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PARTISAN DEADLOCKS.

The West Virginia Legislature stuck at its deadlock last night, taking seven more ballots without any materialization of the expected break. As far as can be perceived at present there is no reason why the arrest of business may not continue indefinitely. In West Virginia, as in nearly all close contests for the past few years, it is to be seen the delirium of partisanship. An honest purpose to place public welfare first and to give fair force to the will of the people would settle all these disputes in a quarter of the time that is usually consumed by them. But when the rule is to place the party interests first, and the public interests after them, the prolonged fights, frequently accompanied by scandalous feuds, which have been so common of late years, become an almost inevitable consequence.

WHAT IS THE PROGRAMME?

THE DISPATCH correspondent at Harrisburg ascertained an interesting question, and one which the statesmen apparently had not previously considered to them, when he asked whether, in case a prohibition amendment were adopted next June, it was the purpose to have free, unlicensed and unrestricted sale of liquor during 1897?

That this result would follow unless an extra session of the Legislature were called to prevent it is of course apparent to all. Prohibition would not become effective by a mere constitutional amendment. Acts of the Legislature would be required to give the amendment force. But the Legislature will be adjourned by June 18, not to meet again until 1897. Meantime, liquor will be sold by license, and the liquor will expire and not be renewed. With them would expire the regulations and limitations of the traffic. So far as can be seen, or as anybody contends, free-trade in liquor would then be permissible without any sort of restriction until the Legislature might regularly reassemble in 1897.

An evening contemporary is good enough to suggest that there is nothing new or interesting in the contemplation of this contingency. It says that a year or two of this free and unrestricted sale would be merely a measure of justice to the liquor dealers to get rid of their surplus stock on hand.

We prefer to believe that the Republican leaders at Harrisburg stated the truth when they frankly avowed to THE DISPATCH correspondent that the question was both new and interesting, and that it will have to be met by calling an extra session of the Legislature in case the prohibition amendment should be approved in June. The great numbers of people who are satisfied with the operation of the present high license laws would assuredly less than ever favor prohibition with a prospect of an increasing crop of new licensees in 1897. It is not surprising that the Legislature might regularly reassemble in 1897.

The prompt action of Judge Collier yesterday in ordering information to be entered on the strength of the allegations against grand jurors in the Burns case, shows that the Court means to be active in the future in the suppression of malpractices in the jury system. It is pointed out yesterday, the Legislature has also its duty to perform. That body has now full cognizance of the difficulties that are met with, and of the opprobrium which attaches to the operation of the jury system. It should meet the requirements of the situation by passing an act vesting the appointment and removal of the Jury Commissioners in the Judges. This is the simplest and surest remedy for the evils that are perennially complained of. It will satisfy the public judgment, and it will give the protection against the existing reprehensible condition of things.

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before, of what the Jersey Lily imagines to be art. This is a cheery scene of Shakespearean revivals. Never until this day has been demonstrated that actors could travesty the works of the immortal bard, not only without punishment, but with profit. Henry Irving and Ellen Terry, according to the consensus of opinion even in London, have made "Macbeth" a sort of comedy-melodrama with marvelous mechanical effects, and in fact lacking only a tank to set it beside the superb "Dark Secrets" and "Lights and Shadows," and the rest of the masterpieces of the modern stage. At the same time Mrs. Potter has shown how easy it is to harness Shakespeare to the ballet, and transform a mythical Cleopatra into a real female of doubtful character and patent physical charms. To cap the climax, Mrs. Langtry comes out to rescue Shakespeare from the milliners and to set him on the plane of art!

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How grateful we ought to be to Mrs. Langtry.

SINGULAR LEGISLATION.

The multiplicity of bills with regard to street passenger railways, which have been introduced in the Legislature, may indicate the general interest which is taken in that subject. But some of them appear to require supervision in the interest of the public, and not in the interest of the street car companies. While many of its provisions are all right, those which can have no effect except to create a monopoly are all wrong. The passenger corporations already existing in the city may be considered to be adequate to present needs; but the city is likely to expand into districts to the westward, and the present lines will not prevent the building of lines to accommodate the future growth of any section, or which would prevent new and improved methods of transit from any direction, is antagonistic both to public interest and public policy.

The most striking provision of this bill is the section which forbids any passenger railroad to construct its line within 1,000 feet of another passenger railway, except for crossings and loops, unless the parallel line consists. An illustration of this provision is furnished by looking back at the street car lines which have been worked in the past. The most recent horse car lines in the city are, we believe, the West End and the Transverse. If this law had been in force when they were built, the Citizens or the Birmingham could have forbidden the construction of the Transverse, and the Union the construction of the West End.

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the sugar grower a protection of 1.70 per pound against 1.40 at present. Considering that the present ratio of protection on raw sugars runs from 60 up to 88 per cent does not this addition seem a little unnecessary?

It would be wise and consistent to give the sugar grower the benefit of a bounty to cover a portion of the reduction made to put a bounty of 1 cent per pound on raw sugars produced in this country and take off all duties, would have given the public cheap refined sugars, freed from the restrictions of the Sugar Trust and upheld the home production of sugars. But to pay a sum which actually increases the ratio of protection looks like putting it rather strongly.

The public will get cheaper sugars through the reduction of duty under this arrangement, but to work the application of the bounty idea so hard may prove to be running the principle into the ground.

THE report of a Watermelon Trust has at least one feature that entitles it to consideration. Its stock will be of the typical kind that the trusts seek to make valuable. Watermelons are composed of water in the proportion of nineteen parts out of twenty.

THE perversities which sometimes preside over the types, is seen in the title to "Harrisburg," the title of the book which is introduced yesterday. While many of its provisions are all right, those which can have no effect except to create a monopoly are all wrong. The passenger corporations already existing in the city may be considered to be adequate to present needs; but the city is likely to expand into districts to the westward, and the present lines will not prevent the building of lines to accommodate the future growth of any section, or which would prevent new and improved methods of transit from any direction, is antagonistic both to public interest and public policy.

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THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Good Comes from the Most Evil Wind.

Notes of Current Life.

It is curious how even a great calamity will work to the advantage of someone. The railroad and the hotel keepers and others in this city have certainly obtained an increase in their receipts as an indirect consequence of the terrible disaster on Diamond street. In the crowds which have ever since Wednesday of last week surrounded the tottering shell of the Hotel Hamilton, there have been many strangers. Yesterday I encountered a gentleman from Altoona at the corner of Wood and Diamond streets, and he told me that he had come to Pittsburgh to take a look at the tracks of the cyclone. When I expressed some astonishment at this he told me that he had come to Pittsburgh by the same attraction. Probably hundreds of thousands of people residing in neighboring towns have paid Pittsburgh a visit just to see for themselves the ruins where so many human lives were sacrificed.

Another odd circumstance of the Wilkes building disaster is that from the very first the disaster was underestimated. Rumor usually magnifies the facts, but it did the reverse in this case. One of the doctors who was summoned to the spot tells me that the boy who brought the news merely told him that the Wilkes building had been blown down. It was not until the next day that the full extent of the disaster was known.

Pittsburghers who were away from home the day the accident occurred had a poor chance to see the ruins. The stock will be of the typical kind that the trusts seek to make valuable. Watermelons are composed of water in the proportion of nineteen parts out of twenty.

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