

# Democratic Watchman

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Bellefonte, Pa., April 3, 1891.

P. GRAY MEEK, Editor

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## The Proposed Road Law.

Those of our readers who have noticed the views of Mr. AARON WILLIAMS on the proposed new road law, which is given elsewhere in this issue, have doubtless observed that he writes more in the spirit of a confirmed complainer than in that of an unbiased critic. Any one who has read the full text of the bill as given in the WATCHMAN last week, and then reads Mr. WILLIAM'S garbled and warped statement of what certain sections contain and require, will scarcely recognize them as belonging to the same measure.

Mr. WILLIAM'S principle trouble seems to be that farmers and others, if this bill becomes a law, will be compelled to pay their road taxes in money. Evidently this is the intent of the act, but at the same time it gives them an opportunity to work on the roads to the full amount, or even over the amount of the taxes charged against them, if they notify the supervisors of their wish to do so, and are willing to work at a time when their work is most advantageous to the public.

His next bother is that supervisors get no pay. He fails to note that they are not required or expected to do manual labor, and that for traveling expenses, light, stationery, etc., are allowed a sum not to exceed \$100. Like school directors with the schools, they are expected simply to have oversight and direction of the road taxes and roads, and plenty of good and public spirited men, in every township, will accept the position in order that they may aid in bettering the condition of the roads over which they travel. The man who demands pay for helping himself in this way, don't need to be a candidate for supervisor.

Another of Mr. WILLIAM'S complaints is, that the rich townships will receive more state aid than the poorer ones. This may be so if the amount of millage levied is the same. But in most of the richer or more densely populated districts, a much lower rate of millage is fixed than in the poorer or more sparsely settled townships. For instance: Worth township levies ten mills for road purpose while Harris levies but two. The ten mills in Worth ensure a larger sum for road expenditures than does the two mills in Harris, and as the State's appropriation is distributed in proportion to the whole amount of road tax levied in the respective districts, Worth would receive more state aid than would Harris.

A particularly weak point in the road bill, in Mr. WILLIAM'S opinion, is the provision allowing pay to the inspector who examines and reports as to whether the "permanent" roads made each year by the respective districts, are made in accordance with specifications furnished. This would possibly be a ten days job in this county, and if it is wrong to ask supervisors to oversee their own roads without pay for the time required, as Mr. WILLIAMS thinks it is, it certainly would be a double wrong to ask a disinterested party to spend his time and money inspecting roads, in order that others might get the benefit of the State appropriation. Notably the supervisors might do for inspectors, as Mr. WILLIAMS suggests, but as they are always tax payers of the townships in which they serve, it is possible that any kind of a made up road might be palmed off as "permanent" in order to secure the State aid. The only other objection Mr. WILLIAMS finds to the bill is the fact that it provides punishment for officials who

fail or refuse to carry out the provisions of the act. And why shouldn't it? A man who will accept a position and then refuse to fulfill its duties to the best of his ability, deserves to be punished, and we believe that every tax payer in the county will agree with us on this point.

We have written the foregoing, more to attract the attention of our people to the provisions of this act, than as an endorsement of it. It is crude and lame in many respects, but if it is in any way an improvement on our present worthless, and worse than worthless road laws, would it not be a step in the right direction to enact it into law, and then amend, as experience after giving it a trial, would indicate?

## The Militia and the Coke Strikers.

The Governor refused to respond to the call made on him by the coke operators for a military force to put down the turbulent strikers in the Connelville region. This naturally is not satisfactory to those who heretofore have found the military ready at hand for the settlement of labor troubles. Upon this subject the Altoona Tribune says:

The people who condemn Governor PATTERSON for refusing to loan the arms and equipments of the National Guard to the sheriff of Westmoreland county, do so without judgment. These are the property of the state and, as the adjutant general very properly says, must not pass out of the control of the National Guard. The statement that Governor BRAVER permitted such a use of the arms, as is suggested by the sheriff, is nothing to the purpose. Some officials have a clearer conception of responsibility than others. If the authorities of Westmoreland county officially notify the governor that a riot is in progress in the coke regions, against which they are powerless to contend, the arms will doubtless be promptly put at their service, but in the hands of the National Guard, their proper custodians. Rioters must be taught that the law is supreme and that it cannot safely be defied, but they must be taught this important lesson in a lawful way.

