

The Intelligencer.

A PROPOSED GRAB.

We shall see presently what good resolutions the Democratic House made yesterday.

In the matter of failures 1883 dealt gently by West Virginia. The fact is, we can't afford to fall in West Virginia.

Mr. J. Davis will not be borne on the Mexican war pension roll. He has already said that he would decline. There are also other reasons.

Mr. Henry B. Payne is also a Democratic presidential possibility. In this early flush of the new year Mr. Payne is a good man to keep your eye on.

GENERAL LOGAN'S help did not nominate General Grant in 1880, and perhaps General Grant's help would not nominate General Logan in 1884. It is so far off that you can't tell.

That is right, Mr. Morrison, give us your old tariff bill. That will do as well as any other to jump on. And be sure you perform the duty on tea and coffee—the poor man's breakfast table—now free.

Mr. Hewitt's Mexican pension bill excludes soldiers drawing pensions on account of disabilities received in the Union army, but there is nothing said about excluding soldiers who served in another army at the same time.

From Clarksburg comes the cheering news that the railroad from there to the Pennsylvania line will be built within eighteen months. A splendid territory awaits the coming of that road. West Virginia offers a wide field for development, and capital is beginning to find it out.

A correspondent sends an interesting page of war history, showing how, amid the smoke of battle, so to speak, certain eminent gentlemen hereabouts were "read out of the party." But that is all over, and these things are worth remembering only as matters of history. At this day the resolutions of the secession convention cut a droll figure.

The monumental check of Mr. C. P. Huntington is something wonderful. The publication of his recent letters concerning Senators and members of Congress appears rather to gratify him than otherwise, and now he has the audacity to camp in Washington for the winter campaign to pursue his schemes by the same old methods. Mr. Huntington ought to subsidize, but only force will make him do so.

When Mr. Holman takes his walks abroad and sees Government clerks promoting the avenue in coachmen's coats and topknots comes he "objects." And now he is bound to begin at the bottom and reform upwards. Mr. Holman was until recently the pet Presidential candidate of the New York Sun. He is a nice man, but he doesn't weigh two hundred and fifty pounds. That was Hancock.

The Customs Agent who thinks that in the event of the duty being removed from sugar on the other side Cuba would make up for it on the other side, has been reading history. That is just what Brazil did in the matter of the coffee duty. The consumer did not get the benefit. If, however, we were to restore the duty on coffee the consumer would feel that. It is a rule that doesn't work both ways. We have seen how it works as applied to cigars.

In ten months of 1883, ending November 1, steel rails to the value of \$1,020,257 were imported. In the corresponding period of 1882 the value was \$1,813,778—more than four times as great. In the month of October, 1883, the value of imported steel rails was \$39,571, against \$270,227 in October of 1882, or seven times the value. This will account in part for the depression in the English steel industry, and for the evident desire on the other side for a further reduction of the tariff that stands in the way of an American market for English rails. With American rails selling at \$34.50 English rails at present prices have not much chance.

In the Anglo-American Times of London, dated December 14, is a lengthy article entitled "West Virginia and Combined Action to Secure Credit." In this production we detect the fine Italian hand of Mr. Tax Commissioner Mason. The article reads like a leaf out of an opera bouffe libretto. We read for example, that "West Virginia desires a Special Commission to settle between her and the old parent State—Virginia. It is true her case needs special investigation; but what we contend for is—a General Commission; having in hand the adjustment of all outstanding obligations." West Virginians know that West Virginia does not desire anything of the kind. In fact West Virginia is not bothering herself about Virginia's West Virginia certificates. It isn't our debt and her bondholders are not our creditors. We tried to bring the matter to a settlement when it was much newer, but Virginia would not settlement, and wants none now. As soon as there shall have been a settlement of the fifteen millions with interest which she was good enough to apportion to become due. She knows that we never will pay any such sum, and she would be in for the difference between any sum we might pay and the face value of the certificates.

