

No Protection for "the Poor Man's Cow."

When the fence law of 1700 was repealed by the Legislature in 1889, we contended that it was an injury to people of limited means who owned a few head of cattle and pastured them on the highway or in the unenclosed woods which are of such wide extent and of so little value for any other purpose in this region. That act provided that if fields or woods were not enclosed by such a fence as was therein prescribed, cattle going upon such unenclosed or insufficiently enclosed property were not trespassing, and that their owners could not be held for damages on account of such intrusion, and further that if they were injured by the owners of such property on account of such intrusion their owners could recover damages for such injury.

This protection to the interests of the poorer class of people owning cattle and depending upon chance pasturage, continued from the year 1700 to the year 1889, when the Legislature repealed the act of 1700 by passing a law which makes the poor man's cow a trespasser whether the land upon which it enters is enclosed by a fence or lays as open as a common, and it makes its owner liable for damage, and the animal may be killed or injured without his having any right to redress.

At the time this act of 1889 was passed repealing the fence law of 1700, we spoke of the hardship and injury it would inflict upon the persons in poor circumstances and the small tenant farmers who had a few cattle that picked their living by the wayside or in the woods. The loss to them would be particularly felt in the unenclosed localities of this region where unenclosed tracts afford abundant pasturage for cattle and have always been of great advantage to cattle owners of limited means.

When the act of 1889 made the owners of cattle responsible for damages, considerable feeling was excited in this region among the class of people affected thereby, inasmuch as it shut off their stock from an accustomed source of subsistence. This feeling, however, was allayed by the discovery, as was supposed, that while the act of 1889 repealed the fence law of 1700 which had favored the poor man's cow generally through the State, it did not repeal the act of 1784 which was passed specially for the counties of Bedford, Northumberland, Washington, Westmoreland and Fayette. It was held that this special law still remained intact and held good for Centre county on account of its having been formed out of part of Northumberland county.

But it now appears that this special act of 1784 is no longer in force. Judge KREBS, of Clearfield county, says that the Supreme Court has decided that it was repealed by the act of the 11th of April, 1862, and has not been in force since that time. Therefore the effect of the fence law of 1889, all over the State, without any exceptional localities, Judge KREBS says, is that "the owners of all horses, cattle, swine, or other domestic animals must now fence them in; or if he permits them to run at large and they trespass upon the land of another and damage the owner thereof, he or she is liable to be sued for the damage thus done, and it is no longer a defence in such action to show that the owner of the damaged property had fences or had no fence at all."

This settles the question. When the act of 1889 was passed we said that it would destroy the benefit which the poor man and the small tenant farmer derived from the pasturage by the wayside and in the woods, a benefit of much importance to many worthy people in this region—none the less worthy because they are poor. But those who upheld the action of the Legislature in this matter represented that it did not affect this region, as the act of 1784 was not repealed thereby. This deception is clearly dispelled by Judge KREBS's declaration that the Supreme Court has decided that the special provisions of that act were repealed as far back as 1862. The poor man's cow and the little herd of the tenant farmer can no longer subsist upon the herbage growing along the roads and in the woods without the danger of subjecting their owner to an action for damages.

The Senatorial Apportionment Bill introduced in the Senate on Wednesday by Mr. MEEK, of this District, is pronounced to be a very fair one, and should give satisfaction to both parties.

The Tax Bill.

We call attention to an article in another column in regard to the tax legislation now pending in the Legislature. The necessity for a more just and equal system of taxation in this State which it urges cannot be questioned, and if the bill now under consideration shall equitably and fairly distribute the tax burden among all classes of our citizens capable of bearing their just share, it will be a consummation greatly beneficial to the general interests of the State and promotive of the welfare and contentment of its people.

