

Ink Slings.

—Anti-discrimination, ballot reform and tax equalization are dissolving in the dim distance on the Harrisburg horizon.

—When the Blaine boomers get their licks in on BEN HARRISON at the next national convention it won't be callalilies that they'll hit him with.

—In addressing the southern people who came to see his caravan, the President was very shy of speaking about the Force Bill. He left his bayonet at home.

—VON MOLTKE left a plan of campaign to be used in a future war with France, but it may be found deficient without a VON MOLTKE to carry it out.

—Considering that the administration has got down to the last dollar in the treasury there ought to be a new Mint in Philadelphia of double working capacity.

—BEN BUTLER was once bottled up. The other day a Rhode Island CARPENTER nailed him up. It is about time that he should be hermetically sealed up and put on the shelf.

—With the price of wool reduced five cents a pound since the McKinley tariff went into operation, the American sheep will consider it hardly worth while to part with its fleeces this spring.

—Instead of standing out for an eight-hour day the workers may consider themselves lucky in these high tariff times if they are allowed enough to keep soul and body together for a full day's work.

—It is probable that a combination between the sugar refiners and the wholesale grocers, which is being formed, will take the sweetness out of the benefit which the free trade sugar of the McKinley bill promised the people.

—JACK-THE-RIPPER has transferred the scene of his bloody operations from London to New York. It is to be seen how long he can continue his ripping before the ingenuity of Yankee detectives shall get the rope around his neck.

—The Treasury Department has decided that foreign lottery tickets must pay a duty of 25 per cent. on their value. Since all the home lotteries have been squelched, what industry, infant or adult, is intended to be protected by this duty?

—Governor PENoyer is correct in his opinion that the governor of a state is not a satrap who must meet his Presidential master, cap in hand, at the border of his satrapy. He has the true idea of the sovereignty of a state represented by its chief officer.

—The Hungarian town of Hossurct has sent three-fourths of its male inhabitants to the United States where they are working and sending their earnings home to their families. There is nothing in the McKinley bill to prevent such a soft snap for the Huns.

—Since the Chilians have demonstrated how easily steel-clad warships can be blown up by torpedoes, King HUMBERT may be congratulating himself that the misunderstanding with the United States terminated in a way that prevented his navy from sailing in a skyward direction.

—At the tariff banquet in Philadelphia this week one of the subjects dilaated on was "The Wage-Earners' Interest in Protection." The poor devils who are being evicted in the coke region have a more practical knowledge on that subject than can be expressed by well fed tariff speakers.

—The Chinese government has notified the American government that it won't have anything to do with BLAIR as Minister from the United States. It is thus that the great New Hampshire educator has lost \$17,000 a year clean cash by "talking too much with his mouth" about the heathen Chinese.

—Hon. JESSE M. BAKER is being prominently talked about as likely to be chairman of the Republican State Committee in place of ANDREWS. Probably this honor is to be conferred upon him as a reward for getting up a ballot reform bill that won't reform. Such service in fooling the people should not be overlooked by the Bosses.

—Although they were but Hungarian women who were shot down in the wage war going on in the coke region, nevertheless the thing has an ugly look, particularly when viewed in connection with the fact that it occurred after the McKinley tariff had for seven months been shedding its beneficence on the wage-earners of the land.

—It is intended to hold at Raleigh, N. C., between the 1st of October and 1st of December next, an exhibition of the products and resources of the fourteen southern States. Among the exhibits it would be interesting to show a specimen of the bayonet with which the Harrison administration wanted to promote the peace, welfare and industrial prosperity of the southern people.

The McKinley Low Wages.