Except the Wall street syndicate, of which Mr. Mason is the agent, nobody is exercised about the so-called West Virginia certificates. The Anglo-American Times is in error when it supposes that credit is hurt by those certificates. This State is not in the market asking credit, and will not be. Neither is it true that our inter-State debt question has ever been a bar to our development. No capitalist holds this State "liable for dishonored bonds dealt in" anywhere, for capitalists know that the dishonored bonds are not ours. West Virginia is willing to pay her equitable proportion, whatever that may be, of the debt of the old State, but Virginia doesn't desire that a proposition determined by Mr. Mason seems to be being a long way from home to work his Wall street scheme. The pressure of English opinion will not pry open the pockets of our tax-payers.

THE FLAG AND AN APPROPRIATION.

How the Solid South Propose to Get Even—President to be Sold—The Existing Wages—A Scheme to Displace the Treasury—But the Senate and President will Attend to it.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 1.—The Solid South having obtained a virtual control of the committee organization of the House, its Representatives are casting about for plans to distribute the surplus revenue that the Southern States can get even. With Southern men at the head of the Committee of Education, Rivers and Harbors and Pensions, the prospects of success seem at least fair. To the latter committee is assigned the duty of wiping out the legal distinction which now exists between pension claimants who were loyal to the Union and those who were disloyal, and which prevents the payment of pensions to the latter. The committee is also expected to report favorably, at an early day, a bill to pension all survivors of the war with Mexico and the Florida, Creek and Black Indian wars, who served fourteen days or more, and the surviving widows of soldiers of those wars, and to give to the pension rolls all living pensioners of the war of 1812 whose names were stricken therefrom because they took up arms against the Government.

Half a dozen bills on the subject have already been offered, five of them by Southern men. One of them is by Mr. Hewitt, of Alabama, who is chairman of the Pension Committee. It gives \$8 a month to all surviving officers and enlisted men, including militia and volunteers, of the military and naval services, who served sixty days in the Mexican war, or thirty days in the Creek, Florida or Black Hawk war. The same amount is to be given to the widows of soldiers of those wars who have been re-entitled. But if a man who served in the Mexican war was a volunteer soldier in the Union army, and in receipt of a pension on that account, he cannot enjoy the benefits of the proposed act.

Service in the rebel army, however, does not bar his claim. The bill repeals section 4716 of the revised statutes, which forbids the payment of pensions to persons who were disloyal, but it contains a provision which excludes from its benefits all persons who are under the disabilities imposed by the laws of the United States, and the Constitution. This is, of course, designed to cut off Jefferson Davis, and it will affect nobody else.

Another bill, by Mr. Reagan, of Texas, contains identical provisions, except the one last mentioned. It was hardly to be expected that the ex-Postmaster General of the Southern Confederacy would be willing to exclude his former chief from the benefits of the proposed measure. The bill offered by Mr. Dibble, of South Carolina, does not fix any limit as to the time of service, but it applies to soldiers of the Mexican war, and does not extend to Jefferson Davis. The one introduced by Mr. Throckmold, of Texas, requires sixty days of service in the Mexican, Florida or Black Hawk war, and excludes persons under the disabilities imposed by the laws of the United States, and the Constitution. This is, of course, designed to cut off Jefferson Davis, and it will affect nobody else.

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In 1879 a Democratic Pension Committee in the House loaded down a bill for the benefit of disabled veterans of the Union army with provisions like those contained in the bills described, and stubbornly refused to allow the propositions to be separated. It required a two-thirds vote to rank the committee. Afterward the Mexican pension bill was attached by the Democratic Senate as a rider to a bill appropriating money to pay Union pensioners, but a timely motion to reconsider, made by Senator Windom, was carried by a majority of one vote, and after a bitter and excruciating debate the "rider" was finally defeated.

Several estimates have been made of the amount which would be drawn from the Treasury if these bills were to become laws. One of these puts the amount required on account of the Mexican war alone at \$17,000,000. This estimate, however, came from the same authority which figured the probable demands of the arrearsages of pensions at \$80,000,000, or less than one-fourth of the amount which is actually required, even should the privileges of that act not be extended, as now proposed. When the act to pension all survivors of the war of 1812 was passed in 1871 an estimate of 10,000 persons would share its benefits, and in the campaign of 1872 Randall, and in the campaign of 1873, that Carlisle's tariff policy would ruin the prospects of the Democratic party. It is to Eaton that the statement is attributed, that he had elected a speaker, and lost the presidency. This statement is a punishment.

