

Ink Stings.

With two inches of snow on the ground the worm is in no danger of being caught by the early blue-bird.

The mint julep to which CAMERON has treated Philadelphia ought to put even the Press in better humor with the senior boss.

Orator McCLURE is proving himself to be as effective as Editor McCLURE in exposing the false pretenses of the so-called protectionists.

The adjournment of the late Congress is the only thing that can be credited to that body as having been of real benefit to the country.

A vein of natural cheese is reported to have been struck in Iowa. If it was of the Limberger variety it certainly had strength enough to strike back.

The House adjourned without being able to discover the silver pool. Probably it is just as well, as it has saved the expenditure of a large amount of white wash.

It was a "business congress," but the fact that it has left no money in the treasury would seem to indicate that it did business too extensively on the cash plan.

The second year of the Harrison administration closed on Wednesday with civil service reform wearing a pair of black eyes and the treasury completely knocked out.

When it is considered how near the Republicans have gotten to the bottom of the treasury Philadelphia was indeed very lucky in getting the money to build her new Mint.

March having come in with the concentrated ferocity of a whole den of lions, it may be expected that it will go out with the combined gentleness of an entire flock of lambs.

Congressman DALZEL is not only surpassing his Pennsylvania Republican colleagues in oratorical achievement, but he is also enjoying the more solid comfort of knocking the official permissoms.

The fact that the Bardick pipe line bill has failed to become a law is sufficient proof that the tentacles of the Standard octopus haven't relaxed their hold on the Pennsylvania Legislature.

A Constitutional Convention is the only medium through which the honest citizen can be assured that when he goes to the polls his vote will not be neutralized by the fine work of the election sharp.

When Brother WANAMAKER shall come to divide the boodle which he is authorized to distribute by the Postal Subsidy Bill he may feel it his duty as a christian statesman to begin the job with prayer.

BISMARCK has always entertained great contempt for petticoat influence and no doubt the grim old ex-chancellor is quietly chuckling over the young Emperor's failure to placate the French through that medium.

\$6,000,000 will be needed to meet the requirement of the Indian Depredation bill; but that is a trifle compared with the general deprecation to which the treasury has been subjected by Republican management.

It is but a trifling advantage for Pennsylvania to get \$1,600,000 Direct Tax refunded by the Government when it puts annually into the general pool ten times that much in the indirect way of tariff taxation.

Just at the time when sourkrant was beginning to be recognized as a civilized and harmless comestible its reputation suffered a serious slump by a barrel of it bursting in New Jersey and killing a girl who was getting out a mess of it.

If France hadn't an army of almost a million men ready and anxious for a fight, Emperor WILLIAM'S "dander" would be up a good deal higher than it is about the way his ma was treated in Paris. There are circumstances under which it doesn't pay to get mad.

There is no plausibility in the howl which the Canadian Tories are raising about American boodle being used to corrupt the Dominion voters. That sort of political ammunition is so largely required for our own elections that we can't afford to waste any of it on Canada.

In view of the fact that the Astor fortune was started in a small way in the poultry line, an exchange suggests that the family coat-of-arms should consist of a peckler with a pack on his back. But wouldn't two muskrats rampant be the correct thing for the escutcheon of a family whose pedigree began with the fur business?

With all his faults INGALLS behaved like a gentleman as presiding officer of the Senate and he got his reward by a unanimous vote of thanks in which the Democratic Senators participated as heartily as the Republicans. The caustic Kansan dropped his black-guardism whenever he got hold of the that element of authority intensified his ruffian propensities.

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Misapprehension of a Just and Reasonable Proposition.

The Philadelphia Press shows a remarkable misapprehension of the reason for and object of the bill now before the Legislature designed to impose a tax on unnaturalized foreigners, when it says:

"Among the absurd bills introduced into the present Legislature is one proposing to levy a \$3 head tax on every unnaturalized citizen in the State. The measure is conceived in a spirit of hostility to the foreigners in the mining regions, an element that could well be spared, but being here should be taxed no more nor no less than other workmen similarly situated."

Nothing could be more absurd than the idea that this bill is conceived in a spirit of hostility to the foreigners in the mining or any other region. It has no other object than to relieve in some measure the burden of the citizens who are compelled to take care of and provide for these unnaturalized foreigners when, through sickness or accident, they become public charges.

