The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer.

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The Intelligencer.

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GENERAL GOFF's surplus revenue bill meets with a good deal of favor.

PRESIDENT making is an industry which thrives though others languish, and it is about to begin "double turn."

IN ten years more, under a sufficient tariff, the wool industry of West Virginia would make great strides. But the present wool tariff is not sufficient.

MR. GIBSON, of the Fourth District, is very much in earnest about his whisky resolution. He appreciates the power of the National Government in matters of this kind.

BEN BUTLER says he is "out of politics," but at the same time the workingman, who is very dear to him, has nothing to hope for from either of the great parties. Ben Butler is the Coming Third Party.

SENATOR CAMERON is reported to be absenting himself so that he may not be suspected of booming any Presidential aspirant. Senator Cameron, like other Republicans, wants harmony and success.

GEN. HANCOCK, bless his innocent old soul, says the next President will be a Democrat unless the party makes great blunders. He thinks also that the tariff question will cut a broad figure in the campaign. It is becoming more than a local question.

BROOKE COUNTY wool growers are aroused and in for the war. They have expressed themselves in language easily understood. Every county in the State ought to follow suit, as a preliminary to the mass convention in this city February 20. The State press can do a good service in this matter.

IN rejecting the nomination of ex-Gov. Foster for trustee of the Toledo Insane Asylum, the Democratic Senate of Ohio administers a direct slap to Gov. Hoadly, who was magnanimous enough to nominate him. Mr. Foster can afford to laugh at it. Such petty malice will do him infinitely more good than harm.

THE always excellent *Tribune Almanac* has appeared for 1884. It is a brief compendium of the political history of the year. The tariff features are of particular value. The rates of the revised tariff are compared with those of the old and the rates recommended by the Tariff Commission—information which everybody ought to have in this time of tariff discussion. The *Tribune Almanac* keeps up with the times.

MR. KEIFER's lot is not a happy one. He is a good deal under fire, and the committee which is investigating is said to have discovered "matters of so serious a nature that unless they are disproved" a motion for his expulsion may be offered. Mr. Keifer has not conducted himself in an admirable way, but it must be remembered that a hostile committee is after him, that he is not popular with the majority and has enemies in his own party. He ought to have what he did not give to the stenographer whom he displaced—fair play.

IT was altogether human for Mr. Wisner to desire to retain the Martinsburg postoffice. Denied another term, it might have been expected that he would yield gracefully. Instead of that, Mr. Evans being appointed to be his successor, Mr. Wisner shows a disposition to oppose confirmation. The ugly charge is brought against Mr. Evans that he was one of a mob that lynched a negro ten years ago. It is strange that man could be so active in politics as Mr. Evans has been—that he could be twice elected to the Legislature since his alleged connection with that affair—without having the charge flung at him. If he is guilty he does not deserve the respect and confidence which he enjoys at home and throughout the State. If he is not guilty—and he makes an indignant denial—somebody deserves horsewhipping. The charge savors of spite.

IF there be anything in "the sunlight of publicity," Mr. James M. Mason, chief engineer of the State Tax Commission and agent of a Wall street syndicate, has the full benefit thereof. The Charlestown *Free Press*, published at Mr. Mason's home, has the measure of the man and his scheme, as witness this:

Jefferson pays a large proportion of the taxes of West Virginia. Should the syndicate scheme of Mr. Mason succeed the people of this county would groan under the weight of the burthen of taxes as they have never done before. The success of the scheme will very handsomely remunerate Mr. Mason. "There's millions in it" more truly than in any dream of Dundreary. [Sellers.] The injudiciousness of the gubernatorial appointment of Mr. Mason on the Tax Commission is becoming apparent to some who ought to have seen it, as we did, at the time. There is scriptural injunction against serving two masters—or, rather, the impossibility of fidelity to two is clearly announced. How Mr. Mason can serve well the State and at the same time a syndicate of brokers and speculators hot foot after the people's treasure-box, is beyond our comprehension.

The INTELLIGENCER made bold to tell the Governor that he had plunged headlong into a great blunder when he made himself sponsor for Mr. Mason, but the Governor hardened his heart and stiffened his neck.

Arthur Not a Candidate.

NEW YORK, January 27.—The *Tribune* of to-morrow will contain an interview with ex-Senator John J. Patterson, of South Carolina. Speaking of presidential candidates, he represents Mr. Arthur as having said to him in a recent conversation the following: "I would not say to the public, where it would scarcely be credited, what I say to you, but I do not want the presidency again. You will believe me when I say so. There will be a great many things done to forward my nomination—a thousand things. Men who think such things necessary to retain or secure place will be active. To be nominated, however, would only be gratifying to me in case it came spontaneously."

California Crops.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 27.—Steady rains yesterday and to-day throughout the middle section of the State have materially improved the prospects for the grain crop. The fruit crop in the southern part of the State will be probably the best for many years.

