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THE INTELLIGENCER.

WHEELING, JANUARY 31, 1898.

That Penitentiary Deficiency.

A great deal has been published by the Democratic papers of the state concerning a deficiency in the appropriations for the state penitentiary. Some highly imaginative publications have been made to the effect that the penitentiary would be obliged to stop business, and one correspondent sent broadcast over the country the absurd story that the convicts would have to be released on account of the lack of funds. As a rule newspapers have too much good sense to give place to such ridiculous "news" matter, but that doesn't seem to affect the course of the Democratic papers in West Virginia that continue to give it a place in their columns.

The real truth of the matter is that the Republican legislature which did not appropriate sufficient money for the penitentiary should not be held responsible for the error. It will be remembered that when the legislature was in session the Democratic state administration was yet in office, and that the appropriations were based upon the reports and estimates of the Democratic officials.

In the penitentiary matter the reports from that institution, still under a Democratic administration, were directly responsible for a lack of sufficient appropriation. It was represented that the amount of money still on hand to the credit of the penitentiary was \$14,000. Upon this representation the legislature based its appropriation. The legislature adjourned, the new state administration came in, and a new board of directors for the penitentiary was appointed. When this board assumed its duties it was not long in ascertaining that instead of \$14,000 of a surplus there was a deficit of \$1,000 after all outstanding bills were paid.

Why not be Frank?

The local Bryan organ is so much concerned about President McKinley's broad declaration in favor of currency reform, and for the faithful keeping of the pledges made to the people who elected him President, that it is moved to quote from a speech delivered by him some years ago to show that he did not then entertain the views expressed now regarding the silver question. The Register concludes that this shows a disgraceful surrender to the "gold bugs." In 1893, at the time the Register speaks of, the Democratic party had just come into power pledged to the identical monetary policy now being pursued by the McKinley administration, and even our neighbor was denouncing the free silver advocates as "cranks" and enemies of the financial honor of the country. If the Register was right then it is wrong now, and Mr. McKinley and the Republican party are right.

The Intelligence has frequently quoted from its neighbor's editorial columns to show where that paper stood in 1893. In writing about consistency and charging dishonesty against others, who it alleges have changed their views with changing conditions, why should not the Register apply to itself the same accusations? Why assume that every one who changes his views on a public question is any more dishonest than the Register itself, which has done that very thing? Was the Register not honest when it was supporting President Cleveland's financial policy in 1893?

The fact is, President McKinley never did favor the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, regardless of international agreement, nor the policy of placing this country on a silver basis. Garbled extracts from his speeches of five years ago can not substantiate the claim that he advocated such a policy. The Register, however, did denounce Bryan and others (favoring the doctrine as "cranks" and disturbers of business. Was the Register less honest then than it is now?

"Money of the Constitution."

In his New York speech in which he came out flatfooted for the single British gold standard, McKinley said: "There is another duty resting upon the national government—to coin money and regulate the value thereof."

McKinley was quoting the constitution of the United States. It is a pity he didn't quote it a little further, but then, it might have embarrassed the goldbugs present, for that great document says that this coin shall be "GOLD AND SILVER"—Register.

Why should a further quotation have "embarrassed the gold bugs," who are in favor of the freest use of silver consistent with safety, and so long as the parity is not disturbed? If the President

had "quoted further" he would have found gold and silver mentioned but once in the constitution, in section 10 of Article I, in which it is simply provided that no state shall "make anything but gold and silver a tender in the payment of debts."

There is nothing inconsistent in the present policy of the government with that provision. In fact, since the so-called "striking down of silver" there has been a larger coinage of silver dollars and a greater use of them as money in this country than there was in the entire history of the government previous to 1873, and we are still coining them in vast quantities, and keeping them at a parity with gold. There is nothing in the constitution that warrants the adoption of a policy that would place us on a silver basis, nor to make our coinage of silver so unlimited as to flood the country with depreciated currency and drive out the better metal from circulation, or even drive it from the country. Nor is there warrant in the constitution to permit Congress to fix the coinage at a false ratio. The fathers of the republic were honest men and never would have provided in the constitution for the coinage of the two metals at a dishonest ratio. Where does the Register find in the constitution a command to fix a ratio between two metals (coined freely and unlimitedly) that would be in violation of the laws of trade, and without regard to reason and common sense?

Reformed Libel Laws.

Two bills making important amendments to the libel laws are before the legislature of Ohio, and both of them deserve to pass without opposition. They are designed to afford the newspapers of the state relief from the discrimination that the present laws provide against them. As at present construed, the statutes presume the editor to be guilty on the appearance in his paper of the objectionable matter, and one of the amendments provides that he must be presumed innocent until proven guilty. It enables him to prove the truth of the publication, if it is capable of proof, and this shall constitute a complete defense in a claim for damage. The other amendment provides that malice shall not be presumed from the mere publication of a libel, but must be proved.