The Press is evidently ignorant of the situation in districts where these people are largely employed. Take a mining district, for example, or one in which iron-works employ a large number of Hungarians or other foreigners of that class. A better example than Spring township, in this county, could not be found. There isn't a day that some of them are not injured or become sick. The danger and exposure incident to their work, in addition to their filthy habits, render casualties and illness inevitable, and the consequence is that they become township charges. The care and maintenance of them under these circumstances are the cause of the heaviest township expense, which must be borne by the taxpayers who have no interest whatever in their employment and to whom their presence is generally a nuisance. It is to relieve these taxpayers to some extent that this bill proposes to compel these unnaturalized foreigners to contribute something toward the poor fund by which they are benefited. Is there anything unjust in this? Is there anything oppressive? Does it propose to take from these foreigners anything for which they do not get a return? If it were intended to make them assist in paying the expenses of State and county, in the government of which they do not participate as voters, it would be a different thing. That would be unjustifiable. But when they receive a direct, immediate and personal benefit, as they do from the poor fund in cases of sickness and accident, which is of constant occurrence where large numbers are employed, justice and equity unite in a law that would include them among the contributors to that fund. They are surely able to make the small contribution of \$3.00 a year, which would be but a trifling deduction from the earnings with which they intend to return to their own country and live in comparative affluence for the balance of their lives. It is asking too much of American workmen whose wages have been reduced by the competition of these unnaturalized foreigners, that they shall help to pay poor tax for the benefit of Huns and Dagoes who are entirely exempt.

The reasoning of the Press is completely at fault when it says: "It is true that many of them become a public charge, but these could not pay the tax, anyway, and it is unjust because of these to tax others who support themselves and whose single disqualification is that they have not been here long enough to be naturalized."

It is not the purpose of the bill to punish these people for being foreigners; but they are liable at any time to become public charges, and it is proposed that while they are in health and making wages a small part of their earnings shall be set aside, in the way of a poor tax, for their support when they are sick and disabled. The benefit is so directly personal that the equity of the provision cannot be questioned.

The Press thinks that "a grave objection to the measure is that it would prompt every one of these people to apply for citizenship and suffer as soon as the law allows, when without this money inducement they

"might never intrude themselves into the company of uninstructed and unfit voters."

This quibble impeaches the purpose of our naturalization laws which enable these people to become citizens, but with which the law that proposes to impose a poor tax on them has no relation whatever. The fact to be met is the injustice of making the citizens support these people under certain conditions, without their contributing a dollar for their own benefit. The bill intends to remedy this injustice, and if the effect should be to drive them into naturalization that is something else, for which the naturalization laws are responsible. But it isn't likely that \$3 would have that effect.

Interesting Things about Foster.

Some interesting facts are being developed concerning Mr. FOSTER, the new Secretary of the Treasury. He has made a record which shows him to be a silver man. As a member of the house, in 1876, he voted for BLAND'S free coinage bill. In 1877 he again voted the same way. In 1878 he voted for the Bland compromise bill, for the coinage of \$4,000,000 a month, and when President HAYES vetoed the bill Mr. FOSTER voted to pass it over the veto.

The question is raised whether he is eligible to the office of Secretary of the Treasury, as he is interested in the importing business. On this point the Springfield Republican says:

He is largely interested in the Standard oil trust, and this monopoly is not only a heavy exporter but an importer of tin plate, and an extensive claimant for rebates of duty on the tin of the cans in which its oil is exported. Section 213 of the revised statutes provides that "no person appointed to the office of secretary of the treasury shall, directly or indirectly, be concerned or interested in carrying on the business of trade or commerce." That plainly bars out Foster as did A. T. Stewart, whom Grant once named for the office; unless, perchance, he shall qualify himself by disposing of his interests in the trust, as well, perhaps, as his interest in the manufacture of glass.

This is no doubt a valid objection, but the point is made too late, as FOSTER has been confirmed, and there is no doubt that he will hold on to both his Standard oil stock and the Treasury office.

Fortunately Averted.

