THE XVIIITH DISTRICT.

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN SURE.

RENSSELAER AND WASHINGTON STRONG FOR THE TARIFF.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

Troy, N. Y., Oct. 30.—It looks as though Edward Murphy, jr., of this city, the chairman of the Democratic State Committee, were going to have a mortifying experience, as it were, on his own political doorstep. A year ago his management led to the election of a Democrat as State Senator from a Senate district composed of the counties of Rensselaer and Washington. Moreover, this Democrat, Michael F. Collins, had the large majority of 3,582 votes. Yet, notwithstanding this victory, Mr. Murphy now apparently will see this same henchman of his, Collins, defeated when a candidate for Congress in a Congressional district made up of the same counties of Washington and Rensselaer.

Perhaps Mr. Murphy will plead that this time Mr. Collins ran against a stronger Republican candidate. John A. Quackenbush, of Schaghticoke, the Republican candidate, is indeed a strong man; but his strength does not entirely consist in his personal popularity. It rests also in the issue of the hour, the McKinley Tariff bill, of which Mr. Quackenbush was an earnest champion. As is well known Troy's prosperity is bound up with that of the collar, cuff and shirt factories of the place. It is estimated that in Troy there are yearly manufactured ten million dollars' worth of collars, cuffs and shirts. In addition there is a vast laundry interest connected with these trades. In all over 20,000 persons in Troy are employed in them; or one-third of the population of the city. Mr. Quackenbush being a faithful representative of his constituents of the XVIIIth District, naturally took especial pains when the McKinley Tariff bill was passed to incorporate in it a tariff upon collars, cuffs and shirts which would amply protect the manufacturers of Troy and their workingmen. Formerly there was a duty of 30 per cent ad valorem upon collars and cuffs. Under amendments to the Tariff law suggested by Congressman Quackenbush, not only will there be a duty of 30 per cent ad valorem, but also a duty of 35 cents per dozen. In the opinion of the collar and cuff manufacturers and their men the increase of the duty on these articles will give them protection for ten years to come from harmful foreign competition.

One of the largest villages in the Congressional district is that of Lansingburg, which is situated on the Hudson River, just outside of the suburbs of Troy. The chief industry of this place is the manufacture of brushes. Congressman Quackenbush obtained an increase of the duty upon brushes to 40 per cent ad valorem. This increase of duty was badly needed. The brush business of Lansingburg was declining and would soon have been destroyed by the competition of foreign brush-makers if the duty had not been raised. One of the largest makers of brushes in Lansingburg, John T. McKeon & Co., had just gone out of business because they could not make any money. The increase of the duty will therefore revive the drooping industry.

Congressman Quackenbush also has greatly pleased the farmers in his district by aiding in raising the duty upon potatoes. Washington County, in this Congressional District, raises more potatoes than any other county in the State. Its inhabitants have been much troubled by the competition of Canadian farmers with them in the potato markets of the country. This competition will now be much lessened. Congressman Quackenbush therefore has the support of every Republican farmer and of many Democratic ones.

Division among the Democrats of Troy increases the chances of Mr. Quackenbush carrying the district. County Clerk Conway, a Democrat, has rebelled against Edward Murphy, jr., his former political boss, and there are rival Democratic candidates for Aldermen in the Sixth, Eighth, Ninth, Eleventh and Twelfth wards of Troy. This dissension of the Democrats gives the Republicans an excellent chance to elect one of their number as Mayor of Troy. Their candidate is Francis N. Mann, one of the ablest young men in the city. Mr. Mann as an Assemblyman from Rensselaer County showed talents of high order as a legislator. Mr. Mann will undoubtedly receive a good many Democratic votes. The Democratic ring have nominated Mayor Whalen, whose administration has been unpopular. The taxpayers of the city see that if they vote for Mr. Mann they will bring the city taxes down and improve the city government. The political tide therefore is with Mr. Mann.

There are five Assembly Districts in the Congressional District; two in Washington County and three in Rensselaer County. The county of Washington now has two Republican Assemblymen, and will send two to Albany the coming year. Assemblyman Albert Johnson, of the IId District of Washington County, only had 183 plurality last year. That small plurality was due to Republican factional differences which are now ended. Mr. Johnson's re-election by several hundred plurality is conceded by the Democrats. They have nominated Andrew J. Long, of Whitehall, but Mr. Long is not a "hustler," and therefore his nomination was a confession by the Democrats that they cannot carry the district. In the Ist Assembly District of Washington County the Republicans have nominated William Stevenson, of Argyle, who will be elected by a large plurality.

Only one of the Assembly Districts of Rensselaer County is normally Republican. This is the IId District. It gave the Republican candidate for Assemblyman in 1889 a plurality of 717 votes. The plurality of Levi P. Worden, of Hoosic Falls, the Republican candidate this year, will be as large. But the Republicans hope this year to carry both of the other Assembly Districts of the county. In the Ist District they have nominated William C. Cozier, Editor of "The Troy Telegram," and in the IIId, P. B. Sutherland, an iron-moulder of this city. The Democrats have renominated Assemblymen Riley and McKnight, of the Ist and IIId Assembly Districts. They do not deserve to be re-elected.

