

Democratic Watchman

2.00 A Year, in Advance

Bellefonte, Pa., May 1, 1891.

P. GRAY MEEK, Editor

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Folled Labor.

The great eight hour strike which it was predicted would take place on the first of May in the bituminous coal regions, to involve over a hundred thousand workers, is not likely to come off. The Ohio miners, in the Hocking Valley region, have already arranged with their employers to continue the nine hour day for another year at the present wages, small as they are. There has been such sad experience, in that region, of the losses, privations and sufferings incident to strikes, that the men have no heart for further adventures of that kind. The West Virginia miners have announced that they cannot afford to be idle. The same fear of idleness and its attendant suffering pervades the mine workers of Kentucky, Tennessee and the West. The workers in the Pittsburg district, it is reported, will not strike. The Clearfield, Jefferson and Centre county men are said to be more disposed to go out than any of the others, but they are confronted by the danger that if they strike their trade will be supplied by the regions that will continue at work, and that the only reward they would have for their movement would be a long period of idleness, with all the suffering which it implies, and eventually a return to work on the old conditions.

The thorough and disastrous failure of the strike in the Westmoreland coke region, which is now drawing to a close with the complete defeat of the strikers, does not furnish the miners any encouragement to try the same desperate remedy. It is the old story over again. Poverty cannot successfully contend against wealth. Men whose daily sustenance depends upon their daily toil, whose living is from hand to mouth, cannot stand up in a struggle of endurance against the accumulated resources of capital. The money side of the contention, unfortunately, has all the advantage. It has even the protection of the government, which gives it the advantage of tariff laws that fail to increase the wages of the workman while it increases the price of everything he consumes. The only cheap thing vouchsafed him is sugar, the reduced price of which has been brought about by free trade.

Some Interesting Questions.

The Republican Chicago Tribune has been asking Major McKinley some interesting questions. Commenting on his recent speeches glorifying his tariff law, and predicting it a permanence, the Tribune goes for the Major in this fashion: How silly to declare publicly with such seeming confidence that this mill boss bill will not be repealed in 10 years, when at this moment everything political is so fluid and uncertain! How does he know that the election of 1892 will not be a repetition of that of 1890? How does he know that the next house, a Democratic one, will not pass bills cutting off the heaviest and most onerous advances in his tariff law? How does he know that the Senate, though Republican, will not have enough moderate protection Republican members to pass those bills, fearing they would lose their seats if they voted against them? How does he know that the President Harrison will not sign those bills modifying these ultra duties? Owing to the large stock of goods yet on hand imported under the lower duties last fall, consumers have not felt yet, except as to a few articles, the effect of the McKinley bill. When those stocks are worked off, they will feel it all along the line. Dreading higher prices for necessities, they voted for Democrats candidates last year. Seeing that what they feared has come to pass, will they not vote for them next year? And the Tribune fails to take into account disturbed labor conditions, and declining wages with increased prices of necessities.

The Revenue Bill Assailed and Defended.

The Revenue Bill now before the Legislature is being subjected to savage attacks by its opponents who spare no terms of denunciation in speaking of it. They call it an inquisitorial measure whose exactions will be exasperatingly meddlesome and intolerably oppressive. No form of property, they say, will escape the assessor and the tax-collector. This opposition comes principally from a class who heretofore have very successfully—too successfully—escaped the assessor and the tax-collector, and they evidently want to continue to escape those meddling and troublesome functionaries. Life is very much pleasanter if it isn't bothered with taxes. Property, such as money, stocks, and corporate investments, is much more appreciable and valuable if it is not saddled with taxation. Why adopt the inquisitorial and disagreeable process of nosing out this kind of property when farms and houses stand out in such bold relief and present such broad, unmistakable marks for the assessor and tax-collector to take a whack at? Such is the position assumed by those who are opposing the Revenue Bill.

The Grangers, however, are making a vigorous defense of the Bill, which may be considered as being really theirs. A committee of the State Grange has issued a circular in which they show the necessity of a new revenue law by exposing the defects of the present one. It compares the taxation on personal and corporate property with that which is exacted of real estate. Quoting the capitalization of railroads, canals, telegraphs and telephones at a total of \$1,873,575,000, it adds these to the estimate of other personal property at \$1,452,000,000, showing that the tax on this total of \$3,325,000,000 amounts to \$4,094,000, of which \$2,473,000 is collected from corporations. As contrasted with this the circular takes the total valuation of real estate at \$2,002,942,000, on which the total taxation is \$34,316,000, or in other words eight times as much as on personal property that is one third more in value. A showing like this furnishes irrefutable evidence that the tax law needs a vigorous overhauling.

