

The Ohio situation is very hazy, with Hanna in lots of trouble.

READ the synopsis of Congressman Vandiver's speech in another column.

FROM a reliable source we learn that Judge Fox is much improved in health and will probably return to his home in a short time.

WE would suggest to Gov. Stephens that there are a few county eddyturs in southeast Missouri who think they are remarkably warm members and not to be overlooked whenever he has an appointment to make.

THE Bonne Terre Star thinks F. M. Carter and Merrill Pipkin of Farmington and Ed. Anthony and L. S. Thomason of Fredericktown will be candidates for circuit judge. We presume it means they will be candidates in case Judge Fox declines a re-election.

AS an old weather observer, at Hannibal, Mo., predicts that we have already had our coldest weather. He claims that the first three days of January rules the first three months of the year and that January, February and March will be mild and pleasant, with few breaks in the temperature.

HON. WILLIAM DAWSON of New Madrid, A. H. Danforth of Charleston and Major W. W. Ward of Fredericktown are members of the trans-mississippi exposition commission appointed by the governor. Persons desiring information concerning exhibits or other matters pertaining to the exposition should consult them.

J. B. BLAKEMORE of Kennett is being urged by his friends to become a candidate for railroad and warehouse commissioner. Mr. Blakemore is a strong man and fully in accord with the tenets of the democratic party. If he should consent to make the race he will have many hearty supporters, not only in southeast Missouri, but in every part of the state, as his record entitles him to favorable consideration.

THE editor of an Ohio weekly makes the following confession: "The papers are making a great deal about a Sandusky (O.) man who has shrunk ten inches the last thirty-five years. We do not think that is a wonderful thing. We remember when, about eighteen years ago, old Sam Hawley caught us kissing his daughter good night at the front gate after escorting her home from singing school, we shrank clear out of sight in less than ten seconds."

OUR farmers will be interested in the figures which have recently been compiled under the direction of the agricultural department of the government showing the size of the various leading crops grown in this country during the past year, not including the cotton crop, which has already been discussed in detail. According to the figures sent out by the agricultural department last year's wheat crop covered 39,167,000 acres and produced 585,352,000 bushels of wheat. As to the other leading crops, the figures for the year are as follows: Corn, 82,780,000 acres, 1,823,343,000 bushels; oats, 29,191,000 acres, 817,360,000 bushels; potatoes, 4,277,300 acres, 174,116,000 bushels; flaxseed, 1,180,000 acres, 10,881,000 bushels. The acreage of the apple crop for the year is not given, but its total aggregated 37,436,000 barrels. Do not these figures suffice to show the fertility and varied resources of our American soil?

NEW Year's Resolutions. It is better to make a New Year's resolution and break it than to make no good resolutions at all. The new year furnishes a generally recognized occasion for beginning the work of reformation. It is to be regretted that it is the only swearing off day observed by the public.

There ought to be at least four such days during the year—one for each quarter, says an exchange. If this were so, the man who fell by the wayside in February in trying to carry out his new year's resolution would have the first of April in view as another starting point to make a stand against temptation. If the second trial ended in defeat he would still have July and October to look forward to as rallying points, and if we suffer a relapse into old ways even the day after we are apt to wait until the next first of January before making another effort at reformation.

THE want of such special occasions for swearing off is accountable

for the continuance of most of our smaller follies. We would drop these naughty tricks if we only had some particular day set apart for the purpose; but in the absence of such occasions our bad habits ride us unhindered to our graves. It would be interesting to know what per cent. of the new year's resolutions are perfectly kept, and what part are only partially carried out. It is safe to assert that by far the greater number of them are broken the next day, next week or next month, but some of them are faithfully carried out, and the sum of human happiness is largely increased in spite of all relapses and back-slidings.

THE Democratic Policy. The resolutions adopted by Democratic congressmen at their caucus, which will be supported with entire unanimity at the present session of congress, are as follows:

Resolved, that we will resist all efforts, direct or indirect, to retire the greenbacks and treasury notes. Resolved, second, that we are opposed to and will resist all attempts to extend the privileges of national banks or to reduce the taxes which they now pay.

