

Port Tobacco Times

PORT TOBACCO: Friday Morning, January 15, 1886

Representative Weaver introduced a bill in Congress on Monday for the issue of fractional currency. It directs the Secretary of the Treasury to prepare and issue fractional paper currency to the amount of \$75,000,000 in denominations of 10, 15, 25, and 50 cents of the form with those heretofore issued by the treasury and called "shillings."

The report of the commissioner of agriculture estimates the corn crop in Maryland for the year ended December, 1885, as follows: There were 720,886 acres planted from which a crop of 15,999,000 bushels was derived, valued at \$7,350,240. The wheat crop for the same period was as follows: 580,482 acres planted, producing 5,524,000 bushels, valued at \$5,035,940.—111,100 acres were planted in oats, yielding 1,475,000 bushels, valued at \$806,250.

The caucus of the Democratic members of the Maryland Legislature held in Annapolis Wednesday nominated unanimously and by a rising vote, Hon. A. P. Gorman as the candidate of the party for the U. S. Senator, and Hon. Henry Lloyd as the candidate for Governor. The action of the caucus in unanimously nominating by a rising vote has probably few if any parallels in the history of American politics.

The members of the House of Delegates are reported to be a fine looking body of men. Mr. William Cole, of Baltimore county, is the oldest and Mr. W. M. Muschette, of Charles county, is the youngest member. The latter got his first vote at the election at which he was returned to the House, and since his election he has taken upon himself a wide and arduous task at law and was admitted to the bar during last year, so that altogether 1885 was a good year for Mr. Muschette. Two other members of the House—Lind, of Montgomery, and Dargatz, of Carroll—have also married since their election.—Mr. F. A. Benson, of Talbot, is probably the tallest man in the House, and Mr. Francis V. King, of St. Mary's, is probably the smallest.—Edw. Times.

The Baltimore Times has already commenced scanning the field for probable candidates who will enter the field and contest for Congressional honors next fall. In its political article in last Sunday's issue it gives the names of numerous candidates in the several congressional districts of the State, and has the following to say concerning our immediate district: "In the Fifth district the Hon. James Connelley the only candidate named for Congressional honors and he will in all probability receive a re-election. Trained as a parliamentarian, with judgment ripened by the experience of years of public life, a ready and fluent debater, his future is bright and his constituents will have no occasion to regret the confidence reposed by their choice."

On Thursday of last week Speaker Carlisle announced the standing committees of the national House of Representatives. The committees were selected after careful and judicious consideration and with a view to the fitness of the gentlemen composing them to master the legislation they would have in hand. The composition of the committees have been generally favorably criticized by the press of the country and meet with satisfaction. The Maryland members are assigned to the following committees: Mr. Compton on Militia and District of Columbia; Mr. Shaw on Claims and Expenditures in the Treasury Department; Mr. Gibson on Accounts and Election of Railroad and Canal and Public Buildings and Grounds; Mr. Findley on Military Affairs and Select Committee on Reform in the Civil Service; Mr. McConnaughy the republican member from Maryland, is placed on the committee on Appropriations.

Assistant Secretary Jenks, of the Interior Department, is authorized by the statement that as soon as he disposes of the Bell telephone case he will devote his attention to the case of Indian Inspector Thomas, over whose appointment so much bitter feeling has been stirred up. There seems to be no question now but that the latter will be promptly confirmed by the Senate, as the Indian affairs committee have been informed that an unfavorable report on this nomination would be unsatisfactory to the republicans of Maryland. Ex-Collector John L. Thomas had a great deal to do with bringing about this result, and in a recent interview with Senator Davis, chairman of the committee on Indian Affairs, he expressed the opportunity to express the conviction that Mr. Thomas deserved the place and ought to get it. This was all that was necessary so far as the committee was concerned, and matters what the decision of the Interior Department may be, the nomination of Mr. Thomas will go through the Senate.