These two amendments are in the line of justice and place a newspaper publisher on an equality with others who are sued for damages or proceeded against criminally. Ohio is not the only state where these reforms are needed. In West Virginia our libel laws are in need of revision in every more respects than these two. In every state the libel laws should compel a claimant to give bond for the costs in the event of his not being able to make out his case. This would relieve publishers from being at the mercy of irresponsible persons who often bring libel suits for purposes of blackmail, or on the advice of pet-foggers who are seeking for contingent fees, and frequently depend upon the willingness of the defendant to compromise rather than bother with the case. Where such persons are not compelled to give bonds for the costs, juries are often tempted to give nominal verdicts against the defendant, feeling that if a verdict the other way is given the costs cannot be collected.

Instances have been known where a verdict of one cent damages have been rendered for this reason. This is regarded as a virtual vindication of the defendant, but throws him in for the costs of the damage suit just the same. Jurymen do not consider the injustice of this sort of a verdict sometimes, being moved solely by sympathy for the impetuous plaintiff or a fear that the costs will not be paid. Another reform should permit the court and jury to take into account the fact of a defendant having admitted the injustice of a publication, which may have been without malice, and made a reparation in the form of a retraction or public apology.

The looseness and injustice of the libel laws in some of the states should be corrected. The amendments proposed to the Ohio laws are a step in the right direction and should be adopted. The announcement of Miss Bradley, the daughter of the governor of Kentucky, that she will christen the new battleship Kentucky, with water taken from a spring from which Abraham Lincoln used to drink when a boy, has raised the ire of the Kentucky colonels and majors, who insist that the favorite beverage of all good and patriotic Kentuckians, pure whisky, should be used. One of these prominent representatives of the first families of the blue grass state, who is particularly indignant, is said to have a record for having taken 265,000 drinks of whisky during his life, and declares that he doesn't desire that "the outside public shall be impressed with the idea that the Woman's Christian Temperance Union has closed all the distilleries in Kentucky." He accordingly enters his serious protest. Miss Bradley, however, stands loyally by her guns in favor of the clear and cool fluid from Nature's fountain of historic associations, and, being a woman, will doubtless carry her point, as she deserves to.

The Teller silver farce will be made short work of in the house of representatives to-day, which will virtually end the agitation, for this session of Congress, at least. The people of this country voted down the monster when they elected the present Congress and William McKinley President, and their representatives will be carrying out the instructions they received then when they lay this dishonest proposition on the shelf.

C. C. Shayne, of New York, denies emphatically the part of General Boyce's story connecting him with the alleged attempt to bribe members of the Ohio legislature in Mr. Hanna's behalf. He says that no such conference as is alleged to have taken place between himself and the President ever occurred or was contemplated. There is about as much truth in the remainder of the Boyce story as there is in the Shayne part of it.

There is hope in the fact that some of the professional base ball managers are preparing to make a crusade against rowdism at base ball games. It is agreed that the remedy rests with the patrons of the game. If they, or the respectable portion of them, will with-

hold their patronage until the club owners abolish rowdism the future respectability of the game will be assured. The evil of permitting the hoodlums to have their own way has been growing, and the managers are not beginning too soon to talk about a reform.

Americans will join with their English brethren in the general satisfaction expressed that the stories regarding the affliction of Mr. Gladstone have been exaggerations. The "grand old man" seems to be simply suffering from the effects of old age, but is otherwise in fine condition.

If Europe is getting ready to fight and succeed in getting into a general "scrap," all Uncle Sam will have to do will be to quietly look on and furnish the nations across the water with food and other supplies. It's an ill wind that blows nobody good.

THE PENSION LIST.

Reasons Against the Proposition to Publish It—The Intent Should be Concealed. Exaggerated and Unconscionable Charges of Fraud.

To the Editor of the Intelligence.
Sir—I have read with great interest the suggestion of Commissioner H. Clay Evans to print, for public information, a list of the names of the persons drawing pensions, "Corporal" Tanner, an ex-commissioner of pensions, insists that the publication of such a list would be a "damnable outrage." "Corporal" Tanner is a pensioner himself, but no one can question the propriety of his pension.