The segment of the Harrison circle which extended through the South was attended with generous hospitality on the part of the people of that section. Considering that it was only a few months ago that the President was employing all the power of his administration in the unsuccessful attempt to bring the Southern people under bayonet rule, the hospitable reception they accorded him showed great forbearance.

An Angry Bishop.

Bishop HAYGOOD, of the Southern Methodist church, severely denounces the employment of the Pinkerton thugs in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. In his honest indignation he exclaims: "What right have these killing Pinkertons, mere Hessians, fighting any where for pay, to hold mobs in check, to put down riots, to evict strikers? Thank God, these hired ruffians have not yet been called on to help any 'city or corporation in the 'Barbarous South.' If any plutocrats down here should so far forget the spirit of our institutions as to send for them, it is to be hoped that self-respecting state government will order out the militia to put out and down and impri-son these Pinkertons. What do the 'northern people mean by tolerating it? What sort of notion of republicanism can government have these northern 'governors and people?'"

The good Bishop, in his righteous wrath, forgets that in Pennsylvania especially the problem of the blessings of protection is being worked out, and that the Pinkertons are merely agents in exemplifying the benefits which the McKinley bill is conferring upon the workman. If the good Bishop understood this thing better he wouldn't talk so wrathfully.

A white man's republican party has been organized in South Carolina. It is a small and select affair, but the leaders of the movement declare they will no longer submit to be under the thumb of SMALL, MILLER and company, who run the colored element. In the State there are 458,000 whites and 692,000 negroes. Deducting the Democrats from the white population there is not much margin for white Republicans.

It is amusing to see the Republicans "point with pride" to the effects of the free trade clause in the McKinley bill relative to sugar. It is the only clause of that measure that is giving any relief to the people, and it is rank free trade.

Governed Too Much.

Mr. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, one of the original Republicans of Massachusetts, has become one of the latest and most notable converts to the principles of Jeffersonian Democracy, and he gives the following expression of his changed views: The very general popular idea which now exists that the Government is the grand paternal do-all, to protect everyone and everything, and to provide remedies for every ill that the body politic is subject to, I do not sympathize in. On the contrary, I am so out of date and antiquated in my opinions as to think that the world is governed altogether too much, and that it has rarely been governed so much or so badly as it has been in this country within the last 25 years. What our country needs most of all, in my judgment, is in matters legislative to be severely let alone, and that the industrious and thrifty people thereof be permitted to work out their own salvation in their own way. If so left they will work out that salvation a great deal quicker and a great deal more satisfactorily than they will ever succeed in doing while the Government incessantly encumbers them with its well meant but most ill-advised assistance in so doing.

What the country needs is more repeal and not more enactments. Repeal the laws which for 25 years have put the nipple of the nursing bottle in the mouths of manufacturers and forced the rest of the country to furnish the milk. This portion of the world was "never governed so much or so badly" as during the last 25 years, when Republicanism has taken it for granted that the wealthier a section or the stronger a class the greater its need of being "fostered" at the expense of the weaker and poorer.

Treasury Cheese-paring.

Although the country is sweating at every pore in the way of contributing taxes, the men who are at the head of the treasury are greatly embarrassed to meet the expenses imposed by the Billion Dollar Congress. Secretary FOSTER finds himself cramped, and acts as if he expected a financial squeeze. A million dollars are coming into the treasury every day from the various sources of taxation, but it isn't enough. The Secretary is trying by small savings to increase the available cash, a deficiency staring him in the face as the demands come in for the money appropriated by the late extravagant congress. Wherever an employe can be dispensed with in the internal revenue and other bureaus they are being turned adrift under instructions from Secretary FOSTER.

There is something laughable in this cheese-paring, in view of the Billion appropriated by the last Congress, which has to be met. It is like Mrs. PARTINGTON trying to keep out the tide with a broom. But FOSTER was once a country store keeper, and he has faith in the virtue of cheese-paring. But small economies intended to meet the requirements of colossal extravagance show that the Secretary knows that he is in a hole and is driven to resort to petty expedients with the desperate hope of averting the acknowledgment that the treasury is bankrupt.

—One of WASHINGTON's old coats was recently sold for \$105. Its price should suit the fancy of McKinley who has a contempt for "cheap coats."

Reason to be Mad.

