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OUR WASHINGTON SPECIAL.

The Mississippi River Convention and its Effect on Congress.

Civil Service Reform Must go—Banks and the Trade Dollar.

Special to the Butler Times.

WASHINGTON Feb. 18th 1884.
The Mississippi river and its tributary improvements promise to become a nucleus for Western political campaigns judging from the action of the Mississippi and Ohio river Convention which was in session in this city last week. The Convention was composed of several hundred prominent business men representing the territory and sentiment of over 30,000,000 people interested in the development of Western Commerce. They want Congress to appropriate about \$40,000,000 for Western rivers and harbors and they said to Congress, "Give us what we ask and need, or our people will relegate you to private life".

WHAT WILL CONGRESS DO ABOUT IT.

Previous to the assembly of this convention the House committee on Rivers and Harbors had informally discussed the appropriation for the coming year, and the majority of the committee seemed to favor a \$10,000,000 limit, and expressed themselves as desirous, if possible to confine it within \$9,000,000. The estimates of the Engineers having in charge the improvements of rivers and Harbors amount to \$35,000,000 and convention endorsed and urged the expenditure of even a greater sum than this. But the famous river and harbor steal of '81 is still fresh in the minds of Congressmen, and the probabilities are that not over \$12,000,000 will be appropriated this year.

THE EFFECT OF MORRISON'S TARIFF BILL.

Democratic Senators and Representatives are cautious in what they say on the Morrison tariff bill, but it is clear that the proposed horizontal reductions awakens no enthusiasm and is not satisfactory to a large wing of the party. It is now to be considered in committee and we are assured it can not come back to the House inside of a month at the earliest. This will throw over the discussion well into the spring when the political cauldron will be boiling and the appropriation bills are under full headway. Hence the bill has a stormy career ahead even in the House while its prospects in the Senate are so small as practically to dismiss the whole scheme to the domain of speculation rather than legislation. As a battle cry the bill can serve its purpose as well whether adopted, or not, and it is in this direction that its chief importance lies.

HOW MUCH IT REDUCES THE TARIFF.

The horizontal reduction of the bill decreases the taxes about \$28,000,000, and when you add to this the abolished duties on the increased free list the sum total swells to \$30,000,000. It remains to be seen whether the bill can pass the House, but eight democratic Senators have publicly declared that they will vote against the measure, therefore it cannot pass the Senate.

THAT LITTLE WOOL BILL.

Mr. Converse's, though lamb-like is nevertheless a dangerous thing. Mr. Converse has been accused of abandoning the measure which restores the duty on wool, his alleged motives being not to spring upon the House a principal in distinct contradiction to Morrison's tariff reduction. Converse says Ohio lost over a million dollars when the Republicans reduced the duty on wool and Ohio now demands a prompt restoration and he promises to secure it or throw the responsibility on the heads

of his colleagues. He says he has not deserted his constituents.

CHECKMATING JAY GOULD.

Some months ago when a little war began between the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and the Union Pacific roads, it was here published that Jay Gould was beginning, with this war, to carry on his plan for wrecking the Union Pacific, causing it to be sold on the first mortgage, buying it in himself, and thereby wiping out over \$100,000,000 indebtedness to the United States, which is only secured by second mortgage. Mr. Anderson, of Kansas, introduced a bill in the House the other day which will save the Government from such loss. It provides that when either of the railroad companies indebted to the United States on second mortgages shall fail to keep up the interest on their first mortgage bonds, the Attorney General shall apply for a receiver, who shall thereafter manage the road under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, until the debt to the United States is all paid. There are a great many people who think that the Pacific railroad companies never intended to pay the U. S. when they borrowed this money, but if Mr. Anderson's bill becomes a law, the easy, and at present the only visible method of "freezing out" Uncle Sam as a creditor will be effectually shut off.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM DOOMED.

The House Committee on Civil Service Reform met the other day for the first time and the various bills before it were distributed to sub-committees for consideration. Two of these bills are for a repeal of the present law. The feeling on both sides of the House is one of opposition to the present system. The mention of civil service reform always provokes a smile and the Commission is looked upon as a standing joke. I could name over a hundred members, both Democrats and Republicans, who declare that the whole thing is a farce, and that they take no interest whatever in it, while fifty others are in direct opposition to it and pronounce it unpopular and unconstitutional. Though Mr. Randall has said that the Appropriations Committee would report a bill for the Civil Service Commission, it is generally thought that it will not pass, and that the law will be repealed or amended in a manner that will amount to practically the same thing.

BANKING AND SILVER LEGISLATION.

A member of the Banking and Currency Committee of the House says that there is but little doubt that a bill will soon be reported providing that national banks may increase their circulation to the full par value of such United States bonds as they have deposited in the U. S. Treasury to secure their notes. He also states that there is little prospect of any silver legislation, except perhaps with regard to the trade dollars, and that these will be retired for recoinage upon strictly just terms to the holders.

SECRETARY CHANDLER CURTAILED.