It is really fortunate for the country that the difficulty between the Pennsylvania railroad management and its employes has been settled, thereby preventing a strike that would have greatly deranged the transportation business. The Pennsylvania Company, which controls the leased lines of the Pennsylvania Railroad west of Pittsburgh, comprises an immense railway system. It includes two distinct lines from Pittsburgh to Chicago, one to Cincinnati, the short route to St. Louis by way of Indianapolis, a direct route from Chicago to Louisville, lines to Cleveland and Toledo and an extensive branch system covering many hundred of miles in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. It is one of the greatest railway systems in the world, and a strike would be felt from the Atlantic seaboard clear to the great lakes and the Mississippi. Concessions by the management have been met by a liberal spirit by the men, and the result is that serious trouble to the company has been averted and misery and suffering saved its vast army of employes.

Reciprocity That Means Something.

Mr. HAMILTON FISH, who was President GRANT'S Secretary of State, is not in favor of the present tariff policy of his party. On this subject he made the following remark to a New York reporter last week: "I am in favor of reciprocity in the broadest, fullest sense of the term, reciprocity which means trade and benefit to the people. I have always been in favor of a certain measure of protection to infant industries. But the child grows and the industries do not forever remain infants. There comes a time when protection ceases to be a necessity, when industries do not need to be fed with pap. I believe that the McKinley tariff is prohibition and not protection. There was no necessity for it. You may quote me as believing true reciprocity in all directions to be a wise policy for our country, and—I am not a restrictionist."

A Constitutional Convention Necessary.

The introduction of Mr. WHERRY'S Bill in the House providing for the holding of a Constitutional Convention relative to reforming the ballot system in this State, gives hope that a more perfect, effective and permanent reform may be brought about than can be effected by statutory enactment. Elections entirely free from the influence of bribery and intimidation are essential to the existence of a real popular government. Without this protection we may have the form, but the principle is ineffectually carried out. Entire secrecy in voting is indispensable, but this can not be obtained as long as the constitution requires the numbering of the ballots. Those numbers are the tell-tales which destroy the confidence of the voter that no one but himself and his God can know how he voted. They are a restraint upon his action. It is true that a statute may provide that the numbers on the ballots shall be concealed by pasting them down, and that secrecy shall be further secured by sealing the tally sheets. But those numbers, constitutionally required, are as the trail of the serpent that violates the whole business so far as absolute secrecy is concerned. Nothing but a change of the constitution can eradicate it.

What is also greatly needed is an improvement in registration. Under the present method practical politicians, particularly in the large cities, have become so expert in padding the registration and manipulating the lists that the operation of the personator and repeater is made easy and almost unpreventable. Without a change of the constitution no statute can be passed that will eradicate this evil. The only remedy for it lies in a Constitutional Convention.

It is to be hoped that Mr. WHERRY'S bill will be promptly passed. It does not necessarily interfere with remedial measures that are intended for earlier and temporary effect. These may serve their purpose so far as it goes, but a perfect ballot system—thorough protection against fraud, bribery and intimidation—if it can be secured at all can be reached only by the action of a Constitutional Convention.

Criticising the P. O. Department.

It wasn't at all gracious for so good a Republican as Senator PLUMB to give Mr. WANAMAKER a castigation for the manner in which he runs the Post Office department. But he did this the other day when an amendment creating the office of Fourth Assistant Post Master General was attempted to be made to an appropriation bill.

The Senator said that there was no necessity for more officers in that department; that what was more needed was better attention to business. He declared that he had never visited that department lately that he did not see the head officers reading the newspapers and otherwise leisurely deporting themselves. He denounced the department as unnecessarily extravagant, characterizing it as indifferent to the extent of public expense it caused. In his opinion this new officer was intended merely to enable the Post Master General to devote all his time to his private business.

This is severe criticism of Mr. WANAMAKER'S management of the Post Office Department which all along has been claimed to be conducted on such excellent business principles. The Senator's strictures were so forcible that the amendment to create the new office was withdrawn.

Governor Hill, of New York, will not recognize the "executive authority" of the Governor whom the Republicans of Connecticut irregularly and unlawfully put into office. Some weeks ago when the usurping Connecticut Governor made a requisition on the Executive of New York for the return of a burglar to the Nutmeg State Governor Hill said: "Mr. Bulkeley is not the Governor of Connecticut. I decline to recognize Mr. Bulkeley as the Governor of Connecticut. He has been repudiated by the Senate of his own State. I cannot recognize him. Send the papers back," and the papers were sent back accordingly. This is the way to treat usurpers, and if there were more of such treatment there would be fewer of such political frauds.

