Evening Telegraph

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 187L.

THE GOAL TROUBLES.

ALTHOUGH no final settlement of the troubles in the coal regions of the State has yet been effected, it seems to be understood in each district, as well as by the coal dealers, that there will be a general resumption of work about the first of May. If this anticipation is not realized it will be solely because some of the miners and operators still have a slight doubt whether the cessation of production has been sufficiently protracted to ensure a prolongation of high prices during a considerable period after work is resumed; but the public have little reason to share this fear.

As a practical result of the strike, the coal consumers of the land will be compelled to pay the bulk of all damages it has caused, or, in other words, to maintain thirty thousand men, with their families, in idleness, during a period of about four months. The ruinous competition between the various coal districts, while it has occasionally lowered the price of coal temporarily, has increased rather than diminished its average cost during a series of months and years; and until there is a better relation established between the facilities for producing the proper supply and the demand, there will continue to be a great waste of capital, a great loss of labor, a great deal of financial embarrassment and distress among coal operators, and at some periods terrible extortions upon coal consumers. If there was any legislative wisdom in the State, this is one of the subjects upon which it should have been exercised long ago: but legislative wisdom is seemingly a thing of the past, and the Legislature, acting under the incitement of various interests from time to time, has done nothing to restrain development of evils which statesmen should have foreseen, while it has afforded every possible facility for the establishment of the present condition of affairs. The proposed system of arbitration may do some good in mitigating the evils of violent encounters between the coal operators and the operatives; but the root of the difficulty is over-production and over-development, and the only sure way to cure it is to strike at this root. If the coal-carrying companies could agree upon the production of their respective districts, and graduate the working force in each to the actual demands of the country, the whole question could be settled permanently on this basis. But as matters are now arranged. periodical strikes are unavoidable, and they will continually recur until a considerable portion of the present force of miners are compelled to abandon the pursuit in which there is now only work enough to keep them all employed for two-thirds of a year.

THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION. THE leading provisions of the bill relating to the House of Correction which Councils requested the Legislature to adopt were very necessary and unobjectionable; and although some amendments may have been wise and proper, the action of the lower branch of the Legislature in defeating the bill, as a whole, was a flagrant outrage upon the citizens of Philadelphia. The members from this city wko opposed it merely because it authorized a tax of fifty dollars, in addition to the State license, upon the venders of spirituous and malt liquors, may earn the gratitude of those who are specially interested in the liquor traffic by their action, but they deserve the severe condemnation of all ether classes of citizens. If they were particularly auxious that no new license tax should be imposed, they should have made a zealous effort to transfer to the city treasury, where it legitimately belongs, the sums now paid to the State for licenses. Bu t in view of the long-continued demand for the House of Correction, they should not have allowed either this tavern license clause of the bill, or any minor detail, to have postponed the establishment of an institution which Philadelphia has sadly needed for a score of years. Their action on this bill affords a new evidence of the evils which this city habitually and continually suffers from her practice of sending to Harrisburg members so ignorant and inferior that they are often the laughingstock of their country associates, and capable of distinguishing themselves only by some notorious act of folly or corruption.

AMNESTY.

THE Amnesty bill passed by the House of Representatives, and which we believe is acceptable to the best and most influential people of the whole country, hangs fire in the Senate, and there appears to be a disposition among some of the prominent Republican Senators to defeat it. We doubt the expediency of the Ku-klux bill, which will doubtless pass in substantially its present shape. and we are confident that so far from allaying the irritation and bad feeling at the South, it will only increase them, unless it is accompanied by an amnesty measure that will convince the intelligent people of the South that there is a real desire on the part of the Government to heal the wounds of the war, and to interfere as little as possible with the domestic affairs of the several States. Many of the best men of the South-those who are really disposed to be good citizens-are strongly convinced that all the repressive measures adopted by Congress towards the late Rebel States are merely for the purpose of maintaining the ascendancy of the Republican party. This idea is erroneous, but it is nevertheless firmly fixed in many minds, and the Democratic journals of the country, instead of aiding to bring about a permanent and peaceable reconstruction, are using all their influence to misrepresent the actions of Congress, and to increase the ill-feeling which is one of the natural results of the war and of the legislative measures which were necessary before the Rebel States could with propriety be restored to their proper places in

the Union. The time has most certainly come when a broad and liberal policy is necessary unless the irritation of the South is to be a source of trouble for the future, and now is the time when a general amnesty which will restore the proscribed classes of the South to full citizenship will be of avail, as an appropriate finale to the reconstructive measures of Congress, to inaugurate a reign of peace and to put an end to the disorders that will continue so long as the proscription of the participants in the Rebellion is a part of the policy of the party in power. Amnesty must come some time, and it will be better now than next year or the year after. If we are to wait until every Southerner is transformed into a quiet, law-abiding citizen, we will have to wait forever; and it is a serious question whether the outrages which are reported as occurring in some of the States will not sooner cease if they are left to the care of States themselves than if the General Government attempts to take them in hand. If we must have a Ku-klux law, however, by all means let it be accompanied by an amnesty measure which will put an end to all further pretext for the deeds of violence against which the former is aimed.

