

Ink Stings.

—Eiffel Tower stockings are now the rage among the ladies. What is their altitude?

—A tariff on beans, as is proposed by the McKinley bill, is the next thing to tariffing the atmosphere.

—The farmers are not counting very largely on the wealth with which McKinley's corn law is going to fill their cornucopias.

—Having pictures of their swell dinners taken by flash-light is getting to be the fashion among people whose heads are emptier than their stomachs.

—The New York Sun claims that for itself, "Democracy is good enough political reform." But it never fails to betray Democracy when it has the chance.

—Farmers in Bucks county who for years cheerfully submitted to tariff robbery are now making a big fuss because SHELLENBERGER got away with a little of their money.

—The carpet manufacturers who see ruination in the increased wool duties of the McKinley bill, are now becoming convinced that they wasted their "fat" in the campaign of '88.

—The term "kangaroo" is not inapplicable to the Australian ballot system. It has developed strength enough in its hind legs to kick the boulder and bulldozer out of Rhode Island.

—The enemies of CLEVELAND are giving themselves much trouble about his increasing weight. It may be to them an unpleasant premonition of the way GROVER is going to smash them in 1892.

—The new tariff proposes to tax cotton-seed oil in order to give a monopoly to Chicago parties who are furnishing a defrauded public with alleged lard fried from the dirtiest portions of the hog's anatomy.

—The sheriffs of Kansas are enjoying a boom that is having the effect of expanding with smiles the faces of those fortunate officials, and elongating with frowns the countenances of the luckless grangers.

—One a week during the past year is the record of the woolen factories knocked out in Philadelphia by the benign policy of taxing the materials they must have to work with. This is called protection.

—With BLAINE suggesting Pan-American free trade, and the Republican congress tariffing the raw materials of South America, such contradictory political economy must have a bewildering effect upon the Spanish American mind.

—There is reason to believe that the BLAINES, the SHERMANS, the QUAYS and others of that ilk who have thriven in official places, regard with a sort of amused curiosity the humble pecuniary results of SAM RANDALL's long public service.

—INGALLS says that "the purification of politics is an iridescent dream." But the Kansas farmers, who propose to purify the politics of their state by turning INGALLS out of office, will make the purification more of a fact than a dream.

—What nonsense it is for the Press to call upon DELAMATER to stand up and answer the charges made against him by EX-SENATOR EMERY, as if his answer, whatever it might be, would affect the action of that organ toward him in case of his nomination. It will be remembered that the Press once said that QUAY should be in the penitentiary, and yet no paper is more subservient to QUAY'S rule.

—MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has written an article for the New York Tribune showing how young men may win fortune. He might have added to the interest and truth of his article by stating that if the aspiring young man can get the government to increase his profits by the assistance of a tariff that will give him monopolistic advantages, it will greatly facilitate the acquirement of his fortune. MR. CARNEGIE can speak from personal experience.

—The dependent pension bill will increase the total of pension expenses to \$161,000,000 a year, or 39 per cent. of the entire government expenditure. In 1873 GARFIELD said that \$28,000,000 should be the maximum of pension appropriations. But the maximum of Republican expenditure of public money is something that is susceptible of unlimited expansion.

—In looking over the New York Sun since the final result of the Rhode Island election, we fail to see its accustomed swash about the Australian ballot system injuring the Democratic party. That unprincipled sheet has exercised its malevolent ingenuity to the fullest extent in misrepresenting ballot reform as being inimical to Democratic success, but Rhode Island has completely knocked it out.

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Death of Samuel J. Randall.

The death of Hon. SAMUEL J. RANDALL, which occurred last Sunday morning, was not unexpected, for his health had been in an impaired condition for several years, and during the past winter he was in such a reduced state physically that his death at any moment would not have occasioned surprise.

The deceased will long be remembered in political history as an able and faithful representative of the people in the halls of congress. That he had the entire confidence of his constituents was shown by the long period during which he represented them, he having been elected to congress in 1863 and continued in the service of the same constituency until the time of his death. He was a man of incorruptible integrity and strong convictions, a combination of characteristics that enabled him to represent his district and his party with conspicuous fidelity and honor. His accomplishments as a public speaker were not of the first order, but he had such a strong personality that he easily took the position of leader and held it until his party left him behind in its movement toward the reformation of a defective and oppressive tariff system.

