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Should Congress Compel American Laborers to Work for Lower Wages?

Extracts from the Speech of Hon. William D. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, in the House of Representatives, March 16, 1872.

* * * * * I met the gentleman [Mr. KERR, Democrat, of Indiana,] at the very threshold of his argument. His fundamental proposition is that the Government has no right to impose a duty on goods imported into the country except for the purpose of revenue. This I deny, and say that it is the duty of the Government of the United States to maintain the autonomy, the life of the nation, and the spirit and principle of that life; to maintain that system of Government which, according equal rights to all, exacts equal and intelligent duties from all. This, sir, involves the maintenance by the laborers of the country of family and home, and that, at the cost of so small a portion of their earnings that they shall also be able to send their children to the public schools thrown wide open throughout the country, and possibly to the free colleges endowed by the States or by private munificence. To the existence of a Government resting upon the virtue and intelligence of the people this is essential. It is no boon to the laborer. It is the duty of the Government to protect the laborers of the country in the receipt of such wages as will enable them to do this, as the only means of keeping firm and unshaken the foundation upon which our republican institutions rest—intelligent popular opinion. Nothing is more apparent to me than that the Government and people of this country may defend their rights and institutions by peaceable measures, as well as by those implied by the maintenance of a standing Army and a Navy.

The speech of the gentleman as it goes broadcast through the country will cause many a shudder and many a sigh in the homes of our working people. It adjudges the standard of their wages to be those given in other lands. It holds up England, France, and Belgium as the exemplars we should follow. Sir, there are in this country more than a million toiling farmers, artisans, and laborers who have fled from the blessings of Belgium, the Zollverein, and Great Britain; and they know that a system of customs duties equivalent to the difference between American wages and those paid in the lands from which they fled is the barrier that defends their homes and families, and their ability to send their children to school for the education required to qualify American citizens for the intelligent performance of the civic duties.

* * * * * * *

Mr. William Hoyle, a manufacturer of Manchester, observing that the annual report was imperfect and delusive, went to his own, the Bury union, and had a report made of the number of paupers that had been in that union during the year. The authorities had reported but a little over four thousand. They had, sir, reported but eleven vagrants. But what was the result of Mr. Hoyle's investigation? During the year of which that report was made there had been received as paupers in that union more than fifteen thousand people, and though its officers had reported but eleven vagrants, there had been more than fifteen thousand four hundred received.

Free trade a blessing to the people of England! Why, all her philanthropists deplore the fact that the small holding of land is disappearing, that the small workshop which might have grown to be a factory is being absorbed by the monopolizing capitalist. The laborers flee from the blessings free trade confers upon them in England, that they may not go down in drunkenness and destitution to unhonored graves, leaving no mourner to drop a tear over their remains when released from the miseries inflicted upon them by the governing classes, who look only to the interests of the consumer, and take the very life-blood from the operative in every department of productive industry. * * * * *

That charlatan who aspires to the title of friend of the working-people, Mr. Mundella, the member of Parliament who recently came over here to persuade us into adopting free trade, is a leading manufacturer of knit goods. Does he pay his constituents even liberal English wages for producing his goods? No, sir; but while the English operatives starve around him, he goes to Sweden, where wages are lower, to get his work done.

Hard as this is upon the oppressed and suffering laborers of Great Britain, it is very well for us, and will continue to be so as long as we shall defend and protect the higher wages of our operatives by an adequate tariff. Such of her working-people as are thus thrown out of employment as have not been reduced to a condition of poverty that precludes the possibility of their emigrating, come to our country to earn good wages guarantied by a protective tariff, and to enjoy home and family and a free church as well as free schools for their children.

Let me ask, where does England go for much of her paper, her printing, and many of her books? Not to London. She was publishing almost as largely as she is this year when her compositors, to the number of five thousand in London alone, were without work, and were sustained by private charity. What were the sufferings of the skilled workmen of England to her capitalists? Did they not pay poor-rates to maintain work-houses, and was not this their whole duty? Yes, so at least they thought, and they went to Belgium for their paper, their stereotyping, their printing, and their binding. The wages of Belgium being so much lower than those of England, she let her own people starve, and broke up almost the last industry of Ireland, the manufacture of paper, by going to Belgium for cheap books.

Where are the three hundred and more copper mines in Cornwall and Devonshire alone, which in 1866 employed seven thousand men in mining? The late Sir Roderick Murchison is my authority for saying that the importation, duty free, of the cheap surface ores of Chili and Peru closed more than three hundred drifts and turned adrift more than seven thousand skilled miners. Do you think those men, bred to copper-mining from early boyhood in the beautiful counties of Cornwall and Devon, with their families about them, living humbly, it is true, but living by their labor, hailed free trade as a blessing when they turned from their homes and they and their girls and boys huddled with the pauper herd in the work-house? The gentleman from Indiana, [Mr. KERR,] being such a consumer and wanting cheap goods, may say "As we are not the keepers of our brethren, that is not our business;" but, sir, the laboring man of this country will regard it as worthy of his consideration and will declare by his vote that he does not want any such blessings as free trade is bestowing upon the working classes of England.