THE PENSION LIST.

The Effect of the Publication on the Pension Business. WASHINGTON, January 1.—When Congress ordered that a list of pensioners on the rolls should be printed, it was said that the result would be the discovery of numerous frauds, and a consequent saving of thousands of dollars annually. The list was printed at a cost of about \$55,000, and was distributed to the newspapers generally. It is now several months since that publication. Commissioner Dudley, when asked how the publication affected business in his office, responded as follows: "I have been dead some time. In no case has a pension been paid for any of the deceased since their death. The list was hurriedly prepared, with no time to revise, hence the names of those dead still appear."

WASHINGTON, January 1.—A special customs agent, who has spent much time in Cuba, expresses the opinion that if the United States should abolish the duty on sugar the Spanish Government would immediately impose an equivalent export tax and the result would be that the price of sugar would not be reduced, consequently, would not be benefited, as was the case when the duties upon coffee were removed.

THE PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION.

A Bad Day, but a Brilliant Affair—Other Special Dispatches to our Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 1.—New Year is the big day for Washington, for it allows everybody to call on any official and open up an acquaintance or renew old ones. This privilege is freely taken advantage of, and of course the turn-out in good weather is simply immense. To-day, however, a cold drizzling rain has made it so disagreeable that but a small proportion of the great army of callers could get carriages, and it is not considered the thing to go on foot. This can be done without notice only in dry weather, so to-day was a failure in numbers. But the President and all the Cabinet ministers kept open house. Special Agents of the Supreme Court, judges, general Sheridan and his hundred Senators and members all made their callers welcome.

There was very little wine offered at the official residences, but in many of the elder residences, but to the young bowl out. The President's reception was a very brilliant one, while the Diplomatic Supreme Court, and Army and Navy were coming and going in their uniforms and togery. The crash of former years when the doors were open to all comers, was not witnessed to-day, as the masses have no carriages and outside of the three hundred at Government expense for the officers, there are hardly as many more to be hired or owned by civilians.

THE FARMERS' BOIL.

The Agricultural Report to Appear in the National Farmer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 1.—Heretofore it has been a matter of serious complaint among farmers and their Representatives in Congress that the annual report of the Department of Agriculture has never been published in time to be of any practical value. The reports have generally been delayed from six months to a year and a half. This year a new system has been adopted. Each branch of the report has been put in type and prepared, and within two weeks the last pages will be in press. The result will be that the entire edition will be ready for distribution about February 1. Among other valuable features will be some twenty pages of figures giving the cereal product of all the principal countries of Europe for a period of years. These figures are based upon official returns where such are available, and upon careful estimates by competent men by the Government. Nothing of like character has been printed since 1876, and it is believed that this part of the report will be of practical value to the grain boards and grain dealers as well as to the agricultural population.

ALLEGEDLY.

The Postmaster-General Refuses to Pay Attention to Threats.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 1.—Recently Postmaster-General Gresham refused to pay the charges of an official, residing in Baltimore, charged the regular daily mileage between the two cities, the important point being that the official was a dead-head and the mileage was just so much gained to him. It was intimated that the official resided in Baltimore to render the device practicable for supplementing his salary. He is still an officer. It probably did not occur to the Postmaster-General that the public service would be injured by the dismissal of such an officer. A United States Marshal in a Southern State was lately sent to the penitentiary for a similar offense. Recent inquiry has established the fact that the official in charge of the public office riding as dead-heads is common. Though morally convicted, these auditing officers have not yet determined to disallow such items. Many thousands of dollars annually are paid to the pockets of dead-head clerks, Marshals, District Attorneys and Postoffice officials, in this way. It is the law that is lacking it should be supplied.

Why Mr. Eaton is Chastised.

WASHINGTON, January 1.—Some new cases of radical discontent with Speaker Carlisle's committee have been discovered. Eaton, of Connecticut, for instance, is reported to be very much dissatisfied with his assignment as chairman of the committee on the Election of President. This committee, properly considered, ought to be the most important of the House, and was created immediately after the presidential complication of 1876, and it was hoped that before another presidential election it would have devised some plan which would prevent the recurrence of the dangerous situation of the present. It has, however, not been able to accomplish anything, and is regarded as a minor committee.