The bill as originally reported has been subjected to severe criticism, much of which no doubt has come from misconception, and many of the objections may be removed by amendments that are likely to be made. The bill is the result of a compromise between the representatives of the County Commissioners' association and the State Grange, and its purpose is to make the tax on real estate and other forms of property more equal, for state, county and township purposes, and to subject to taxation property that is now entirely exempt. While the main object is honestly conceived, the bill as it stands is by no means perfect; but there having been so long a desire for a tax system that will be more equal and impartial in its burdens than the one provided by the present law, it is to be hoped that the measure now before the Legislature will come as near as possible to an equalization of taxation, and if this object is fairly embodied in the bill, without any ulterior purpose of favoritism, we doubt not that it will receive the support of the Democratic members.

The wires are being quietly laid by the office-holders for the renomination of President HARRISON, a movement that receives the heartiest encouragement from that individual. The National League of Republican Clubs, which is largely under office holding influence, has earnestly taken hold of this work and is capable of doing much in the way of electing delegates that will be for HARRISON. But to the majority of the party HARRISON is not acceptable, BLAINE evidently being preferred as the Presidential candidate. Considering the power of administration machinery, HARRISON has the best chance of being nominated.

Last week a remarkable event occurred in the far south sea in the formation of an Australian confederacy. The representatives of the different colonial governments of Australia met at Sidney and united the whole island continent in one confederation to be called the Commonwealth of Australia, imitating the union of the American States and adopting a constitution similar to the American constitution. The new commonwealth will be more independent of the British government than Canada is, the only tie that shall bind it to England being a governor appointed by the English sovereign. Thus peacefully was established what in time will be one of the great nations of the earth.

BLAINE certainly has reason to be mad. He invited Canadian delegates to come down to Washington and between them they would do a little reciprocity business. But BENJAMIN heard of Jim's arrangement, and, as he was about starting for the West on a political trip, and didn't want any reciprocity scheme concocted without having a hand in it, the arrangement had to be declared off and the Canadians returned home with nothing to show for the expense and trouble of their journey. It isn't unreasonable to believe that BLAINE will be doing some suppressed swearing in the privacy of the State Department while HARRISON is "swinging around the circle" receiving the plaudits of the office-holders.

The Sligo election in Ireland last week was another test of PARNELL's strength, and like that at Tipperary some months ago, resulted in another crushing defeat of the leader whose misbehavior has ruined his reputation and destroyed his influence. The contest was a hot one in which blackguardism and bludgeons played the leading part. It is evident that PARNELL has become obnoxious to the Irish people, and he should have decency enough to desist from trying to keep himself at the head of the national movement.

Mr. CARTER, ex-Representative from Montana and ex-Secretary of the Republican Congressional Committee, knows how to speak the right word at the right time. A week or two ago he was in New York and told a reporter, with confidence that he would print it, that he thought HARRISON would be nominated by acclamation. A few days thereafter the President appointed him Commissioner of the General Land office.

Advancing Enlightenment.

Governor HILL wrote a letter to a meeting in New York last week in which he declared that he was not a free trader. In this he was in accord with Democratic profession and policy. The Democratic party does not favor free trade, but it is earnestly desirous of reforming a defective tariff system by reducing oppressive duties. It has been a part of the deceptive tactics of the Republicans to represent this as being free trade, a falsehood that is resorted to for political effect.

GROVER CLEVELAND is the great apostle of tariff reform. He was the first American statesman who in an important public document deliberately and circumstantially pointed out the evils and injuries of excessive tariff taxation and recommended the reduction of exorbitant duties. But he by no means advised their abolishment, which would be free trade. He showed how under a tariff unnecessarily high trusts were brought into existence and the people were being oppressed instead of being protected. The remedy would naturally be the reduction of such a tariff. This was dishonestly construed by his enemies as meaning free trade. On this subject, however, there is more enlightenment than there was when CLEVELAND issued his tariff reform message. Enlightenment dispels the impression which falsehood has temporarily produced.

The Italian Flurry.