Whether or not such a list would be an outrage would depend wholly upon the intent with which it was published and the purposes for which it should be used. If the list were published in good faith and circulated and used as a roll of honor, it would be a very handsome thing, indeed, to do, but if it is intended, as intimated by Commissioner Evans, that a list be circulated by the government that the people may scrutinize it, and discuss it on the streets, in the groceries and at the cross-roads—the merits and demerits of every pensioner—then no good would come from such a publication. And if it is intended that the list shall be a kind of general search warrant, to aid the pension bureau in ascertaining who are on the rolls improperly, then "Corporal" Tanner was quite right when he said it would be a "damnable outrage." Why should every honest soldier in the land who draws a pension authorized by the laws of his country be subjected to this indignity? If you please, why should "Corporal" Tanner, who left both his feet on the battle field at Bull Run, stand up and be searched, because, forsooth, some one doesn't know what he was not entitled to have and succeeded in deceiving the pension bureau? Has the pension bureau, with its army of clerks and agents, been so badly managed that it cannot tell whether the people who got the money were entitled to it or not? If so, different business methods would seem to be the better remedy. If Commissioner Evans, or anyone, knows of any person who is on the pension roll fraudulently, let him point out the criminal and have him punished? The courts are open for such purposes, and the laws are ample. If there is anything wrong with the pension rolls, correct them.

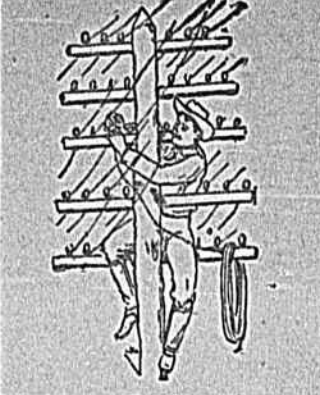
But why should the pension bureau feel so sensitive even if a few pensions have been improperly allowed? It should be borne in mind that more than a million cases have been acted upon. It would be almost a miracle if, in acting on so many cases, no mistakes have been made. No doubt many mistakes have been made, both in favor of and against applicants. Mistakes are almost unavoidable, but mistakes are not frauds. Before anyone can secure a pension he must file his application and prove by record evidence that he was a federal soldier, honorably discharged, and also that he has some disability which brings him within some of the acts of Congress providing for pensions. These are all matters of fact to be proven to the satisfaction of the commissioner of pensions, and why should not the commissioner misapprehend these facts just as judges and juries mistake facts proven in open court? It is of common occurrence for judges and juries to make mistakes in the trial of cases, notwithstanding the witnesses are before them, and undergo rigid examinations and cross-examinations, and their demeanor may be observed by the court. But the judge who makes an honest mistake is not a criminal, nor is the juror who is benefited by it. If these courts make mistakes, and are imposed upon under such favorable circumstances, why should not the officers of the pension bureau make mistakes and be imposed upon, when they can only have before them the written descriptions of the disabilities provided for in the laws, often imperfectly and unskillfully drawn.

I think I know personally a majority of the old soldiers now residing in the counties of Preston, Taylor, Barbour, Marion and Monongalia who are on the pension roll, and I defy any man to show that one of these men is fraudulently on the roll. In addition to this, I am quite sure that if all these men could be taken before a board of expert pension examiners, and every one given just what he is entitled to under the law, the aggregate sum paid these men would be increased at least 20 per cent. For every pensioner who can be shown to be drawing more than he is entitled to receive under the law, I will show you five of his neighbors who receive less than they should receive could their disabilities be traced back to their origin. This arises from the fact that many of the men who were excellent soldiers in the army, but have no hospital record, and cannot trace the origin of their diseases to the time they were in the army.

This cry of pension frauds is confined to a few people. In a few instances it emanates from malice, but usually from ignorance. It is not true that any considerable number of our people grudge the old soldier the pittance received by him for the services rendered his country in time of need. The truth is the country appreciates the services of the men who defended its flag. They are living object lessons of patriotism. It is only the ingrate and the coward who attacks the soldier now sinking beneath the weight of years. In every civilized country no men are more venerated than the soldier. Even savages adore their braves. Desdemona loved Othello for the dangers he had passed.

In order to anticipate criticism it may not be in bad taste for me to add that although I served in the Union army three years—from 1861 to 1864—as an enlisted man, I am not a pensioner, nor have I ever made application for a pension. But my reason, and the only reason, that I am not on the roll is that my physical condition is such that I am not entitled to a pension. Whenever I can properly be placed on the roll I shall regard it a most distinguished honor to have my name enrolled with those of my old comrades, and I shall feel a peculiar pride in accepting from my government this honorable recognition for service rendered by me in my early manhood. The United States stands in the front rank of the nations of the world in honoring and caring for the men who fight her battles. The young men of to-day realize this fact, and should the country again call for men to defend her laws, the best and bravest of the nation will be the first

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to respond. The man who deprecates the merits of the soldiers of his country weakens the flag, for what would the flag amount to without brave hearts and strong hands to support it?
JOHN W. MASON.
Fairmont, January 28, 1898.