The McKinley tariff has been in operation for seven months, quite long enough to give the people a test of its quality. Speaker REED described the McKinley bill as a measure "which has for its object the aiding of the poor by raising their wages." MCKINLEY made the same claim for it, and HARRISON declared that the people would find it to be that kind of a bill, and would be pleased with it when they should become well acquainted with it. They have now had seven months acquaintance, and what do they think of its tendency to raise the wages of the poor? We last week gave a long list of the reductions of wages in manufacturing establishments and mining industries since the bill went into operation, and we extend it by the following additional reductions which are authentic and vouched for as unquestionable:

- The coke companies of Pennsylvania; reduction 10 per cent; 15,000 men on strike since February 9.
- The iron mining companies of the Northwest; reduction 10 per cent or more; many thousand men getting less pay or deprived of work.
- Manufacturers of pottery, Trenton, N. J.; 22 per cent.
- Coal mines, Duquoin, Ill., from 39 to 60 cents per ton.
- Merrimac mills, Lowell, Mass.; mule spinners, 3 cents per hundred.
- Ribbon weavers in Paterson, N. J.; 15 per cent.
- Coal mines near Leavenworth, Kan.; 11 per cent.
- Hopedale fabric mill, Hopedale, Mass.; weavers, 2 1/2 cents per yard.
- Cocoon Manufacturing Company, weavers, 4 per cent.
- Brooke Iron Company, Birdsborough, Pa.; 7 per cent.
- Silk mill, Warehouse Point, Conn.; winders and doublers; 27 per cent.
- Sturtevant flower works, Jamaica Plains, Mass.; from 10 to 30 per cent.
- Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, Scranton, Pa.; average reduction of 20 cents a day.
- Homestead steel works, Carnegie, Phipps & Co.; 10 per cent.
- Coal mines near Evansville, Ind.; a reduction, followed by a strike on February 7.
- Emma blast furnace, Cleveland, O.; 10 per cent.
- Smithville cotton mills, Williamette, Conn.; spinners' wages reduced \$1.50 per week.
- Wanskoc mills, Providence, R. I.; 600 weavers struck on March 2 because of a reduction.
- Pullman Palace Car Company; reduction, about February 25, affecting wages of makers of freight cars.
- Weybosset mills, Oleanville, R. I.; workmen asserted on February 21 that their wages had been decreased by a change of the schedule of allowances.
- The weavers in the Arlington mills, Lawrence, Mass., about four hundred in number, notified that hereafter they would be obliged to submit to a reduction paid, and to run four looms on the work instead of three, as had previously been the custom. A strike resulted.
- The Lochiel iron works at Harrisburg, Pa., have shut down—indeinitely, it is supposed—because of a difference on the wages question.
- The Reading Iron Company. The 2,000 employees were told on March 27 that a reduction of wages would be made on April 1.
- Potts Bros. Iron Company, Pottstown, Pa. Wages of puddlers reduced about 7 per cent in March 16.
- Lehigh Iron Company, Allentown, Pa. A reduction of 11 per cent was made on March 16.
- On April 19th about 250 of the men employed in the puddling mills of the Old Dominion Iron and Nail Works Company at Richmond, Va., went out on a strike on account of reduction of their wages from \$4 to \$3.75 per ton.
- The striking makers of cloth caps and hats in New York asserted on March 21 that their employers had undertaken to reduce their wages 40 per cent.
- Knitting mills at Little Falls, N. Y. March 12 reported reductions in McKinnon's mill and Sheale's mill, as well as in the Saxony mill, which has heretofore been mentioned. These reductions were made by cutting down thrupice of piece-work. It may be stated approximately, that employees who earned \$15 a week one year ago can now earn but \$13 or \$13.50 on the same class of work. This proposition will apply pretty generally throughout.
- The tariff on knit goods was largely increased.
- The Norwalk woolen mills, Winalupak, Conn. The weavers struck on March 10 because they had been required to take up new work under conditions which caused a reduction reported to be about \$2 per week.
- The Cornell mills, Fall River, Mass. A strike took place on March 11, caused in part, it was said by the agent of the company, by "many difficulties that have arisen lately through lengthening the cuts of cloth, resulting in a reduction of wages."
- Phaser silk mills, Paterson, N. J. The wages of weavers were largely reduced on March 21, and the weavers quit work.
- Atlantic mills, Providence, R. I. The weavers, 6,000 in number, went on a strike three weeks ago because they believed that their wages had been or were to be reduced by excessive fines and new conditions. They returned to work on March 23, and went out again three days later.

being fied out of them by millionaire employers, but this same "fat" will be used to grease an easy pathway to power next year. But we don't believe the working people can be fooled a second time.

Against Civil Service Reform.