Senator Frank Hiscock will make the closing speech of the campaign here upon Friday night. The Republicans will have a big meeting.

LABOR AGAINST TAMMANY.

WORKINGMEN ANXIOUS FOR A BETTER MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT—UNIONS AS POLITICAL CLUBS.

A large proportion of voters in this city are artisans, men who work by the day, who constitute the sinews of the commercial prosperity of the country, and to whose intelligence is due the social order and law-abiding qualities of the citizens of the State. In this city, especially among the young generation, the workingmen, of whom there are 40,000 members of labor unions, have awakened to the fact that they have been imposed upon by the local district leaders of Tammany Hall and induced to use their franchise in former elections to further the political and "boodle" aspirations of a clique of Tammany Hall. It is this knowledge that has made the present revolt of laboring men of all political creeds against the arbitrary rule of Tammany Hall. When the People's Municipal League was organized in June the formation of such an organization was enthusiastically received by the delegates of the Central Labor Union, representing over forty local labor unions and 20,000 men, and that organization has plunged into the political fight against Tammany with so much earnestness and sincerity that, not satisfied with fighting Tammany at home, it has nominated candidates for Assembly in several strong Democratic districts, with the avowed purpose of cutting the arms of this octopus, which are extended toward the State Legislature.

The most intelligent labor leaders in this city are now formally arrayed against a continuance of Tammany rule, and are bringing into line the organized and intelligent citizens who have elected them as the officers of their unions and indorse their actions. Among these men the following are conspicuous for their antagonism to Tammany tactics and corrupt conspiracies, and are working hard in the interests of a better government "by the people and for the people": George Murray, master-workman of District Assembly No. 49; William McNair, secretary of District Assembly No. 49; James P. Archibald, master-workman of National Trade District No. 210, secretary of the Central Labor Union, walking delegate of the New-York Paper Hangers' Union, and chairman of the People's Municipal League; Nelson McFadden, walking delegate of the United Order of American Carpenters and Joiners, representing nearly 5,000 men; Alfred Ashley, of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners; George Warner, master-workman of District Assembly No. 253; Cornelius F. Doody, Labor's candidate for Assembly in the XXIIId Assembly District, and many leaders, master-workmen and secretaries, of local unions.

Many of these local unions at their meetings present far more the appearance of political clubs than labor unions, for it is there that the workingmen often discuss and take action on the local political questions of the day and the best method to secure a pure city government.

TALKS ON THE TARIFF.

GLASS MANUFACTURERS HAPPY.

THEY CAN NOW COMPETE WITH CHEAP FOREIGN LABOR—THE PRICE OF HOSIERY.

"One of the most notable instances of the good effects of the new tariff," said Emanuel W. Bloomingdale, of the firm of Bloomingdale & Levy, No. 18 Mercer-st., dealers and importers of perfumery, etc., "is shown in the case of bottle-glass and the finer grades of flint-glass, manufactured in Germany and Belgium, and which had been largely imported to this country before the passage of the McKinley bill. The old rate of duty on flint-glass was 40 per cent ad valorem. It has been increased to 60 per cent. Now, take this little bottle," said Mr. Bloomingdale, selecting a small round flask-shaped two-ounce bottle for holding fine perfumes. "This bottle, made in Cassel, Germany, could be laid down in this city at $1 50 a gross, and many thousand gross were annually imported, because the cost of the same article made in Pittsburg and laid down here was at least $1 50. Now, deducting from the price of the German bottle the duty, 36 cents; cost of material, 60 cents (practically the same here and abroad); the transportation, say 28 cents, in all $1 10, and you have left, as the cost of manufacture, 30 cents, or let us say 40 cents, a gross, at the very most. The lowest wages paid our glass-blowers here would make the cost of manufacture 90 cents a gross; to this add transportation to New-York, 36 cents, and cartage, 15 cents, and you will see what our Pittsburg bottle manufacturers and our glass-blowers have to compete with in the case of German-made flint-glass bottles. The very lowest rates of wages paid glass-blowers in this country is $5 a day; the greater number earn from $7 to $8 a day, and not a few, with a helper, earn $14 a day. The average German glass-blower considers himself well paid at $1 25 a day.

"There is no doubt about these figures. They are plain and simple, and he who runs may read them. They are a fair example of the effect of the new tariff on this line of American industry. It is true that the price of these bottles will be a trifle higher for a time; but which is the better policy, I would like to know: to have the millions that are annually sent abroad for German glass bottles remain in this country and employ our own glass-blowers, or import foreign bottles at a trifling saving? Now, in the case of my own business, although we are forced to pay a little more for this article, I prefer to have things as they are under the new tariff, because I know that the business on the whole will be stimulated, and I am bound to keep my share of these millions of dollars remaining in this country. Whatever small increase there may be at first in the cost of bottles since the passage of the act will only be felt by the dealer and retailer.