The cheap copper of Chili and Peru has operated admirably for capitalists, the English manufacturers getting it, mined as it is by unpaid peons, at much less than they used to pay per ton for copper mined by native miners from their own mines. Alas for the miners, where are they? But why should statesmen who have not the right to protect their people by a defensive customs duty pause to consider the condition or fate of such poor creatures? English capitalists now propose to buy on the Mediterranean and in other parts of Spain near the coast—indeed they have bought—immense bodies of land containing inexhaustible deposits of iron ore, that by these prospectuses to be equal to the best Cumberland ore. They state that wages in Spain are lower even than in Belgium, and that the ore can be mined, transported, and laid down near the iron-works of England at a lower cost than the best ores of Cumberland can be mined for at English wages and transported by rail or water to the same points. * * * * *

No, sir, England has not found free trade a blessing. The last census shows that the rate at which her population increases has already been greatly diminished; and if monopolizing capitalists will only open plenty of iron mines in Spain, and thus close those of England, where mining and handling the ore would cost them more, he who lives to read the census of 1881 will find written on every page of the statistics of population palpable proof of free trade England's rapid decadence.

I happen to have with me a copy of the English tariff, which the gentleman presents as a model which we cannot too speedily copy, together with a presentation of one year's results. A more infamous piece of legislation was never planned by the cunning of greedy capitalists than this model tariff. It is the work of heartless cupidity.

The English tariff has two objects, sir; the first is to tax every import of which the laborer is a special consumer, and to admit free of duty everything that the governing classes of the people require. That is one of its objects. The other is to tax two of the leading agricultural products of the United States. The English laborer and small farmer know two kinds of fruit, and two only—raisins and dried currants. These even the poor, before their approach too nearly to pauperism, enjoy in their Christmas pudding; and the better class of laborers enjoy them on Sunday at intervals throughout the year. The aristocracy indulge in white grapes, and figs, and prunes, and nuts, and indeed every variety of imported fruit. Does the English tariff touch either class? Yes, sir; the currants and raisins of the laboring man pay a duty of seven shillings per hundred weight; but the luscious fruits enjoyed by the aristocracy, the grapes of France and Italy, the figs of Smyrna, the prunes of the world, the banana, and other tropical fruits, and all those things which beautify and grace the tables of the aristocracy, are admitted free of duty. Would the gentleman have us copy such features as these? * * * * * * *

Mr. Speaker, why should the laborers and farmers of the United States be taxed $20,000,000 a year for the privilege of taking a draught of tea or coffee with their morning and evening meal? Why should this be, I ask? * * * * * * *

If the purchasing power of English wages is, as the gentleman from Indiana asserts, so much greater than the purchasing power of American wages, why do so many English skilled laborers come to this country? Why do no American laborers migrate to England? Sir, a gentleman who was yesterday before the Committee of Ways and Means, the mayor of the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mr. Houghton, of the firm of Hurd & Houghton, told us he had gone to England to get workmen, when his office had yielded its able-bodied men to the demands of the war; and he found there the best compositors so poor that they were not able to pay their passage and come with him. And he told us, further, that he found in London one poor compositor from Indiana, who, having saved something here, had gone over there to see the world, and who, having exhausted his American earnings, had found his wages so small that he had been unable to save enough to pay his passage home, although he had been working there for more than two years. He begged Mr. Houghton to bring him to this country, where, according to the gentleman from Indiana, [Mr. KERR,] the wages received have not the same purchasing power as those he had been earning in England. How, if this assertion be true, was he to pay the passage-money to be advanced?

This theory is a mere fiction, sir, and those who assert it cannot adduce any facts which support it. * * * You will not find an English workingman in America who will not tell you that the purchasing power of current American wages is vastly greater than that even of the recently advanced rates paid in England. An English silk-weaver told the Committee of Ways and Means a few days ago that he had been at work in Macclesfield before the reciprocity treaty which closed the silk factories in that town was concluded between France and England, and that he was now at work at the same branch of business in Patterson, New Jersey, in a factory employing the looms on which he had worked in Macclesfield. When asked to compare the wages he received then and now, he answered thus: "Sir, I can now save more in a year, and have done it for years past, than the whole of the earnings of my labor amounted to in a year in England." Yes, sir, that man's net savings, the net results of his labor after all his expenses of living are provided for, are greater than his whole earnings were in England; and he now enjoys his meat every day as all American workmen do, instead of only once a week as very many skilled English mechanics do who are comparatively prosperous. Yes, sir, while enjoying a more generous diet and educating his children an American silk-weaver can save more in the course of a year than the total amount of the gross wages he could earn in England. But what are facts like these to those who have implicit faith in the inspired wisdom of the teachings of free trade revenue reform!

May God forbid, sir, that in the pursuit of cheapness we should reduce the women and girls of America to the condition of those of Belgium and the Zollverein, and may He, in His mercy, forever prevent any portion of the children and women of America from being reduced to the condition of those of Staffordshire and other parts of England.

Sir, you have read the little book of George Smith, of Coalville, Leicestershire, England, entitled "The Cry of the Children from the Brick-Yards of England?" It is the most thrilling and loathsome story of English inhumanity and suffering that I have read for years; no fiction parallels it. It shows that children, girls in the fourth year of their age, are not too young to be employed in making the pottery-wares and bricks of England. And Mr. Smith's story is corroborated by the venerable Elihu Burritt and correspondents of leading English journals, whose statements are embodied in his book.