The Republicans have again recorded themselves against civil service reform. This time it was in the Legislature of Pennsylvania upon Representative WHERRY's bill providing for appointments in the service of the State, cities and counties, wherever practicable, on the basis of merit, as in the classified Federal service. In advocating his bill Mr. WHERRY denounced the spoils system as practiced in all minor appointments, and described the benefits that would accrue to the people under civil service reform, which aims to provide a safe, wise and just method in the selection of minor officials and employees who hold no relation to political functions. There are, he said, about 15,000 public employees who would come under the provision of the bill should it become a law. He held that as to these minor officials the same rules ought to apply to government business that apply to private business. The government ought to get the best service for its money. The reward system in politics is a disgrace to civilization. Under it elections cease to determine public questions, and become merely scrambles for positions. Mr. WHERRY's arguments, however, were of no avail. The reform was rejected by a party vote of 54 to 77, the Republicans voting against it.

The Prospect of the Crops.

From the present outlook the coming season promises to be a prolific one in crops all over the country. From far-off Kansas the crop report states that, should no drawbacks come, the wheat yield will be the largest ever known. This is good news for the people of that State, but probably more welcome to the Eastern holders of Kansas mortgages. It will insure the payment of the interest and may enable the mortgagors to pay part, if not all, of the principal. Give Kansas three good crops and they will put her out of the woods. The same cheering news about the wheat crop comes from Indiana also which from present promises will be the heaviest grown in many years. If to these be added good crops of corn, hay and other products, which this year may bring forth, the country will truly blossom like the rose. Although heavy crops will bring prices of products, aggregate receipts will be larger. This means prosperity to farmers and all other classes, and further than this it means more food for the poor and greater happiness for them. Late news from the peach district of Delaware tells us that the promise for that delightful fruit, the coming season, is phenomenal, and an abundance of fruit means health.

The End of It.

The Bird Book has evidently taken wings and flown away. At least when the proposition to print another edition of this work, at the expense of the State, came before the House some days ago, Representative Gillen tersely said: "On the proposition to print 30,000 bird books, the state printer reports they would cost \$1.10 each, or \$30,300. While this to some persons may seem a small sum, to many it is a great sum, and these feel that the money might be better expended by purchasing needed school books for poor children. This sum means that \$10,100,000 of the taxable property of the Commonwealth is to be set aside for the purchase of these bird books, for that would be the amount taxable at the rate of three mills on the dollar, which is the present tax rate on money at interest, to provide the needed \$30,000." That will settle the bird book business finally.

—The reason why the white women of Topeka, Kansas, supported and elected the Citizen-Democratic candidate for Mayor was because they discovered that the negro women were voting solidly for the Republican candidate. They didn't fancy black Republicanism of quite so dark a shade.

Agricultural Outlook.

The April returns to the Department of Agriculture at Washington make the condition of Winter wheat 96.9, and of rye 95.4. The season for seeding was favorable over the whole Winter wheat area and afterwards the conditions for growth were mainly favorable. The Hessian fly has appeared in many localities, and serious injury might follow should the early season prove favorable to its development. The general average for condition of wheat is the highest reported for April since 1882, and the State averages are remarkable for their uniformity.

It is sixteen points higher than last year, and three above 1889. The nearest approach to per cent conditions during recent years was in 1884, when the largest crop ever grown was harvested, but similar high conditions in 1886 were followed by a crop of little more than average proportions; the average of condition in New York is 92. The returns make the following percentage of losses among farm animals during the past year: Horses 1.7 per cent, cattle 3, sheep 4 and swine 8.4. The annual losses of horses vary but little. The percentage of loss of cattle is slightly higher than in 1888 and 1889. The losses of sheep have been smaller than usual, while less disease than usual is reported among swine.

—The meeting of the National League of Republican clubs at Cincinnati was used by FORAKER as an occasion on which to thank BLAINE for the magnificent administration he has been giving the country. This was a clearly intended snub to HARRISON, whose name was not mentioned in connection with an administration of which he is the head. All the credit was given to BLAINE, as if he were running the machine. The Harrison men at the League meeting kicked at this, but they were quieted by being told that it wouldn't look well to be wrangling on such an occasion. FORAKER's insult to the head of the party was allowed to stand, with all the rankling that necessarily attends it.