This is well said. There is no law for the employment of the militia of the State, or the use of the State arms, for the suppression of public disturbance unless the civil power is clearly incompetent to perform its function and the executive is regularly called upon to exercise its military authority in such an emergency.

## Beaver for Commissioner of Pensions.

Rumor of the removal of Pension Commissioner RAUM is again afloat, it being said that the President finds himself incapable of closing his eyes to the deficiencies and culpabilities of that official notwithstanding the thickness of the coat of whitewash applied to him by a sympathetic congressional committee. Current with this rumor is another to the effect that when General RAUM shall be bounced out of, Governor BRAVER will be bounced into the pension department, as the report is that he will be RAUM'S successor.

In our opinion BRAVER would be a great improvement on RAUM, as he has proved himself to be honest in official position, and there can be no question about his competency. But Mr. HARRISON is making his appointments with reference to his re-nomination for the Presidency, and it is doubtful whether he could see enough in Governor BRAVER for that object to justify giving him so important an office.

## The Proper Location.

The Lock Haven Democrat is of the opinion that if the congressional apportionment bill recently introduced in the Senate by the representative from this district, should happen to become a law, some of Clinton county's Democratic aspirants might have a show of getting to congress "after all." Understanding the situation as our contemporary undoubtedly does, the "after all" in this instance must mean "after all" other Democratic aspirants in the new district have been recognized and served. That would be about the date that an aspirant from a county that so basely betrayed its party and a candidate like MORTIMER F. ELLIOTT, as did Clinton last fall, would be due. "After all" is a good place for that kind of Democrat, at this time—it's their proper place in the political procession.

## With Greater Guile.

The rascally Republicans of Maine, who like the equally rascally ones of Pennsylvania, promised the people ballot reform without any intention of fulfilling their promise, having been frightened by the storm of indignation caused by the defeat of a reform ballot bill in the Legislature, have reconsidered their action and passed it under the pressure of public wrath. The Pennsylvania leaders are practicing their deception with more guile than was employed by the Maine Republicans, for instead of rejecting the ballot reform proposition outright and confronting the opprobrium incident to defied public sentiment, as in the Maine case, they are essaying to pass a bill from which essential features of the Australian system will be omitted.

## Words of Wisdom.

WADE HAMPTON has been retired from public life by the action of his constituents, but that untoward event in his political career has not diminished his interest in general politics. He showed his sagacity by some remarks he recently made to an interviewer on the effect of a certain course of political management adopted by his party. He said:

I think it will be a mistake to elect a Southern man as speaker. I think some good Northern or Western man should be selected. I think the Democratic party made a great mistake in the Fifty-fifth congress by electing a Southern man as speaker of the house and by giving the principal chairmanships of committees to Southern men. Again, I think the Democratic party made a mistake in the campaign of 1888 by flooding the North with Southern speakers. It is a bad policy. The voters resent it. If Northern speakers should be sent into the South, we should resent it. We know more about our own affairs than outsiders do. I think the Northern voters resented the fact of our sending them Southern speakers to instruct them in 1888.

The ex-Senator can not be charged with being affected by sectional feeling in expressing this view. He looks at the matter in the light of human nature, correctly believing that it is but human for the people of one section to be offended by what they may consider the interference of another section.

## Quite Apparent.

The Harrisburg correspondent of the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph says that "there is an apparent indisposition among the Republicans to take up the apportionment question." This indisposition is, indeed, quite apparent. The present congressional gerrymander, of their own creation, gives them an unfair and dishonest advantage which they prefer to have perpetuated. It is true the law requires them to make apportionments as soon as possible after the taking of a census, but the law is something that Pennsylvania Republican legislators have no respect for. They defiantly ignore it if it is for the benefit of their party to do so. As long ago as 1874 the organic law of the State directed certain restraints of corporate power and privilege, necessarily requiring legislation to enforce them, but a long succession of Republican Legislatures has persistently refused to obey this plain requirement of the fundamental law.