Boys and girls above twelve years of age are often required to walk over twenty miles a day, carrying from six to nine tons of wet clay half the distance. The distance walked and the weight carried are easily ascertained. They walk from a certain bank to a certain table; and the amount of clay worked by the men or women they supply tells the weight they carry, and the number of loads carried determines the distance traveled. And for what do they thus labor? A few pence a day, the best workers (the adults) getting but from one to three shillings a day. I commend the book to the attention of the gentleman from Indiana, [MR. KERR,] and ask him whether, in addition to turning girls and women into the oar banks and coal mines of Indiana in order to obtain cheap iron and steel, he will also take infants, too young for school, and employ them in the drudgery of American potteries and brick-yards; for if permanent system of internal taxes, and contend with England and the continent for cheapness, these consequences are all involved.

Now, sir, if a tariff and tax law should be adopted such as the gentleman's speech foreshadows, the period of 1873–80 would reproduce with enormous aggravation all the bankruptcy and ruin, all the sorrow and misery experienced by the American people in 1857–1860, in 1834–40, and in 1817–20. Those three periods are memorable as periods of profound distress and widespread ruin in this country. The prevalence of the opinions of the gentleman from Indiana would, I reiterate, inaugurate almost instanter such an era.

Those who are old enough to remember 1857–60, and preeminently those who can remember 1834–40, as I can, when for nine months I walked the streets of my native city, and would have been glad to earn a half dollar on any day, and could find no man who could give me work or wages, * * * will be admonished by the passage of such a law to take in sail. No new hands will be employed, or new enterprises entered upon. The immigrant coming here will find himself idle, and the tide of immigration will ebb. Gradually the people in employment will be discharged, as cheap goods from Belgium, France, the Zollverein, and Great Britain crowd the more costly domestic goods out of the market. I query, sir, whether the mechanics of the United States will call that system free trade which must inevitably deprive them of a market for their skill and labor, the only property they have to sell. Will they not rather regard it as foreign monopoly?

And then, what? Then will begin contraction, sir, contraction such as Congress could not inaugurate by direct financial legislation. And why? During the last eleven years, under a protective tariff, with the duties increased by the difference between paper and gold, our industries have expanded, and the increased cost of articles to the consumer has largely gone in increase of wages to the laborer. Our laborers are not indolent, or dissolute, or drunken. They know the value of home. They cherish wife and children. They dream of leaving behind them a little home in which the widow and orphan children shall be domiciled after the dread summoner shall have called them hence. And to secure this they make timely provision. Go to the savings banks of New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, or of the Western States, where cheap lands tempt to another form of investment, and you will find that the amount deposited by our laborers is more than the entire volume of greenbacks. It is now invested by the savings banks in bonds and mortgages on real estate, in Government loans, and the loans of corporate companies. If these deposits should be withdrawn, as they must be when an influx of cheap foreign goods shall deprive our laborers of work, mortgages must be called in, bonds must be sold, and the commercial classes who will be simultaneously called upon for heavy payments, and deprived of usual bank accommodations, will feel the effects. The working people of this country have on deposit nearly four hundred million dollars. Compel them by throwing them into idleness to draw upon their reserve, to eat up their deposits, and where will your capitalist or your business men get the money with which to conduct business, now derived from savings banks, or find a paying market for heavy importations? Congress cannot by any other means compel such a contraction of bank loans as would occur in one year if it should deprive the laboring people of work in the mines, factories, forges, and furnaces of the country, and throw them upon their deposits in the savings banks.

The gentleman from Indiana may say his bill does not involve such consequences. I say that it does; and therein I express my opinion honestly as he expresses his. And as a proof of the correctness of my position I cite the experience of the periods to which I have referred. I cite Ireland as a perpetual witness, and Turkey as another. India furnishes perhaps still more striking proof that free trade is but another name for British monopoly. Ireland has enjoyed free trade, and what is she? Where are her eight millions of people? In 1840 they were happy upon the green isle. Ah, sir, one million of them went to the grave from starvation and diseases resulting from inadequate food; and other millions have fled, and the takers of the last census found little more than five millions of them upon the island. Turkey! Why, sir, the system under which Turkey has been made the sick man of Europe, and is kept in a condition which allows no convalescence, is tender to her people compared with that which the gentleman from Indiana would inflict upon us. Turkey imposes eight per cent. taxes on her products and levies eight per cent. protective duties; and there she is, the helpless dependent of Great Britain, who has shaped her legislation for half a century. The gentleman, while grudging eight per cent. protective duties, would maintain $140,000,000 of internal taxes, would impose high duties on every element of life and manufacture that we cannot produce, and would reduce to a "revenue standard," as he calls it, the duties on all things that we do produce. In his own emphatic language, he would "protect nothing;" no, sir, not even the right of the American laborer to home and food!

If it be true that the duty on coal, which produces $500,000 a year, imposes, as he says it does, a tax of $18,000,000 on the people, there is a worse hardship imposed upon the miners of that coal and other laborers by the duties paid on agricultural products; for I find by examining the tables that in order to get $1,055,295.80 into the Treasury by duties on wheat, rye, oats, Indian corn, barley buckwheat, and potatoes, we pay to the farmers, according to the gentleman's theory, (I deny the theory *in toto*, and denounce it as false, fallacious, delusive,) a bonus on those seven articles of $179,336,851.37. How could the gentleman's argument be more effectually reduced to an absurdity?