WOOL GROWERS'

MEETING IN BROOKE COUNTY.

Stirring Resolutions Demanding the Restoration of the Wool Tariff of 1867—Call for a Mass Convention in Wheeling, February 20—A Sturdy Stand for Justice and Protection.

From the Editor of the Intelligencer.

WELLSBURG, W. VA., January 26.—If any of the able statesmen who had a hand in knocking down the wool tariff had been in this old and busy town to-day they would have been able to form a very clear idea of *the estimation in which that action is held* by the people of at least one county in this great republic. I have some acquaintance with farming communities, and it is risking nothing to say that in point of intelligence these farmers stand with the best. They read, go from home often enough and far enough to know what there is elsewhere to profit by, and they observe closely the drift of events. I am sure they know that two and two make four, and that when you subtract two you have not six left. It is quite possible that they could not spin free trade theories with Mr. Frank Hurd, or construct beautiful raw material planks with Mr. Abram S. Hewitt, but you may be assured they know what they want and equally well what they don't want.

PARTY THROWN ASIDE.

I have talked with many of these Brooke county farmers; I have been talking with more of them to-day; and I find that without regard to party they stand together on the wool question. Under the encouragement of the wool tariff of 1867 they have invested largely in sheep, increasing their flocks and aiming at the best results in wool production. They have adjusted the general economy of their farms to the conditions of that tariff, have added to the wealth of the State and of the country—as wool growers elsewhere have done—and now they find themselves confronted with a reduction which takes from the value of their land, their sheep and their industry. Under this new tariff they see an enormous increase in wool importations, growing revenues from that source, and lower prices for their own product. They know that this policy is not in the interest of revenue reduction, and they know that it has reduced their own revenue from the year's wool clip. They know how this reduction came about, and they are resenting it with commendable energy.

A REPRESENTATIVE VIEW.

A representative man who knows his business and is competent to speak, said to me to day: "You may canvass this county from one end to the other and you will find that our people are a unit on this question. They understand it as well as any member of Congress, or manufacturer, or foreign wool grower's agent, and they are determined to be heard. That is why we have called this meeting to-day. We do not come together to find out what our people think—we are doing some very hard thinking—but we want to give formal expression to our demand for justice. We want it understood that we lay aside party politics so far that we will support no party and no man that places us on a level with foreign wool growers. We are willing that manufacturers shall have ample protection, but we want them to understand that they can't break us down and hold on to their protection. If we can't have a fair show, I for one am in favor of abolishing the whole protective system, so that we may all stand on an equality. Yes, I would regard free trade as a great National calamity—it would be suicide—but if we can't distribute the benefits of the policy under which the whole country has prospered, I say let us all commit suicide together."

This gentleman is a Democrat, which fact is mentioned merely to show that wool growers are treating the tariff as a question of economy—a business question—rather than a political issue. But a blind man may see that under certain conditions it may be found necessary to use a political organization as the most effective weapon to compel justice.

A JUST DEMAND.

Justice is the word used by these men, and it fits the situation. By their industry and enterprise they have increased taxable values in county and State, added to the nation's wealth, and brought the wool production about up to the level of consumption. The wool industry has grown until it has a place in every State in the Union, and in some States in every county. If war should unhappily come upon us now we should not be obliged to clothe our troops in English shoddy; we should send them to the field as well clad in garments of American wool as was that matchless force of men which marched through Washington when the unhappy strife had ended. In the decade from 1870 to 1880 the number of sheep in the country increased more than one half, 53 percent, and the increased production of wool was 135 percent. No other decade in our history approaches this. In the ten years before the war, from 1850 to 1860, under a tariff which was not for protection, the increase in the number of sheep was 3½ percent. The Tariff Commission, which showed no very friendly side for the wool industry, was forced to admit that increased production gave the consumer lower priced wools; and this without throwing down the bars to let in destructive foreign competition.

DEALERS VS GROWERS.

While we were waiting for the meeting to assemble to-day a wool-grower said:

"Of course you have observed the line that is marked out for us. We are to turn our fine sheep into mutton and see how we can get along raising mutton and mutton wool. Australia is to be nursed by those gentlemen who deal in sheep but are not wool growers—mark the distinction—and if we don't like all this we can turn our lands, our labor, and what capital we have to other uses. I can not believe that every Congressman who voted for the reduction understood who was behind it or the disastrous effect it would have. But such meetings as this will inform the present Congress, and at the same time convey an intimation, and we hope to see good come of it."

Much more to the same purport might be given, but the wool growers of Brooke, together with those of all West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania, are of one mind. The feeling is intense and no representation can overestimate it.

THE COUNTY MEETINGS.

The story of to-day's meeting in the Court House is soon told. Mr. William Hammond was called to the chair and Mr. S. C. Gist made secretary. Mr. Campbell Palmer, on invitation, stated the object of the meeting, which may be summed up briefly as organization, a declaration of principles and a call for a mass convention of the wool growers of West Virginia.