The Whisky Lobby.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 1.—There are indications that the whisky party are going to be beaten again in their efforts to get an extension of the bonded period. They are going it in the old way—with a lobby—and the same tactics that sounded the war cry against them in the Senate last Congress will probably defeat them this time. They are, to be sure, employing a little higher talent as lobbyists than last year, but the same old tactics of lobbying for their bill with experienced men will probably beat it. It they could be content to let the bill go before Congress on its merits, with a few judicious friends from the House and Senate to explain its merits and engineer it over the dangerous spots, the chances are that it would pass. But give the prohibitionists and other enemies of the bill a chance to raise the cry of "lobby," and the use of money in its favor and it is dead past resurrection.

Failures for 1883.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., January 1.—Broadstreet's Pittsburgh office reports the number of failures in 1883 in the district of that office as follows: Western Pennsylvania, 150; Eastern Ohio, 78; West Virginia, 37; total, 205. Of the 180 in Western Pennsylvania, 82 occurred in Pittsburgh and Allegheny. The report for 1882 was as follows: Western Pennsylvania, 121; Eastern Ohio, 71; West Virginia, 41; total, 233. Pittsburgh and Allegheny furnished 123 of the Western Pennsylvania failures during that year. The increase of city failures is accounted for in part by the number of small traders who succumbed, of which there were 40. Broadstreet's reports the failures in the United States and Canada during 1883 at 11,647, against 8,210 for 1882.

Deaths in the Kettle.

WILMINGTON, Del., January 1.—Winifred Huster, of Huster, McBride & Co., cooper-maker, had his skull fractured to-day by the explosion of a copper kettle, formerly used to hold murex glycerine, which remained in the hollow handle, and which exploded when held over the fire.

SECESSION DAYS.

The Virginia Convention.

An Interesting Page of Ancient History—How the Faithful stood up to the Delinquents and Read them out as Conspirators—Some Very Pointed Resolutions, Etc.

THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION. An interesting page of ancient history—How the faithful stood up to the delinquents and read them out as conspirators—Some very pointed resolutions, etc. The Virginia Convention at Richmond in 1861 after it passed the ordinance of Secession in April, adjourned to meet again in June. About the time the Convention met at Wheeling, the Secession Convention met in Richmond. As Governor Pierpont has given us a short review of what went on, on this side, it may be interesting to many of our readers to know something that was done on the other side about the same time. How do Chap. Stewart, Chester D. Hubbard and other gentlemen feel about it—do they remember the following document with satisfaction. Please publish it.—RABBITON.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF ELECTIONS UPON THE RESOLUTION OF MR. WYOMER IN REGARD TO THE ABSENT MEMBERS.

The Committee on Elections, to whom was referred the resolution in the following words: "Resolved, That the Committee of Elections inquire and make report to this Convention of the number and names of members whose seats are vacant, the cause or causes of their absence, and the action which it may be proper for this body to take in relation to said vacancies and the several absentees. The said committee is authorized to send for persons absent whose seats are vacant, by resolution or otherwise, and to report to this Convention upon the performance of the duties imposed upon them, and considered the evidence adduced before them, and came to the following conclusions and resolutions: First, as to the members of the convention who are absent: Charles Jones, George W. Brent, Sherrard Clements, John A. Campbell, John Echols, Samuel Garland, Samuel L. Graham, James W. Hunt, Algernon S. Gray, James W. Hoge, Robert C. Johnson, James Lawson, James Marshall, Thomas Smith, Spicer Sprinkle, Edmund Pendleton, Burwell Sprinkle, Franklin P. Turner and Benjamin Wilson. These members have no official record of their attendance during the present session. Some of them are on account of sickness, and others absent from causes unknown to the committee. The names of these members are being ascertained, and any of them who may be absent from their seats by reason of disloyalty to Virginia or sympathy with the enemy. Secondly: Resolutions of committee as to certain other absent members. Resolved, That the committee on Elections inquire and make report to this Convention of the number and names of members whose seats are vacant, the cause or causes of their absence, and the action which it may be proper for this body to take in relation to said vacancies and the several absentees. 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