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The Defects of the Census.

Among the foolish provisions of the law regulating the taking of the eleventh census, was the one forbidding the enumerators from divulging the result of the count and keeping the people in ignorance of the population of their localities until it shall be officially announced from headquarters at Washington. The people have a natural and justifiable curiosity in this matter, and no injury to the object of the census could be done by the enumerators gratifying that curiosity as soon as the count is completed. It seems to be Mr. PORTER'S intention to throw around the census a veil of impenetrable secrecy until he shall be prepared to burst upon the country with the full result of his management of the census bureau.

Yet he does not appear to be successful in this intention, as the papers of the cities and large towns are publishing the census of their localities in figures that look so much like official figures that the enumerators must have been giving their secret away. Thus it is announced that New York's population is 1,627,227. This return, so precisely stated, must have come from very near an official source. The Philadelphia papers claim to know enough about the result of the enumeration in their city to warrant the statement that its population is 1,040,449. Such publications make it sound strange to the residents of the country districts to hear their enumerators declare that it would be about as much as their heads were worth if they should disobey the injunction of secrecy in regard to the result of their enumeration.

If there is absurdity connected with this business, there also appears to be much inaccuracy. In Philadelphia complaints are made of the loose manner in which the enumerators did their work. The following, taken from a paper of that city, gives an illustration of the inaccuracy complained of:

Colonel Samuel Bell, Clerk of the United States Circuit Court, called at the Census Office yesterday and demanded some blanks. "I am a citizen of the United States," he said, "and want to be put on record. There are seven members in my family, and none of them have seen an enumerator. Neither has my next-door neighbor nor two other families living close by. Altogether in these four houses no less than thirty-five persons were missed. What will the population of Philadelphia be," continued the Colonel, "if such negligence has been the rule throughout the city? For my part I would like to see the city step in and canvass her own district after the Government is through with it."

It was the ambitious intention to make this the most complete and comprehensive census ever taken. Trying to cover too much, it is likely to be defective and inaccurate in the most essential feature of a census—the enumeration of the people.

Preparing an Unsavory Dish for Themselves.

A Philadelphia paper that is supporting Mr. WALLACE for Governor with more zeal than discretion, tries to make a point against him by saying that WILLIAM L. SCOTT, who is said to be for Mr. PATTISON, once asked CHAUNCEY DEWEY for a free railroad pass. It entirely forgets to mention that when Mr. PATTISON was Governor he declined to accept passes from any railroad company, thus presenting a commendable contrast to all the Republican State officers who from the Governor down have their pockets full of passes.

No Democratic Governor of the right stamp would put himself under such obligation to any railroad company. We have evidence that Governor PATTISON wouldn't do it. We believe that Mr. WALLACE, as Governor, would not consent to be the beneficiary of such railroad favors. That is the view the WATCHMAN is disposed to take of these two honorable gentlemen. It has no disposition to pull either of them down for the benefit of the other. If some of the overzealous journals we see slashing away on either side of this contention, would follow our example, they wouldn't be running the risk of finding themselves in a mighty uncomfortable position after the nomination. We would remind them that crow is a very unpalatable kind of diet, and even it will be for some of them in the event of the nomination of either Mr. WALLACE or Mr. PATTISON, one or the other of whom is most likely to be the nominee.

The Farmers' Alliance in Politics.

The farmers of Minnesota are showing great dislike for the McKinley tariff bill and general hostility to the principle of monopolistic protection. The Alliance in that State have called a convention to put a State ticket in the field, and among other declarations in their call they refer to "the monstrous growth of protection and class legislation," and speak of the McKinley bill as a measure in which "protection has gone mad in the advance of the prohibitive duties."

The Alliance is developing great strength in Minnesota, every day gaining the accession of men who entertain such views as the above in regard to the leading policy of the Republican party. The Secretary of the committee which has the farmers' campaign in charge says that there are 1,500 Alliances in Minnesota with a total membership lately increased from 30,000 to 40,000 and growing so rapidly that it is believed it will be at least 60,000 by the time of the election. He also says that this "formidable uprising" is due to the McKinley bill, and adds:

"When it is possible that a congress can foist such an outrageous law upon an intelligent people it is time the people interrupted the sway of the party that is responsible for it."

Verily, the campaign of education is going briskly forward in the Northwest.

The Republicans have lost the next House of Representatives, without the possibility of their being able to retain it by theft through a Federal Election law. No form of rascality will help them in this emergency.

Democratic Partisanship.