The Committee on Resolutions and to prepare a call for a State convention was composed of Messrs. J. C. Gist, Campbell Palmer and J. Wylie Malholland, to whom was added by courtesy Mr. Charles Burdett Hart, of Ohio county. There was a good deal of informal talk as above given, and the hope was expressed that the State meeting to be held in Wheeling, February 20, might attract a large attendance of the wool growers of the State. It was thought especially desirable that the State press shall impress upon wool growers the importance of the gathering, that there may be a full representation from every county.

A farmer said: "If we were as well organized as the manufacturers as much heed would be given to us as to them. Thorough organization is the first step." This pointed suggestion should not be thrown away on the wool growers of West Virginia. The day of the convention is not far off and the time to begin to get ready is now.

C. B. H.

BROOKE COUNTY WOOL RESOLUTIONS.

Call for a Mass Convention of West Virginia Flockmasters.

WELLSBURG, January 26.—The following resolutions, prepared by Mr. J. C. Gist, were adopted at to-day's meeting of Brooke county wool growers:

First—That the reduction of duties on imported wools by the last Congress was an act of injustice to an important agricultural industry, which will, if it be not modified, result in paralyzing the business of sheep-breeding and wool-growing in the United States and in transferring the same to foreign countries.

Second—That the flockowners of Brooke county, West Va., hereby earnestly protest against this injustice and solemnly assure the wool-growers of other States of their readiness to unite with them in all proper and legitimate measures calculated to restore the wool tariff of 1867.

Third—That it is our sincere conviction that the late reduction of duties on wool was effected by means of an organized effort having for its object the destruction of fine wool sheep husbandry in the United States and the admission of wool from foreign nations free of duty, and against this effort it is the duty of the one million flockmasters engaged in producing wool to protest until their voice is heard in Congress and their rights are respected by appropriate legislation.

Fourth—That it should be remembered that the United States now produce three hundred million pounds of wool annually, worth at least $100,000,000 and that so important an industry cannot be seriously embarrassed without injury to the general welfare. We denounce as unworthy of respectful consideration the fallacy and injustice of the manufacturers' claim that raw material should be free, and we ask with emphasis, why is labor required to produce wool less worthy of protection than labor at the spindle or loom, where the raw material is converted into manufactured goods?

Fifth—That we solicit and entreat the wool-growers of other States to unite with us in the work of organizing the flock masters of the Union into associations that shall be co-operative and harmonious in order that we may be better able to cope with the manufacturers in the serious struggle that is upon us both before the country and in the halls of legislation.

Sixth—That we tender our hearty thanks to such members of Congress and editors as have given us their sympathy and support in this struggle for justice, and we hereby solemnly declare that while prosecuting this effort for the maintenance of what is so manifestly right, we will at all times and in all places, without regard to former party predilections, do all in our power to secure a restoration of the wool tariff of 1867, believing and knowing as we do, that any less protection than this will prove

Seventh—That the press of West Virginia be requested to print the foregoing resolutions.

CALL FOR A MASS CONVENTION.

The following is the call for a State convention:

To the Wool Growers of West Virginia:

In view of the effort being made by the wool growers of the country for the restoration of the wool tariff of 1867, under which the wool industry has had a great and healthy growth, the Wool Growers' Association of Brooke county deems it appropriate and timely that the wool growers of West Virginia shall be urged to assemble in mass convention of the State at an early day to take such action as may be thought well. The undersigned therefore suggest a mass convention at the city of Wheeling, Wednesday, February 20, 1884, and exhort the wool growers of the State to be present. The State press is requested to give prominence to the call.

(Signed,) WILLIAM HAMMOND, President,
S. C. GIST, Secretary.

WOOL GROWERS AND SHEEP BREEDERS.

The following call was also issued today:

The State Wool Growers' and Sheep Breeders' Association of West Virginia will please meet at Wheeling, February 20.

(Signed) J. C. GIST, President.
A. D. HOPKINS, Secretary.

Wellsburg, January 26, 1884.

PRISON FIRES.

The Minnesota Penitentiary Burned. Blaze at Columbus.

MINNEAPOLIS, January 26.—Early this morning a fire broke out in the State prison at Stillwater, and in spite of all efforts all the buildings were destroyed. The prisoners, including the Younger brothers, were taken out and placed under a strong guard in the yard. About three hundred and thirty in all were shackled together and *removed to differnt points on the prison* grounds. Governor Hubbard has telegraphed to Minneapolis and St. Paul asking how many the jails of the two cities can accommodate, and also to the State State prison of Wisconsin, at Waupun, to make arrangements for the incarceration of the Youngers and other important convicts, as the county jails are usually too untrustworthy.

A Chicago dispatch says: Senator Sabin, of Minnesota, who is also President of the Northwestern Car Company, which has the control of the convict labor at the Stillwater Penitentiary, is in the city and has received a private dispatch to the effect that the loss by this morning's fire will not exceed $50,000, all of which loss falls on the State.