The flurry over the Italian difficulty has subsided, it being apparent that the disposition of Italy was not as hostile as the incident of her Minister's withdrawal indicated. Notwithstanding its diplomatic importance, the Italian government is convinced by this time that the American government can not proceed any faster than it has proceeded in a matter with which one of the State governments is connected, and that it damages are due it will require some time to ascertain the facts. It is evident that the Italians tried to play a game of bluff, and that for its success they depended upon the strength of their navy as compared with the naval weakness of the United States; but notwithstanding this advantage they have no inclination to go to war with a nation whose vast resources would overcome in the end the disadvantage it would suffer in the beginning of the contest.

The Judicial Apportionment.

The Judicial Apportionment Bill read in place in the Senate on Tuesday by Mr. WILLIAMSON, proposes to divide the State into Fifty-one judicial districts. By it some of the districts are diminished in territorial extent, while others are enlarged, with an increase in the number of their judges. It makes Centre a separate district, number Forty-nine, with one President Judge, this of course dispensing with the Associates, who would drop off as their terms expired. Judge RILEY may be the last Associate Judge in this county. Clinton and Elk are put together, with one Judge; Northumberland and Union together, with two Judges. We give these as samples of the changes it would make. The people are to a considerable extent interested in the composition of judicial districts, but it is chiefly interesting to lawyers who are judicially ambitious.

See how business is booming for the workmen under MCKINLEY's tariff! It fairly makes them dizzy to look at the impetus that has been given their industry. There is the Sheldon Axle Works, at Wilkesbarre, which has reduced the work of its 900 employes ten hours a week, lack of orders being the reason. There are the Reading Iron Company's employes striking because they won't accept the reduced wages offered them; and then there are the puddlers of the Pottstown Iron Company, notified that a reduction of 25 cents a ton must be made on their wages. Who says that Major MCKINLEY hasn't made things hum?

When Mr. Ross in the Senate the other day moved an amendment that would add the Attorney General as one of the auditors provided by the bill directing the settlement of Governor BEAVER's accounts in the expenditure of the State money for the relief of Johnstown, the Republicans acted injudiciously in opposing and defeating the amendment. We have no doubt that the Governor honestly and conscientiously dispensed the State's charity in that calamitous instance, but the Republicans acted of if there was something which they wanted to conceal.

The Bill introduced by the representative from this Senatorial district, as an amendment to the Brooks law, providing for the granting of liquor license upon the basis of population, passed the Senate finally on Tuesday.

If municipal elections mean anything, the Democrats have no reason to be discouraged with those which within the past week have come off in Illinois and Ohio. In Chicago two Democratic candidates for Mayor were running, and yet, according to latest reports, the regular Democratic candidate, CREIGHT, has been elected by a small majority. If there had been no division the usual Democratic majority would have been rolled up. Cincinnati and Cleveland were carried by the Republicans, but not to an extent that can be encouraging to them, while in Columbus the Democrats gained a sweeping victory, obtaining control of the entire city government for the first time in fifteen years.

Lively descriptions are given in the papers of the activity that prevailed in the cities on the 1st inst. among the sugar men in shipping cheap sugar to all parts of the country. The duty had been taken off and every body was being supplied with the sweet stuff at a reduced price. The tariff on it having been removed, the people were being allowed to have the benefit of its removal. Whoever says that the tariff isn't a tax hit him over the head with a sack of sugar.

At the State election last week the Democrats again carried Rhode Island, gaining a plurality of the votes for their candidate for Governor; but as there is a clog in the State constitution requiring a majority over all, the State Legislature will give the office to the Republican candidate who wasn't elected by the people.

The Revenue Bill.

Erin Morning Dispatch. Within the past few days there has been a most vicious, unfair, unwarranted clamor against the so-called Grangers' tax bill, or revenue measure, now pending in the Senate at Harrisburg. The bill has passed the House by a decisive majority and as the Legislature is not in session this week the recess is an opportune time for study and reflection upon the measure. If it is a bad bill it ought to be defeated; if a good measure it ought to be enacted.