Reports from the West and Northwest indicate that there is as yet no abatement of the cold snap. The mercury stood at 15 to 24 degrees below zero throughout Illinois Sunday. Several cases of fatal freezing are reported. At Elgin, Ill., Irwin Underhill, on his way home from a party, lost his way and was frozen stiff Sunday. His horse was stalled in a snow-bank some distance from him. At Danvers, Edwin Baker was found frozen in a farm yard. At Burlington, Ill., John Lang left a barber shop late Saturday night for home and was found dead Sunday morning not a quarter of a mile from where he resided. A despatch from Denver says that two men were frozen to death near the Western Kansas line, and it is feared that the loss of life in the mountains was considerable. The fatalities in the agricultural portions of Southern Illinois have been numerous. Two men were frozen near the little town of Plover while driving cattle from a field. An unknown man was found dead on the track near Odin. Two cars of hogs, part of a blockaded freight train, were frozen stiff on Saturday morning. The farmers say that decks of dead cattle and hogs are everywhere. It is believed that few wild fowl will survive the blizzard. The storm is the worst one Southern Illinois has had for years.

The Tobacco Warehouse Fund.

We referred incidentally last week to the enormous report made to the last Legislature by Comptroller Turner, at the request of the Senate, purporting to set forth the true status of the tobacco warehouse fund, and promised to review the matter more particularly in this issue.

It will be remembered by all who have given this matter any attention that the excessive property now used as the State tobacco warehouses was purchased at different times by the State and special loans issued to meet the expense thus incurred in the purchase and improvement of this property. The acts of assembly authorizing the purchase of this property especially devoted it to the purpose of tobacco inspection and provided that the loans thus incurred should be discharged by the revenues accruing from the outage charge upon tobacco; and the treasury officers were directed to keep a separate account upon the books of the treasury of the tobacco fund to which the principal and all interest paid upon these loans should be charged and credit to be given of all the net revenues accruing from the tobacco fund.

The Legislature of 1871, by an order passed, requested the Comptroller to furnish an itemized statement of the tobacco fund account, and in obedience to their order Comptroller Woodford furnished to that body a very complete statement in which the amount of the several loans and the manner of their redemption by the receipts from the outage tax upon tobacco was definitely set forth. By this statement it appeared that charging the tobacco fund with the amount of the several loans issued for the purchase of the warehouse property and all interest thereon and giving it credit by the net receipts from the outage tax upon tobacco over and above the expense of operating the warehouses, and there was still a balance of \$61,168.04 in favor of the State treasury.

By an order passed by the Senate at the session of 1884, the present Comptroller Turner was requested to furnish the Legislature with an supplemental statement showing the status of the tobacco fund at that time. In that statement Mr. Turner not only failed to make any mention of the warehouse receipts which since 1873 had been going directly into the treasury, but also assigned the balance shown by Comptroller Woodford as of January 1, 1884, as the basis of his calculation, still by a singular inconsistency, charged the tobacco fund interest on \$138,653.67 for the nine years covered by his statement. The following editorial from the Times of February 8, 1884, immediately after Mr. Turner's report was made, fully points out the nature of the large error he made by which an undue prejudice was at that time created against the tobacco inspection system:

Comptroller Turner made out and returned to the Senate on the 20th ultimo, in obedience to an order passed by the Senate, a statement of the present condition of the Tobacco Fund on the books of the treasury. Mr. Turner takes as a basis of his calculation the balance shown by the Comptroller Woodford in 1875 to be due to the State, and gives the items of debited credit as they appear upon the books of the treasury, from September 30th, 1881. By these he makes it appear that the expense of the system from September 30th, 1875, to January 1st, 1884, is \$1,025,509.53, while the gross receipts within the period only amount to \$200,000.00, leaving a balance due the State September 30th, 1883, of \$825,509.53. This statement contains one very remarkable error, which is of a nature to have very serious consequences, if not designedly unjust, the tobacco fund account has been kept upon the books of the treasury. The balance due the State September 30th, 1883, is \$1,025,509.53, and not \$825,509.53, as Mr. Turner states. The balance due the State September 30th, 1883, is \$1,025,509.53, and not \$825,509.53, as Mr. Turner states. The balance due the State September 30th, 1883, is \$1,025,509.53, and not \$825,509.53, as Mr. Turner states.