The Governor estimates the total loss at $20,000; insurance $12,000. The whole loss falls on the State. The car company's loss is small.

Incendiary Fire at Columbus.

COLUMBUS, O., January 26.—Fire inside the penitentiary to-night caused a loss of $5,000 to G. W. Atkinson, cigar manufacturer, and $1,000 to P. Hayden & Son's pickle shop. The fire started as the men were quitting. It was probably incendiary by some of the convicts working on Atkinson's contract, and caused quite a stir inside the walls.

AN EX-GOVERNOR DEAD.

Brief Sketch of the Career of Hon. John Letcher.

RICHMOND, VA., January 26.—Ex-Governor John Letcher died this morning at his home in Lexington.

Governor Letcher was born in Lexington, Va., March 28, 1813. He began his education at Washington college and completed it at Randolph, Macon. Preparing himself for the law, he was admitted to practice in 1839, but the same year he began the publication of the *Valley Star* at Lexington. In 1850 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Virginia, and in the same year he was elected to Congress, where he served eight years, being a member of the Ways and Means Committee a part of that time. In 1859 he was elected Governor of Virginia to succeed Henry A. Wise. He resolutely opposed secession, but went with his State and remained its Governor until 1864. In his prime he was noted as a strong public speaker, able in presenting facts and popular for his quaint stories. He has been out of public life since 1864.

WHISKY LICENSE.

MR. GIBSON'S BILL ON THE SUBJECT.

A Simple Question of Good Government or Bad Government—Government License Should not be Issued in a Prohibition State—The Bill will Become a Law.

From Our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, January 26.—Meeting Mr. Gibson, of West Virginia, to-day, I said to him that his whisky resolution was creating so much interest that the INTELLIGENCER would like to hear further from him on the subject.

"Oh, yes," he said, "I am surprised that so simple a thing should create so much discussion. Ill-advised whisky men and papers have attacked me for it; and the temperance element praise me. I am informed that the committee to whom it was referred have already been notified of the desire of several parties to speak upon it. But really I can see no need of discussion. It presents the simple question of good government or bad government. Each and every State is entitled, not only to the active, but to the moral support of the Government in the administration of its laws; and especially so to those laws relating to police regulations and revenue. Now this whisky business belongs to both. It is a police regulation and a revenue law. Without a State license, no man can carry on the traffic even with Federal license without open violation and resistance to State laws. If the Federal Government gets the man's money, it should give him protection, but it cannot protect him without State license. So you see that the one government is openly inducing the citizens of another to violate the laws and the sovereignty of the State it is bound to protect.

"It is not a mere temperance movement; of course it will promote temperance. All good government does that, and all good people favor temperance. But it goes to the full extent of securing self government to every community; it aids the State in protecting those who observe the State laws and helps the State to punish those who violate them. In my opinion it is the best step for a well regulated license system that can be taken. I believe the question one of vital importance, and shall push it. Besides that you may say that I am confident it will become a law."

PENSION LAWS.

A Crying Need for Codification and New Laws.

From Our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, January 27.—"There are a few requirements in the present pension laws that are very provoking," observed Congressman Morrill, of Kansas, to-day. "One I think of is a barbarous outrage, and it is this, that the Pension Office won't accept the oath of a son in favor of his mother, who is applying for a pension and who is trying to prove dependency."

"Certainly, the pension laws forbid the competency of the oath of a person supposed to be pecuniarily interested in the success of the applicant," I remarked.

"Well, that may be just in some instances, but I have one in mind where it was not sought to ascertain if the son was pecuniarily interested. The testimony of any and all scoundrels is competent, however. As deep-dyed rogues as ever drew a breath can swear away a poor, starving widow's bread, but an honest son cannot help his mother fill a link in testimony."

"I am of the opinion," said Congressman Sumner, of Wisconsin, who stood hard by, "that there should be a court authorized in every county seat to hear evidence and pass upon the merits of pension cases. I have in mind applicants who are honest and worthy who cannot make proof here before the Pension Office, because the Commissioner or other officers of the office cannot understand the cases, and others make good cases in the eyes of the law who deserve nothing. If the cases were heard in the community where the applicant lived and the witnesses resided the credibility of the parties could be considered. In all this pension business there is no law to require any one to establish character, and cases are made up and defeated by scoundrels, in many cases. There should be very radical changes in the laws. It makes no difference now honest the officers may be, they must have laws that are good to govern them."

"Just now it seems there is nothing before Congress of more vital importance to the masses than the proposed codification of the pension laws. It is only a question of a very short time when it will be accomplished. It affects nearly every family, directly or indirectly, in the country."

THE NEXT CONGRESS.

The Fight in the Districts to be on the Tariff Issue.