A contemporary, of the Republican persuasion, severely condemns the people of Opelousas, Louisiana, for objecting to the appointment of a negro postmaster so strenuously that they ran him out of town. But the people of Opelousas have some excuse for their vigorous action. They know that the administration wouldn't dare to put a negro in charge of a post office in a northern community; and what it wouldn't do in the North it presumes to do in the South. This is adding insult to injury, and it isn't any wonder that a southern town should get mad under such circumstances. There is really a better claim for negroes to occupy post offices in the North than in the South, under a Republican administration, for there isn't a northern Republican State that has not been made Republican by the colored vote. The negro voters of the North in fact elected the present administration. They are politically entitled to some of the post offices, but they shouldn't have them in the South where their votes didn't put HARRISON into office.

The wool growers of the United States were to be particularly benefited by the fostering care of McKinley. It was for their especial protection that the wool duties were increased and the people compelled to say good-by to "cheap coats." Upon this feature of the bill the granger was invited to look with peculiar delight, for it was said that it would raise the price of his wool clip. But it hasn't done so. Pennsylvania wool has actually dropped five cents a pound since the McKinley bill went into operation, and there has been a corresponding decline in the price of the fine wools of Ohio. But the price of woolen goods, which the people have to buy, has by no means declined.

Ballot Reform in Ohio.

The Democratic Legislature of Ohio has done a complete thing in the passage of a ballot reform bill. It provides for the use of the Australian ballot, absolute secrecy in voting, stringent regulations guarding against bribery and intimidation, and it places the whole election machinery on a strictly nonpartisan basis. This expresses an honest determination to secure honest elections.

The previous Republican Legislature had a similar bill before it, kept it in suspense during an entire session, and allowed it to die without having entertained any intention of passing it. They knew that the people wanted ballot reform; they promised to give it to them, and of course, they lied in making the promise.

The present Republican Legislature of Pennsylvania would like to play the same deceptive game. Their platform promised a reformed ballot law, but it is doubtful whether the Bosses will allow it. Meanwhile the Democrats of Ohio have given the people what they want and what the Democracy was pledged to give them.

—The President attempted a witicism when he said, the other day: "Ohio men are especially apt to be found in the vicinity of a public office." This is a well known fact, but there isn't the slightest probability that an Indiana man will be found in the vicinity of the Presidential office two years hence.

—The death of the great German soldier, VON MOLTKE, which occurred suddenly last Friday, was what could have been expected from his great age, but it was nevertheless a shock to the German people who regarded him with a sort of idolatry. He was certainly the greatest commander that Europe has produced since the time of NAPOLEON, and history has never shown his superior as a strategist. What he would have been able to do in that line if he should have had a NAPOLEON to contend with cannot be conjectured. He beat Austria, which was never a hard power to beat, and he caught France in a condition that gave her no show in the fight. Nevertheless he was a remarkable strategist and a great general.

The Law's Delay in Centre County.

EDITOR WATCHMAN:—Tedium and aggravating delay in litigation pending in our courts led me to inquire into the causes that have made Centre county justice almost a by word and a reproach. Knowing that others have suffered like unto myself, I ask you to give my observations a place in the WATCHMAN. When the present argument and issue lists were up to date, and the trial lists were almost entirely made up of cases but recently brought. The record shows that if a suit was brought to one term of court it could be tried by the next term, and at the furthest the second term after the date, and the trial lists are now made up of cases tried, and often more, to get a case tried. Some cases have been dragged around in court for three and four years. In fact there are cases still pending that have been at issue for six years.

The issue list is the longest in the history of the County, and there are many cases at issue and ready for trial that are not put down for trial because it is impossible to reach them during the next year. The last case on the present trial list for the second week was brought in May, 1889, and the oldest case on that list to No. 193, November Term, 1883. There are a number of cases pending that have been at issue for five and six years. Such a state of affairs is indeed a mockery of justice, and, to say the least, very detrimental to the interests of those who have business before our courts.

What is the cause of all this, and who is responsible? When I inquire of the attorneys they inform me that their cases are at issue, and will be tried just as soon as they can be regularly reached, but that they are powerless to force their cases to trial. The court fixes the number of weeks of court to be held during the year, and the trial lists are made up under the rules of court by the prothonotary under the direction of the President Judge. An examination of the records and the rules confirms these statements. While attorneys at times delay a case for the purpose of getting time for their clients, they are not responsible for this wholesale delay of business. When inquiry is made of the Judge for the cause of this unexplained delay, the answer given is, that it is all the fault of the attorneys; that they fail to have their cases ready, and the court is delayed in this way. This excuse is a mere subterfuge. The large issue list now ready for trial, and the large number of cases continued at every term because they cannot be reached, contradict this assertion. The real trouble undoubtedly rests with the President Judge. The fact is that our criminal cases usually take up nearly all of the first week of each term, and this then leaves only about four weeks in each year to try civil cases. It is simply an utter impossibility to dispose of the litigation of the county in so short a time. Heretofore our judges were in the habit of holding special courts whenever it was necessary to bring up the lists, and business was not allowed to drag behind. Why cannot that be done now? It seems to me that it would be equally as easy to hold special courts at home as to do so in other districts. Of course there is no extra pay for holding special courts at home. But then is it