Resolved, third, that we favor the early consideration and passage of the senate resolution recognizing that a condition of war exists in the island of Cuba between the government of Spain and the Cuban people.

Resolved, fourth, that we favor the early enactment of a just and wise bankruptcy law.

Vandiver on Civil Service. Jan. 7 the house devoted another day to exposing the lumbing of the present civil service system. Mr. Vandiver of Missouri spoke forty minutes with force upon the question. He said in part:

"May I inquire what it is that causes all of this conflict and commotion? Is it because the great body of the American people, honest, industrious and self-supporting citizens of the republic, fear that their property is endangered, their liberties imperiled, their lives menaced or their happiness in any way involved? Is it because some commercial enterprise waits on our action, or some great moral and educational reform is to be worked out? No, no, it is none of these. It is a question so insignificant, a question so utterly foreign to the welfare of the great mass of our people, that it would seem unfit to engage the attention of any but pusillanimous partisans. It is simply this: There are a few petty little government clerkships held by Democrats, and a great horde of hungry Republicans want them."

"Now, what we ask of you is not to stay your hand but proceed at once; repeal this law and fill all these places with your political followers, then stop all this cant about the 'civil service reform' and 'merit system.' Be honest and candid about it; say that you do it for political reasons; feed the hungry horde of office-seekers who are bounding your footsteps by day and disturbing your dreams by night; but don't ask us to assist you in so modifying the law, either by enactment here or by pressure upon the executive, as to enable you to turn out these Democrats from office and yet leave the law to stand as a cloak with which to cover your sins."

"True, this would be ignoring another plank in your platform, but you have shattered already much more important planks in it than this one. If we may take your secretary of the treasury as your accredited spokesman, you have abandoned already your campaign pretensions of favoring bimetallism, which your party was pledged to advocate."

"If the president's message is to be taken as an expression of your party's position, then you have shattered the Cuban plank in your platform, and made it easy for the gentleman from Massachusetts, who had charged him with getting off the civil service plank, by simply asking him what had become of the Cuban plank."

"But what a spectacle does this afford! What an argument for a distinguished statesman to make! In substance, it reads like this: 'We have broken faith with the friends of Cuba; therefore, there is no longer any reason why we should keep faith with the friends of the civil service reform.'"

"And why break it? To improve the public service or to reduce the expenses of the government? No; but for the avowed purpose of keeping the republican party in power—a consummation devoutly to be deplored. And the distinguished republican representative from North Carolina went so far as to say, in substance, at least, that in his stage the pressure was so strong that if the present civil service rules were not abolished and his party followers given some reward for their party fealty, there would not be enough republicans left after the next election to give a decennial burial to their defeated candidates. (applause.)"

What a spectacle does all this present! Are there no principles left for republican statesmen to defend? Is the whole republican party organized only for the spoils office? Has the great party of Lincoln and Grant descended

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Dry Goods. Standard prints 5c per yard. L. L. domestic at 4 1/2c per yard. Hum-bolt jeans 30c per yard. Complete line of fascinators and shawls from 40c and 75c to 75c and \$1. 10-4 blankets at 60c per pair.

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to the business of running a huckster shop? If so, then let us hear no more of patriotism, no more of eulogy for the old soldier, no more appeals to the great names which adorn the annals of your history. Turn over the whole business of clerkships to your brokerage department and quit calling yourselves 'the party of great moral ideas.'"

"Repeal the civil service law. Fill every place in the government service with your party followers; and after 1900 we will have the privilege of turning all the rascals out and appointing good, honest Democrats to carry on the business of this country—Bryan, free silver Democrats at that. (Applause.)"

"When the civil service commission was organized—in 1883, I think—an appropriation of only \$6,800 a year was sufficient to meet its expenses. But now it asks us to appropriate \$98,000 for its support. I protest, against it. Instead of reducing the expenses of the government, as was promised, here are figures which I ask to have incorporated in my remarks and which show that in all of the departments of the government the pay rolls have increased from 10 to 40 per cent. Or, in other words, the more we pay for civil-service reform the more the expensive does government service become." (Applause.)"