The Rebellion Not Ended.

The guns are silent, the armies are disbanded, the shattered colors are folded away, and the maimed and wounded are disappearing from among us. But how much of the conflict of 1861 has disappeared? The following, from *Harper's Weekly*, forcibly and fairly considers this question:

"It seems to us to be the merest folly, and a perilous folly, to speak of the issues which divided the country for a generation, and which led to the war, as in any final sense settled and closed. Politics are not a mere game, in which one side having lost and the other won, there is a smiling adjustment of the board for a new turn. The division between the Republican and Democratic parties was founded upon differing views of the very nature of the government and of human rights. Those views were absolutely incompatible, and admitted of no pacific settlement. But when the life and character and conscience of one part of the population are hostile to those of another part—when the spirit of society, the theories of industry and of original right, in one section are hopelessly opposed to those of another, and the result is a desolating and cruel war, in which one party unconditionally conquers the other—what supreme folly to imagine that a mere formal acquiescence in the defeat has healed or settled the real differences!

"The present condition of the Southern States, the Ku-Klux, the sense of insecurity of the new citizens, the constant slowness of recovery, show the real situation. Nor can any considerable share of this be attributed to the National Government. Besides the inevitable material consequences of the war which slavery occasioned and waged, there has been no punishment except a brief disfranchisement, which has been removed, and a limited disability to hold office. But the hostile spirit remains, and the false theory of the Government is still held. We certainly do not think it strange that it should be so. But the Democratic leaders insist that bygones shall be bygones. Very well; if the Democratic theories, principles, policies, and measures have passed by, if the issues upon which parties were divided are settled, why does the party which represents the defeated issues still maintain its organization? It would be time for the victorious party to disband when the conquered party yields. It will be time to form a new party when the old parties have naturally disappeared."

THE indictments against some of Andrew Johnson's New York officials for complicity with whisky frauds call attention to the way in which Grant's administration has prosecuted frauds on the revenue:

Number of suits brought in Federal courts in 1868, 5,305; in 1870, 6,743; in 1871, 6,977.

Number of indictments found in 1868, 1,961; in 1870, 3,552; in 1871, 4,217.

Number of convictions in 1868, 749; in 1870, 1,152; in 1871, 1,232.

Amount of judgments recovered by the United States in 1868, $741,797.47; in 1870, $1,276,254.32; in 1871, $1,419,064.48.

Amount collected from judgments and paid into courts in 1868, $127,810.94; in 1870, $441,973.05; in 1871, $594,339.97.

[From the New York Independent]

Life in San Domingo.

BY SAMUEL G. HOWE, M. D.

It is but a few days since we, shivering with cold, left behind us the snow and ice of New England, and now, having thrown off all woolen garments, we sit clad in white linen, with doors and windows wide open all the live-long day and night, and are fanned by the soft trade winds.

We have been familiar with various climates; but have never known any so delicious to the senses or more salubrious than that of this beautiful island.

Already the clouds of ignorance and error which obscure from one's sight at home the real condition of affairs here have cleared away, and we are able to correct many popular errors.

The idea that men cannot or will not work in the Tropics was dispelled at Puerto Platte by the sight of lighters paddling to meet us, manned by brawny laborers, who rushed at the cargo and swung it into their boats. Nearing the shore, it was received by teamsters, who had driven their bull-carts hub deep into the water, and then urged them with sharp voice and sticks up the beach, to the open warehouses, where other laborers stowed it away.

All day long, and far into the evening they worked by moonlight, and made night noisy by their shouts and laughter. They chattered in various languages, among which the English predominates.

Puerto Platte is a phenomenon rarely seen hitherto in the Tropics; for it is animated by a spirit caught from the United States, and work is the order of the day. Merchants, traders, and laborers are active and earnest, because they work in freedom and reap a fair harvest of grain.

The town was devastated last season by a conflagration, as serious to its inhabitants as was that at Chicago to hers. Already new and better stores and houses rise out of the ruins, on streets broader and better than the old ones.

Hardly twelve hours after landing our goods, most of them were on their winding way toward the interior town of St. Jago, over a rough natural road, where is already an active transportation, the annual cost of which is more than half a million dollars.

Men will not work in the Tropics except under coercion! As well say that the honey-bee, impelled in the temperate zone to hive honey for winter's food, will not store it where the "flowers ever blossom, the beams ever shine." Imported into this island, the bee, impelled by instinct, hives honey perpetually.

Man is not a whit less industrious by nature than the bee; and will work everywhere, when the natural rewards of industry are fairly shared among those who exercise it, instead of being taxed, or monopolized by a favored class.

Hitherto the virile men of the North have gone to the Tropics in the spirit of the old dispensation—to dominate the softer natives, to make them hewers of wood and drawers of water, while denying them the rewards of their work.

But when the North shall approach the South in the spirit of the new dispensation—disposed to do as it would be done by, to share fairly the profits of work; and shall apply its cultivated brain and improved machinery to the development of tropical fecundities—then will the South respond eagerly and work harmoniously. And harvests multiplied an hundred fold will provide food for the human race at far less cost of labor than is now necessary.

Who cannot see in this a clue to the solution of the vexed question of labor?

Here Mother Earth offers yearly three crops of some kinds of food, in return for less work than she gives for one crop in the North.