They Will be Vetted.

The Harrisburg Patriot warns the Legislature not to engage in the fruitless and silly work of passing bills which from their very nature will be sure to meet with the veto of the Governor. One of these bills is intended to appropriate \$6000 to defray the expenses of the Governor's inauguration. They can't expect to stick this expense on the State in the face of the following declaration which Governor PARRISON made at the time of his first inauguration: "I am resolutely determined that so far as I can control the matter my inauguration as Governor shall not cost the people of Pennsylvania one dollar. Why should it? They derive no benefit from such scenes and the money spent thereon is wasted."

In view of such a declaration there is not much probability that the \$6000 inauguration expense bill will meet the Governor's approval.

Another bill is to create additional clerkships in the Auditor General's Department. The Legislature that is pushing this bill seems to overlook the fact that in 1883 the Governor vetoed a bill providing for a single additional clerk in the treasury department for the reason that he thought it had a sufficient clerical force. If it is not clear that the Auditor General has not enough clerks the bill increasing his force is surely awaiting a veto.

—The members of the Massachusetts Legislature having laid themselves open to censure for having made the State pay their cigar bills, a bill has been introduced into that body doubling the members' salaries. They are determined to be able to buy their cigars without making the State pay for them.

Senatorial Surprises.

The resignation of Senator EDMUNDS, of Vermont, was a surprise. It could almost as well have been expected that the Green Mountains would walk off their base as that the jesuitical old statesman of the Green Mountain State should voluntarily leave his place in the Senate. And now there is another surprise of the same character. Senator REAGAN, of Texas, who has been connected with congress ever since the collapse of the Southern Confederacy, has become tired of Senatorial labors and honors and has sent in his resignation.

He is an older man by ten years than Senator EDMUNDS who was by no means a senatorial spring chicken. REAGAN's public career has been decidedly picturesque. He is a farmer-lawyer, and was an official of the republic of Texas before its annexation; after that he was a State judge, and served four years in congress prior to the rebellion, going out with his State. He was the Confederate postmaster general, after a brief service in the Confederate congress; was also secretary of the treasury of the Confederacy at the time of the collapse, and was with JEFFERSON DAVIS's party when it was corralled by United States troops in Georgia in May, 1865. After the war he served 12 years in the house of representatives, and in 1887 was promoted to the United States senate. His term would have expired in 1893.

Mr. REAGAN distinguished himself in being chiefly instrumental in bringing about the interstate commerce law and the commission exercising federal supervision over interstate railroads. He was working for this great object at the time when EDMUNDS said that you couldn't touch a privilege of the Pacific Railroad corporations without JIM BLAINE's jumping up from behind the breastworks of corporate power, musket in hand, ready to defend them.

The Senate will greatly miss the honest Senator from Texas.

—HAROLD FREDERIC, who has spent the last two weeks in Ireland, says there are just two towns in that country where Mr. PARNELL has probably a majority following. One is Dublin, the other is Thurles. Besides these there are, perhaps, "half a dozen little hamlets, dominated by local saloon keepers," where PARNELL would command a majority. All the rest of Ireland is against him, and his following consists of "a little mob of loafers ready to shout, fight and take his money." Nevertheless, PARNELL has postponed home rule indefinitely.

Spawls from the Keystone.