At the close of his statement in 1875 Comptroller Woodford deducted the full amount of the interest on the tobacco fund loans, and the balance then outstanding in behalf of the tobacco fund was \$1,025,509.53. The interest on the tobacco fund loans, at the rate of 6 per cent, amounted to \$210,711.57, which was deducted, there was only a balance of \$814,797.96 due the State, as Mr. Turner states. Now Comptroller Turner, in his present statement, while taking the balance of \$1,025,509.53 as a basis, omits to charge interest on the tobacco fund loans, and the balance due the State is \$1,025,509.53, while the tobacco fund only has \$814,797.96.

Of course the only proper charge for interest that can be made is upon the balance actually due the State. If those loans are still outstanding, the interest upon them is still charged to the State, but instead of taking the balance that Comptroller Woodford claimed, a balance due the Tobacco Fund of \$17,543.53, which would have been shown by Comptroller Woodford's statement, the present Comptroller must take as a basis for his statement, a balance due the Tobacco Fund of \$17,543.53, which would have been shown by Comptroller Woodford's statement, the present Comptroller must take as a basis for his statement, a balance due the Tobacco Fund of \$17,543.53, which would have been shown by Comptroller Woodford's statement.

It is very clear that any balance sheet of this tobacco account which does not give credit for those which revenues are in correct and just. Those revenues are properly a credit to the tobacco fund and were so treated up to 1873, when by an inadvertent error they were turned directly into the treasury. The amount of those receipts were shown in the last report of the Comptroller to have been in the last fiscal year a little upward of \$3,000. Now taking an annuity of \$5,000 and calculating interest on it since 1873 and we believe that it would make an amount quite sufficient to shift a large balance to the other side of the account and to the tobacco fund. We believe it is the plain duty of the representatives in the Legislature from the

tobacco growing counties to have an order passed requiring the Comptroller to make out a correct statement of this account. And then if it be found, as we believe it will, that the warehouses are fully paid for, it would not be improper to pass an act authorizing the State Government to convey this property to a board of trustees in trust for the tobacco growers of the State. We hope that some active steps will be taken in this matter at the present session.

The Governor's Message.

Immediately upon the organization of the Legislature, Governor Lloyd presented his message to the two houses, which was read and listened to with great attention. The message begins by alluding to the change in the National Administration, and in fitting terms speaks of the loss the country has sustained in the death of Gen. Grant and Vice-President Hendricks. He then briefly discusses his succession to the gubernatorial office, and disposes of the question by citing that clause of the constitution that provides for such a contingency. He then devotes considerable space to the finances of the State and presents the fact that the credit of our State is all that anyone could wish, and also that the debt of the State is rapidly being diminished. His suggestions upon this branch of his subject, show great care and forethought, and from the lucid manner in which they are given must carry weight with them.

He speaks of the tax-basis having grown less and explains it from the fact that there is a great class of securities in the way of property, that does not bear its proportion of the burdens of the people. To remedy this he recommends a new assessment throughout the State, so that all kinds of property that are now exempt may be brought into the basis and thus made to increase the revenues. He calls attention to the fact that the taxable basis has decreased within the last decade, and expresses the opinion that if the Legislature should make provisions for taking the immediate sense of the people upon a new constitution that this ought to precede the new assessment, but if the vote upon a new constitution is not ordered for an early date, that then an assessment should at once take place. Under a law broad enough in its letter and spirit to enable the assessors to reach all manner of property, that the burdens of taxation may be more equally distributed, and substantial equity and uniformity of taxation may prevail throughout the State. He recommends the taxation of mortgages for the reason that there is a larger amount of money already invested in such securities, and the exemption of that capital from taxation, is in his mind an unfair discrimination, and bears too heavily upon the now meagre basis.