Here the farmer is spared the great outlay necessary for building house and barn, secure against the destructive agency of frost, and for keeping family and cattle warm during the long winter weather, when he can do little work.

When the great tropical belt (the natural garden of the globe) can be skillfully cultivated, and its abundant harvests freely distributed, one hour's labor will be as productive as three are at present; and, therefore, the multitudes who must now work from morn till night for the support of the human family will have breathing time from their toil.

At Samana Bay other mistaken ideas of our people were exposed, and the utter unreliability of Congressional diatribes and party criminations were clearly proved.

Our Government has been accused of unlawfully occupying foreign territory, and exercising sovereignty, in defiance of international law. But we find that on the termination of treaty negotiations for annexation President Grant hauled down our flag, which has been replaced by the Dominican standard; and yet peace and order reign, and the predicted overthrow of the Dominican Government has not taken place.

Again, our steamer hauled up at a wharf where the water is over twenty-two feet deep at the lowest, and hard by where once was moored the "Dictator," the heaviest ironclad in our navy. And yet Senator Morrill, in a speech carefully prepared months beforehand, told our people that the boasted harbor of Samana Bay was not deep enough to float the "Tennessee!"

This is a sample of Senatorial accuracy and reliability in all matters where the evil genius of party possesses the brain of men usually sound and correct.

And yet, again: Here at Santo Domingo City other popular ideas, propagated by Congressional speeches, are found to have no basis save in the distempered imaginations of political leaders.

How often have our people been assured that our Executive was guilty of maintaining a fleet in these waters, at vast expense, without necessity, and "solely to maintain a usurper in power!"

How confidently, how earnestly, how frequently have our orators asserted that the Baez administration was kept in power mainly by our naval forces, and that it could not stand a day after their withdrawal!

How have our orators thundered against this abuse of national power, this degrading service of our navy; and how have weak-kneed Republicans shaken their heads in disapproval of the supposed error and wrong! But what is the truth about it? We must have a squadron in the West Indies. The Dominican ports are capacious and convenient, and thither our ships frequently resort.

But at this time there is not one of our war vessels in Dominican waters! The last one, the "Nantasket," sailed away some time ago," to return no one knows exactly when.

But yet President Baez has not fallen nor fled! He sits more firm in the saddle than ever, and his administration has the confidence and the almost unanimous support of the people!

History will show, what all in these regions admit, that the moral effect of the presence of our fleet in Dominican and Haytian waters has been blessed indeed, because it has helped greatly to deter fillibusters, and to maintain peace and order.

Hayti, nominally at peace with Santo Domingo, was constantly, though furtively, promoting lawless expeditions against her, and the presence of our fleet was a terror to evil-doers only.

Not a gun has been fired, not a threat even uttered, except against those who were manifestly preparing to violate international law. Our navy has never earned more true glory by warlike deeds than it has by its successful efforts to keep the peace and maintain international law, during the last three years, in these waters, so long the scene of violence, of piracy, and of bloody wars!

I find that the great mass of the Dominican people cling to the hope of annexation; but the President and the political leaders have almost abandoned it.

Already they are turning their eyes to other quarters for means of protection. Their constant dread is that the blacks of Hayti may in some way come to dominate the whole island; and this, they feel assured, will be followed by the slaughter or exile of all who have white blood in their veins. The President said to me yesterday, with passionate eloquence: "I would rather see my poor country dominated by Englishmen, Germans, Spaniards, Turks even, than by detestable blacks of Hayti. With them my people can never unite, never live in peace."

He sees, with his clear intellect, what the Dominican people intuitively feel, that they cannot submit to the negroes of Hayti; and yet cannot live in peace while obliged to be so constantly on their guard against invasion and war from their richer and more numerous neighbors, unless they can have the protection of some strong and humane power.

I regret that my country has so nearly lost the opportunity of doing a glorious work in the cause of peace and human progress.

CITY OF SAN DOMINGO, Feb 25, 1872.

Homesteads at Last.

On Friday of last week the Senate of the United States performed an act which will entitle it to the gratitude of soldiers for all coming time; and not to be left behind, the House on Monday completed the work, so far as lay in its power. We allude, of course, to the soldiers' homestead act, which passed both Houses without a division. It reads as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That every private soldier and officer who has served in the Army of the United States during the recent rebellion for ninety days, or more, and who was honorably discharged, and has remained loyal to the Government, including the troops mustered into the service of the United States by virtue of the third section of an act entitled "An act making appropriations for completing the defenses of Washington, and for other purposes," approved February 13, 1862, and every seaman, marine, and officer who has served in the Navy of the United States, or in the Marine Corps, during the rebellion, for ninety days, and who was honorably discharged, and has remained loyal to the Government, shall, on compliance with the provisions of an act entitled "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," and the acts amendatory thereof, as hereinafter modified, be entitled to enter upon and receive patents for a quantity of public lands (not mineral) not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, or one quarter-section, to be taken in compact form according to legal subdivisions, including the alternate reserved sections of public lands along the line of any railroad or other public work, not otherwise reserved or appropriated, and other lands subject to entry under the homestead laws of the United States: *Provided*, That said homestead settler shall be allowed six months after locating his homestead within which to commence his settlement and improvement: *And provided also*, That the time which the homestead settler shall have served in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps aforesaid shall be deducted from the time heretofore required to protect the title, or if discharged on account of wounds received, or disability incurred in the line of duty, then the term of enlistment shall be deducted from the time heretofore required to perfect title, without reference to the length of time he may have served: *Provided, however*, That no patent shall issue to any homestead settler who has not resided upon, improved, and cultivated his said homestead for a period of at least one year after he shall commence his improvements as aforesaid.

