Port Tobacco Times

PORT TOBACCO:

Friday Morning, May 22, 1885.

A newspaper has been started in Kansas called the *Thomas Cat*. We presume the editor means to take boot jacks and old shoes for subscriptions.

After the races in Washington last Friday, Mr. Tom Brown, of Westmoreland county, Va., sold his horse, Duke of Westmoreland, one of the winners to H. O. Bernard, of New York, for $1,500.

The *Beacon* denies the report that Mr. J. T. M. Raley is an applicant for the position of Naval Officer. Hon. B. G. Harris is the only applicant St. Mary's has in the field for that place. Perhaps Mr. Raley would like to be deputy.

We have received the initial number of the *Times*, published weekly in Baltimore by Mr. Harry J. Ford, an experienced journalist of that city. The paper seems to be conducted with energy and ability and deserves success, which we heartily wish it. It is Democratic in tone.

Judge Stone has adhered to his declared intention last fall of calling Court at half past nine during the May term, and promptly at this hour every morning Court is convened. It is rather hard on the lazy juror, who has any distance to ride, but it will be found to be a decided benefit to our burdened tax-payers when the levy is made out.

The question is frequently asked, as to time the term of office of the present Federal office-holders in this State expire. For the information of all who feel interested in this matter we would state that the commissions of the prominent office-holders expire as follows: Collector of customs, February 17, 1886; naval officer, February 19, 1886; surveyor of the port, March 16, 1886; United States sub-treasurer, July 12, 1886. The bulk of the federal appointments to minor positions are made by these officers. In view of the fact that the United States Senate, to whom all presidential appointments must be referred for approval, is Republican, the President could not move more rapidly than he is doing.

The contest that has been pending since early last February over the Illinois senatorship was decided on Tuesday in favor of Gen. John A. Logan, the present senator and the defeated Republican candidate for the Vice Presidency, by a very slender majority, the tie that so long delayed an election having been broken when, by means of a still hunt, the Republicans managed to elect in a strongly Democratic district a successor to a Democrat who died on April 12th. The moral of the prolonged contest from the Democratic point of view is that Hon. Wm. R. Morrison, the champion of tariff reform, polled on the 14th of the present month the full Democratic vote, showing that Western Democrats are not so averse to wise tariff legislation as they have been represented to be. A little more wariness, they are by this time aware, might have saved them the mortification of the [illegible] the Republicans so successfully played on them.

Senator Gorman, when informed that certain Maryland politicians were highly provoked because Mr. Allison had been selected as assistant postmaster, said: "Mr Allison was selected because of his superior business qualifications, and his appointment gives entire satisfaction to the business community of Baltimore. In local politics he may have differed with some gentlemen, but on national issues his democracy cannot and has never been questioned. We are dating this thing from the election of Cleveland, and not the last century." The Senator also stated in connection with the other federal offices in Maryland that he supposed the collectorship of internal revenue would next be called up for consideration, the President having intimated that he desired to dispose of that class of cases before going into the customs and judicial appointments. Mr. Gorman said he could not prevent persons from claiming that he was supporting them in their endeavors to procure appointments, but, as a matter of fact, he was not pledged to support any one person for any of the Federal offices in the State. His advice to all applicants had uniformly been to file their applications with the appointing power, and their claims would receive due consideration when the hour arrived for finally disposing of the question. Mr. Gorman was in New York Tuesday to attend a meeting of the Senate committee authorized at the last session of Congress, to investigate the subject of inter-state commerce, with a view to improve regulations on the subject.

At least a month since, Dr. W. G. Green, chief of one of the divisions in the office of the second comptroller of the currency, was, by direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, requested to send in his resignation. The Secretary was influenced to make this request by representations that Dr. Green had for a long time been a very active partisan, and it was also asserted that while engaged in political campaign work he he had absented himself for unusual periods of time from the department. Dr. Green is a native of New York, and was appointed from that State. Of late years he has hailed from Southern Maryland, and has been prominent in the politics of that section, and it is alleged that he has helped to stir up race prejudices. He was a candidate for the republican nomination for Congress in the fifth district in opposition to Mr. Holton, and was a delegate from Maryland to the republican national convention last year, being conspicuous in the support of Arthur. He made no reply to the request of the Secretary for his resignation, and some say that the letter asking for his resignation failed to reach him, but this is believed to be erroneous. At all events, the Secretary thought he had waited long enough for an answer, and on Tuesday he cut off the official head of Dr. Green without further ceremony. Dr. Green did not seem to be particularly disturbed by the notification of his removal, and said he could stand it if the Secretary could. It is understood that T. Owen Roberts, of Prince George's County, Md., has been appointed to succeed him. Mr. Roberts is a son-in-law, of ex-Gov. Bowie. The salary of the position is $2,100 per annum.