The Democratic newspapers that are taking a partisan stand in the governor contest are doing some fine figuring for their favorites. They have no difficulty in giving figures to prove that the particular candidate they support will be nominated on the first ballot, or at least after a few ballots have been taken to let the other candidates down easy. It is wonderful with what sanguine expectation they await the result that is going to confirm the correctness of their prognostications. The Pattison papers indulge in the most flattering figures. The leading one in Philadelphia, with the facility of a ready reckoner, counts up enough delegates to nominate the Ex-Governor on the first ballot, with one to spare. With the breezy confidence that attends a certainty it claims that Mr. PATTISON will have practically a walk over in the convention.

On the other hand the journal at the State capital that has taken the heat of the Wallace campaign on its shoulders, deals in figures that tell a different tale, and it vouches for their authenticity. It counts 210 of the delegates elected who are opposed to the nomination of Mr. PATTISON. It will take 187 to nominate, and this zealous journal sees no difficulty in getting from the 210 who don't want PATTISON enough to put WALLACE at the head of the ticket.

In truth, the figures, so far as they can be ascertained with any certainty, present so small a margin between the two leading candidates that the supporters of neither of them is justified in claiming to be sure of his nomination. And the funny part of this business is that after the nomination has been made these fussy journals that are just now pulling in such opposite directions will turn in and give a loyal support to the nominee, regretting, perhaps, the indiscreet expressions they made while booming their favorites.

Notwithstanding the extreme liberality of the pension bills passed, the agents are dissatisfied, and write from Washington an address to the G. A. R. comrades giving them the distressful information that "no service pension bill, no per diem bill, no prisoner of war pension bill and no arrears bill will be passed at this session of Congress." It is true that the Dependent and Disability bills that have been passed by this congress will knock more than one hundred millions annually out of the surplus, but in neglecting to pass the other bills above mentioned, the national law makers have been shamefully neglectful of the interests of the claim agents.

Blaine's Economic Summersault.

What is all this we hear about Brother BLAINE? Is it really true that he has turned to be a free trader? Very circumstantial reports are to the effect that he regards the McKinley tariff bill with distavor. Thus, it is said by a Washington correspondent, who may be reliable, that

While Mr. Blaine was before the Senate appropriation committee, advocating certain appropriations, he delivered a lecture on political economy to Secretary Allison.

The Democratic member of the committee, Mr. Blackburn, was delighted with the tone of Mr. Blaine's review, and at an opportune moment he is reported to have said: "I wish you were not Mr. Secretary, and were in this senate to raise your voice against this McKinley bill."

Mr. Blaine replied: "I wish so, too. It is the most dangerous, if not the most infamous measure that was ever concocted by any party." The men who vote for this bill will wreck the Republican party. If I were in the senate I would rather have my right arm torn out of its socket than vote for this bill."

It may be doubted that he went so far as this in denouncing the pet measure of this Republican congress, but he is a shrewd politician and a sensible man, and, as such, there can be no doubt that he fully comprehends the dangerous character of the McKinley bill and is able to foresee the wreck in which it will involve the party that will be responsible for it.

Although there may be uncertainty as to what Mr. BLAINE really said about the tariff bill, there is nothing uncertain in the communication he sent to congress recommending free trade with the Spanish-American countries. Notwithstanding that he gives it a sugar coating of "reciprocity," it is nevertheless a bitter pill for the high protectionists to swallow. What is reciprocity but free trade? The proposition of limiting it to certain nations does not do away with the fact that to that extent it is an abandonment of the protective principle.

Some of the high tariff papers, in trying to ease the effect of Mr. BLAINE'S proposition, say that it extends merely to countries that would reciprocate with raw materials useful to our manufactures. But did Mr. CLEVELAND or the Mills bill ask for free trade in anything but raw materials for the benefit of our manufacturing industries? They asked this while seeking to maintain a reasonable—not prohibitive—tariff on foreign manufactured goods for the adequate protection of American labor.

It is gratifying to see that Mr. BLAINE is coming over to the Cleveland position on the tariff question. Who in 1888 would have thought that this could occur? American politics is full of surprises.

The Democratic committee of Lyncoming county met at Williamsport last Saturday and elected Hon. R. P. ALLEN, Hon. W. W. HART, W. C. GILMORE, W. J. STEWART and H. R. MEHRING as delegates to the State convention with instructions to vote for WILLIAM A. WALLACE for Governor. The vote stood 40 for Wallace and 3 for Pattison, while 11 refrained from voting instructions. This, like that of Blair county, was an unfortunate case of the county convention not selecting the state delegates, allowing it to devolve upon the county committee, but it is unjust to infer that in either case the committee assumed undue power, or that improper influence was exerted in bringing about the election and instruction of the delegates.