From Our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, January 27.—It is understood that an exceedingly hard fight is to take place in the Congressional districts throughout the country in the coming campaigns. Both parties will make great effort to capture a majority of the next Congress. It is conceded now that there will not be much, if anything, done on tariff this winter, even though it might be accomplished, which is altogether improbable. When the Forty-ninth Congress meets a new Presidential term will be wearing, and determined work will be begun upon tariff issues and the control of foreign and domestic commerce. The issues everywhere in the Congressional campaigns are made up. They are on tariff.

BILL BILL'S BILL.

The Government to put up Postoffice Buildings by Wholesale.

From Our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, January 27.—The people in towns of 2,500 inhabitants and upwards will be interested in learning that the prospects are that the bill of Representative Hill, of Ohio, authorizing the Postmaster-General to have buildings constructed for the use of second and third class postoffices will, in all probability, be passed. It meets with the hearty endorsement of the Postmaster-General and his subordinate officers. That is a good deal. It is popular in the House and Senate. That is much more. The buildings are not to exceed $15,000 in cost. It is estimated that in less than a dozen years the buildings will have all cost the Government nothing, in the saving of rents that will accrue.

THE BREWSTER INVESTIGATION.

A Member of the Committee Says They Have Set a Thief to Catch a Thief.

From Our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, January 26.—"This investigation into the expenditures of the Department of Justice has gone just far enough," said a member of the Committee to-night, "to convince me that the most difficult branch of the Government service to keep pure is that which relates to the detection and punishment of law-breakers. I have always found it so, and I have had a deal of experience in the work myself. When you set a lot of detectives or other men to ferret out fraud, or detect scoundrels, it is the most natural thing in the world for them to commit reprehensible acts in the very line they are seeking to purify. Men get enthusiastic in their pursuit of law-breakers, and being bent on success they will stoop to anything almost, to accomplish their end. The result is, money is spent in the most reckless manner, men are paid to swear falsely, juries are packed, and nearly all species of crime is committed. It is a mistake that anything is fair when the Government or State officers are trying to convict an accused person. These prosecutions and these officers should be conducted and governed like those in counties. It is my opinion that more men are convicted who are innocent, and more scoundrels escape conviction under Government prosecution than all other processes of law combined. We propose to change the laws and mete out more uniform justice all around."

FRED DOUGLASS' MARRIAGE.

It is Still the Sensation of the Day in Washington Circles.

WASHINGTON, January 27.—The marriage of Fred Douglass to a white woman has shaken negro social circles from centre to circumference. Douglass is probably the best known colored man in America. Here he has been regarded as the peculiar leader of the colored people, and in every movement intended to improve the condition of the blacks he has been the foremost man.

Douglass is sixty-five years of age and his commanding figure, rugged face and gray hair form an object of almost as much curiosity to visitors here as the President or Mr. Blaine. For many years past Douglass has held office here, and two of his three sons are now drawing salaries from the Government. At present he occupies the position of Recorder of Deeds, and his bride, Miss Helen M. Pitts, a white woman, thirty five years of age, has been the copyist in his office.

The more intelligent colored people here regard the marriage as carrying out practically the theory and principles advocated by Mr. Douglass for the past thirty years with reference to the equality of the races. He has long entertained the belief that race distinctions should not prevail, and advocated a broad humanity with regard to color.

Mrs. Dr. Winslow, who has been intimately associated with Miss Pitts, and whom she left in charge of her paper, the *Alpha*, when she went to Europe, said: "Miss Pitts is a bright, intelligent woman, and I have always been a great friend of hers. I did not know that she intended taking this step until the papers announced her marriage this morning. She consulted none of her friends as far as I can learn. It was a matter entirely controlled by the wishes of herself and Mr. Douglass. They are, after all, the ones to be consulted, and I think that the public has nothing to do with it. If Miss Pitts had asked my advice," continued the Doctor, "I should certainly have counselled against the marriage. But now that it is done I do not propose to allow it to make any changes in my relations with her."

CAPITAL CHIPS.

Mrs. McElroy, the President's sister, gave a public reception at the White House on Saturday.

A postoffice has been established at Track, Mahon county, West Virginia, and Robert E. Musgrave has been appointed postmaster.

J. F. Briscoe and wife, of Jefferson county, W. Va., are at the St. James. R. T. Lowndes, of Clarksburg, and Hon. R. Wilson, Col. R. S. Blair and S. C. Luddington, of West Virginia, are at the National.

At the London Fisheries Exhibition the United States was awarded 49 gold medals, 47 silver medals, 29 bronze medals and 24 diplomas, being more than one-fifth of the entire number awarded. Norway ranked second in the list.

Ex Senator Davis and wife, of West Virginia, left Washington yesterday for an extended trip through the South. They will go as far as Jacksonville, Fla., before their return. Their daughter will, during the month of February, be the guest of Senator Harrison's family.

HOME AT LAST.

The Body of Herr Lasker Received at the German Capital.