A Modified Steal.

It is a relief to know that the grand steal which was intended to be practiced on the Treasury by the so-called Shipping Bill, or more properly called the Subsidy Bill, has failed in carrying out its full object. It originally proposed to give enormous bounties to all American built steamships for the alleged purpose of encouraging American commerce, ignoring the fact that there can't be any considerable commerce where foreign duties, as is the case under our present commercial system. The heavy bounties proposed by the bill would have subsidized ships which from the very nature of the situation would have had but little to carry and would have been run chiefly for the subsidy.

Of the Democratic members of the House only three were to be found who would support the enormous job that was all but successful, while of the Republicans fourteen Representatives refused to follow their party in its disgraceful course. It was by reason of the Democrats presenting an almost solid front to this scheme of plunder that it failed, but, as in the case of the frustration of the infamous Force Bill, they could not have succeeded without the assistance of a handful of Republican members acting in conjunction with the Democratic minority.

Shorn of its enormous proportions the original Shipping Bill has dwindled into the Postal Subsidy Bill which provides bounties only for vessels carrying the mails, which must be of a certain build and of American make. This has been passed by the Republican majority in the House and at the present writing is before the Senate. The bounties proposed are very liberal, but as the vessels required for carrying the mails are necessarily limited in number there is satisfaction in knowing that the subsidizing under this bill can't amount to the enormous jobs contemplated in the original Subsidy Bill.

Since writing the above the modified bill limiting the bounty to mail-carrying steamers has also passed the House and will no doubt be signed by the President.

The Lymph Probably a Failure.

Dr. Koch's lymph, as a cure for consumption, is not accepted by the Austrian, French, Italian and English physicians, who hold that its efficacy has not been demonstrated. Some of the German physicians also refuse to endorse it. In this country the physicians who have used it withhold their approval. The doctors of New York who have been experimenting with the lymph on about 350 patients consider it a disappointment and say that the claims set up for it are shown by their experiments to be unfounded. The New York Herald gives the opinion of several eminent practitioners to show that it is valueless as a diagnostic, that it does not cure consumption, and that it is not the specific it was thought to be. No one has proved it to have an elective affinity, as claimed, for tubercular tissue. Conservative men declare that the cure for consumption is quite as far beyond the reach of the profession as it was before the lymph was known.

CHAMBERS McKIBBIN, for many years a prominent figure in Pennsylvania Democratic politics, died at Chambersburg, Thursday last week, in his 93d year. He was a man of wide influence and filled many public positions, including Director of the Mint, Assistant U. S. Treasurer and Naval Officer. He had four sons in the army, and two, with a daughter, survive him. Mr. McKIBBIN was a man of high character on all occasions. For several years he was proprietor of the Merchant's hotel, Philadelphia, a great resort for Democratic politicians and statesmen.

There is no doubt that the Blaine boom has been fully launched on the troubled and uncertain sea of politics, and will be skillfully manipulated by the Premier for all that is in it until the next Republican nominating convention shall make its selection. In view of the insignificance of HARRISON, a comparison with whom is greatly to the advantage of BLAINE, the latter's chance of being nominated grows stronger every day.

Spawls from the Keystone.

A fire at Hyndman, Bedford county, caused a loss of \$10,000.

A clock owned by D. C. Shalr, of Trappe, has ticked since 1788.

A 30-year-old horse works on the farm of Dr. W. B. Erdman, of Macungie.

Citizens of Roscoe now have four mails a day and the business men are happy.

The store of Miss Lottie Lee, at Ashland, has been burglarized for the sixth time.

Felix Baugh, of Greenburg, has been arrested for shamefully abusing his sister.

The municipality of Harrisburg is threatened with a deficiency of nearly \$100,000.

Shamokin must pay Thomas Ramey \$1500 for the breaking of his leg in an open ditch.

Johnston's Board of Trade will pass upon the safety of all dams and booms of that vicinity.

David Jones, a colored barber of Chester, has been appointed a sub-carrier in the post office.

Isaac Johnson has been indicted for fatally kicking his wife at Pottstown on Christmas.

The Carpenter Steel Works, Reading, will double its working force to make Government projectiles.

The personal estate of Andrew H. Dill, late United States Marshal, has been inventoried at \$802,222.