The conservatism of Mr. RANDALL'S disposition caused him to halt while the party moved on, and hence he lost his leadership, but without losing the respect of his party associates who could not doubt the honesty although they had reason to question the correctness of his tariff views. But whatever difference of opinion there may have been on that point, there could be no question as to Mr. RANDALL'S high character as a man, his great ability as a legislator, and his eminent service as a public official.

—According to an estimate that is considered reasonable there are 3000 "speak-easies" in Philadelphia doing a liquor business that is none the less lively because it is in a measure secret. The evolution of the "speak-easy" in that city is said to be due to an insufficiency in the number of licensed drinking places necessary to satisfy the thirst of the city.

The McKinley Bill as an Object Lesson.

What kind of opposition the Democrats in the House will present to the McKinley tariff abomination is a matter of interest. By some it is believed that it would be well for the minority of the Ways and Means committee to present an opposition bill, and it is suggested that the Mills bill would answer the purpose. It could not be expected that this would be passed, but it would express the Democratic opposition to the obnoxious McKinley measure. It is the belief of others, however, that the better policy of the Democrats would be to present no bill, but to fight those parts of the Republican bill which they could hope to have stricken out with Republican assistance. The hide tax and the increase of duties on wool and other raw materials necessary for manufacturers, present such vulnerable points.

Mr. McMILLEN, the leading Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, says that it is not yet definitely decided whether there will or will not be a Democratic bill presented as the report of the minority, although it is possible that later it might become apparent that it would be best to have a bill. Continuing the subject further, he said:

"Our minority report is complete and in the hands of Mr. Carlisle, subject to some change as to phraseology. It makes a vigorous assault upon the McKinley bill, the most outrageous bill, in my opinion, that was ever produced. I haven't the language at command in which to express my honest convictions of it. Will it pass the house you ask? Not if we can help it, and there is a strong possibility that we may. We certainly shall not aid them by offering amendments, and in that way purify their bill. The fact is that while we shall do all in our power to defeat this measure, it would be one of the best things that could possibly happen to the Democracy if it should become a law just as it is to-day. We would have no difficulty in electing our candidates for some years to come. There is no telling, however, what will become of the bill before it gets through the two houses. The probability is McKinley himself will not know it when it becomes a law."

The appearance of the McKinley bill before the House will certainly occasion some very instructive tariff discussion, and its passage will furnish an object lesson that will greatly advance education on the subject of tariff reform.

An Unreasonable Complaint.

MR HENRY CHARLES LEA, of Philadelphia, is unreasonable in the complaint he makes in an open letter he has written to President HARRISON about the favors which the President confers upon MATTHEW STANLEY QUAY. After stating that QUAY has been publicly charged with raiding the Pennsylvania State treasury and committing other flagrant acts of dishonesty, which have not been denied, Mr. LEA says to Mr. HARRISON that "your close connection with him has rendered the scandal national, and by accepting his man, Mr. WANAMAKER, as a member of your cabinet, you assumed responsibility for both of them."

The Philadelphia complainant should be ashamed to be blubbing about this matter at this late date. While he was giving his support to HARRISON in 1888, doing all he could to aid his election, he fully understood the methods that QUAY was employing to elect the Republican candidate. He had sufficient intelligence to know that the Pennsylvania corruptionist would not have been put at the head of the national committee if it had not been intended that the party should have the advantage of his methods, and be further known of the fat frying that was going on under the management of WANAMAKER. Yet, notwithstanding this knowledge, he cheerfully and zealously gave his support to the candidate who was being made the beneficiary of this corruption.

Does it now become Mr. LEA to make a fuss about the favors which Mr. HARRISON is showing QUAY and WANAMAKER? Could he have expected anything else, and is he not himself to some extent responsible for that which is now the subject of his complaint?

Ingenuous but Dishonest.

The Republicans of the lower house of congress scored another victory by managing to steal another Democratic seat, the article stolen belonging to congressman WISE, of the Richmond, (Va.) district. The excuse for the theft was that a number of negro voters who intended to vote for WISE'S opponent got so late to the polls that they were unable to vote. This substance was the ground upon which Mr. WISE was deprived of his seat. This differed but little from the process by which the other southern Democrats were unseated, which consisted in the committee estimating the number of male negroes in the contested districts and counting them as having voted for the Republican contestants.

