the same or like purposes."

The capital stock of the company is to be $20,000,000.

It is authorized to borrow money, not exceeding in amount its capital stock.

No stockholder shall be liable for the debts or losses of the company, beyond the amount due on his subscription.

The company shall go into operation as soon as stock to the amount of $1,000,000 has been subscribed.

"For the purpose of providing and maintaining proper and efficient levees through-out all the portions of the State watered by the Mississippi River and the rivers, streams and bayous running into and from the same, to shelter the inhabitants from inundation, the State of Louisiana contracts with said company."

The location and dimensions of all levees shall be determined by a Board of Engineers, one to be appointed by the Governor, one by the company and one by the United States, but the failure of the federal government to appoint one shall not invalidate the agreement. Two of the board to be a quorum.

The company, to have authority to construct, establish, own and operate all lines of telegraph, railroads, steamboats and such railroad and steamboat machinery as may contribute to the objects of the company.

To take charge of, manage and control such levees in Arkansas as may be necessary to protect lands in Louisiana from overflow.

To have sole and exclusive management and control of the levees of the State for the period of twenty one years, with the right and power to use and occupy a sufficiency of land, without compensation, to the owner or occupant for levee purposes.

To construct not less than 3,000,000 cubic yards of levee per year until the levees are complete, the cost to be estimated at 50 cents per cubic yard.

The cost of the entire levee system is to be computed at that rate, and a tax amounting to one-tenth of said cost is to be levied annually upon all parts of the State; and the State Treasurer shall pay out the same to the company, upon the order of its president.

Besides which tax of one-fifth of one per cent., upon all the taxable property of the State, is to be collected annually for 21 years, a like tax which shall be paid over to the company upon the order of its President.

The company is authorized to transfer or mortgage either or both of these funds in advance of collection of the tax and the State is bound to pay principal and interest of the mortgage bonds, and to pay whatever may be transfered not as a pledge. The revenues accruing from the levee taxes are pledged for the payment of principal and interest of the bonds the company may issue. The bonds are to be registered by the State Treasurer as they are issued.

As no tax for the company can be levied and collected during the present year the Governor is to issue the bonds of the State to the company for one million of dollars as interest upon the negotiated bonds, which is to be the quarter of the subsidy for 1871, and to pay the principal and interest of said bonds as matured the same will be a first lien on the dollar that is collected upon all real and personal property in the State.

Any member of the State Governor, Auditor or Treasurer, failing to do for the Company what the bill requires, upon application to the proper court of competent jurisdiction, the judge thereof shall issue a mandamus to compel such officer to do what is required, or he may in his discretion, "appoint a commissioner with full power to do and perform such matter or thing and to comply with the requirements of such portion of the act; and the actions and proceeding of said commissioner in the premises shall have the same validity and force as if they had been done and performed by said officers."

A vote from the Governor of a bill to incorporate the Louisiana Levee and Company and Loans and Saving Bank came up.

Mr. Faulkner moved that the bill pass, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor, and it was so passed. Yeas 28, nays 2.

The House soon after adjourned.

Wendell Phillips, in his discussion of Wendell Phillips, in his discussion of [illegible] recently, says: "But, of course, [illegible] cannot be [illegible] republicans in [illegible] of [illegible] Democrats. Indeed, the Democratic party [illegible] Democrat a replacement at [illegible] Democrat maybe cast [illegible] the removal of [illegible] by a vote [illegible] Democrat