The Drouth.

The prevailing topic among farmers at present is the extraordinary drouth which is now prevailing and which now seriously threatens to irreparably blight the grass and wheat crops. It is now said that unless we have rain within a week the growing wheat will be destroyed beyond recovery, while the crop of corn is also said to be coming up poorly in consequence of the protracted drouth. The yield of hay is also said to have been already very materially shortened by the continued dry weather and unless it rain soon that important product will also be a total failure.

This state of affairs is a source of much anxiety to farmers and following as it does close upon the blighting drouth of last summer and fall, it is naturally a subject of the gravest concern to farmers. If the materially shortened corn and tobacco crops of last year be now followed by a failure of the crops of wheat and hay, the effect upon the poorer class of farmers, who have not much capital in advance, will be direful in the extreme. And yet a fear is entertained by some that this may not be all, and that the drouth may be protracted into the summer to the destruction of the corn and tobacco crops of this year.

When we review the condition of the weather and the quantity and apportionment of the rain fall in the past twelve months the prospect is not very encouraging, even to the most sanguine. It will be remembered that in the fall of 1883 there appeared a certain peculiar haze or halo about the sun, which was said to be unprecedented in the memory of scientific observers. Various theories were presented by men of science as an explanation of the cause of the extraordinary phenomenon, the best accepted of which appeared to be that it was due to a cloud of meteoric or volcanic dust which was suspended either near the limit, or outside of the atmosphere of the earth.

This phenomenon was followed by an exceedingly heavy and long continued fall of rain, which commenced early in the year 1884 and continued until the latter part of July, when it suddenly ceased and was followed by an unusually protracted dry period of over two months duration, during which no rain at all fell. This was succeeded about the middle of October by light rains by which the moisture was gradually restored to the earth. But it has been remarkable that the rain fall since this period has been unusually light and partial. The various streams and swamps traversing the county, which, in the usual order of things, are frequently, during the winter and spring seasons, swollen far beyond their beds by floods and freshets, have not during the past winter and spring been once known to be comfortably filled with water.

This comparative drouth during the ordinarily wet seasons of the year gives rise to apprehensions, which are not without foundation, that when the usual dry period shall arrive, we shall have another blighting drouth, similar to the one of last year. This would indeed be a scourge without a precedent, perhaps, in the memory of any one now living; yet the many [illegible] ordinary [illegible] spheric conditions which has followed the phenomenon of the fall of 1883, and the great injury which has already been sustained in consequence, naturally give rise to vague apprehensions for the future.

But there is wisdom, no doubt, in the scriptural declaration that "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." It is well in these days of gloom and disaster not to borrow trouble. It is the Christian's belief that all things are guided by an all-wise and all-merciful Providence; and that nothing happens without His knowledge and acquiescence. This is a comforting belief in calamitous times like the present. It behooves us at such times to fortify ourselves with faith and hope; to hope for the best, but to endeavor as far as we are able to prepare for the worst.

By an order of the Senate at the last session of the Legislature, says the Baltimore *Sun*, a committee of five Senators was appointed to visit the various reformatory, charitable and private educational institutions of the State to which appropriations have been made by the General Assembly, and inquire into the management of said institutions and the benefits they confer, and report at the next session the results of their observations, and as to the propriety of extending further appropriations for the same purpose. The five Senators composing the committee have taken steps to begin the investigation with which they were charged. The institutions for which annual appropriations are made, according to the comptroller's report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1884, aggregated 28 or 30, and the total sum divided amongst them was in the neighborhood of $200,000. Of this amount 7 of the largest institutions received $119,500, as follows: Institution for the Dumb, at Frederick, $25,000; House of Correction, $18,750; House of Refuge, $15,000; House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children, $16,000; for the indigent blind, $15,000; Maryland Hospital for the Insane, $23,750, and St. Mary's Industrial Institute, $12,000—$119,500. This would leave about $80,500 divided amongst 23 other beneficiaries of the State, which would not appear to be large, considering the educational, reformatory and charitable work accomplished by the several institutions that are the recipients of State aid, and is, in reality, but a very small part of the cost of carrying on the institutions in question. Nevertheless it is advisable that the institutions to whose support the State contributes, should be periodically visited by committees, and reports on their management, condition and necessities be made. This is what the Senate committee, acting for the State is about to do, and as they are all gentlemen of intelligence, there is no reason to doubt that they will do their work thoroughly and well, and that the information they gather will be of service as a guide to similar appropriations when the Legislature meets again.