"The same argument applies to nearly all the bottles made in this country, but I mentioned this particular make of bottle as a straw which shows the good that the tariff wind will blow the people of this country."

William Bloomfield, a large glass manufacturer, of No. 83 Fulton-st., said: "With the highest tariff which has ever been imposed upon flint-glass, and with wages within 10 per cent of the highest ever paid in this country, the product is as cheap, if not cheaper, than ever before. The wages we are paying to-day are within 10 per cent of those paid when gold was at a premium of 180. I could not say more than this if I were to talk for an hour. A year ago, when I was in Belgium, I asked a large and wealthy manufacturer what he paid one of his blowers, who was making beer bottles for shipment to America. 'Two dollars and twenty-five cents in your money,' he answered, with an unmistakable air of pride and generosity. I thought the man would faint when I told him that the same man in Pittsburg would be paid from $8 to $10 a day, and might perhaps be able to earn $19 a day. It is certain that the wages of the glass-blower in this country will be increased and more men will be employed under the new tariff, and I believe that the price of glassware, if not cheaper, will not be any higher in the future."

A member of the firm of Holbrook Brothers, at Beekman and Cliff sts., referring to the difference in the present cost of plate-glass in this country and that which prevailed fifteen years ago, said: "I consider this one of the strongest illustrations of the benefits of a judicious, business-like protective policy. Since the impositition of a duty on plate-glass the article has been manufactured to such an extent here that were the duty removed to-day I believe we could easily hold our own with the European factories. Although there are comparatively few factories here, the price of plate-glass during this time has fallen over 70 per cent. Without protection it is quite certain that this reduction would never have taken place."

The figures and facts given above were substantiated by Michael H. Hagerty, of Hagerty Bros. & Co., dealers and importers of glassware, at No. 10 Platt-st., and several other well-known men of the trade.

As a "startling example" of the alleged extortionate prices which American manufacturers will reap under the new Tariff law, a Cleveland merchant was quoted in a published statement recently as saying that "manufacturers have already served notice that they will advance prices on the goods (hosiery) which we now sell at 31 cents a pair, so that we will be forced to sell them at 35 cents a pair. Instead of being content with old prices and selling their goods at a figure that with these high tariff rates, would drive every English stocking out of the market the American manufacturers at once take advantage of the high rates to demand proportionately high prices."

J. Henry Smith, of Smith & Angell, of No. 22 Thomas-st., the first and largest importers and manufacturers of "fast" black hosiery in this country, said to a Tribune reporter after having read this clipping: "The statement that there has been an increase in the price of these goods, or that notice of any such increase has been given, I know to be untrue. Of course we will feel any possible ill effects of this new law as much as any house in the country, and, without wishing to appear egotistical, I believe I can say that I understand the situation among the large manufacturers and dealers in this line of goods as thoroughly as any one in the business, but I can say that, although I have heard of lower prices since the passage of the McKinley bill, I have no knowledge of any contemplated increase in prices. I only wish every man and woman in the United States could know the facts of the matter as I know them. There would then be an end to all this superficial talk about manufacturers' profits and higher prices.

"A year ago, believing that the McKinley bill would pass, and naturally, wishing to sound the feeling of the manufacturers and jobbers throughout the country, I made a trip from here to Providence and through the Eastern States, bringing up at Philadelphia. I found that without exception they were anxious and ready to make these goods at as low a figure as the imported article, provided they had a tariff to enable them to compete with the cheap German labor in getting the goods on the home market. Now this cheap foreign labor is all we have to compete with. We have better machines, better methods and better dyes. Until the nineteenth century no one had discovered a process of dyeing hosiery a perfect fast black. When we first undertook to make black hosiery here we were laughed at. What has been the result? The unbleached cheap article sent here to be dyed from Germany and England has not only long outsold the foreign dyed hosiery, but to-day we make a superior quality of goods. I could certainly have no object in misstating these facts, as the largest part of our unbleached stock has been imported, and my candid opinion is that with American competition and American ingenuity within two years we shall see American black hosiery of a superior quality selling at a less price than the foreign article under the old tariff. Why should not this staple article follow the same course that every other staple article which has been protected by tariff has invariably followed? And then is there no advantage to the whole country in having these millions of dollars, which for so long have gone to Europe remain with us? There may be a few weak points in the new law, but I assure you this is not one of them."

SOME INACCURATE FIGURES.

MISSTATING THE CONDITION OF THE TIN PLATE MARKET.

In a published article on Wednesday an elaborate attempt was made to show that in consequence of the new Tariff law there had been an enormous advance in the prices of various commodities. The figures used in the tables of comparisons bore upon their face a suggestion of inaccuracy and improbability, and the conclusions drawn seemed to be correspondingly erroneous and misleading. Under the general heading of Tin and Boiler Plates some comparative prices were given. A reporter of The Tribune called upon H. R. De Milt, of the firm of H. R. De Milt & Co., extensive dealers and importers of tin plates, iron and metals, at No. 238 Water-st.