## Expensive Eulogies.

It is computed by congressman OATES, of Alabama, that the eulogies pronounced in congress over a dead member cost the government in printing and other incidental expenses, \$12,000. The cost wouldn't be so great if one member only were selected to rhetorically recount and enlarge upon the merits and virtues of the deceased statesman; but the trouble is that there is a general desire among those he left behind to air their eloquence by ventilating the excellent qualities of the departed. By the time all this mortuary slush is recorded and printed the cost runs into the thousands, and this frequently occurs where the deceased congressman hasn't been worth a fraction of that amount to the country. Then come the funeral expenses that have grown to be an expenditure of public money as exorbitant and vicious as it is ridiculous.

## A Question of Damages.

The New York World very neatly turns the tables on the Italian newspapers which are contending that the United States should pay money damages for the killing of the Mafia murderers at New Orleans, who were Italian subjects. It says:

They insist that three of the lynched men were Italian subjects, and contend that for their assassination the United States government is bound to pay an indemnity to their families. Now let us see whether this theory leads us. These men a little while ago murdered Mr. HENNESSY, chief of police of New Orleans. If they were Italian subjects, and if a nation is responsible in damages for murders done by its subjects upon the subjects or citizens of other countries, is not Italy bound to pay an indemnity to the family of Chief HENNESSY?

This is a logical proposition, and if the worth of the parties killed should be taken as the basis of damages, the amount to be paid for the killing of a respectable and useful American policeman should be vastly more than the compensation for a lot of criminals whom some of the Italian newspapers admit to have been galley slaves and assassins before they migrated to America.

## Foreign Exhibits.

A monopoly tariff organ, commenting upon the fact that Great Britain, Spain and France have accepted the invitation of the United States to send exhibits to the Chicago fair, remarks, with something resembling a chuckle, that "the free trade papers that upheld so loudly that our tariff would keep all foreign nations from being represented at Chicago in 1893 are maintaining a very becoming silence on that subject just at present."

Upon the occasion of a World's Fair nations like Great Britain, France,

Spain, and others of Europe, want to be represented for the sake of appearance, at least, even if the exhibition be held in a country that is so exclusive as to bar out their productions. But the question is, to what extent will the producers of those countries think it worth while to exhibit under such circumstances? They may, however, be moved by the belief that the barbarism of an almost prohibitive tariff would be allowed to continue long in a country that professes to be enlightened, and such a consideration may induce them to participate in the exhibition. It is impossible for them to believe that the Americans will be content to have their country perpetually enclosed by a Chinese wall.

## Rioting in the Coke Regions.

The Rioters Use Dynamite in Blowing Up Coke Ovens.

MOUNT PLEASANT, Pa., March 30.—Sunday evening the striking coke workers began gathering at the Morewood, Standard, Alice and Bridgeport plants. At 2 o'clock Monday morning the strikers concentrated their forces on the hills around the Morewood plant. Morewood is admirably situated for a raid. Shortly after 2 o'clock 2,000 strikers, armed with clubs, iron bars, stones, revolvers and other weapons, commenced firing revolvers and made a dash toward the ovens. The deputies hearing the bullets whiz by their heads uncomfortably close, commenced seeking places of safety.

The strikers then began tearing up the larry tracks for a distance of 500 or 600 feet. They then destroyed twelve or more coke ovens, burned other property, tore down fences and committed other depredations until 5 o'clock in the morning.

The marauders finished up their work by thrusting coke oven scrapers into the burning ovens, piling up in a heap a dozen wheelbarrows and making a bonfire of them. They also knocked in many ovens from the inside.

So far as known now no one has been seriously injured. Six of the men have been arrested. SCOTTSBURG, Pa., March 30.—Rioting prevailed throughout the coke region Monday. The Jintown works were raided by 1,500 strikers, and the twenty workmen there were driven from the yard in great confusion. Work was to be started at the Morewood plant in the morning, but the strikers prevented this.

A dynamite bomb was exploded at the Leisenring No. 3 plant, which tore a hole six feet deep in the ground, but no one was seriously injured. Great disorder prevailed at the Leith and Leisenring and other plants. Eight of the rioters at Leith were arrested.