BERLIN, January 26.—The body of Herr Lasker, which arrived this morning, was taken to the new synagogue this afternoon. Many ladies and gentlemen, friends of the deceased, followed the remains in carriages, and wreaths were deposited on the coffin by friends and by deputations of the National, Liberal and Progressist parties. Baron Stauffenberg will be unable to attend the funeral, owing to urgent duties in the Diet, and Frederick Kapp will deliver a eulogy in the synagogue instead.

In the procession from the station to the synagogue were a large number of members from the Prussian Diet, two brothers and three sisters of Lasker and many carriages containing private citizens. In the last coffin were the wreaths deposited on the coffin in America. A large crowd stood with heads bared as the coffin was borne past. At the synagogue the coffin was placed in a handsomely draped chamber. The Jewish community will hold a funeral watch until the burial.

EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS.

A Loan Negotiated—Rebellious Tribes Surrendering.

CAIRO, January 27.—The government has borrowed £950,000 from Baron Rothschild for six months, at 6 percent.

General Gordon, Col. Stewart and the new Sultan of Darfour started for Khartoum yesterday evening. General Gordon has £104,000 at his disposal for military purposes.

Telegraphic communication with Khartoum is restricted.

The Government of Dongola telegraphs that many tribes, including the powerful Bickarich tribe, have submitted to Baker Pasha, military commander of Suakim. They ask a remission of six months' taxes, and that they be recompensed for losses in the rebellion. They guarantee free passage to traders and caravans. Other tribes are expected to make submission.

The "Great Condenser" Dead.

NEW YORK, January 27.—Dr. John B. Wood, a widely known newspaper man, while walking through West street this morning fell upon the ice and died soon afterwards from the shock and exposure. Dr. Wood was president of the Press Club for some years. His skill in eliminating superfluous words and sentences from news reports earned for him the title of "the great American condenser." The body will be taken on Tuesday to the rooms of the Press Club. The funeral will take place Wednesday, Dr. Talmage officiating.

Wars on Non-Union Men.

TROY, N. Y., January 27.—John Crow, a non union moulder, was shot in the leg this evening, coming out of his boarding house. The officers investigating the affair were fired at. Fred. Bennett, a laborer, was struck down with an ax at the same time. The assailants are unknown.

A Religious Crank—Poisoned.

TROY, N. Y., January 27.—Thos. Gardner created a sensation in Trinity M. E. Church to day by declaring himself a messenger from Jesus sent to convert the world.

Agnes Murphy, of Raynertown, died today from poisoning. Her life was insured for $2,500.

The Brag British Army.

LONDON, January 27.—General Wobley, at a banquet last night declared that the British army is more effective to-day than before the Crimean war. England, he said, had never had an army more worthy of the nation.

NATIONAL CAPITAL.

WORK OF CONGRESS FOR THIS WEEK.

The Shipping Bill to be Reported Soon—Northern Pacific People to be Heard on the Land Grant Question—Proposed Amendment of the Homestead Laws—Committee Reports.

WASHINGTON, January 27.—The two or three appropriation bills promised three weeks ago have not yet made their appearance in the House. In fact they are not yet out of the hands of the sub-committees of the Committee on Appropriations. The shipping bill, recently reported from the select Committee on Shipping, is perhaps the most important measure before the House, and it is expected a motion will be made by General Slocum to-morrow to proceed to its consideration in Committee of the Whole.

The report from the Committee on Accounts in relation to the removal of employes of the House at the close of last Congress, is expect to be made Wednesday.

The Fitz John Porter discussion will be resumed Friday.

The Northern Pacific Railroad people will be heard in defense of their land grants by the House Committee on Public Lands Tuesday, and the same day the Committee on Pacific Railroads will be addressed by Judge Dillon, of the Union Pacific, and others, in opposition to the proposition to compel railroads to pay the costs of surveying and selecting lands, thus making the lands taxable by States.

THE HOMESTEAD LAWS.

A sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Public Lands will probably recommend a number of radical changes in the homestead law. It is proposed to give the homestead claimant one year from the date of entering the land to establish a residence thereon, requiring, in the meantime, that he shall break and prepare for cultivation a given area of land to establish in good faith his professions. Under existing law he is required go upon the claim and make it his home within six months of the date of entry. It is further proposed to admit homestead claims to final proof and patent only at the end of seven years from the date of entry, the present term being five years. It is agreed that to the claimant who farms land for his own use it is of little consequence when he receives a patent, since entry on the land confirms him in every right, but selling it.

But little attention has yet been given to the pre-emption law, but there is better reason for expecting radical amendments than its repeal. The chief amendments suggested in the committee look to the prevention of speculation by requiring that relinquishments shall not be accepted by local officers, and that when accepted by the Commissioner the land shall be open for entry by the first application, and two years' actual residence shall precede the purchase of land.

A BIG ASSIGNMENT.

The Cleveland Paper Company Goes up for a Quarter of a Million.