Rather Indiscreet.

Does the Harrisburg Patriot really believe that Ex-Governor PATTISON is not in favor of ballot reform on the Australian plan? It certainly can not entertain such a belief, and is acting disingenuously in trying to create the impression that in a gubernatorial capacity Mr. PATTISON would oppose the adoption of the Australian ballot system in this State. All the Democratic candidates for Governor should be treated with equal fairness. Mr. WALLACE is in every way worthy of the earnest support of the newspapers that are friendly to him, but we do not believe that he wants them to go for the scalps of any of his rivals for the nomination in the ferocious manner of the Patriot. He is too good a Democrat for that. It would be well for the Harrisburg organ to revise its discretion.

Quay's Convention.

MAT QUAY and his son DICK had it all their own way at the Republican State Convention on Wednesday. The Boss sent his orders by telegraph from his home in Beaver, while the boy was on the ground at Harrisburg to see that they were properly interpreted and fully carried out.

The shameless old party has held many boss-ruled conventions in this State, but she never before held one that responded with such eager readiness to the wires manipulated by the Boss. It was QUAY'S convention in every sense of the word. It recognized no other authority and yielded to no other influence. From the moment the first delegates struck the "sacred soil" of the State capital where machine government has so long been entrenched, until its streets swarmed with the vengeful henchmen and willing tools of the treasury-raider who holds the party reins, no other expressions were heard than "Will QUAY be here?"

"What does QUAY say?" "Who does QUAY want?" "Everything depends upon QUAY!" "We will know what to do when we hear from QUAY." The dirtiest politics this country ever produced can show no parallel to this convention's low-lived subserviency and abject obedience to a corrupt politician whose whole public life has consisted of a series of offences against political morals and official honor.

From the start it was evident to even the ordinary observer that the candidacy of any other than QUAY'S candidate was the emptiest by-play, intended by the Boss to amuse such members of the party as professed to be independent in their preference. Such candidates as HASTINGS and others were but puppets who served a purpose in the game. The Boss's programme did not include the slightest chance of the nomination of any one of them. The party workers whom he could rely on to carry out his designs were attached to him by the cohesive power of public plunder, and they went to Harrisburg, headed by brass bands and bearing banners, eager and able to do his bidding.

Will a majority of the people of Pennsylvania endorse the wretched doings of this collection of political menials and personal dependents of a corrupt leader? The old State has suffered many disgraces in recent years, but we trust she may be spared the shame that would attend the election of QUAY'S candidates.

The Federal Election law, devised by the QUAYS, the DUDLEYS, the CHANDLERS, the REEDS, and other such like pure political characters, aided by JOHNNY DEVENPORT'S valuable assistance, is a pretty production for a measure that has "no other purpose than to provide for an honest and full expression of the will of the voters." For the carrying out of this exalted purpose it provides for 330 Republican partisan returning boards which, under the management and direction of the immaunculate chairman of the Republican National committee and the incorruptible originator of the blocks-of-five system of voting, can, of course, have no other object than "an honest ballot and a fair count."

Serviceable in Private Life.

The eminent ability and sterling integrity of GROVER CLEVELAND are as much recognized since he has retired to private life as they were while he was at the head of the nation. Democratic assemblies, reform associations and college fraternities are eager to draw from him his opinion on the great public questions of the day, and his services are in demand in the settlement of points of controversy involving great interests.

Thus, he has lately been intrusted with another very important duty as an arbitrator in the settlement of the Virginia debt question, in which he will be associated with his recent Secretary of State, Hon. THOMAS F. BAYARD, his recent Minister to England, Hon. EDWARD J. PHILLIPS, together with Messrs. GEORGE S. COE, President of the American Exchange Bank, and G. G. WILLIAMS, President of the Chemical Bank of New York city. They will act in concert with representatives of foreign bondholders. Virginia is determined to bring her debt question to an equitable conclusion, and she can get no better man than Mr. CLEVELAND to preside over the deliberations that will have that end in view.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Bucks county farmers complain of a scarcity of labor.

—Dickinson College, last week, had its 10th commencement.

—Two kinds of stone are taken from one quarry at Doylestown.

—James W. Hanna, of Latrobe, a groom of three months, is missing.

—A man named Teichter challenges the State to a mouth-organ contest.

—B. C. Mitchell, a Chester county dairyman, has "dehorned" all his cattle.

—Kutztown has a 15-year old boy who is an accomplished church organist.

—Many farmers are plowing up their oats, as the crop will not be worth gathering.