Mr. Vandiver then produced an array of facts and figures which prove that every time a democratic house has been elected the total government appropriations have been decreased, and every time a republican house has come into power they have increased largely. At the conclusion of Mr. Vandiver's speech he was warmly congratulated by a number of leading Democrats, Bland, Dockery, Clark, Brueker, Griggs and others.

THE Modern Prodigal Son. "Times is too hard now," said the old colored brother, "for dese prodigal sons ter be comin' home empty-handed, in some er dem is liable ter git fool'd. I tell you! Dar's Brer Ephraim's, fer instance: He went off ter de strange land, spent all his money, an when he didn't have nohairs else ter go, an when he wuz good hungry, he come snakin' home fer de gol' ring an de fatt'd calf; but what you reckon de ol' man tell him?"

"I dunno." "He say, My son dey ain't no veil on de place; de sheriff done levy on ez fer de gol' ring—it wuz bought on de installment plan, an is done been took back. Howsoe'er, I is mighty glad you come, kase I wuz des fixin' ter write ter you ter borrow ten dollars!"

"No suh!" he continued, "de prodigal son ez de present day? Done wear out de welcome; he can't flim-flam de ol' man no mo'!"

Mr. Fitzsimmons still contends that the other fellow shall do the fighting while he holds the championship.

A Missouri preacher recently delivered a sermon on the following subject: "Do They Drink Whisky in Jupiter, Dance in Mars and Play High-Five in Venus?" That depends entirely on whether the planets are inhabited or not.

Our Correspondents.

SCHPEVILLER. Here I come again just like a four-year-old, tripping through life like a lark.

Church at little Valley this week conducted by Revs. Robins, Fowler and Barber.

Jim Johnson is clearing a new ground containing twenty-five acres.

J. H. Bess missed a week of his school on account of sickness in his family.

Ed Dellinger was inquiring for a stray dog speckled hound with a black spot on the left ear last week.

John Young has moved on the other side of town and Tom Tippet has moved into the house vacated by him.

George Nevels is lying at the point of death with fever.

Charles Ellidge has bought the life, and we are sorry, too, for when the life went the music went also.

Some of the boys got a little too much tangled up on Christmas. The sporting club is in line, with Dr. Tom Ellidge at the head. Snipes, you had better fly high, for the club has a new outfit of fire arms and are in good practice.

A Mr. Nuchleshill is moving on the Kerns farm.

Our great and noble hunter, James Allen, is going to move away and I'll bet the 'coons of this place will be glad when he puts the yellow dog, Jack, away.

F. G. Lamberts will be coming the time, hot or cold.

If it gets through I will come again. IRISH BILL.

DRUM. Not seeing anything from this part of the county for sometime, I will drop you a few items.

Health is good. Business is flourishing.

Our merchant, J. W. Laird, is kept busy most all the time. John is a hustler and keeps things a-going.

Charles Row is clearing some new ground.

Father Noel is clearing up a lease on the Gladist farm.

James Luster is nearing the completion of his new residence.

Will Thacker will sell out the 15th. He says he is going to Grandin, Mo.

John W. Laird made a business trip to town the other day.

Curtis Gladish is visiting his brother, Marion.

Our school is a grand success under the management of Prof. J. J. Chostner. He is an old and experienced teacher and knows just what to do to make it a success.

James Clonister and the widow Buchanan were married at Miller Valley last week. The bride went to Millerville on a visit and was to be milked and get married Sunday night, but she failed to return, and you bet Jimmie was scared up so he goes after her love, and gets her, and comes right back home, when the boys gave him a charivari. Jimmie treated to a gallon of red eye and one case of beer, which sent the boys to their homes in a very happy mood.

Bill Carlton is doing some work on his residence.

The boys in this vicinity had a loud time Christmas.

Prof. Chostner tells us that the average daily attendance of the fourth month of his school was 36.

No more at present. Success to THE PRESS and its many readers. THE HUSTLER.

UNION RIDGE. After a short absence we come again.

See that you write it 1898. Our school closed last week; everything went off nicely.

The Tinnin brothers returned home after a short stay with Rev. Yont's family.

We are glad to report Miss Lizzie Sample improving after a long spell of the fever.