CLEVELAND, O., January 27.—The assignment of the Cleveland Paper Company, when it leaked out last night, astounded commercial circles, as it was regarded among the solid corporations of the West. The present embarrassment of the company is the direct sequence of the failure last year of the George H. Taylor Paper Company, of Chicago. When the terms of settlement with the creditors were agreed on the mills at South Bend and Mishawakee, Ind., were bought by George Taylor's father, N. W. Taylor, president of the Cleveland company, who assumed the liabilities, expecting the earnings of the mills would assist him to pay the obligations. On his return recently from Europe, where he had been by his physicians' advice, in consequence of ill health, he found the mills had lost $20,000 to $30,000 in nine months. Unable to meet all these personal liabilities, aggregating about $140,000, without selling his stock in the Cleveland company, of which he holds a very large amount, he quietly made individual assignments. Then, fearing his action would result in a multitude of attachments by creditors upon the property of the Cleveland Paper Company, already embarrassed by the failure of the Chagrin Falls and other companies, and dreading the sacrifice of property to satisfy such attachments, it was decided that the Cleveland Paper Company should also assign, as a means of protecting all the creditors alike. This company's liabilities will not vary much from a quarter of a million, largely for stock and fine goods. Only one bank is among the creditors and that holds discounted paper amply secured.

The assets are little, if any, less than $600,000. Outside of considerable real estate, the remainder is principally in raw material, of which there is a prodigious amount on hand. The assignee will operate the mills to fill contracts, the most of which are to furnish print paper to numerous newspapers scattered over the northwest. He will also dispose of the immense amount of paper of all kinds in store, and expects the company will soon pay all debts in full and resume operations as heretofore. The company owns three large mills in this city, and owns in whole or in part, or controls, the product of half a dozen or more in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

SCHUYLER COLFAX.

He Still Takes Enough Interest in Politics to Talk Well.

CHICAGO, January 26.—"I was misquoted in an interview in St. Louis the other day, "said Schuyler Colfax yesterday. "I did not say Blaine was the best possible candidate the Republican party could present, nor that Garfield's death saved the Republicans from defeat this fall. I don't remember being interviewed at all, and, if I was, the reporter did not disclose his identity. I do not believe Blaine is the best man whom the Republicans can put forward. I like Blaine. I think he is a dashing sort of a fellow, who is in politics what a brave charger is in war, but I think there are many men in the Republican ranks who would make a better run than he, and be more acceptable to the people. As to Garfield, I think, instead of jeopardizing the Republican interests this fall, if he had lived, he would have bettered them. He was just commencing to show his strength of character and moral courage when he was assassinated. In Garfield we had a President of many good qualities, and I have always believed that had he lived he would have become so strongly fixed in the people's hearts that he would have been elected to a second term much easier than to the first. Thus would he have he insured to the Republican four more years of administration."

"Do you believe that Republican success has been endangered by Garfield's death."

"No; it might have been but for one thing. Lincoln was wont to say that the Republicans were triumphant partly by their principles, but to a greater degree through the blunders of their enemies. The Democrats will commit no fewer blunders this year than they have in past years. If anything, they are liable to commit more. They have begun already. The election of Payne was the first and greatest. They have all along boasted that theirs is the party of the people; that the Republicans are the exponents of the rich. It will be a great number for the Republicans on the stump next fall. They can point to Ohio as an evidence that the Democrats are no better than their opponents. They will make other blunders on the tariff, too, unless the wisdom of the Randall faction prevails. But on this question they will steer clear of a little word called 'only.' It wrecked them in 1880; they will fight mighty shy of it in 1884."

OHIO COAL MINES.

Prospect of a Big Reduction and a Strike.

COLUMBUS, O., January 26.—A very important convention of the coal operators and owners of mines, embracing the Hocking Valley, Straitsville, Shawnee, Sunday Creek and Jackson District was held here to-day for the purpose of considering a large reduction in the rates of mining. There were present owners or representatives of 125 collieries, besides prominent railway officers of the coal roads interested. A resolution to reduce the rates of mining from 80 to 60 cents, to take effect March 1, and to continue during the spring and summer, was unanimously agreed to with the single exception of Mr. W. P. Rend, of Chicago, who operates several mines. Mr. Rend made a strong speech against such action and contended that such a step was unwise and unjust and predicted that any effort to enforce such a reduction would signally fail. He also stated that any reduction in Ohio would be followed in Pennsylvania, Indiana and Illinois, and the result would be open rebellion. Mr. Rend then suggested an inter-State convention of operators and miners in the immediate future to determine upon the rate of wages. The efforts of Mr. Rend were futile, however, and the indications are that the miners will demand 70 cents after March 1. In fact, that was agreed upon at the Miners' Convention held here during the week. If the operators refuse to concede this there will undoubtedly be a big strike.

THE PHILADELPHIA CONDUCTORS.

A Confederate Turns State's Evidence And Gives it a Snap Away.