"Yes," said Mr. De Milt, "I have read the article and I find many mistakes in it. For example the statement is made that the latest selling price for tin pigs was 24 and 24 1-8 cents, and that the duty had been raised from 1 cent to 2 2-10 cents a pound. The fact is that there is not now and has not been for many years any duty on tin pigs. Besides, the report of sales at the Metal Exchange on October 28 shows that there were sold 140 tons of tin pigs for delivery, ten tons each month from November, 1890, to January, 1891, at 21.80 for the first month and ten points less each succeeding month down to 20.50 for the last month. It is true that the price has jumped up during September and October to 24.50 on account of speculation, but you see by the figures that it has lately declined. On October 26, 1889, tin pigs were selling at 23.15; so you see they are actually cheaper now than a year ago.

"The kind of tin that is used principally for cans and all the cheaper qualities of tin ware is known to the trade as 'IC' coke plates, 14x20 inches in size. In August, 1889, and on up to January, 1890, the price of these plates advanced in England because of an increased cost of material and enlarged demand. There was no corresponding advance in America because dealers here were well supplied at that time and believed that the advance abroad, as events subsequently proved, would be but temporary. This year there has been another advance in England and a corresponding advance in this country, due not to the tariff, but rather to the present scarcity in this special line of goods. On October 26, 1889, according to "The American Metal Market," a standard authority with the trade, the price for Bessemer tin or coke plates was $4 75@$4 80 a box, a very cheap grade being quoted at $4 70. On October 28, 1890, the corresponding date for this year, the same goods are quoted at $5 47 1-2@$5 50 instead of $5 60, as the free-trade paper has it. Adding the duty to the price in 1889, which duty, by the way, does not go into effect until 1891, the price now ought to be $5 10, if the free-trade argument is good. It is to be noted in this connection that foreign holders of these goods are buying largely and advancing prices because they think that for the present we must buy of them or not at all, and that we can get no benefit of the tariff under a year."

To refute, however, a statement made in the article referred to that there is no immediate prospect of home manufacture, Mr. De Milt showed a number of sample plates of superior quality just received from a manufactory at Apollo, Penn., whose proprietors, like others throughout the country are preparing to enlarge their present plants or establish new ones. "This intention to enter upon home manufacture," said Mr. De Milt, "is well understood by the trade."

A further statement in the free-trade article that there has been no advance in the raw material in Europe is refuted by the following figures, again taken from "The American Metal Market": On July 12, 1890, the English price for hematite pigs, the raw material from which the plates are made, was 59 shillings 9 pence, and at the corresponding date of 1889 the price was only 50 shillings 1 1-2 pence, while on October 6 of this year the price was 60 shillings, against 50 shillings 5 pence in 1889. These figures plainly show an advance in the raw material's price.

"And here," added Mr. De Milt, "is another false assertion of our free-trade friend, who says that ordinary Bessemer coke tin is selling at $1 20 to $1 40 per box more than in August—meaning August of this year. Taking 'The American Metal Market' again as authority, we find the quotation for August 13 to be $5 12 1-2, while the quoted price now is $5 47 1-2@$5 50, a difference of only 38 cents instead of $1 40. So the further statement that the American public is paying over $600,000 a month more than it was for their plates a short time ago falls to the ground."

In closing Mr. De Milt said: "I have not the slightest doubt that in the course of the next one or two years the American consumer of tin plates will reap the same advantage that he has always enjoyed when the production of an article not heretofore manufactured in this country was stimulated by a protective duty. We cannot build up a new industry in a few weeks or even months, and the imposition of a tariff rate, however encouraging it may be, will not immediately produce the expected results. It seems to me that the mistakes we have noted and the figures we have given destroy the force of the whole free-trade article."

THE MAYOR'S INCONSISTENCY.

HE FACES BOTH WAYS ON THE ELECTRIC SUBWAY QUESTION.

Mayor Grant's inconsistency has again been shown by his recent action in the Board of Electrical Control in favor of granting the right to an electric lighting company to use overhead wires. This curious turn of the Mayor becomes the more peculiar when it is remembered how he patted himself on the back on the subject of burying the wires, in his letter of acceptance, which was issued only two days before this action of the Board of Electrical Control was taken. This is what is said in the Mayor's letter of acceptance on the subject:

On the 1st of January, 1889, not a foot of wire was underground. The electric light companies insisted that it was impossible to operate their wires in the subway. By direction of the Mayor, the Commissioner of Public Works cut down the poles and removed the wires. Since then 17,903 miles of wire have been put underground. At this rate, within a short time no electric wires will remain exposed on the streets.