Having the sanction of a large majority in the Assembly, the presumption arises that the measure is in the main a good one, and the burden of proof is upon those who assert the contrary. Too far attacks upon the bill have been too vague and general in their character to command serious attention. It is true that the state has been flooded with posters and handbills, setting forth in part some features of the measure and condemning in unmeasured terms those portions thus referred to. But after a careful and unprejudiced review of the entire act as it passed the House, the Dispatch is bound to say that the bill is a whole is fair, that the object it seeks to attain is a worthy one, that the injustice it will correct is admittedly grave and that its provisions are not so inimical to the people's interests as its enemies would teach the public to believe.

It should be understood, at the start, that this is a measure "to provide revenue for local purposes, by the taxation of real estate, personal and corporate property." It does not interfere with the levy and collection of taxes for state purposes, but aims to relieve the burden of local taxation, which is confessedly too heavy upon real estate.

The people are clamoring for the equalization of taxation. Nobody claims that our present tax laws are just or equal. Real estate now bears an unjustly large portion of the cost of maintaining schools, courts, jails, hospitals, city and township governments, etc. The only way to equalize this burden is to extend the taxing power to other forms of property. And if, therefore, personal property is made to bear a small share of local expenses, as no one doubts it should, the law must be so framed as to make a fair and full return of taxable property.

Tax-payers are generally honest, but a tax law which fails to secure a full return from dishonest tax-payers is unjust to the honest portion. A law which compels an honest return of taxable property must be somewhat inquisitorial, as are all tax laws, more or less. The proposed law is no more inquisitorial than the present law. The clamor against it is raised by those whose taxation it increases. That is selfish, at best, and would much rather have his neighbors pay the expenses of government than to assist with his own money.

Take the railroads, for instance. The proposed law imposes a tax of four mills, to be paid directly to the several counties, upon the average value of each railroad, telephone, telegraph and other transportation or transmission company, apportioned per mile upon the line, buildings, lands, rolling stock etc., in each county. Such a tax would reduce the county levy in Erie county by at least one half, probably more, and this and lightning of that burden would be felt by every property-owner, whether farmer, mechanic or millionaire. It would be especially welcome to owners of small properties, whether in city or country, who find it hard work to support their families, pay their taxes and hold their little homes clear from incumbrance.

The school revenues are proposed to be helped out by a two-mill tax on mortgages, bonds and other interest-bearing securities, and by a ten-mill tax (less the state tax) upon the gross earnings of all private bankers and unincorporated banks and savings institutions. The bankers and money-lenders object to this proposition, of course; but the hard working mechanics and laborers, the tolling farmers and small property owners of every class will be glad of a law which provides new sources of revenue for school support, and thus lightens the burden of taxation for that purpose.

rate as real estate, for local purposes, except that \$300 worth is exempted. Those who own less than that amount of personal property will not be taxed for it. Those who own more are able to pay the small rate that will be necessary. Under this provision of the law it is entirely probable that the county levy in Erie will be reduced to one mill; that the city levy will drop to half its present rate, and the school tax to one-third its present rate. Who dares assert that the accomplishment of this result is not a positive and substantial gain to the people at large?

The proposed law is liberal in its exemptions. All government and municipal property, public institutions, hospitals, schools, churches, parks, cemeteries, public monuments, benevolent and charitable institutions, with their furniture, apparatus, books, etc., are exempt from taxation for all purposes named in the act except for lighting and paving the streets and building sewers in cities and boroughs. Nothing more could be asked under this heading.

Penalties are provided for fraudulent returns by the assessor or tax-payer, and the usual machinery of the law made available for the enforcement of all the provisions of the act.