SEC. 2. That any person entitled under the provisions of the foregoing section to enter a homestead, who may have heretofore entered under the homestead laws a quantity of land less than one hundred and sixty acres, shall be permitted to enter under the provisions of this act so much land as, when added to the quantity previously entered, shall not exceed one hundred and sixty acres.

SEC. 3. That in the case of the death of any person who would be entitled to a homestead under the provisions of the first section of this act, his widow, if unmarried, or in case of her death or marriage, then his minor orphan children, by a guardian duly appointed and officially accredited at the Department of the Interior, shall be entitled to all the benefits enumerated in this act, subject to all the provisions as to settlement and improvements therein contained: *Provided*, That if such person died during his term of enlistment, the whole term of his enlistment shall be deducted from the time heretofore required to perfect the title.

SEC. 4. That where a party at the date of his entry of a tract of land under the homestead laws, or subsequently thereto, was actually enlisted and employed in the Army or Navy of the United States, his services therein shall, in the administration of said homestead laws, be construed to be equivalent, to all intents and purposes, to a residence for the same length of time upon the tract so entered: *Provided*, That if his entry has been canceled by reason of his absence from said tract while in the military or naval service of the United States, and such tract has not been disposed of, his entry shall be restored and confirmed: *And provided further*, That if such tract has been disposed of, said party may enter another tract subject to entry under said laws, and his right to a patent therefor shall be determined by the proofs touching his residence and cultivation of the first tract, and his absence therefrom in such service.

SEC. 5. That any soldier, sailor, marine, officer, or other person coming within the provisions of this act may, as well by an agent as in person, enter upon said homestead: *Provided*, That said claimant in person shall, within the time prescribed, commence settlement and improvements on the same, and thereafter fulfill all the requirements of this act.

SEC. 6. That the Commissioner of the General Land Office shall have authority to make all needful rules and regulations to carry into effect the provisions of this act.

This law grants all that the majority of soldiers have asked, and will be received with universal satisfaction. To Gen. Logan in the Senate and Gen. Hawley in the House the thanks of soldiers are particularly due. Gen. Stoughton has also been indefatigable in his exertions, and in one respect we regard the bill introduced by him as superior to the one adopted—and that is, the provision which allows crippled soldiers to make their settlement by proxy. We hope to see this proposition taken up and acted on separately before the close of the session. The proviso in regard to settlement is all right, and is needed for the protection of the settler and the Government, but it is only justice to allow our disabled comrades the privilege of employing an agent to do the hard work of making improvements for them. So the lands are improved by actual settlement and cultivation, it makes no difference to the Government who makes the settlement, while it does make a very decided difference to men who are disabled by army service.

The law as it stands, however, will work great good. Thousands of soldiers will take advantage of its provisions at once, and we shall see new cities and States spring up in the West faster than ever before. As a measure of good, we do not believe all the legislation of the last three sessions of Congress will accomplish more for the benefit of the country. We congratulate our soldier comrades, and in their name we thank the Representatives of the people for this good work.

—An exchange says: "Mr. Henry Hummel, of Decatur, Illinois, has in his house a jar of jelly given to him by his grandfather many years ago, made by the hands of Martha Washington, the mother of her country." There's a fortune in that jelly, if the man only knows how to use it. Let it be produced at the Centennial Celebration at Philadelphia in 1876, and sell tarts at a dollar apiece, each bearing an infinitesimal quantity of the genuine jelly upon it.

Value of Land Grants.

The Boston *Daily Advertiser* has a long article on the value of land grants to railroads, which concludes as follows:

"With respect to the grant of the Northern Pacific Railroad and its prospective value, Congress granted to this company 12,000 acres of land to each mile of road, commencing on Lake Superior and extending to the eastern boundary line of Dakota, and 25,000 per mile from that line to the Pacific coast. This grant was to aid in the construction of a railroad from Lake Superior to Puget Sound and the vicinity of Portland, Oregon, and calls for about 58,000 acres, or 90,000 square miles of land, an extent equal to New York and Indiana together, or eleven and a half times Massachusetts. The route of this road, commencing in Minnesota, on the shores of Lake Superior, passes through the timbered lands west of that lake, and over the region of prairies, lakes, and groves in western Minnesota; thence it crosses the wonderful valley of the Red River of the North, and strikes out over the gently undulating and fertile prairies of Dakota, and crossing the Missouri river at the mouth of the Heart, it extends to the beautiful valley of the Yellowstone in nearly a straight line; ascending this valley and passing through belts of timber and rich rolling lands, it goes through the Boseman Pass of the Belt Mountains into the central basin of Montana, and crosses the fertile valleys of the Gallatin, Madison and Jefferson forks of the Upper Missouri; going up the valleys of the latter and Divide Creek, it runs through Deer Lodge Pass at an altitude under five thousand feet above sea-level, and descends the western slope by the valleys of Deer Lodge Creek, Hell Gate River, and Clark's Fork to Lake Pend Oreille, where it crosses the great grass plain of the Columbia to Wallula; thence it follows the Columbia River through the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific coast. The climate of this great land-grant belt across the continent is bracing, and unusually healthful, being free from all peculiar diseases. The soil, as a whole, is of excellent quality, producing large crops of wheat, rye, oats, and barley; vegetables yield without a parallel in the history of horticulture in America, and all kinds of small fruits, wild and cultivated, yield the same as in the New England States. The nutritious grasses growing wild on the eastern and western slopes of the Rocky Mountains and in the valleys afford sustenance for cattle the year round, the climate being so mild as not to necessitate shelter for stock in the winter. A large portion of this grant is covered with forests of an immense growth, the like of which cannot be found on this continent. The mineral wealth of this region seems as yet to be hardly explored; at the present time no portion of our country promises a greater amount of precious metals than that through which this road will run. Immense coal deposits are found underlying a great portion of the grant. The Committee on the Pacific Railroad, in the United States Senate, in their report, February 19, 1869, say: 'Every element of wealth, every condition of social growth and prosperity exist in superabundance and beyond exhaustion in the region lying between Lake Superior and Puget Sound. For this immense country, railroads can do more than they have done for Illinois.'"