All the Frick works are heavily guarded by deputies, and the managers say if necessary they will call on the state militia. Further troubles are expected.

PITTSBURG, March 30.—The trouble in the coke regions has assumed a new phase and now threatens to develop into a war between the operators and labor organizations. Mr. Frick claims that the men are satisfied with the scale of wages he offered, but that the labor leaders will not permit them to return to work, as their position depends on the success of the strike. The fight from this time on will be bitter.

GREENSBURG, Pa., March 30.—Several of the raiders have been arrested and brought to Greensburg jail. Great excitement prevails throughout the coke country, and serious trouble is apprehended.

## The Hearst Funeral Picnic.

A dispatch from St. Louis, dated the 26th, says: This morning the Hearst funeral congressional party came into the Union depot over the Iron Mountain road, and left on the Vandalia. Just behind the funeral party came the Grafton excursion train, and on the latter was Mrs. H. M. Gougar, the noted temperance lecturer, of Vincennes, Ind., and her husband.

The Grafton excursion train was to run to Chicago, but Mrs. Gougar said that she did not propose to longer follow a train on board of which disgrace was heaped on the nation and a funeral party turned into a drunken junket.

Mrs. Gougar said: "On our way back we caught up with the Hearst excursion train at El Paso, Tex., and from there to St. Louis we were only a short way behind it. Such disgraceful proceedings on the part of men high in the government service I never saw. The baggage car was full of wine and champagne. From the dining-room of the Grafton train we could see tier after tier of wine boxes stacked up while side-tracked within a few feet of the other train. When it was found impossible to again get the baggage car on the track without long delay the dignified Senators and honored Congressmen came out there to see that they got the wine which was theirs, and each box appeared to have a private mark. There were some harsh words passed by the men, which added to the disgracefulness of the affair."

## The Strongest Man.

Congressman Kilgore, of Texas, says: "I think Mr. Cleveland the strongest man in the country for the race of 1892, and that the Republican party fear him more than any other man named. That party hopes to see him eliminated from the contest by the Democracy making the free, unlimited and independent coinage of silver the paramount issue of the campaign of 1892. These Republican leaders hope to see the Democracy relegate to a subordinate position in the platform of 1892 that great overshadowing question—that question of surpassing magnitude and importance—the exorbitant and unjust taxation under whose burdens the people are already 'bent double' and whose exactions have filled the land with poverty and want. The party has plenty of material from which to select its candidates, but Mr. Cleveland has been tried. He has been found to be true, able, pure and brave—in perfect harmony with the Democracy upon the great and fundamental issue upon which the party has fought a thousand battles and won a thousand victories."

## A Little Pension Story

Which Helps to Explain Why It Takes a Billion Dollars to Run the Government.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald, among other cases illustrative of the methods of the Pension Office, gives the following:

Wm. S. Odell, pension attorney at Washington, formerly department commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, pensioned in 1878 at the rate of \$4 a month for a gun shot wound in the right thigh, resulting in varicose veins; increased in March, 1880, to \$6 a month.

Now, look at this for a moment. Mr. Odell applied in 1885 for an increase; application rejected. He applied again in February, 1886, for increase and re-rating, and both were rejected. He applied in March of the same year to have the case reopened, and that was rejected.

In each of these cases the rejection was made on the ground that the claimant had no case. Why? Well, when the claimant was carefully examined by the Board of Surgeons at Madison, Ind., in 1887 they found that the varix was worse in the neighborhood of an old fracture of the tibia, which the soldier says occurred when he was 10 years of age. It is the opinion of the Board that it (the varix) is due to that cause rather than the gun shot wound.

That seems to offer a conclusive explanation and a bar against future applications from Mr. Odell, doesn't it?

But, as a bar, certainly it was a failure. In May, 1889, he appeared with his fourth application and promptly got a re-rating at \$6 a month from the date of discharge.

Did it satisfy Mr. Odell? Not by a good deal. On the 21st of the same month he was back again with another application and a modest request that the bureau be quick about it. Well, he was Department Commander of the Grand Army; they made it a forty-eight hour case. The next day he got his increase and re-rating at \$6 a month from the date of discharge, September, 1864, to December, 1879; \$8 a month from December, 1879, to May, 1889, and \$24 a month afterward.