—Since Mr. RANDALL'S death we have seen at least a dozen pictures of him in as many different newspapers and no two of them looked alike. From these presentations of Mr. RANDALL'S appearance there is necessarily great confusion in the public mind as to what kind of a looking man Mr. RANDALL WAS.

Sticking To the Rotten Boss.

"There are no more independent Republicans anywhere than those of Lawrence county. They read all the vile things that the New York World and Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegraph are saying about Senator QUAY and Mr. DELAMATER and went to their primary election on Saturday and elected Delamater delegates to the state convention by a majority of over 1,500. Such things are to be expected."

The above was said by the Altoona Tribune, and the way it was said would tend to indicate the belief that the swallowing of such a dirty dose of Quayism by the Republicans of Lawrence county was a commendable act. Nothing could afford more convincing evidence of the utter depravity of Pennsylvania Republicanism than is furnished by such incidents. The stronger the proof of QUAY'S complete rottenness, the closer his party sticks to him. It is well that it is so. It will hasten the overthrow of a political domination that has done so much to injure the reputation and damage the political interests of the State. It was feared that something might turn up that would prevent QUAY'S nominating DELAMATER, and thus delay the defeat that is so righteously due the corrupt old party; but there is a most encouraging likelihood of his putting his man on the ticket.

Evasions of the Liquor Laws.

The appearance of the "speak-easy" among the places that supply liquor to the thirsty, is something that is now interesting those who are giving their attention to the liquor question. The "speak-easy" originated in the extreme prohibition states of Kansas and Iowa, having been evolved from the suppressed thirst of those localities. It has made its appearance in all places where attempts have been made by operation of law to prevent the public sale and use of liquor. Judge FURST has testified that "speak-easies" have become very numerous in Huntingdon county, where for three years the court has refused to grant liquor licenses.

They have also been developed in places where licenses have been granted under the high-license law. This is particularly the case in Pittsburg and Philadelphia, the growth of the illicit drinking places being attributed to the confinement of the legal liquor traffic within too narrow bounds by the existing law. It is claimed that there are too few saloons for the public accommodation—hence the "speak-easies." This circumstance shows the difficulty of regulating and restraining the traffic in ardent spirits by any laws that the ingenuity of man can devise.

—Even the Philadelphia Press protests against placing hides among the tariffed articles. Free trade in hides has acted with such splendid effect upon all associated interests that even such a champion of tariff robbery as the Press is abashed at the proposition of taking hides off the free list.

The Jersey Plan.

The ballot reform bill that has passed the New Jersey House of Representatives has features that recommend it to those who object to certain features of the regular Australian system. Gov. HILL, for example, is opposed to the regulation which provides the voter with an official ballot, excluding him from the use of any other. The Governor thinks that this is too much of a restraint upon the voter's choice.

The New Jersey bill allows him to supply himself with ballots before he comes to the polls, but previous to his entering the booth where he can secretly make up his ticket, he is supplied by a sworn election officer with another set of ballots. He can then choose for himself, secretly and without interference or molestation, the ballots he wishes to vote. All the protection from undue influence that is contemplated by ballot reform is provided by this plan, and it avoids the objection to the voter's being limited to the ballots furnished by the election officers.

The New Jersey bill also provides that none except those in the act of voting shall be allowed to come within a hundred feet of the polling booths.

A New Democratic State.

The Democrats have reason to be pleased with the effect of the Australian method of voting in Rhode Island, which has resulted in giving them the legislature and governor of that State. Such a result is an unusual thing in a State whose workingmen for many years were largely disfranchised, and the peculiarity of whose election laws made its government an aristocratic one. The adoption of ballot reform has changed this state of affairs.

At the election last week the Democratic State ticket had 1500 more votes than the Republican, but as the State constitution requires a majority over all, the prohibition and scattering votes were sufficiently large to prevent the Democrats from having the necessary majority. Under such circumstances the election of State officers goes to the legislature. The Democrats having succeeded also in electing a majority of the legislature, their election of Governor and other State officers according to the constitutional requirement has likewise been ensured. Little Rhode may now be safely counted in the column of Democratic States, for the new election law protects her workingmen from the bulldozing influence of their wealthy employers. She may be considered a newly acquired Democratic State that will set off the Republican theft of Montana.