This letter appeared on Tuesday, October 1. On Thursday, two days later, a meeting of the Board of Electrical Control was quietly held in the Mayor's office, and Mr. Grant announced that application had been made by the North New-York Lighting Company to replace its circuits in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth wards. The Mayor said that the people of those wards "were clamoring for electric lights," of which they were deprived by his crusade on overhead wires a little over a year ago. He introduced the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That the secretary issue a temporary permit to the North New-York Lighting Company to place and reconnect its circuits north of the Harlem River, which have been removed by the Bureau of Incumbrances, being at that time in violation of the rules and regulations of the Board; the construction of the same to be under the supervision of the electrical expert of the Board, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Board."

The nearness of election day, and the desire to secure the support of the Electric Light Company and of some few people in the Annexed District, who are not alive to the danger of overhead wires, or who have forgotten the spectacle of a man roasting to death on an electric light pole in their neighborhood not many months ago, may have moved the Mayor to "go back on" his expressed determination to keep the streets free from the dangers of overhead wires, whether there were subways to bury them in or not. At any rate, it would be interesting to know why he has made such a complete change of front on this question.

IRISHMEN AGAINST TAMMANY.

URGED BY THEIR REPRESENTATIVE JOURNAL TO VOTE FOR HONEST GOVERNMENT.

From The New-York Tablet.

As to the duty of Irish-American voters in the present emergency, little need be said. Under ordinary circumstances we should regard any special appeal to them in the matter of American politics as uncalled for. Their interests differ in nowise from those of other citizens; they are equally concerned with their neighbors in securing an honest municipal administration; and any distinctions in such matters, drawn on racial lines, are not only out of place, but impertinent. But inasmuch as the charge is persistently made that Tammany rule is maintained by the so-called "Irish vote," it behooves all true Irish-Americans to give the lie, on election day, to this aspersion on their intelligence and patriotism. We believe they are prepared to do so. We believe that all Irish-American voters in this city who are not hopelessly involved in ignorance or prejudice or worse will admit that, so far as the municipal election is concerned, there is no question of party politics involved. The struggle is not between rival political parties, but between the friends and the foes of pure city government. With the issue thus clearly defined and understood, no honest and intelligent Irish-American voter can fail to recognize his duty, or to perform it.

WOOL PRICES AND THE TARIFF.

From The Indianapolis Journal.

George Merritt & Co., who are also woollen manufacturers and wool-dealers, were asked: "How much have you advanced prices on your goods this season, or since the passage of the McKinley bill?"

"We have made no change in prices on our goods," was the reply, "and do not expect to do so this season, and we can see no certainty of getting an advance next season."

"But are you not paying more for wool?"

"Yes. We are paying the farmer two cents a pound more since the passage of the bill."

"Then, do you lose that much of your profits?"

"We get a smaller percentage of profit, but expect to make it up by a larger trade. Suppose we sell $4,000 worth of goods with a profit of 10 per cent. We have a profit of $400, and in place of that suppose we sell $5,000 at a profit of 8 per cent. We have the same—$400. Now, the merchant makes as large a profit as we do, and if our trade is increased his is also larger, and as he has none of the additional expenses his profits will be increased $100. We hope he will be willing to divide with us, and in that case we would each be $50 better off, and the consumer would pay no more for his goods."

"But why do you expect an increase in your sales?"

"Because of the general prosperity of the country, growing out of the fact that there will be fewer idle men in it. You remember the old story of the Irishman who was trying to cheapen his groceries, and insisted with his grocer that he could buy more for a sixpence in good old Ireland than he could buy here for a shilling.' "Ah, why didn't you stay in old Ireland, then?' retorted the grocer. 'Sure, and it was because I couldn't get the sixpence there.' Idle men make idle merchants and idle manufacturers, while busy men make busy merchants and busy manufacturers. The McKinley bill will set enough men to work, who were idle before, to create a general prosperity."

"What is the amount of the wool clip of this country?"

"About 300,000,000 pounds, and you see 2 cents advance on that gives the farmers $6,000,000 more per annum to spend."

"Do you expect any great increase in wool-growing? Is the increased tariff sufficient encouragement for farmers to go into the industry?"

"Yes, I believe the increase in the wool clip of the United States will be at the rate of 20 per cent per annum for the next three years."

WORKING FOR MR. STEARNS.

ACTIVE CANVASS IN THE XIVTH CONGRESS DISTRICT.

DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT FOR THE POPULAR REPUBLICAN—DISGUSTED WITH THEIR PRESENT REPRESENTATIVE.

A stirring and an apparently winning canvass is that which J. Thomas Stearns, the Republican candidate, is making in the XIVth Congress District. The district includes all of Westchester County and the XXIVth Assembly District—the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth wards—of the City of New-York. The present Congressman and the Democratic candidate is William G. Stahlnecker, whose incompetency and neglect have been thoroughly exposed in The Tribune. The records, carefully examined by the correspondent of The Tribune, showed that Mr. Stahlnecker had been recorded as present at only seventy of the 462 roll-calls of the last session of Congress. Mr. Stahlnecker was not at his home in Westchester County while absent from his seat in the House of Representatives, and the chief Democratic newspaper of his district intimates that his neglect of his duties was due to his dissipated habits. Whatever the cause may be, the fact is undisputed that his name does not appear in any recorded vote of the House of Representatives for consecutive months of the last session.