Miss Julia Schoebe received the prize at the last day of school for the greatest number of head marks.

Church at Ell Bar's every fourth Saturday night and Sunday at 11 a. m.

Mesdames Burcham and Cheek, we are glad to report, are getting better of their fevers.

Uncle Philip Baker of Pocahontas is visiting Mrs. Crites.

Clarence Schoebe visited at the Cross Roads school Friday.

Clay Simpson spent last Saturday and Sunday at home.

Misses Anna Petty, Radie and Lillie Cheek, Tora Barks, Lucy Johnson, well, in fact, nearly everybody around the Ridge are confined to their rooms with that dread disease, "the measles."

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Since the death of Wild Bill I notice but few communications from this place. I will try to dish up a few items, and if I fall short of your old correspondent you will make allowances for my inexperience. Bill did not try to monopolize THE PRESS columns every week, but I noticed that his items were always truthful, and that whatever he wrote could be relied on. He never got up any such fakes as the story about a daily paper at the stove factory. Perhaps the author of that yarn meant "daily buns"—he would have been nearer the truth if he had put it that way. Let the truth come. Now, I promise you there will be foundation in fact for what I may write.

But let us turn over a new leaf and try to do better in every way. So here's wishing you a happy and prosperous year.

Health is remarkably good. The stove factory is running on full time this week.

D. M. Newel is visiting his daughter, Mrs. Jasper Cooper, but his sawmill keeps going.

Ex-Sheriff John Huskey was in this neighborhood last week.

J. B. Chandler has been improving his place.

B. Schrock is busy hauling hay to Lutesville.

Our merchants are doing well. D. M. Newel speaks of putting in a large stock at his old stand.

Dolph Cole expects to go to Scott county to work.

H. J. Lincoln was visiting on Big Blue last week.

Constable Bennett of Crooked creek township was in this vicinity a few days last week.

Jacob Welker, our road overseer, is afflicted in the way Job was—'he's got it in the neck.'

Is it not about time to go to work and organize free silver clubs in the township? I think we would better begin at once, and would like to know what the voters think of the proposition, and would also be pleased to see what THE PRESS thinks of the matter. One thing is plain and palpable—the gold standard won't do for poor people. I hope your correspondents will take this matter up and that some action may be had. WILD BILL.

ZALMA. The holidays passed off quietly. William Beal has been confined to his room for over a month with bone crystals in his leg.

Dr. J. W. Back and family, of Kennett, spent the holidays with friends and relatives here.

H. N. McKee returned to the Cape Normal, after spending the holidays with his relatives.

Died—On the 8th, four miles southeast of Zalma, the wife of Bud Williams; also, a small child of Mr. and Mrs. John Bess, the same day.

Mrs. L. B. James is reported to be slowly improving, after a severe attack of pneumonia.

I understand that S. J. McMinn has resigned his position as postmaster of this place. I suppose some republican will soon be happy.

Leo Slinkard has an interest in his father's store now. The firm will be known as J. V. Slinkard & Son.

J. H. Watkins of Cape Girardeau was on our streets last week.

Joe E. Johnson has moved his family from Brownwood to Zalma. S. J. McMinn came down from his home at Buchanan last week and helped J. V. Slinkard & Son invoice their stock of merchandise. Sam is a thorough business man and his name will be demanded at our next democratic county nominating convention for the office of county clerk.

Deputy Sheriff J. W. Dixon arrested Joseph James a short time ago on a charge of selling intoxicating liquor without license; and also Walter Murphy of Liberty township on a charge of carrying concealed weapons.

G. B. Sutt and family made a flying trip to Brownwood last week. P. W. Smith is talking of putting up a corn mill here.

We have plenty of fur buyers coming to see us.

Hoping THE PRESS and its many readers had a merry Christmas and happy New Year. ALEXAN BROOK.

SCOPIUS. Health is good in this locality. Our merchant, H. B. Cole, is doing a rushing business.

Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey are visiting friends and relatives near Scopus.

Messrs. R. H. Tamm, Ira Barks and Homer Farrar went to Marble Hill Saturday to hear the teacher's trial.

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