Now what is there in this to kick up a great row about? Corporations must pay more taxes than before, if this bill passes—but that is only simple justice. Money lenders and bankers must pay more tax upon their "moneys and credits," but the load upon their real estate will be lighter. Manufacturers, merchants, and other business men pay more in one direction and save it in another. No more money is collected from the people than before—less, in fact, by the increased taxation of corporations. Is this a measure to be scoffed at and ridiculed? Is it not rather just what its framers sought to make it—a law to equalize the burden of taxation, to shift some of the load from the weary shoulders of certain classes to other and abler support?

The Dispatch wishes to hear from its readers upon this question. It is timely and important. Our legislators want to know the public sentiment toward tax equalization, as attempted in this bill. Talk up the situation, tax-payers!

Bloodshed in the Coke Region.

Nine Riotous Strikers Killed and About Forty Wounded.

About 3 o'clock Thursday morning of last week a mob about 500 Hungarian and other foreign strikers began rioting at the Standard Works near Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland county, known as the Morewood plant, belonging to Frick & Co. They destroyed some of the company's property and then proceeded to cut the telephone and telegraph lines of the coke company so that no warnings could be sent to the people at Morewood. About three o'clock a party of rioters, between 400 and 500 strong, marched to Morewood.

In the meantime the company's employes at the Standard works hurriedly repaired the telephone lines and sent word to Morewood that the strikers would attack the works in three places, and had a well laid plan to destroy the whole plant. The deputy sheriffs were soon on readiness to receive the attack. The men were divided into three parties, Captain Lohr having charge of the party that was placed behind the big gates of the barn and stable inclosure. As the rioters passed the company's store they made an attack on it and raided it as far as they could in a brief time, making the windows and doing other damage. They then marched to the barn inclosure and attempted to break down the gates.

When the mob advanced towards the fence an order to halt was given, but the only attention it received was the firing of three shots by the members of the mob, who turned and made a dash toward the stables. The guards followed the command to halt was again given. This was answered with yells and threats. Again was the command given and again came the mocking answer and the order to fire was given by Captain Lohr. The volleys from the few rounds were necessary to drive the frightened rioters back into the hills, where hundreds of their fellow strikers had gathered in anticipation of assisting in the raid, but not in a battle with such a determined band of guards. The firing on both sides continued hardly three minutes.

The volleys from the guards had a terrible effect on the compact mass of strikers, while the latter made an attempt to return the fire with the few weapons that they possessed, but without effect. The dead, amounting to seven in number, were left lying in the road, while the wounded, estimated at between forty and fifty, were either assisted or carried to the hills by their fellows. It will be noticed that all the men killed bear foreign names and it is a fact that none of them were naturalized citizens of this country. Two of the wounded are reported dead, making the number killed nine in all.

On Saturday the bodies of the seven dead rioters were buried in the Catholic cemetery at Soudale, the funeral being attended by a crowd of their sympathizing friends which was estimated to number more than 10,000. Intense excitement prevailed, but an outbreak was prevented by the influence of the leaders and the priests.

TROOPS SENT BY THE GOVERNOR.

Upon the call of the Sheriff of Westmoreland county, stating that he was unable to preserve the peace and suppress the disturbance, Governor Pattison ordered the Tenth and Eighteenth Regiments of the National Guards to go to his assistance and to maintain order. They are now upon the scene of the riotous proceedings and order has been restored, but the feeling is still intense among the striking foreigners and their sympathizers.

CANCERS.—Thousands of cancers are permanently removed by entirely new and original methods without pain, loss of blood, or the use of plaster or knife. For book on Cancer (sent free) address Surgical Hotel, Columbus, Ohio.

DR. S. B. HARTMAN, Pres't.

—Read the WATCHMAN for political and general news.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

MILLINERY OPENING.—Thursday of next week has been settled on as the day on which Mrs. Rob't Gilmore will hold her grand spring opening. All the latest styles and shapes in hats and bonnets will be displayed on her counters, and an exceptional feature of the day will be the exhibit of the many beautiful laces which Mrs. Gilmore has been collecting. It is the finest line ever brought to Bellefonte.