Financially Distressed Farmers.

The great number of failures that have recently occurred among the farmers of Montgomery, Bucks, Chester, Berks, Lancaster and other counties of Eastern Pennsylvania in which the agricultural population has always hitherto had the reputation of being peculiarly prosperous, is attracting wide-spread attention. The judgment docket of the Berks county court is being rapidly filled with claims against farmers who until recently were considered as among the county's most substantial and prosperous citizens. During the week succeeding the 1st of the present month over 200 judgments were entered against farmers on the Lancaster county docket, and failures were numerous. Among the assignments made were those of BENJAMIN T. GAMBER, of Manor township, liabilities \$39,000, assets, \$7,000; JACOB H. HOSTETTER, of same township, liabilities, \$42,500, assets \$27,000; DANIEL E. PEPPER, of East Hempfield, liabilities \$13,564, assets about the same. A number of executions were issued against others, involving the sale of their property by the Sheriff. About the same state of affairs exists in the other counties we have mentioned. This situation has excited alarm in that section to the extent of inciting a call for a meeting which is intended to be preliminary to the formation of an organization of farmers in Montgomery, Bucks and Chester counties, the object of which will be to discover how they may be relieved from their present distressed financial condition. This meeting was held at Norristown this week, with the ultimate purpose of holding a mass meeting in June where prominent speakers will be on hand to tell the farmers what it is that is ailing them.

It is scarcely necessary for us in this connection to repeat our oft-expressed opinion that the war tariff, which taxes everything that is included in the list of necessities, is chiefly responsible for the depressed condition of the farming business. The claim that the farmer is benefited by the home market which the tariff is alleged to secure for him, is very pointedly refuted by the fact that this agricultural depression exists in districts where the tariff should be particularly efficacious in furnishing him a remunerative home market, if there is anything in that claim.

Discussion on the McKinley tariff bill will be cut short by the despotic ruling of the congressional czar. He won't allow the bill to be subjected to dissection, for the operation would show up its manifold defects. But this should not grieve the Democrats. They should rather be pleased that their opponents will pass a measure that will put them in such good shape for a thorough beating at the elections that are to come. It is such measures as this tariff bill that are hastening and intensifying the disgust of the people with the entire system of tariff robbery.

Untruthful Gush.

JOHN C. NEW, until recently the leading Republican organizer in Indiana, is the Consul-General of the Harrison administration in London. Some weeks ago he was one of the guests at a Masonic banquet in the English capital, and among the other gush he got off with the intention of tickling his English hearers, was the following, which is as absurd as it is untrue:

"If England ever got into difficulty, America would rally to the support of the old mother country, for the English-speaking people dominated the world. There was not in the United States a well-thinking man who did not believe in the integrity of Great Britain, and who was not in favor of maintaining the ascendancy of Great Britain in those parts that she claimed."

Now the truth is that if England should get into a fight with any enemy whatever, nothing would afford ninetieths of the American people more pleasure than to see her well whipped. They would rejoice over it with exceeding great joy. The Americans are but human beings, and very humanly they remember with bitterness how the English rejoiced over the prospect of the Republic being destroyed by the rebellion. That will not be forgotten in many years.

The circus began on Wednesday with the introduction of the McKinley bill in the House.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Navigation was opened on the Pennsylvania Canal last Friday.

—Edward Love was killed by lightning near Trenton on Wednesday night.

—Murderer Bartholomew was buried at Weaverville on Monday.

—Executions far \$226 have been issued against Samuel Tinsman, proprietor of the Scott House, Reading.

—Dull times in the mining region around Scranton have disheartened the miners, and many are emigrating.

—A Ballot Reform Club, having for its object the adoption of the Australian system of voting, has been organized at Reading.

—There is considerable excitement at Hughesville, Luzerne county. At a depth of 350 feet a fine rich deposit of anthracite coal has been found.

—Judge Swartz, of Montgomery county, at Norristown believed an opinion that Constables elected in February, 1889, were elected for three years.

—David McKenna, of Slatington, a prominent slate manufacturer, was struck on the head in his quarry Tuesday by a descending box and fatally injured.