There is a strong flavor of economy in the forthcoming naval appropriation bill. The estimates were over \$22,500,000 and the amount allowed will be less than \$14,500,000. The sum asked for the four steel cruisers is granted, but the poor old monitors are left out and Chandler is cross about it. The committee seems to think that the building of a new navy is a matter of time as well as money, and that the Government's wiser and safer policy is to go a little slow on both.

NO NEW STATES THIS YEAR.

The seven-foot Governor of Dakota, Ordway, has been in Washington for some time lobbying against the division of States, and it seems that he, backed by his old friend Wm. M. Chandler and the Northern Pacific Railway, has succeeded in "influencing" the House Committee on Territories to make an adverse report against Dakota. At least a member of the committee said to me yesterday that they would not recommend a bill for the admission of any new states to the Union this session.

ORDWAY WILL BE RETIRED.

I have it from very high authority that Gov. Ordway, whose commis-

sion expires next month, will not be reappointed, as the popular sentiment in Dakota is too much against his connection with land monopoly and speculating interests. My authority also states that the appointee will come from among the residents of the Territory.

FRED DOUGLASS AGAIN.

Mr. Douglass' family troubles are increasing. Close upon the refusal of his daughter to recognize her white stepmother comes a Miss Sprague, who was Mr. Douglass' housekeeper previous to his late marriage and sues him for \$3,000 for services as such. Miss Sprague's brother is the husband of Mr. Douglass' daughter above referred to and upon the marriage of Mr. Douglass to Miss Pettis, Mr. and Mrs. Sprague induced Miss Sprague to leave him and sue for her wages. Mr. Douglass' son Robert says that the suit is brought to maliciously annoy his father and break up his home if possible.

ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION.

The Illinois Press will certainly bristle for a few weeks with glowing editorials on Washington hospitality and the grandeur of the city. The "Club" spent nearly four days here and were toasted, dined and wined as though each of the editors was one of a lot of kings or emperors traveling luxuriously for their health. The United States navy (The Dispatch) was called into requisition to convey the party to Washington's old house (Mt. Vernon) and give the editors an opportunity of seeing what a great thing our navy might be if they would cease their editorial lobbying against naval appropriations. Whenever the Illinois Press Association leave their native state to have a good time, hereafter, you will hear of them making a "bee line" for Washington. Editors are always welcome and well treated unless they take in one of our "Poker Shops," in which case the editor generally goes home and makes a fresh dun on delinquent subscribers or uses a "patent inside" the balance of the year "to cover shorts." One of the editors will probably omit to give the public his experience in this line while here last week.

BRIEF NOTES.

The Kentucky delegation in Congress are jubilant over Gen. Blackburn's election to the Senate. It was an old fact that not one of the delegation favored Senator William's re-election.

Gen. Sherman has been officially placed on the retired list of the army. There are now on the retired list 51 Colonels, 32 Majors and 63 Captains.

A bill has been introduced in the House providing for the election of three Vice Presidents as another solution of the succession problems.

Capt. W. A. Kirkland of the receiving ship Colorado at New York has volunteered to command the Greeley relief expedition, and he will probably be accepted. Secretary Chandler is trying to purchase either British ships "New Pandora" or "Alert" for the expedition.

"Is our Civilization Perishable?"

The question is asked in the *North American Review* for March, by Judge J. A. Jameson, who considers the several agencies by which the overthrow of the existing civilization might be effected. In the same number of the *Review* there is an article of extraordinary interest on "Agricultural Politics in England", by William E. Bear, editor of the *Mark Lane Express*. "A Defenceless Sea-board", by Gen. H. A. Smalley, is a description of the unprotected condition of the harbors and coast cities of the United States.

"Neither Genius nor Martyr"

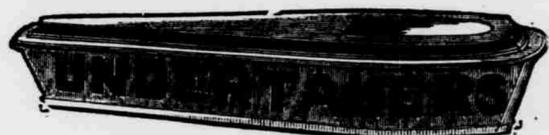
is the judgment pronounced upon the wife of Carlyle by Alice Hyneman Rhine. In "The Story of a Nomination", W. O. Stoddard recounts the hitherto unpublished history of the means by which the nomination of Abraham Lincoln for a second presidential term was brought about. Other articles are "Literary Resurrectionists", by Charles T. Congdon; "How to Improve the Mississippi", by Robert S. Taylor; and "The Constitutionality of Repudiation", by D. H. Chamberlain and John S. Wise. Published at 30 Lafayette Place, New York.

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Have just received a car load of BEDSTEADS which we have bought FOR CASH at prices WAY DWN, and for the **Next Thirty Days** we make the following reductions, viz:

Bedsteads, former price, \$3 00	down to \$2 75.	Bedsteads, former price \$3 50	down to \$3 00
" " " " 4 50	" " 3 50.	" " " " 5 50	" " 4 50
" " " " 5 75	" " 4 75.	" " " " 6 00	" " 5 00
" " " " 6 25	" " 5 00.	" " " " 7 00	" " 6 00
" " " " 7 25	" " 6 50.	" " " " 7 50	" " 6 50
" " " " 8 00	" " 6 50.	" " " " 8 50	" " 7 00
" " " " 9 00	" " 7 75.	" " " " 9 75	" " 8 50
" " " " 10 75	" " 9 50.		

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SIDE VIEW.

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