With regard to the question of a Constitutional Convention he thinks that the Legislature is empowered to submit the matter to a vote of the people at any time that the people seem in favor of a change, he sees no reason why it should be delayed until 1889.

There are many allusions suggested, among which is a change in the Judiciary system, and such amendments to the law in relation to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, as will enable it to be sold free from the hands of the State so that it can be made effective as a means of internal commerce.

Contrary to prediction from some sources, the Governor does not recommend the abolition of the State system of tobacco inspection. He merely refers to the supposed fact that the tobacco inspectors are not a source of revenue to the State, and quotes Comptroller Turner's erroneous tables, showing that result, without making any recommendation at all as to legislative action in the matter. If the Governor would reflect that it was never contemplated by the founders of the State system of inspection that it should be a source of revenue to the State, and that that result is positively prohibited by the Federal constitution, we feel sure that he would not have deemed it necessary to make any reference to that matter.

The message is quite a comprehensive paper, dealing fully with all the chief affairs of the State, and the State and handling many of them with much force and originality. It was justly received by the Assembly and has been favorably commented on by the State press. The Governor begins his official career well.

Proceedings of Congress.

In the Senate on Thursday resolutions were introduced looking to an investigation into the condition of the street car companies of the District of Columbia.—Resolutions for the investigation of the past and present management of the pension bureau were also introduced. The Utah bill was further discussed. In the House the call of the States for bills was completed, after which the Speaker announced the standing committees. The House then adjourned until Monday.

The Senate on Friday, by a vote of 28 yeas, passed the Utah bill. Mr. Ennis offered a resolution declaring that the bonds maturing in February next aggregating \$10,000,000, should be paid in silver dollars. The resolution was referred to the finance committee. The Senate adjourned until Monday. The House was not in session.

In the Senate on Monday Mr. Harrison, from the committee on Territories, introduced a bill to admit Dakota as a State. Mr. Fry introduced a bill for the relief of the American merchant marine. Mr. Patch introduced a bill for the relief of the Pacific and the Western Railroad being blocked. A bill to increase the efficiency of the infantry branch of the army. In the House on Friday, Mr. Bristle introduced a resolution for information in regard to the management of the Norfolk navy yard. Mr. Adams, of Illinois, introduced a preliminary resolution in relation to the bill for the relief of the American merchant marine. In the Senate on Tuesday, Senator Pugh introduced his course in favor of Mr. Beck's silver resolution, and Mr. Vandenberg also advocated the resolution. In the House, the Hear bill, providing for the American merchant marine, was reported from the committee on the laws regulating the election of President and Vice President. Mr. Rogan made a speech on the financial question, advocating the double standard of value. On motion of Mr. Bland, further debate on the silver question was postponed until it shall come up in regular order on a report from the committee on coinage.

In the Senate Wednesday, Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, introduced a bill to prevent the publication of lottery advertisements. Mr. Cole made a speech in relation to the suspension of silver currency. In the House, Mr. Curtis, of Pennsylvania, asked to be excused from serving as chairman of the committee on banking and currency, and the request was granted.

Maryland Tobacco Interests.