FESTIVAL AT MILESBURG.—The Ladies' Social Circle connected with the Milesburg Baptist church, will hold a fair and festival in that place on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 10th and 11th, in the basement of the church. It promises to be a grand event. The proceeds will go toward paying the balance of the debt on the parsonage. The pastor, Rev. T. B. Cross, assisted by his congregation, has been working hard the last year to get a nice parsonage, and the people of Milesburg should give them a helping hand.

SHEPP-COXE.—The great ejection case which has been trying at Pottsville for the last seventeen weeks has been closed. The jury brought in a verdict for the defendant on last Friday morning. More than usual interest was taken in the case by people hereabouts owing to the fact that ex-Judge J. H. Orvis was one of the leading attorneys for the plaintiff, and as there was such eminent men employed on both sides it was hoped that the decision would have been just the reverse of what it was.

The case was over a property valued at \$10,000, and its trial—this being the second time—has cost about \$30,000.

CHURCH COUNCIL.—An ecclesiastical council met at Port Matilda, April 7th, 1891, at 10:30 a. m., for the purpose of recognizing the Baptist church of Port Matilda as a regularly constituted Baptist church. The council was organized by electing Rev. S. L. Forgas, of Bellwood, moderator, and Rev. C. H. Fitzwilliams as clerk. The following churches sent delegates: Logans Valley, Tyrone, Evert, Unionville, Bald Eagle, Liberty and Port Matilda, enrolling fourteen delegates.

After the organization the council adjourned to meet at 1:30 p. m., at which time the council reassembled. After singing and prayer the following resolution was offered by Rev. T. B. Cross, of Milesburg.

Resolved, That this council recognize this as a regularly constituted and organized Baptist church, under the name, right and title of Port Matilda Baptist church. This was unanimously adopted and the following were appointed as a committee of arrangements: Rev. T. B. Cross, S. S. Miles and John Cridger, who presented the following as the order of services which was carried out. Reading of Scriptures and prayer by Rev. Cross, of Milesburg; sermon by Rev. Fitzwilliams, of Tyrone, who preached from Gal. 3:3, "For ye are dead and your life is hid in Christ with God." It was an eloquent and faithful presentation of the inner life of the Christian.

Rev. Bargas, of Eagleville, offered the prayer of recognition; Rev. M. B. Lanning gave the right hand of fellowship, and S. T. Forgas, of Bellwood, gave the charge to the church. After which it was resolved that a copy be sent to the Bellefonte WATCHMAN and Gazette. Adjourned with the Benediction by Rev. Bargas.

WE PUBLISH THEM.—Contrary to the expectations, and, we believe, the statements of some members of the Bellefonte Temperance Society, we publish the resolutions passed by that order at its last regular meeting. It is no interest of ours whom the society may condemn for the granting of licenses in this or any other county, nor do we propose arguing their justice, but as a matter of news we take pleasure in appending the resolutions:

Resolved, That whilst we do not presume to be either lawyers nor judges of the law, yet we feel constrained to express our disapproval and regret at the action of the Court of this Judicial District, in refusing to exercise that wise discretion in the disposition of licenses which the law permits and the Supreme Court has conceded to them; and further, that we fail to see any good reasons given for the same in the gratuitous articles promulgated by the court through the public press. We especially regret the action of the court in reference to the granting of licenses in Centre county, as the county has always, when the opportunity offered, expressed itself at the ballot box as opposed to all liquor license by a large majority.

And whereas we, as temperance people of Bellefonte, are forced to endure the evils of three drinking places, we particularly reprobate against the granting of more within the limits of the borough.

And be it further resolved, that we tender to the temperance people of Huntingdon county our sympathy inasmuch as they have lately been compelled to suffer the same affliction as ourselves.

—A Philipsburg girl was married to her lover as he lay in bed suffering from the grippe.