SPANISH FLEET

In Very Bad Shape—The Government is Thoroughly Alarmed.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—The Corroero, organ of the Carlists, discussing the visit of the United States battleship Maine to Havana, expresses the belief that the Spanish public is justifiably alarmed, adding:

"As a fact, it is the government itself which is seriously alarmed, though every effort is made to disguise it. In spite of the official statement of Admiral Cerveras, the admiral of the fleet, on Tuesday last (at a conference with the minister of marine, when he asserted that the recent evolutions had demonstrated the perfect condition of the Spanish fleet), Admiral Cerveras in reality reported that there was not a ship ready for service; that the vessels not actually in dry dock ought to be there; that many of the boilers were defective; that some ships were not yet armed, and that most of the vessels required cleanings. In view of the peridy of the United States it is not surprising that such neglect and helplessness create alarm."

According to the same paper, great importance is attached to the conference between Patenotre, the French minister to Spain, and Gullen, the Spanish minister for foreign affairs, who, it is said, discussed the action of the United States, "as it is well known that there is great alarm in France at the course of events. The fact that Patenotre is intimately conversant with United States affairs lends additional importance to the matter."

Help.

Oh yes, you have my sympathy. That have been hit by black Misfortune. The man look on your features touches me. The tremor in your voice sends poignant sorrow to my heart. I know you did your best to win. I know that evil circumstances blocked the way. Here is my hand, my friend, brace up! And show the world that you are still prepared to win the day. No doubt remains to torture me—Your test are proof that you are truly penitent. Start life anew! You have my sympathy. Remember this, I pray you—but I haven't got a cent!
S. E. KISER.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the city of Toledo, county and state aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY.
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1897.
(Seal) A. D. GLEASON, Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free.

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Sold by DRUGGISTS, 75c.
Hall's Family Pills are the best.

BICYCLE riders take the "kink" out of their lame back with Sloan's Liniment. Sold by Wm. Schwefelger, 1146 Main street.

DON'T annoy others by your coughing, and risk your life by neglecting a cold. One Minute Cough Cure cures colds, croup, grippe and all throat and lung troubles. Charles R. Goetze, Market and Twelfth streets; Chatham Sinclair, Forty-sixth and Jacob streets; A. E. Scheele, No. 607 Main street; Exley Bros., Penn and Zane streets; Bowie & Co., Bridgeport. 1

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A LOCAL Disease A Climatic Affection

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Saturday Matinee—Camille.

Saturday Night—Camille.

Matinee prices, 50c and 25c; no extra charge for reserved seats; night prices, reserved seats \$1.00; admission, 50c and 25c. Seats on sale at C. A. House's Music Store Wednesday, February 2. ja21

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Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Wednesday Matinee, January 31 and February 1 and 2. The original

OLE OLSON.

Better than ever before, and THE ONLY LAWSON.

Better known as "The Terrible Swede."

In the Great Bicycle Race. Night prices—15, 25, 35 and 50c. Matinee prices—15, 25 and 35c. ja27

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of California. (at 160) of Philadelphia.

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Three good preliminaries to start promptly at 8:30 p. m. Admission 10c. Benwood and Moundsville bars will be in waiting after the contest. ja2

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No. 214 Sixteenth street—A month. Room 66 feet by 132 feet, with steam power for manufacturing purposes. No. 1403 Warren street—A month. No. 21 Twenty-fourth street, 3 rooms. No. 31 Seventeenth street—A month. No. 66 Seventeenth street—A month. Store room on Market street—A month. 3 rooms Second street, north of C & P. passenger depot. Martin's Ferry, Ohio, gas fixtures for fuel and light. No. 66 Seventeenth street—A month. Or six rooms, new paper and paint. No. 2226 Main street, office room. No. 21 Twentieth street—A month. No. 41 Twentieth street—A month. No. 1616 Main street, office or light business place. Location was barber. No. 337 Main street, 5 rooms on first floor and front cellar, a Jewett was range in kitchen and both gas and furnished. No. 34 Sixteenth street, 3 rooms on first floor—A month. No. 149 Sixteenth street—A month. No. 2226 Main street, office room. No. 1415 Main street, 3 rooms—A month. No. 1516 Alley B, stable—A month. No. 127 Fourteenth street—A month. No. 133 Fourteenth street—A month. 3-roomed house east of Mt. de Chantilly—A month. 2-roomed house Pleasant Valley—A month.

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TRUSTEE'S SALE.

By virtue of a deed of trust dated the 1st day of November, 1891, made by August Belmont and Margaretta Belmont, his wife, to me, trustee, and of record in the office of the clerk of the county court of Ohio county, West Virginia, Deed of Trust Book No. 23, page 615, I was procured to sell at public auction, commencing at 10 o'clock a. m., at the front door of the court house in the city of Wheeling, county of Ohio, and state of West Virginia, all that certain piece of parcel of real estate situate, lying and being in the city of Wheeling, county of Ohio, and state of West Virginia, and described as follows, that is to say: All of the north one-half of lot