The monthly statistical publication of the department of agriculture for May is devoted to a statement of the wages paid farm laborers in various parts of the country at present and during a number of years in the past. Many correspondents in the South complain of the unwillingness of the colored laborers to work steadily, and of their inclination to crowd into cities, while others speak more favorably. The report suggests the opening by labor unions or benevolent citizens in towns and cities of intelligence offices where unemployed workmen may be put in communication with farmers in need of help.

The Shad Fishery.

The unusual scarcity of shad in the Potomac river and other tributaries of the Chesapeake bay during the recent season, is a subject of very general remark among fishermen and others who take an interest in the public welfare. The catch during the last season was thought to be a very small one, but this year that excellent fish has been scarce beyond any precedent; and, although they have commanded very remunerative prices throughout the entire season, yet those engaged in shad fishing, on the Potomac at least, have not nearly paid their expenses.

This is rather a serious state of affairs, as the shad is one of the most excellent food fishes that are taken in our river, and a large number of people derive [illegible] ment and support from the in[illegible] taking them. It is proper that [illegible] investigation should be made of [illegible] markable diminution in the suppl[illegible] valuable fish in recent years with [illegible] of finding out and providing the [illegible] if possible.

Two different theories have [illegible] vanced by the fishermen of the [illegible] the unusually small run of shad [illegible] waters during the past season. [illegible] these theories make the trap or po[illegible] which have greatly multiplied in [illegible] years, the responsible cause; tho[illegible] operation of the cause in produ[illegible] effect is stated in different way[illegible] Potomac fishermen for the most [illegible] press the belief that the very ex[illegible] trap nets which in recent years ha[illegible] stretched at great length out up[illegible] flats of the Chesapeake bay, above [illegible] low the mouth of the Potomac, s[illegible] divert the shad, which is a very c[illegible] fish, away from the river. This [illegible] does not, however, seem to be ve[illegible] practice, as the catch of shad in th[illegible] tributaries of the Chesapeake seem[illegible] been quite as meagre this year as [illegible] Potomac. On the other hand we [illegible] that the fishermen and others hi[illegible] the bay complain that the gas tar i[illegible] the seine of which the trap nets a[illegible] is soaked, so impregnates the wat[illegible] drive the shad away.

It is difficult without more car[illegible] vestigation, to determine to what [illegible] either of these supposed causes ma[illegible] ate. These are of course the mer[illegible] of the fishermen, not verified by [illegible] ment or careful study. They may [illegible] not be the chief or contributing ca[illegible] the evil. It is worthy of remark th[illegible] withstanding the great scarcity of [illegible] the waters of the Chesapeake and [illegible] butaries during the past season, th[illegible] in the Delaware bay and its trib[illegible] has been the largest in ten years pa[illegible]

As throwing light upon this imp[illegible] subject and determining how far the trap nets may operate as a cause of the evil referred to, we should think it would be advisable to ascertain whether fishing by trap nets is permitted in the Delaware bay and river and to what extent. This is a subject which certainly demands the best thought of our public spirited press and people and some careful investigation ought to be made of the evil and its [illegible]

Southern Maryland Railroad.

The Central Trust Company of New York filed a bill in the United States Circuit Court in Baltimore on Friday, asking an injunction and receiver for the Southern Maryland Railroad Company, and Judge Morris passed an order for the defendant to show cause on June 6, 1885, why a receiver should not be appointed and an injunction should not issue as prayed.