- The cigarette law is enforced at Williamsport.
- A Masonic Temple will be built at Lewis town.
- A Wilkesbarre suburb is known as "Forty Fort."
- There are seventy-five lakes in Wayne county.
- The alleged confession of Dave Nicoloy was a fraud.
- The teamsters of Jeannette have organized a union.
- Mrs. Dely, of Scranton, thinks she is worth \$50,000.00.
- Reading is having a "Bible-in-the-public schools" agitation.
- A Fullerton man had his nose bitten off and went insane.
- Isaac F. Runkle, of Williamsport, has been missing since April 1.
- Spotted fever is scaring the residents in the vicinity of Oil City.
- The Welsh Musical Convention will be held on May 9, at Wilkesbarre.
- Martin Leininger has five children down with scarlet fever at Myerstown.
- A building at Scranton was fired by incendiaries twice Saturday morning.
- There is no trouble expected in Pottstown from the eight-hour movement.
- South Bethlehem will increase its debt to make permanent improvements.
- Many of the collieries in the vicinity of Shamokin are resuming operations.
- A dressmaker of Reading accidentally swallowed her scissors the other day.
- The price of bark in Tioga county has advanced from \$1 to \$7.50 and \$7 a cord.
- There are forty-seven persons in the murderer's row of the Allegheny county jail.
- Since the last assessment twenty new houses have been built in one ward in Sunbury.
- A Lancaster teamster deliberately drove into a funeral and wrecked a mourner's carriage.
- Reading School Board expenses cover \$151,335 per year, \$18,500 in excess of the income.
- The rescued Huns from the Jeansville mines will tour the country on their own account.
- A building boom has struck Columbia, and on almost every street new houses are being erected.
- John P. Horan was instantly killed by an explosion of nitro-glycerine at an oil well near Simpson.
- Reading's collieries in the West Schuylkill district will soon double their present capacity.
- Farmer Levi Barriek, of Carlisle Springs, Cumberland county, dropped dead of heart disease.
- About 400 persons attended the annual reunion of Catholic Beneficial Union No. 447, at Greensburg.
- The Junior Order United American Mechanics presented the schools of Latrobe with a fine silk flag.
- Ill health caused Christian Keller, an old Ashland man, to hang himself to a window-shutter fastener.
- Three lads of Williamsport killed a four-foot copperhead snake while gathering dandelion a few days ago.
- In his hurry to get a marriage license a Chambersburg youth committed perjury, and has been held for trial.
- Several Susquehanna people have lately visited Father Mellinger, of Pittsburg, to be healed of their infirmities.
- "The Big Spring" at Newville is a famous trout stream, and at one time last week 169 fishermen lined its banks.
- Attorney George W. Zeigler, of Sunbury, is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Register and Recorder.
- Mammoth group has taken three children suddenly from the family of David Haag, at Rebersburg, Berks county.
- William Warrants, a youthful slatpickler at the Burnside Colliery, Shenandoah, was killed between the bumpers of cars.
- Charles Will, of Lenoxville, is so badly afflicted with rheumatism that he has been unable to walk a step for two years.
- School teachers of Reading are discussing the advisability of a session from 8 o'clock to noon during the summer months.
- Samuel P. Meyers was arrested at Williamsport, for using profane and indecent language on a Pennsylvania railroad train.
- By assessing Poles and Huns, who have hitherto escaped, a Reading ward assessor expects to increase the city's revenue \$500.
- Benjamin Griffith, a Centralia colliery laborer, was seriously injured by a log falling upon him from a bridge beneath which he stood.
- A traveling quack has used the names of Port Clinton local physicians in collecting from citizens whom he knew to be their patients.
- Samuel Schmebl, an aged farmer of Roscomb, Berks county, had \$2800 in money and bonds stolen from his house during his temporary absence.
- William Day got three years in the penitentiary for burglary and felonious assault at the residence of Mrs. Annie Spencer, Marietta, Lancaster county.
- Fourteen-year old Maria Rumpf came unattended from Germany to Tremont, Schuylkill county, wearing a tag addressing her to her uncle, Jacob Rumpf.
- The Ladies' Aid Society of the Reformed Church, of Berks county, has made over a thousand dollars. They are sold and the proceeds devoted to charity.
- Mrs. John Diefenderfer, of Sparling Hill, was surprised recently to find that she had recovered the sight of her eye, which had been useless for forty years.
- Albert Zwiegert, of Reading, fell in love with his boarding mistress, but his affection was not returned. Zwiegert struck the woman and she had him arrested.
- A Mineersville woman was put on trial on Saturday, charged with being a common scold by Rev. P. F. Beresford. She was convicted, but the Judge put part of the cost on the minister.
- John D. Curry, of Clay township, Lancaster county, who failed and absconded, is found to have forged notes to the amount of \$1500 and secured money on them from country banks.
- A brother and daughter of Augustus Schmueker, who died at the Borough Hill, Norristown, identified him, but refused to remove the body or give it burial, and it will therefore be sent to a medical college for dissection.