Chester's Clan-na-gael Tuesday night celebrated the 11th anniversary of the birth of Robert Emmet.

At Scranton Edward Jones has been convicted of passing counterfeit money in Verona, Allegheny county.

The conference between the Connellville coke operators and the striking miners on Monday was fruitless.

Forty-five dollars and thirteen cents was added on Monday to the Doylestown Public School Saving Fund.

The Newton midget girl that weighed two pounds when 2 weeks old died last week, aged 3 months, and weighed five pounds.

Auctioneer Elias Eastburn, of Labaska, Bucks county, cried off \$25,000 worth of goods in two hours at Chester, the other day.

Pottstown Iron Works potters' wages go down on March 9 from \$3.25 to \$3.50 per ton and helpers' wages down to 37 cents a week.

William Fry and George Weaver, young men of York, have been held in \$1000 bail each for feloniously assaulting a little girl.

George Reed, of Bensalem township, Bucks county, while trimming trees, nearly cut his foot in two by the accidental slipping of his ax.

At a Rainer City (Schuylkill county) cakewalk on Monday evening, Anthony Hogans stabbed John Linemaster dangerously with a pocket knife.

Young Harry Metz pleaded guilty, to forgery at Norristown. He forged the names of most of his friends along the line of the Reading Railroad.

Lehigh county's tramp population has dwindled very suddenly from 1000 to 500 since the gentlemen of the road must break stone for the county's roads.

The "hop tea" sold by a Lehigh county saloon keeper proved to be an excellent quality of larger brew, and he has been held for violation of the Liquor law.

James Neff, who was acquitted of the murder of Drower McCausland, in Greens county, some time ago, is said to be running a saloon in Chester City, Dakota.

James Gable's wife, whom he feloniously assaulted at Reading a year ago, wants him released as a sick man from a three year sentence in the penitentiary.

The vendue sale of the effects of Samuel Mench, of Oley, was attended by 2000 persons, and a whole ox sandwiched between 100 loaves of bread was devoured.

The wife of William Stephenson, of Woods Run, was severely burned by her clothing catching fire from the stove. The doctor has no hope of her recovery.

Factory inspectors at Wilkesbarre have caused the discharge of 160 boys under 16 years of age, who had been working at the Lackawanna iron and steel mill.

Several trainmen of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad, who signed petitions for license applicants at Scranton, have been summarily discharged.

Dr. Abrams, a well known dentist of Brownville, was arrested for attempting to bribe a judge to reduce the alimony the court ordered his son to pay to his divorced wife.

Louis Hensel, William Coyle, and Abraham Kulp were held at Doylestown for trial on the charge of robbing cars of the Reading Railroad, of which they were employes.

On the farm of Ritto Bros., near Point Pleasant, Bucks county, Henry Broyle, of Bethlehem, is digging for a chest of gold that he thinks was buried there during the Revolution.

Tuesday at Poitstown during the temporary absence of his mother, Jennie A., a 3-year-old child of Marks Weissenberg, was burned to death by his clothing catching fire from the stove.

In opening the March term of court at Pittsburg Judge White spoke on the subject of liquor license and asked the people to furnish him with evidence against disreputable applicants.

The bill of Coroner Wakefield for holding inquests over bodies of Mammoth mine victims is said to be exorbitant, and the county commissioners have been advised to refuse payment. It is for \$79.91.

Ears muffled to keep out the cold, and not railway negligence, caused the death of Brackman Harry McFarland on the North Pennsylvania Road near Fort Washington. He couldn't hear the other train.

At the meeting of the Bowman Conference Rev. N. A. Barr was deposed from the ministry for calling the Rev. Sprong "the champion liar of America." Norristown was selected as the place for the next conference. Presiding elders were appointed and districts laid out.

A large number of representative Lancaster County farmers met and discussed the proposed road law. All were opposed to it. The men from the Western part of the State who were present as representatives, said that the West wanted the law, as their roads were in worse condition than those in the East.

The United States authorities arrested George Maud, editor of the Hazleton Sentinel, and H. E. Sutherland, a leading merchant of that place, on the charge of sending obscene and filthy letters through the mails to Rev. Peter Donohoe and others, charging Donohoe with indecencies and business dishonesty. Sutherland confessed to the United States Deputy Marshal.