The revolt against Mr. Stahlnecker among the members of his own party is widespread and grows with each week of the canvass. "The Eastern State Journal," of White Plains, the leading Democratic newspaper of Westchester County, denounces him strongly as "the champion neglector." It says in a recent editorial: "A man may be entirely loose in his moral life, but if he does his duty to his constituents with zeal, ability and courtesy, they can tolerate eccentricities and delinquencies outside his public duty. But to be absent from his seat for months at a time without apology or reason, hid away where the sergeant-at-arms, friends or foes could not find him, is a disgrace that neither charity, respectability nor party fealty can possibly tolerate." "The State Journal" has in several articles advocated the cause of Mr. Stearns. Individual Democrats high in the councils of the party have joined in the denunciation of the do-nothing Representative who is again the Democratic candidate. Fordham Morris, who has been for many years one of the most influential and respected Democrats of the Annexed District, has just written a letter earnestly advocating Mr. Stearns and opposing Mr. Stahlnecker, particularly for his neglect in the matter of the Harlem River improvement appropriation. After speaking of the efforts of Congressman Fitch, of the XIIIth District, in advocating the appropriation and the slight interest shown by Congressman Stahlnecker, Mr. Morris says:

Stahlnecker is a man of but small capacity and less industry; he is handsome, a good friend with the boys and calls himself a "Democrat," though he has always been an artful dodger on the tariff, which is one of the most vital questions in which most Democrats are now interested. Lukewarm as to local interests and, of no account as a tariff reformer, it seems to be the duty of every Democrat in our district to vote for the other nominee, Mr. Stearns. As I have taken my permanent home in another section of this great metropolis I cannot vote for Mr. Stearns, but if I were a qualified voter in the Twenty-fourth Ward I would give my unqualified support to him. He is possessed of intelligence and industry, has a pleasing address, is a leading man in the counsels of the party, which is most likely to have the majority in Congress, and can therefore accomplish more for our wards in advancing the Harlem River enterprise than ten such men as the Apollo of Yonkers. The Harlem River improvement is a question of such local importance to our wards that mere party prejudices and likings are of secondary importance. Harlem River is business, not politics. J. Thomas Stearns is a capable, honest, industrious man. He lives in our wards, not away from us. He has pledged himself to advance the enterprise.

The discontent with their present inefficient Congressman is shown by letters containing promises of support which are daily received by Mr. Stearns from Democrats who express an intention to support him. The writers say that they have supported Mr. Stahlnecker in some of his previous canvasses, but they are unwilling longer to have him as their nominal Representative at Washington.

In contrast with this Democratic defection and discontent is the hearty support given to Mr. Stearns by his party friends and many Democrats. Mr. Stearns has been a resident of the Twenty-fourth Ward from childhood. He is in the forty-third year of his age. If he is not the most popular resident of his Assembly District, it would be difficult to find his rival in the esteem of his neighbors. He was in earlier years a leader in all manly sports, was an enthusiastic ballplayer, and was assistant foreman of the Tremont Hook and Ladder Company in the days before the region along the Harlem became the Annexed District of the City of New-York. He was a clerk for ten years in a leading real estate office in Pine-st., and has since conducted an independent and successful business as a real estate dealer. His genial nature and willingness to help others have made him the friend of all classes of society. He can at one time furnish amusement in social gatherings of his friends and at another give clear-headed advice in business difficulties. His Republicanism has been of the aggressive sort and he has long been the recognized leader in his ward. He is an executive member of the Republican County Committee and has been one of the secretaries of that body for six years. He is the vice-president and most active officer of the Suburban Club and an influential member of the Fordham Club. He was a candidate for Alderman in the Twenty-fourth Ward in 1887, and ran 1,100 votes ahead of his party ticket. He was the Republican Presidential elector for the XIVth District at the last election.

Mr. Stearns's life-long interest in the affairs of Westchester County and the Annexed District, and his energy and high sense of duty, prove to the voters of the district that he would be an able and faithful Representative, and these considerations, added to his personal popularity, have secured him the support of his neighbors, almost irrespective of party considerations. If he passes by the tie place where a County Democracy meeting, or a Tammany meeting, or any other political gathering, is held, he is welcomed with a hearty shake of the hand and promises of support. The leaders of the Local Improvement party, who remember that he yielded to the demand for a united nomination for Commissioner by all parties opposed to Purroy's rule, have the kindliest feelings for him. When a Democratic procession passed by his headquarters recently there were cheers for "Tommy" Stearns from the paraders.

One Democrat who, like many others, recalled occasions on which the popular candidate had befriended him, proposed to "make it unanimous," and if the voters do not quite do that, they ought, if all signs do not fail, to change the usual Democratic majority of 2,000 in the Annexed District into a safe Republican plurality.