"Now if we compute the ultimate value of this grant of the Northern Pacific Railroad at $7 per acre, the average of the land grant sales, it will amount to $406,000,000; if at $5 per acre, it amounts to $290,000,000; if at $3.07 per acre, the lowest of all the grants, it will amount to $178,060,000. The latter sum is more than twice the estimated cost of the road, as set forth by the most competent engineers. These prospective results seem astounding, yet it strikes us as not unreasonable to believe that the financial results of this grant shall even exceed the highest of these estimates, insomuch as its resources are so immense, and will be developed with so great facility by the railroad, which will be the shorter and more easily operated of our Pacific roads."

Republican Union and Harmony.

The Savannah (Ga.) *Journal* of the 3d inst. contains the following encouraging statement in regard to the improved condition of the Republican party in Georgia:

It affords us pleasure to chronicle the indications of greater harmony in the Republican party in this county and State in the future. From what we have seen during the past week or two, we feel that wiser counsels are prevailing, and that an effort is being successfully made to have personal preferences give way for the general good of the party. The Central Committee at its recent session in Atlanta rescinded its former action in appointing delegates to the National Convention in Philadelphia, next June, and voted unanimously to call a State Convention at Macon on the 8th of May, to choose the delegates from this State to the Philadelphia Convention, on the basis of double the number which compose the lower house of the Assembly. This action is on the right line, and is a starting point on the part of our party in the State, for the Presidential campaign. We feel convinced that the Republican party in this State has seen its worst days, that wiser and more useful counsels are to prevail in the future, and that a greater degree of unity is to be experienced. Much is to be gained by such a course, while by keeping alive the old divisions and factional jealousies which have so nearly prostrated our party, all is to be lost. In Union, and by Union, and for the Union only can we hope to gain the victory over the indefatigable and unscrupulous Democracy. In this county and city a deeper, more anxious and earnest desire for peace, love, and union is evinced each day as the campaign opens. The hatchet has been buried, party jealousies are laid aside; and a solid fight, in the magic name of Grant and Union, is to be opened against the common enemy. A mass meeting has been called to appoint delegates from this city and county to the State Convention, and a strong rally is anticipated, as every one has taken hold with a will, and it is expected, should the day be fine, that the Republican party will be sure to put in an appearance, when the veterans from far and near assemble to counsel together on the 15th. May God give us all patience with each other and a determination to fight shoulder to shoulder in defence of right and justice through the coming struggle, and add thereto such a glorious victory as we shall then deserve!

"IF GRANT'S partisans," said the New York *World*, before the Connecticut election, "carry Connecticut, the Cincinnati Convention will not be worth a row of pins." Well, Grant's partisans did carry Connecticut.

"If," said the *World*, two or three days later, "the Liberal Republicans let Grant carry Connecticut, the Cincinnati Convention will not be worth a pinch of snuff." Well, Grant did carry Connecticut.

"If," continued the *World*, "Messrs. Sumner, Greeley, Bowles, and our respectable friends of the Hartford *Post*, allow a Grant triumph in Connecticut, we tell them plainly that the jig is up." Well, there was a Grant triumph in Connecticut.

Again, said the *World*, "within twenty days after Jewell's election there will have ceased to be any vigorous opposition to Grant from the Liberal Republican journals or leaders, and no earnest man will care a straw what the Cincinnati Convention does, or forbears to do." Well, Jewell is elected.

Again: "The opportunity to make the Cincinnati Convention powerful and formidable was offered to the Liberal Republicans in Connecticut, and lost. They have forfeited this proud, commanding position by sheer political cowardice; and the Cincinnati Convention is now of as little consequence as the Cleveland Convention was in 1864." Yes, just so. "It is easy to be wise after the event," as the *World* says, and now sees.—*Detroit Post.*

NEWS CLIPPINGS.

—The farmers of the Saguenay region below Quebec, Canada, are in great distress, and relief by a loan of $40,000 from the Government is suggested, otherwise they will be compelled to leave their farms and come to "the States."

—A young lady in Evanston, Illinois, died suddenly a short time ago, and at the post mortem examination it was discovered that her death had been caused by a needle penetrating the heart. The needle had been shoved into her breast many years previously by a fall.