—In a Pittsburg Police Court a 16-year old boy proudly gave his occupation as that of a thief.

—It is claimed that a primary election in York county by the Crawford county system cost \$25,000.

—"The Darby Ram," an individual of Delaware county, has been arrested for stealing a Chester lamb.

—Mrs. David Lewis, of Wilkesbarre, was buried last Friday on the first anniversary of her wedding.

—The Trustees of Franklin and Marshall College have decided to charge no tuition fee in the future.

—The State Prohibition Convention will meet in Harrisburg on August 20 and 21 instead of July 45 and 16.

—A colored man bought a double handful of "Catwaba" pills for 1 cent at a Doylestown sale on Friday.

—Oil is said to have been found on the farm of William Eisenheart, in Bucks county, near Doylestown.

—Young Misses of Bristol held a fair and took in \$100 for the benefit of the Country Week Association.

—A freight train at Lancaster struck a team and, lifting it from the ground, carried it nearly 200 feet away.

—A bride and groom, both deaf and dumb, were eyed with curiosity at the Pittsburg depot a day or two ago.

—A Wilkesbarre hatter has made the champion straw hat. Its brim is fourteen feet in circumference.

—The convention of the Pennsylvania Sabbath-School Association will be held at New Castle on September 29.

—"No flowers" is inscribed in the corner of the invitation to the West Chester Normal School commencement.

—Five seconds only are required by an Allegheny fire company to hitch up, and start off in answer to an alarm.

—Miss Jennie Wertz, a young lady of Keating, had her foot jerked off while jumping on and off a railroad turn-table.

—A famous old hotel at Mainland, Montgomery county, which was at its best during the Revolution, is about to be torn away.

—A Bristol young lady mourns the loss of a \$12 bonnet, which fell from her head when she was on one of the river steamboats.

—By the efforts of Pennsylvania Railroad officials several "speck-eaters" have been broken up at St. Clair Borough and Conroy Yard.

—Solomon Moyer, who for many years was designated as "the man who never lost a lawsuit," died at his home near Williamsport on Sunday.

—A colored thief at Bridgeport jumped into the canal, and the policeman who was chasing him followed suit and arrested him in the water.

—The Williamsport Sun has made a canvas of the county Democrats on the gubernatorial fight and found 288 for Pattison and 824 for Wallace.

—The ninety-sixth annual commencement of the Linden Hall Seminary, Litz, was held last week, and sixteen young ladies were graduated.

—While Mary Burns was standing in front of her home at New Brighton, a woman in black came up behind her and snipped the girl's hair off.

—Zinc ore has been discovered on a tract of land three miles West of Bloomsburg, Columbia county, and workmen are now taking out several tons daily.

—Pasquale Doyne, of Bristol, while frenzied with bad whisky, brutally assaulted his 10-year-old son. He was arrested, but only fined for drunkenness.

—A fourth woman claiming to be the long lost Mary Sheehan, of Sharsburg, Allegheny county, for whom an estate of \$75,000 is waiting, has appeared at (Hannibal), Mo.

—Frank P. Foster, a young theologian, was arrested at Allegheny, for robbery, but was quickly discharged, and his accuser, Joseph D. Elliott, is suspected of having committed the crime.

—The Grand Jury at Pottsville Eri day evening returned two more true bills—one against ex-Poor Director Germania, for bribery, and another against Director William Leininger, for the same offense.

—The main roadway between Hazleton and Beaver Brook collapsed, and over two acres of ground went down to a considerable depth. Eight houses were wrecked, but no one was injured.

—Jacob Bose, aged 91 years, who died recently in York township, York county, left \$8000 in gold and silver, two-thirds of the sum in half-dollars and quarters hidden in various places about his dwelling.

—In the trial of George Moss, at Wilkesbarre for the murder of his wife Rhoda, the 14-year old son of the prisoner testified to having seen the shooting, and the defense set up insanity. Moss denying all recollection of the tragedy.

—Rev. John K. Fisher, a member of the Central Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who was stationed at Shippensburg, Pa., died Friday at the residence of his father-in-law, Josiah Gettle, in Lebanon. He was 40 years old.

—Constable Ginter made an unsuccessful attempt to arrest, at Sanbury, the excursion party of the Baltimore Coal and Iron Exchange, who were charged with malicious mischief at York, but the affair was compromised by the excursionists paying for the damage done.

—The jury in the case of Rev. M. L. Fritch, the ex-minister chaplain, alleged to be insane, but charged with stealing knives from Bard, Reber & Co., came into Court at Reading Friday evening, after having been out all day and announced disagreement. They stood 10 to 2 for conviction.