Mr. Stearns's own part in the canvass has been a busy one. He has spoken in Tarrytown, Crotona, Pound Ridge and various parts of Westchester County, and attends almost nightly meetings in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth wards. Circulars have been distributed throughout parts of the district. Mr. Stearns's letter accepting the nomination has been printed and distributed among the voters. The improvement of the Harlem River and the Long Island shore is one of the objects which Mr. Stearns is most anxious to advance if he is elected to Congress.

The candidacy of Alexander Taylor, jr., as an Independent Republican, is causing some confusion, but Mr. Stearns's friends believe that it will not seriously interfere with his chances of election. The prominent Republicans of Mr. Taylor's own precinct have declared themselves in favor of Mr. Stearns. No reason is given by Mr. Taylor's friends for not supporting the regular candidate, and it is believed that the support of the independent candidate will be limited to his personal friends, who may include as many Democrats as Republicans.

A FREE-TRADER PUT TO CONFUSION.

From The Philadelphia Press.

"The New-York Post" has been squarely caught in its latest campaign of vilification and falsehood. The Republican Congressional Campaign Committee has been sending out some documents containing extracts from English papers, showing the interest the Free Traders have in breaking down the protection policy of this country. They are perfectly legitimate campaign material, so long as genuine, as they go to prove, what the Protectionists contend, that a low revenue policy would benefit the English manufacturers by transferring much of the manufacturing now done in this country to England. "The New-York Post," recognizing the effectiveness of these extracts, has sought in every possible way to break their force.

That paper chose two of the most recent extracts made, and when they could not be verified at a moment's notice it at once pronounced them forgeries, claimed that the proof was "conclusive" to that effect, and that the language of the extracts was such as "English writers never use." It went into a fine frenzy over the "forgeries" and the brazenness of the Republicans in trying to deceive people with them. To the confusion of this free-trade heeler, however, a little search showed The New-York Tribune that one of the so-called "forgeries" was exactly what it purported to be, an extract from "The London Times" and expressed in the very language quoted. A little further search would probably prove that the other extracts are also genuine.

PRICES THAT HAVE NOT GONE UP.

From The Boston Advertiser.

The free-trade newspapers are constantly asserting that there has been a sharp advance in the prices of all the necessaries of life, in consequence of the passage of the tariff bill. An honest inquiry among the dealers would show, beyond question, that this statement is wholly devoid of truth.

There has been no advance in the price of beef, fresh or corned.

There has been no advance in the price of pork.

There has been no advance in the price of flour.

There has been no advance in the price of sugar.

There has been no advance in the price of cornmeal.

There has been a decrease of 10 cents a bushel in the price of potatoes within the last week.

There has been no advance in the price of coal.

There has been no advance in the price of beans.

Butter advanced very slightly two weeks or more ago, but it was only the advance which always comes in that commodity at the close of the grazing season.

Clothing is fully as cheap, if not cheaper, than it was last fall.

Boots and shoes are no higher than they were a year ago.

These facts can be readily ascertained at any shop, as readily by representatives of free trade as of protectionist newspapers.

TROUBLES OF BUSINESS MEN.

FAILURES IN THE SILK IMPORTING AND CLOTHING AND CLOAK-MAKING TRADES.

R. Springer & Co., wholesale dealers in silk and worsted yarns, at No. 458 Broome-st., have failed. The sheriff yesterday closed up their place of business on executions aggregating $12,526 in favor of the following creditors: G. Stringfield, $7,519; Capital City Bank of Madison, $3,022; Mary Springer, $1,020; Thomas F. Hayes, $966. The firm is composed of Jacob M. Springer and Maurice M. Kohner. The business was started about twenty-two years ago. The liabilities are said to be about $80,000, and it is thought there is enough assets to pay the judgment creditors.

I. L. Falk & Co., manufacturers of clothing at No. 691 Broadway, failed yesterday, and their large place of business was closed up by the sheriff on a confessed judgment for $27,828 in favor of the National Park Bank. The firm is composed of Isaac L. Falk and his son, George W. Falk. The senior partner has been in business for over fifty years, manufacturing in this city and selling principally in the South. The liabilities are said to be about $230,000; assets not yet ascertained.

Isidore Rosenthal, manufacturer of cloaks at No. 520 Broadway, has failed, with liabilities reported at upward of $150,000. The sheriff closed up his factory yesterday on executions aggregating $35,319, all confessed judgments to the following: Amelia Rosenthal, his wife, $28,279; estate of Henry Chuck, $3,911; R. Rothstein, $2,095. Mr. Rosenthal is about seventy years old, and has been in business about forty years under various firm styles, the present one being Rosenthal & Co. His attorneys said yesterday that the liabilities were from $125,000 to $150,000, and they thought the assets were about $50,000.

Ernest Huber, dealer in paintings and works of art at No. 26 University Place, made an assignment yesterday to Charles Bennor.

