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TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1869.

THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

SENATOR WILSON has recently addressed a letter to the Secretary of War, complaining of the construction put upon the Eight-hour law passed by Congress. He quotes the views expressed by various Senators when the law was under consideration, to prove that they understood the real intent and meaning of the act to be, that all laborers, workmen, and mechanics employed by the Government should henceforth receive for eight hours' work per day the wages which have heretofore been paid for ten hours' work.

A similar question has arisen in all the States where legislators have sought popularity by passing eight-hour laws. It may be entirely within their province to diminish the nominal period of toil, and to enact that, in the absence of special agreements, it shall be understood that eight hours shall constitute a working day. The authority to do this is analogous to the authority to regulate weights and measure.

Prices are regulated by supply and demand, in spite of legal enactments; and it is folly, or worse than folly, to seek to delude workmen with the pleasing fancy that any action of demagogues bidding for their sweet voices, or even of the most profound statesmen, will ensure for eight hours' toil the same amount of remuneration which has heretofore been given for ten hours' work.

If the laboring classes sincerely desire to have the legal period of toil reduced to eight hours, let them be gratified. But this desire is by no means general. Those who are most pertinacious and active in their agitation of this subject aim at the establishment of an eight-hour labor system in conjunction with ten-hour pay.

Our Washington correspondent informs us that a good deal of Chinese thunder is being manufactured at the national capital against Secretary Borie and Attorney-General Hall, because they have chosen to adhere to the laws passed by Congress. Instead of being guided by the loose opinions of Senators, he states that politicians regard Borie's order as a great blunder, and they assert that, if it is not revoked, it will tend to array the workmen against the administration all over the country, and defeat the Republican party at the fall elections.

If Congress has committed a blunder in neglecting to repeal a law which it does not desire the administration to enforce, the error can be corrected at the next session, and Senator Wilson will find a legitimate field for his exertions in this direction. But it is vain to expect a President who has clearly announced his intention to execute the laws as they are, to set at defiance an explicit statute on account of any words spoken in debate.

The new freight railroad will intersect both the Reading and the Pennsylvania Central Roads, and will be available for the Philadelphia and Trenton and all the other roads entering the city from the North and West by means of the Connecting Bridge, and being continued to Washington avenue, will likewise connect with the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Road and give access to the Delaware river at the foot of that thoroughfare.

IN FAVOR OF FREE CUBA.

POSSIBLY we might, after diligent search, find one person out of a hundred whose heart does not sympathize with every nation or people struggling to be free, and it is just about that proportion of the American people who are not well-wishers of Cuba. It has not been centuries since our own forefathers were struggling to gain liberty. The dust of ages has not had time to settle upon all the traditional sympathies of that era, and to hide from public gaze the warm sensibilities of our people for the oppressed.

First, it is sound policy on the part of the United States to secure success to the Cuban insurgents. We are in the habit of talking loosely about Cuban independence. There can be no such thing as Cuban independence, Cuba freed from Spanish yoke, unless it is a mere name.

Quite satisfactory.—In a speech in the Senate on April 22, Sprague introduced his illustration about the mowgli and the mowgli-puppy in a paragraph commencing thus:—"In answer to the tirade of the Senator from Nevada and the Senator from North Carolina."

SPECIAL NOTICES.

FOR THE SUMMER.—TO PREVENT sunburn and all discolorations and irritations of the skin, bites of mosquitoes or other insects, use Wright's Anointed Glycerine Talcum. It is cooling, refreshing, and has no equal as a toilet soap.

SACRED CONCERT AT THE NORTH TENTH STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (below Girard avenue) on THURSDAY EVENING, April 29, 1869, at 8 o'clock.

A VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT will take place in the CHRIST REFORM CHURCH, GREEN STREET, BELOW SIXTEENTH, on THURSDAY EVENING, April 29, at 8 o'clock.

COFFEES ROASTED ON A NEW PRINCIPLE, retaining all the aroma and true flavor, are the best. On sale by FAIRTHORNE & CO., No. 205 N. NINTH and No. 1036 MARKET STREET.

TREGO'S TEAERY TOOTHWASH preserves and whitens the Teeth, invigorates and soothes the Gums, purifies and perfumes the Breath, prevents accumulation of Tartar, cleans and purifies the Oral Cavity, is a superior article for Children.

ELLIS' IRON BITTERS.—THE MOST popular and palatable Bitters in the market. To persons having weak or this blood or suffering from dyspepsia, these Bitters impart a special relief.

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, April 12, 1869. To holders of FIVE AND SIX PER CENT. LOANS of the City of Philadelphia, maturing July 1, 1869.

OFFICE BINGHAM MINING AND LUMBERING COMPANY, Northeast corner of FOURTH and WALNUT STREETS.—Coupons due May 1 will be paid on this date.

WOOD HANGINGS. 1233 CHESNUT St., PHILADELPHIA. THE DURABILITY OF PATENT WOOD HANGINGS. Has been thoroughly tested during the past winter. Hot rooms, exposed to furnace or other heat, with more or less steam, the walls of which have been covered for a year, are now in as good condition as when the wood was first hung.

PAPER HANGINGS. Of every description and quality. CARPETINGS. M'CALLUM, CREASE & SLOAN, No. 509 CHESNUT Street, Opposite Independence Hall.

FRESH CANTON MATTINGS. ENGLISH OIL CLOTHS. M'CALLUM, CREASE & SLOAN, No. 509 CHESNUT St., Philad'a, 415 (thursp 11) Opposite Independence Hall.

SPRING IMPORTATIONS. CARPETINGS. OPENING DAILY. REEVE L. KNIGHT & SON, No. 1222 CHESNUT St., 48 thistalm PHILADELPHIA.

NEW CARPETINGS! ARCH STREET Carpet Warehouse. JOSEPH BLACKWOOD, 41 Imp No. 832 ARCH Street. WINES.

CHAMPAGNE. FINEST QUALITY CHAMPAGNE IN HALF PINT BOTTLES, FOR THE SICK ROOM. SIMON COLTON & CLARKE, S. W. COR. BROAD AND WALNUT STS., totals PHILADELPHIA.

MARKET STREET TEA HOUSE. BOYD & CO. Have opened their New Store, No. 1209 MARKET STREET. 4 20 443P

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PAPER HANGINGS. Our assortment of Paper Hangings comprises the latest, best, and most elegant patterns manufactured in this country or imported from Europe, and our Corps of Skilled Workmen, For applying either the Wood or Paper Hangings, cannot be excelled. Parties in want of WALL DECORATIONS, Are requested to pay us a visit and examine our styles.

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