The bill of the Central Trust Company recites that on January 1, 1881, the Southern Maryland Railroad Company executed bonds to the amount of $1,600,000, payable January 1, 1911, with interest at 6 per cent., payable semi-annually, and secured by a mortgage on all the railroad, beginning at Point Lookout and running to Washington; that the railroad company made default in the interest July 1, 1882 and since then no interest has been paid; that the trust company has been requested by a majority of the bondholders to take proper proceedings for the foreclosure of the mortgage, and to proceed according to the terms of the mortgage to sell the property to the highest bidder at public auction in Philadelphia; that the mortgaged property is insufficient to pay the mortgage debt, wherefore the complainant asks the court to decree that all the property and rights covered by the mortgage be sold, and all persons claiming under it subsequent to the recording of the mortgage may be barred and foreclosed from all right, title, lien, possession or equity of redemption in respect thereto; that the trust company may be paid its disbursements, costs and expenses out of the proceeds of the sale, and the rest applied toward the payment of principal and interest on all the bonds and unpaid coupons secured by the mortgage, and that pending the suit a receiver or receivers may be appointed to take charge of the mortgaged property, and that a temporary injunction may be granted restraining the railroad company from disposing of it. A similar suit was instituted in Washington on Wednesday of last week.

Twenty-one miles of the road have been constructed and equipped, running from Brandywine, Prince George's county, on the Baltimore and Potomac Road, to Mechanicsville, St. Mary's county, and the road-bed has been graded to Esperanza, on the Chesapeake, a distance of another twenty miles, under the supervision of Mr. J. B. Ridgway. Considering the fact that it runs from "nowhere to nowhere," as the enemies of the enterprise claimed, it has done well, paying running expenses. Messrs. John Van Riswick, L. G. Hine, James L. Barbour, Frank Hume, T. A. Lambert, of Washington, D. C.; the late R. K. Elliott, Commodore W. W. Wood, John P. Poe, Hon. A. G. Chapman and J. B. Groome were directors. The most of the road was built by Mr. Frazier, of Philadelphia, under a Boston syndicate.

A special from Oscoda, Mich., says fire broke out at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon in T. F. Thompson & Co.'s mill on the lumber docks and was not checked at that point until five million feet of timber, valued at about twenty dollars a thousand, had been destroyed. The fire then broke out on the immense docks of the Au Sable Lumber Company, a quarter of a mile distant, on which there were about 15,000,000 feet of lumber. The river is lined with lumber from its mouth to the main portion of Au Sable, and grave apprehensions were felt for the safety of the village. At 11 o'clock the fire was partially under control, and it was hoped that it could be kept in check until assistance arrived from other places. It is the largest lumber fire ever known in Michigan. So far about 7,000,000 feet of lumber have been burned on the Au Sable Company's docks. There is no insurance on the lumber, as far as known.

The will of the late Miss Jane Holmes, of Pittsburg, Pa., was admitted to probate in that city Thursday. Her estate amounts to $1,000,000, and her bequests to charitable institutions, under Protestant auspices, will aggregate over $750,000.

The Old, Old Story.

Why do we hear so much about dyspepsia? Simply because so many people have it. Why are so many people talking about their cure from this dreadful disease? Simply because they have been taking Brown's Iron Bitters. This it is with Mrs. Taylor of Lynchburg, Sumter Co., S. C., who says, "I have used Brown's Iron Bitters for dyspepsia with most favorable results. I believe this medicine is all that is represented." Dyspeptics, and sufferers from neuralgia, weakness, etc., should try it.

Taxes on Estates.

The Court of Appeals, the Bonaparte tax cases, has rendered decision covering several very important points. The point was made by [illegible] estate that if any taxes were due originally they could not now be collected as [illegible] had not been filed with the Orphans Court. The Court of Appeals decided that it is not necessary for tax bills to be filed against the estate. Taxes are not debts, in the technical use of that word in the code, and tax bills do not require the approval of any [illegible] except the body authorized by law to levy taxes. The court says:

"The liability for taxes is [illegible] incident to property, and essential to the support of the government; every possessor of property, therefore, is put upon inquiry as to what [illegible] is, and the [illegible] ability [illegible] Finally [illegible] that [illegible] the [illegible] States, [illegible] pre[illegible] taxes [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] port[illegible] es, or [illegible] able [illegible] stees [illegible] and [illegible] day [illegible] the [illegible] after [illegible] duty [illegible] ly [illegible] ed [illegible] ed [illegible] ed