—The body of Enos Winters, the hermit of the Schuylkill, who has been missing since February 13, was found in Stony Creek, near Norristown, Monday.

—The police of Reading have succeeded in breaking up a gang of youthful thieves by arresting the ringleaders. Warrants are out for the remainder of the gang.

—Several improvements, including electric lights, are to be made at Mount Gretna before the division encampment of the National Guards will be held there next July.

—Henry Maltzberg, of Reading, has been appointed Special Agent by the Census Superintendent for the collection of mortgage statistics in Berks and Lehigh counties.

—There is a bitter feeling growing up in Phoenixville against the Huns. Over 1000 have colonized there and have driven American laborers away from the iron mills.

—The deepening of the Port Clinton tunnel on the main line of the Reading Railroad, will be commenced soon. When finished the largest cars will be able to pass through.

—The large woolen-mill of the Conshohocken Worsted Mills Company, at Norristown, has been sold to Seth B. Stitt, of Philadelphia, for \$125,000, by James Moir, assignee of the company.

—Word has been received at Easton announcing the death in England of Richard Griffith Bachelor, worth several millions, which will go to his relatives, nearly all of whom live at Easton.

—William H. Wattles, who has been under arrest at Buffalo charged with bigamy, was turned over to the Sheriff from Warren on a requisition from the Governor of Pennsylvania yesterday.

—Three boys, named James Kern, Richard Coroman and Daniel Coverisky, who ran away from Reading, were captured on a coal train at Phoenixville on Sunday night and sent back home.

—The great demand for potatoes in the West has sent the speculators up the country, and the farmers of the northern portions of Berks and Lehigh counties have mostly disposed of their surplus stocks.

—The bricklayers of Phoenixville are on a strike because they were compelled to work ten hours a day for \$2.50 alongside of bricklayers from Pittsburg—on a special job—who got \$1.50 for nine hours.

—The committee making arrangements for celebrating the centennial of Easton has decided to give a banquet to all the organizations in the parade, and also to furnish each division with a band of music.

—About 10 per cent. more of the coke ovens in the Connettsville region will close down next Monday on account of a lack of orders. The suspension of operations will throw 1200 men out of employment.

—Frank G. Kiohr, aged 25, attempted to commit suicide by drowning himself in the Schuylkill River at Reading on Sunday evening. He was rescued in an unconscious condition and taken to the hospital.

—After a stormy session of several hours the Young Republicans of Lancaster have decided that the club-room shall be open on Sunday from 1 o'clock in the afternoon until 10 o'clock in the evening, but games are prohibited on that day.

—Fred M. Hans, a merchant tailor of Easton, became dependent over the loss of his wife who died several weeks ago, and hung himself Friday night in the attic of his residence, which is but a short distance from where Bartholomew was executed on Wednesday.

—The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is following up the participants in a cock fight which took place on last Saturday night in Delaware county just beyond the county line. Michael Hennessey, Michael Neeson and Timothy Murray are now in the Media jail.

—The women of Bennett Square are working with heart and soul to abolish the saloons in that place. They have started a subscription to buy out a hotel and make it a temperance place, and have already \$300 subscribed. "Prohibition Bread" and "Prohibition Bonnets" are in great demand.

—The Receiver of the defunct Schuylkill Valley Mutual Fire Insurance Company has begun proceedings against a number of policyholders for unpaid assessments, for which he holds their premium notes. There is about \$5000 due by persons living in Bucks, Berks, Lehigh, Dauphin and Northampton counties.

—Miss Emma Bach, of Allentown, was robbed of her pocketbook, containing \$8, on a train between Easton and Bethlehem, on last Thursday evening, by a young fellow whom she supposed was trying to "mash" her. He sat down beside her and tried to start a conversation, but she gave him to understand he wasn't wanted.

—Silbert Shivers, wholesale broom dealer, of Easton, was taken with scarlet fever on Monday, was on the mend Friday, became unconscious Friday evening, and remained in that condition until noon Saturday, when he died. Immediately afterward his body became black. His three children are also down with the disease, one of them being dangerously sick.

—The Reading Prison Inspectors have notified the Young Men's Christian Association that that organization will be no longer permitted to hold services in the county prison. No reason is assigned for this action, but as the recent exposure of looseness in prison discipline was made through these meetings probably it will not be necessary to look further.