THE PRISONER HAD NEVER PLEADED.

SURPRISING DISCOVERY IN THE TRIAL OF CAPTAIN RETTIG FOR SMUGGLING.

The trial of Captain William M. Rettig, of the Ward Line steamer Saratoga, on the charge of smuggling, came up before Judge Benedict in the United States Circuit Court yesterday. Isaac Lamb, a Dutch merchant, was a passenger on the Saratoga last January. The day before the vessel landed in New-York he intrusted to Captain Rettig's care diamond jewelry worth $6,000. The articles were not declared on the boat's manifest, and on arriving in this city Captain Rettig took the jewels to his home. Agents of the Government in some way heard of the affair and arrested the Captain and Lamb, seizing the jewels at Rettig's home. Lamb was released on $2,000 bail, but has disappeared.

The Government's representative, Assistant District-Attorney Mott, finished his side of the case in the morning. After recess, ex-Judge Dittenhoefer, who appeared for the prisoner, made the announcement that his client had never pleaded to the indictment. There was a silence, and Judge Benedict said in a surprised tone: "Can that be possible?"

The Judge and the court officials examined the records and learend that ex-Judge Dittenhoefer's statement was true. The fault was probably due to the fact that since Captain Rettig was arrested a new administration has taken charge of the criminal branch of the United States District-Attorney's business. The present officers supposed that the prisoner had pleaded before they entered on their duties. Judge Benedict asked the accused man to plead, but, under advice of his counsel, he refused to do so. Ex-Judge Dittenhoefer intimated that his client ought to be released altogether, but a plea of not guilty was entered by instruction of Judge Benedict. The jury was then dismissed and the case will come up again next term.

THEIR CONFERENCE COMES TO A CLOSE.

The fifth general conference of the Union African Methodist Episcopal Church of America and the Provinces of Canada, which has been held this week in the Union African Methodist Episcopal Church in Eighty-fifth-st., east of Third-ave., will close this morning. The principal work done by the conference was the revision of the Church discipline, the founding of a Church organ, to be called "The Messenger," the establishing of a connection book concern, and a preachers' relief association. The Rev. R. S. Acoco, Editor of "The Messenger," is the secretary of the conference.

TO BE A PASTOR HERE FOR SIX MONTHS.

The Rev. Robert Harcourt, formerly of San Francisco, will begin on Sunday next a six-months' pastorate at the Park Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, at Park-ave. and Eighty-sixth-st. The Rev. J. R. Boyle, who has been pastor of the church for two years and a half, starts to-morrow for Wilkesbarre, where he will occupy the pulpit lately vacated by the Rev. W. C. Phillips.

Mr. Boyle came to the Park Avenue Church in April, 1888, and his pastorate would expire at the meeting of conference in April next. He had agreed to go at that time to the church at Wilkesbarre, but Mr. Phillips transferred his allegiance from the Methodist to the Presbyterian Church, and the Wilkesbarre congregation expressed a desire to have Mr. Boyle take possession at once of the vacant pulpit. Bishop E. G. Andrews, the resident bishop of this city, agreed to the arrangement, and the consent of the Park Avenue Church had also been obtained. Mr. Harcourt, who had accepted a call to Baltimore, where he will go in April, and was in the meantime without a pulpit, was called to the Park Avenue Church as temporary supply.

The Rev. Dr. Boyle, before coming to this city, was pastor of the Broad Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Newark.

THE PHILADELPHIA STARTS FOR HER TRIAL.

The cruiser Philadelphia sailed from her anchorage off Tompkinsville for sea yesterday morning, to make the trial which the contract with the builders required should be made within four months after her acceptance by the Government. If she should meet the requirements at this time the final payment for her construction will be made by the Government. The vessel will be at sea about forty-eight hours, and the trial will be made under the supervision of the Admiral Kimberly, or Trial Board. The vessel will be run at full power, at three-fourths and at half-power; and, should there be no extensive repairs necessary after her return, Admiral Gherardi will sail with her and the Petrel about November 10 for the West Indies.

SAID TO HAVE SMUGGLED ON A BIG SCALE.

United States Commissioner Shields yesterday held Leopold Stransky in $2,000 bail for examination on the charge of smuggling. Stransky arrived in this country not long ago from Germany, and declared that he had brought no dutiable goods with him. He, however, opened a jewelry store at No. 18 Nassau-st., in which he had a lot of diamond jewelry which, it is charged, he smuggled into this country. When he was arrested by agents of the Treasury Department, jewels worth $5,000 were seized, but these are believed to be only one-quarter of those he brought with him from Germany.

A VOTE ON THE COTTON INSPECTION SYSTEM.

The members of the Cotton Exchange held an exciting meeting yesterday on the question of repealing the present system of cotton inspection and certification. The party in favor of repealing the system worked hard for success, but was beaten by a vote of 139 to 115. A vote of two-thirds of the members is required to effect a change