PHILADELPHIA, January 26.—Thomas T. Luckett and Daniel Seriff, Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore railroad conductors, were put on trial this morning, charged with defrauding the Pennsylvania Railroad Company out of tickets which were tendered as fare by various passengers. Thomas F. Snow, who sold the tickets for the conductors, made a clean breast of the whole business, and testified to having sold to scalpers in Baltimore hundreds of dollars' worth of tickets since the summer of 1882. If Snow's testimony is true, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has been swindled out of thousands of dollars. A number of other conductors are to be arrested.

Killed by Electric Light Wires.

JOHNSTOWN, January 26.—Ferdinand Metzloff, an employe of the Cambria Iron Works, was buried here to-day. On Thursday night he was at his usual work of oiling the track rail that is used to slide hot rails from the rolls to the hot bed, and for this purpose he used a steel rod about eight feet long, with a hook and a bunch of cotton waste attached. He was standing on top of the hot bed and raised the steel rod above him when it accidentally came in contact with the electric light wire. He fell dead. The instant the current of electricity touched the rod all the lights around the works were extinguished. Dr. Lowman was summoned immediately, but said that his death was instantaneous. The body was carefully examined, but not a single mark was found.

Sixty Years Without Eating.

GREENCASTLE, IND., January 27.—John F. Jones died in this city yesterday, in the 85th year of his age. He was widely known to the traveling public, having kept a hotel here and at Columbus, Ind., during the greater part of his life. When a boy, he drank through mistake a decoction of lye, which caused a contraction of the gullet, and prevented his taking food in any other than a liquid form. Even that was attended with difficulty, and he succeeded in forcing it down his throat by external means. For over sixty years, though a Boniface himself for a greater part of the time, he had not eaten a mouthful of food.

The Fence-Cutters at Work.

AUSTIN, TEX., January 26.—Hon. Norton Moses writes State Senator Terrell that the fence cutters in Burnett county are destroying fences by wholesale. They cut the writer's fence down, chopped off the posts, and threatened personal violence if he put them up again. He names several respectable citizens who have been ordered to leave the county under penalty of death if they refuse, and asks for help, or at least for arms and ammunition with which to make a defense.

The Kentucky Senatorship.

FRANKFORT, KY., January 27.—There are no new developments in the senatorial situation, but it is thought the caucus Monday night will rescind the rule which at present does not allow the name of any new candidate to be presented. If the rule is rescinded Carlisle's name will be proposed and his strength tested. It is likely also that a rule dropping the hindmost candidate after each ballot will be adopted.

A Minister's Golden Wedding.

MACON, GA., January 27.—The golden wedding of the venerable Bishop Pierce, who is regarded as the father of Southern Methodism, is to take place February 4, at his residence in Hancock county. Five children, thirty grandchildren and many other relatives will be present.

Tom Payne's Birthday.

PHILADELPHIA, January 27.—The Liberal League of this city celebrated the 147th anniversary of the birth of Thos. Payne to-day, with addresses, banquet and a lecture on the nature and progress of free thought in America.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

The Opera House at Marion, Ohio, was burned Saturday. Loss $15,000.

Fire in the Gaudy Belting company's building, Baltimore, caused a loss of $25,000 yesterday.

All but two of the bodies have been taken out of the Crested Butte mine, and an inquest is in progress.

Fire in a building owned by Emory Bros., of Cincinnati, yesterday destroyed $12,000 worth of property.

John Hemming, a Philadelphia saloon keeper, was assaulted and fatally injured Saturday night by robbers.

The new opera house at Huntingdon, Pa., was damaged to the extent of $10,000 by a gas explosion Saturday.

Mrs. Tabor, the divorced wife of ex-Senator Tabor, of Colorado, has been married to a Philadelphia book agent.

Robert P. Porter, late Secretary of the Tariff Commission, has joined the editorial staff of the Philadelphia *Press*.

There is said to be 2,000,000 bushels of coal awaiting sale at Pittsburgh, and the market is in a very depressed condition.

James Kenney was killed and Benjamin Trout seriously injured by an explosion of giant powder at Reading, Pa., on Saturday.

Michael Kagle, of Canton, Ohio, while temporarily deranged, wandered away from home Friday night and was frozen to death.

WILD WINDS

PLAYING HAVOC IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The Greatest Storm ever Known in the Kingdom. Loss of Life and Property—Houses Unroofed, Vessels Swamped, Railway Cars Overturned, and a General Tearing up of Things.

LONDON, January 27.—The wind blew a hurricane all last night. Much damage was done in the city and many persons injured. The glass roof of Westminster aquarium was demolished during a performance and a panic ensued, in which several persons were injured. A printing office in Haymarket was unroofed and a boy killed. Many vessels were wrecked and a large number of lives lost. Telegraph communication with the continent and by the Atlantic cables was interrupted for several hours.

The storm raged in Paris, and telegraph and railway