—The Green Bay *Advocate* says that it seems as if the disastrous fires which swept over that region last October had become so deeply seated that they never can be extinguished. Smoke may still be seen issuing from the ground where the snow is melted off in many places.

—The cable brings the intelligence that the ancient city of Antioch, in Syria, has been partially destroyed by an earthquake. Fifteen hundred persons were killed, and, as the entire population was not over ten thousand, this great loss of life is sufficient to show the fearful extent of the calamity.

—Down in the Pennsylvania coal regions a rash school teacher attempted to enforce an edict that the scholars should be cleaned daily. The superintendent was appealed to, the teacher suspended, and an investigation ordered. When it was found that this was likely to confirm the innovation, the great unwashed rallied and burned down the school house.

—The longest bridge in the world is the Tensas and Mobile bridge, at the city of Mobile. It is fifteen miles long, crosses both rivers, where there are draws. It is supported on iron cylinders driven into the bed of the morass, and is probably the longest structure in the world. The next longest structure is one of A. H. Stephens' paragraphs.

—A number of strikers at the Rhode Island Granite Works at Westerly, Rhode Island, have been arrested, and nine of them committed to jail in default of the necessary bonds. They are charged by their late employer with conspiring and injuring him in his business by preventing men from entering his employ, and in sundry other ways. The damages are laid at $50,000.

—The committee appointed by the recent Agricultural Convention in Washington have adopted resolutions petitioning Congress to establish Signal Service Stations at each of the Agricultural Colleges throughout the country which have been organized under the act of Congress. It is believed that by this means the system of weather reports may be made much more useful to farmers than it is at present.

—Justin McCarthy says: "Charles Reade is a big, heavy, ragged, gray man—a sort of portlier Walt Whitman, let us say, but with closer cut hair and beard—a Walt Whitman, let us say, put into training for the part of a stout British vestryman. He impresses you at once as a man of character, energy, and originality, although he is by no means the sort of a person you would pick out as a typical romancist."

—The Cincinnati *Commercial*, in noticing the selection of office-holders as delegates to the Republican National Convention, says: "In view of the proposed nomination of President Grant, the impropriety of any one holding an office at his hands attending the Convention, which it is anticipated will make him its choice, is so gross that no office-holder of delicacy of feeling or ordinary sensitiveness would be seen there."

—John Bright, in reply to the hope of his friends that he would be the first President of the Republic of Great Britain, should the fortunes of that country decree that it shall pass from Monarchical rule, has told his friends that he hopes a long time will elapse before the English people are called upon to decide between a republic and a monarchy, and expressed doubts as to whether Republicans were his real friends.

—On the 8th of May next the Democratic National Committee will assemble in New York and probably arrange for the time for the holding of the National Convention. The reticence of Mr. Belmont in not earlier calling the committee together has met the approval of the Democratic leaders, they being desirous of becoming fully acquainted with the motives and aims of the Cincinnati Convention before calling their Convention together.

—A rumor is afloat in foreign circles of fashion that a German prince, allied by marriage to the royal family of England, has eloped with a London actress. The report appears to have more substantial foundation than that furnished by the morbid anxiety of gossipmongers to account for the non-appearance in the public of the prince and princess during the illness of the Prince of Wales, and from that time to this. It is extraordinary if true, for the prince and princess are of the most popular, beloved, and respected members of the royal family of England.

—It is a somewhat remarkable fact that the Australians, who represent about the lowest type of humanity, have for ages entertained ideas relative to the development of man very similar to the better expounded theory of Charles Darwin. They believe that man sprang from the lowest creatures in existence, and that he has through vast ages ascended step by step to his present high estate, living the lives of many different animals, one after another, before becoming a human being. They entertain great reverence for the dog, which they believe to be an embryo human, which, in its next stage of development, will become an Australian.

—Walter McLean, of New York, who was recently appointed by the President to the United States Naval Academy, graduated from Harford Academy, Maryland, lately, and, having a passionate desire to become a naval cadet, determined to obtain an appointment without the knowledge of his friends. By personal applications he received recommendations from Commodore Vanderbilt, Judge Ketcham, and other gentlemen of influence in New York, and went to the city of Washington and proceeded to the White House, where he finally obtained an interview with the President, who was favorably impressed with him and gave him the desired appointment.

—Illinois is congratulating itself on having a good Legislature during this last winter. The Chicago *Journal* says: "For the first time within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, a General Assembly retires with the plaudit, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' It had come to be regarded as quite impossible to send a set of men to Springfield who could keep their legislative robes unspotted by the lobby. The final adjournment brought a profound sense of relief. Every intelligent observer of events at the capital saw in the homeward flight of the members the end of foul jobbery. All has changed. The present General Assembly is above reproach."

—A Dublin correspondent writes that the announcement of the intended visit of Mrs. Woodhull to lecture the women of that city on the blessings of Free Love has created the most intense and universal indignation both in that city and in Cork. The writer says: "Knowing the man of Cork well, I advise Mrs. Victoria Woodhull to secure a safe means of exit before she tries his excitable temper too far." Woodhull, Claflin & Co. would do well, before they start out on their Free Love crusade, to consider the danger of free speech in countries where auditors have very forcible ways of expressing their notions at times. At the same time, none will mourn very sincerely over her departure, or would seriously object if she would take her entire staff with her.