The convention of tobacco planters, sellers and buyers met at Rine's Hall, Baltimore on Wednesday pursuant to notice, to discuss the best means of modifying the present inspection law so as to benefit all interested. Full delegations from the tobacco growing counties of South and Maryland were in attendance. Dr. P. C. Price, of the sellers was called to the chair. After some preliminary discussion, a committee of six sellers, six planters and five buyers was appointed to prepare a report suggesting amendments to the present laws. Their report recommends that section 10 of the present laws be so changed that the average sample be replaced by a simple representative of the various kinds of tobacco in a hoghead. It suggests the establishment of a board of arbitration which shall decide all claims on account of differences between the original and the drawn sample, which is now made by the inspector on one of the inspection warehouse receipts. This board is to have jurisdiction over both foreign and domestic claims. Section 11 to be amended so that should any case or package come to the warehouse made of green timber, the inspector is to replace it with one of seasoned timber, at the expense of the planter. Section 13 to be amended so as to provide that no person except the inspector and time clerk shall be allowed to handle a sample until it is fully dried, under a penalty of \$25. Section 19—For reinspection of Maryland and Ohio tobacco the charge shall be \$1. Sections 22 and 23 are proposed as additions to the present law. The first provides that the name of owner or owners shall be legibly put on the packages, and that they shall be retained by the inspectors in cases they are unmarked until such boxes are put on them. The last one directs inspectors to carefully return all bundles of tobacco other than the samples that may be drawn, and all bundles disposed in unloading the tobacco, to the hoghead from which they were drawn or displaced. The penalty for disregarding this section is a fine of one dollar.

Chairman of the Standing Committee.

The following are the chairman of the standing committees of the House of Delegates announced by Speaker Cole last Tuesday:

- Education—Fitzger, Baltimore city.
Ways and Means—Johnson, Charles county.
Finance—Sawyer, Baltimore city.
Internal Improvements—Powers, Harford.
Education—Sawyer, Baltimore city.
Military and Naval—Harris, Baltimore city.
Agriculture—Hansen, Carroll.
Corporation—Snowden, Prince Georges.
Manufactures—Harris, Baltimore city.
Clerical—Patterson, Baltimore city.
Public Buildings—Coker, Baltimore city.
Public Health—Coker, Baltimore city.
Library—Lind, Montgomery.
Printing—Evans, Baltimore city.
Law—Harris, Baltimore city.
Engaged Bill—Baker, Queen Anne's.
Expatriation—McF. Lewis, Baltimore city.
Federal Relations—Island, Anne Arundel.
General—Sawyer, Baltimore city.
Conservation—Frost, Baltimore city.
Roads and Highways—Frost, Anne Arundel.
Immigration—Harris, Baltimore city.
Public Hygiene—Clark, Howard.

NOTES.

In Chicago the other day a lady had one of her Southern friends joking about the latter. Mr. Roberts of Wilmington, N. C. has just finished the task of writing a book on the history of the State. The Democratic cause of the Maryland Legislature has been defeated. The Legislature and George Peckham as United States Senator.

Judge Thurman in his decision on the case of the Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad, which was appealed from the Circuit Court, has held that the latter is not a common carrier, and that the State cannot regulate its rates.

One of the most expert piano players in Pennsylvania is a young man named Zimm, who has always been blind. The music he plays is so good that he is followed by a large number of admirers.

The stolen gold and silver jewelry in the case of the Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad, which was appealed from the Circuit Court, has been found to be the property of the latter.

Theatricals of Philadelphia were generally throughout the State. Dr. Maria White, wife of a wealthy merchant, was found to be the author of a number of valuable letters.

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There seems so far no reason to change the view which has been steadily maintained since the Baltimore Sun, that there will be no general or systematic opposition by the Senate republicans to the presidential nominations. This too, in the face of the fact that organized party pressure through various mediums has been brought to bear upon Republican Senators.

The dignified attitude which the President has assumed has had the effect to weaken sensibly whatever purpose was entertained by some of the more partisan Senators to object merely for the purpose of obstructing. It is, perhaps, probable that several of the President's nominations may meet with objection on the democratic side, as one or more Democratic Senators is the first heat of personal disappointment gave utterance to expressions to that effect. Under the circumstances, reflection more frequently than otherwise induces a change of opinion. It is understood that one or two members of the cabinet have already responded to requests from committees for information as to nominations referred to them for consideration, but it is reported that the President has not yet received any such information.

It is believed that the President will make removals, and be guided in their action only by considerations affecting the character and expediency of the measure. Several of the more experienced Senators have expressed the opinion that this is the very best policy for them to follow.

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