Apparently Mr. Odell is no hog. Having got these good things so easily for himself he didn't object to what was left being passed around to the rest of the family. On receipt of his last grab from the national money box he telegraphed to his brother, Jas. M. Odell, who was living in Texas:

"Pensions are running wild. Come on!"

So James came on by the first train. He was then getting \$5 a month for a gun shot wound in the face. His brother put in an application for an increase and wanted no delay about it, either. So it was also made a forty-eight hour case, and increase and re-rating granted at the rate of \$8 a month from the date of discharge to April, 1884; \$9 a month from April, 1884, to November, 1887; \$11 a month from November, 1887, to August, 1888, and \$17 a month afterward.

James seems to have "come on" at a right good time.

## Blaine as He Is.

Marks That Cannot be Covered by His New Mantle.

An Ohio Blaine organ bursts forth into adulation of the tattooed idol of its party as follows: "Blaine is so great that the mind instinctively refuses to class him with the average run of cabinet ministers. He is more than a mere politician—he is a statesman, and the greatest living one in this country. He stands in a class by himself."

This organ does not seem to realize that Blaine is great by comparison only. Standing among the pigmies of the Republican party as he does, he certainly towers; but placed by the side of the men who made the republicanism grow to what insignificant proportions he shrinks! Mr. Blaine is a man of craft, a man of political resources, an astute leader, but he is not a statesman. In all his political life his name is linked with nothing that is not a political device or a personal scheme. To every lip his connection with schemes of public robbery arise when the demand for the retooling of his public services is made. He is the man with a gun behind the breast-works of the Pacific railroad ring that Mr. Edmunds described him; he is the man who was sunstruck in danger of investigation by a congressional committee; he is the man who would have taken advantage of the necessities of arrested Peru to secure to himself and his friends the guano deposits of that republic; he is the Mulligan letter-writer; the caster of anchors; a statesman whose statescraft is "Burn this." Discredited and defeated by the votes of his fellow-citizens he has been rehabilitated by his party, but the new garments are so tight to conceal the tattoo marks that disfigure him.

## Made Crazy by the Cigarette Habit.

HAZELTON, Pa., March 27.—Yesterday Mike Catzon was taken to the Middle coal field poor district almshouse at Laurytown. He was a young Hungarian who had become thoroughly Americanized. He had even adopted the pernicious habit of cigarette smoking. Packs of them were consumed daily by him and a short time ago the habit began to show its effect upon the young man's mind. Medical aid was resorted to but without avail. He grew gradually worse until the mania was such as to cause alarm. Fear was entertained that in his ravings he might injure himself or friends, and to avoid this he was taken to the asylum for the insane at Laurytown. Some time last night he succeeded in taking his life. He had fastened a piece of wire to the top of a window to which he attached his suspenders and tying the latter around his neck, he literally choked himself to death.

Mr. McKinley thinks his tariff cannot be changed for ten years. One of the lunny notions common to tariff thinkers is that their work will stand. All experience shows the contrary. There is nothing more transitory and uncertain than the life of a tax rate.—Record.

## For the WATCHMAN.

### The Proposed New Road Law.

In the WATCHMAN of last week is published the proposed new road law as passed by the Senate. As there may be some farmers and others interested in the said bill who have not read it, I desire to call their attention to the bill as published, and point out some portions of it which seem to me to be objectionable, so that those who may not have read the bill may examine it, and if they have objections to any part of it they should make it known to our Representatives before it is too late to be heard. That there is need of improvement in the manner of making roads in the country is admitted by all; but that there are several provisions in the bill that are objectionable to many farmers and others, particularly those living in the thinly settled portions of the country, is evident to any one who has conversed with those living there.

Section 5 of said bill takes from the tax payers the privilege of working out their road taxes and compels them to pay the tax in money, which if not paid by the first of October in each year shall have five per cent. added thereto as a penalty for delinquency.