TAMMANY'S TRUMP CARD. In the session of 1870, the Democrats had a majority of 4 in the Senate and 16 in the House of Representatives of the New York Legislature. At the last election this majority was cut down in the House to one, and even this meagre margin was obtained by Tammany Hall only by counting out a Republican who was clearly elected in one of the New York city districts. At the next election, it was more than probable that the Republicans would have obtained a clear majority in the House, and Tammany Hall determined to make the most of the present session. But a few days ago, in an evil hour, one Jim Irving, a notorious desperado who held a seat on the Democratic side from New York city, had the temerity to strike in the face one of the country Democrats, while the House was actually in session. Against this indignity the country Democrats revolted, and Senator Tweed, who runs the Hoffman-Tammany machine, was obliged to force Irving into resignation. This made the House a tie, and reduced the Democratic strength to one below the number required by the Constitution for the final passage of bills. The situation was critical. Several of the most important Temmany bills were yet hanging fire, including one which is to turn over to Tweed and two or three confederates the revenues of New York city, to be disposed of as they shall deem best, without a shadow of responsibility to the people. The Republicans took advantage of the situation by unanimously pledging themselves to vote against the whole string of Tammany bills, every member of each house elected as a Republican signing a solemn compact to remain true to the reso'ution of the caucus. Tweed and Tammany were in consternation. A bill was introduced at once providing for a special election to fill the vacancy caused by Irving's resignation. The Republicans voted solidly against it, at the outset, and Tammany Hall was dismayed.

In this emergency there was but one course to be pursued. Somebody must be bought, and, happily for Tammany Hall, somebody was for sale. The infamous scoundrel who put himself up at auction was one Orange S. Winans, local Superintendent of the Erie Railroad at Dunkirk, and Republican member of the House from Chantauqua county, the representative of a strong Republican constituency, who was elected by a majority of 1217 in a total vote of 6727. On Friday evening this man Winans said to a friend, "No man can break the compact we have made and be less than utterly disgraced;" and on Saturday he rose in his place and announced, amidst the enthusiastic applause of the Democratic members, that he had determined to vote against the Republicans. It is understood that, for so doing, he is to receive \$75,000 in cash, and to be promoted to an office in the Erie concern with a salary of \$5000 insured to him for five years.

So Tammany Hall has played its trump card and won. The iniquitous measures which were imperilled by Jim Irving's assault on the country member are sure of passage, and Tammany Hall will have at its disposition for use in the next Presidential campaign the entire revenues of New York city. Tweed was playing for high stakes; but Jim Irving's hasty temper came near spoiling the game. A supreme effort was necessary, and it was made. The bribe offered was too high for the virtue of a man who has been for years in the employment of Fisk and Gou'd. But it remains to be seen whether or not the renegade will be suffered to live outside of the penitentiary. Even in New York there is a law which makes bribery a penitentiary offense. If that law is not enforced in all its severity against Orange S. Winans, Tweed's Legislature had better repeal it forthwith. The Republican party of New York has for years past been fighting against terrible odds. A clear majority of the honest legal voters of the State are firmly attached to the party, but Fenton and Conkling have contrived to rend the organization into two great factions by their struggle for supremacy, and, with Tammany Hall presenting a united front, defeat after defeat has been sustained. When fate placed it within the power of the party to put a temporary check to the schemes of Tweed, a traitor in the camp was unearthed who deliberately sold himself and his party to Tammany Hall. The results of this treachery are not yet fully developed, they are confined to simple plundering of the tax-payers of New York city, it will be well; but, in view of the ulterior designs of the Tweed conspirators, it is possible that they may extend much farther end assume much more momentous proportions. But the greatest calamity that can befall the cause of honesty and decency will be the escape of the renegade Winans

from the just consequences of his treacherous

THE National House of Representatives, after an interesting and animated debate, has decided by a close vote to return to the old system of commencing the sessions of each new Congress in December, instead of on the fifth of March. Since there is no longer any special necessity for continuous sessions like that created by Andy Johnson's amiable peculiarities, it seems desirable that the country and the Congressmen should obtain the repose contemplated by this action. If it is true that any part of the world was ever governed too much, surely the United States is in danger of being placed in that predicament, especially when Congress is in nearly permanent session.

THE bill providing for a geological survey was recently indefinitely postponed in the lower branch of the State Legislature. As this was a useful measure, likely to benefit all sections of the State, and in accordance with the spirit and demands of the age, it was of course doomed to defeat. The occupants of the State Capitol may commit any conceivable folly, endorse the most flagrant wrongs, or vote for the most iniquitous measures, especially such as are advocated by a powerful moneyed interest, but the worst enemies of the Harrisburg Solons can never accuse them of originating and willingly adopting laws of general utility.

AT ST. CLEMENT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH the assistant minister, Rev. W. H. N. Stewart, LL.D., preached an interesting sermon last evening, which will be found in full on our inside pages. This discourse, we understand, was originally delivered by Dr. Stewart some ten years ago, but bears repetition at present, as it contains a full resume of the history of the Church, with special reference to the peculiar practices which have recently created an excitement at St. Clement's Church.

THE dead-lock at Harrisburg may produce some good results by protecting the people from the usual batch of legislative monstrosities. If the number of private bills run through the Legislature happens to be something less than a million this year, Pennsylvania can still outlive such a calamity, and flourish se well that new dead-locks hereafter will be rather things to be hoped for than misfortunes to be dreaded.

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