Section 8 provides that there shall be three supervisors elected in each township, who shall receive no compensation for their service, all they are allowed being what they expend for traveling expenses and stationery. Section 15 provides that it shall be the duty of the county commissioners to appoint a person to travel around and inspect the work after it has been done on the roads under direction of the supervisors, or road masters appointed by them, before the supervisors can accept the work, and the person so appointed to inspect the work is to receive three dollars per day, while the supervisors work for nothing and board themselves.

Why are not the supervisors, who are as likely to be men of good judgment as the person appointed by the commissioners, as competent as he to decide whether or not the work is properly done?

Section 17 provides that the moneys appropriated by the legislature for road purposes shall be divided among the several townships in proportion to the amount of road taxes collected and expended by each township in making roads, so that the wealthy townships that are able to raise a large amount of road tax will get the largest share of the appropriation, while the poor and more sparsely settled townships where they are less able to pay the tax, and each individual burden is heavier and there are more roads to make and keep in repair, will get less appropriation because they cannot pay as much tax as the more wealthy and densely settled portions of the country. Which simply means that those townships most needing help from the State will get the least, perhaps none, without any fault of theirs.

Section 21 provides a penalty of fine and imprisonment for the farmer or other person who has been elected supervisor to serve without pay, and who neglects or refuses to perform all the duties set forth in the bill. Now it does not seem to be doing justice to the farmer or any other person that he should be compelled to leave his own business and serve the public without pay, with duties more difficult to perform than were those of supervisors in the past when they were paid for their services. It is contrary to the adage that "the laborer is worthy of his hire."

And with reference to that portion of the bill which takes from the tax payers the privilege of working out their taxes and compels them to pay the money. It will be a hardship to many farmers of limited means who are already so burdened with money taxes that it is all they can do to stay on the farm and live, and this law takes from them the only chance they had to work out any portion of their numerous taxes and save paying it in money.

But some one who does not own any farm property, and perhaps never paid a dollar of road tax, says it is just as easy for the tax payer to pay the money as to work it out. But the man who has not the money to pay with, and does not know where it is to come from, would much rather work and help make the road than to have to go and find some thing to do to earn the money to pay his road tax. But an advocate of the new law says, a few more dollars to be paid in money by the farmer or laborer will make no difference; but it does make a difference to the tax payer. There is a last straw on every burden, and when a man is carrying all he can, it is wrong to load more on him in the shape of money taxes. I have heard men who never owned a farm, but who have their money invested in some profitable enterprise, say that they would not own a farm because it would not pay, and yet those same men are in favor of taking from the people the privilege of working out their road taxes and compelling them to pay in money. But those who pay the road taxes should be the best judges as to what their interest is in this matter, and if after careful examination of the provisions of the proposed law, they believe any of its provisions are against their interests, they should so inform their Representatives so that they may know the sentiments of their constituents before casting their final vote on the bill.

AARON WILLIAMS.

—Gregg Post, G. A. R., of this place, will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Grand Army of the Republic by interesting services in its hall next Monday evening, April 6th.

BIG LAW SUIT.—On Wednesday evening Judge Orvis returned home from Pottsville where he had been employed for 110 days as one of the counsel in the dig Shepp-Coxe land case. It took 79 days to take the testimony which covered over 5000 pages of type writing. Judge Orvis, and James Ryan, esq., of Pottsville, represented the plaintiffs, and are represented to have got each \$50 a day for their services. The defendants were represented by Hon. S. P. Wolverton, of Sunbury, and S. H. Kaercher, esq., of Pottsville.

The following letters remain in the Bellefonte P. O., unclaimed, March 18th, 1891: Bean Turner & Co., John Burdick, Olearia Clarke, Luanna Hendings, J. E. Jackson, Jane Klinefelter, Michael McGillen, William Meahan, Mrs. James Robbins, Anna M. Shaffer, Mary A. Wilson, Mrs. Maggie Wetzel.

When called for please say advertised.

J. A. FIEDLER, P. M.

—H. Dick, of East Boston, wants fleas. He advertised for them in the morning papers, and when seen recently said: "Oh, yes, I want fleas. I am a trainer of fleas. I educate them to do tricks, and run a flea circus. In thirty-six hours I can make a good intelligent flea do most any trick."