possible that this is the reason that we are compelled to suffer by having our business in the court of this county delayed? I do not wish to say that this is the case, but the conclusion is almost irresistible when the facts are looked squarely in the face. However, I am convinced that if the Judge would stay at home in his own district for at least part of the time that he is holding courts in other districts, and he and the attorneys work together, in a short time our list would be brought up and litigation would be promptly disposed of. This is a serious thing, and the people's rights should not be trifled with in this manner, especially when there is an easy way out of the difficulty.

Instead of the Judge trying to place the responsibility upon others, let him go to work and fix a sufficient number of weeks of court to dispose of the business now pending, and then see to it that the list does not again drag behind. The people of the county have rights which even the court should respect, and it is unjust that they should be put to these unnecessary delays and inconveniences.

Anna Dickinson's Queer Lecture.

New York, April 26.—Anna Dickinson appeared at the Broadway theatre this evening to deliver a lecture upon "Personal Liberty." It was Miss Dickinson's first appearance since her confinement in an insane asylum and her deliverance therefrom. She opened her address upon "Personal Liberty" with a violent attack upon the republican party and with bitter words against various persons prominent in public life. The personal characterizations were in many instances repugnant to decency and the ladies who occupied the orchestra chairs arose and with their escorts left the theatre.

Miss Dickinson paid little or no attention to these defections. She frequently punctuated her utterances by appealing to her hearers with this question: "Well, folks, do you think I am insane?" She spoke of the postmaster general as "Merciful Heaven Wanamaker." This queer remark was received with hisses. She dwelt at great length upon what she termed the private character of Wanamaker and J. S. Clarkson. Her imprisonment at the Danville insane asylum was her chief theme. She declared it was due to the conspiracy of J. S. Clarkson, Colonel W. W. Dudley and Senator Quay.

A Rich Family.

He had been sitting still so long that his mother expected to find him asleep when she looked around and asked: "Well Harry, what are you thinking of? Ma, are we very rich? He solemnly inquired by way of reply. In one way we are, she said; your father says he values me at three million dollars, you at two millions, and the baby at one. That closed the conversation on the subject, but next morning as Harry was getting on his overcoat, he examined the new patch which had been added, and coolly observed: "Well, I think father had better sell off about half of you or the whole of the baby and get the rest some decent duds to put on."

G. A. R. Men Will Fight.

No Red Flags Dare Fly Over the Strikers.

MOUNT PLEASANT, Pa., April 26.—The coke strikers have said that red flags will be carried in their procession on May 1. This declaration has thoroughly aroused the old soldiers of this section, and they say emphatically that if any man attempts to carry a red flag, and thus insult the Stars and Stripes, he will not parade very far. The Grand Army men go so far as to declare that they will shoulder muskets and follow the paraders rather than permit the Anarchistic emblem to be flaunted.

THE HOME OFFICE.—"It's never too late to mend," said a man in an uptown grocery. "That's all right," said his son, who had just come in after his dad, "but it will be useless to try to mend you after marm gets hold of you if you don't come home with that pound of lard." It was the biggest failure of the season at philosophy, and the philosopher was a recent candidate for public office too.

Articles imported by religious societies for religious uses are to come in free of duty under the new law as under the old. So Judge Lacombe decided in the United States Circuit Court, New York, on Monday.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

—All the latest novelties in paper and furniture of E. Brown Jr.'s, on Bishop street.

—It seems an impossibility, but the Noss Family actually get music out of real churns and slaw-cutters in their roaring comedy, "A Quick Match."

—Don't fail to see the Noss Family in "A Quick Match." It is one of the brightest and most sparkling musical comedies. It is positively original, and is a novel conception. Opera House April 7th.

—The spontaneous laughter and sparks of humor kindle and ignite a blaze of fun, and flashes of merriment end in wreaths of smoke when lighted by the Noss Family's musical comedy, "A Quick Match."—Thursday night, April 7th.

NEWSPAPER DELINQUENTS.—A newspaper in Ohio brought suit against forty-three men who would not pay their subscriptions, and obtained judgment in each case for the amount of the claim. They were then arrested for petit larceny and bound over in the sum of \$300. The new postal law makes it larceny to take a paper and refuse to pay for it.

CATCHING TROUT UNDER FIVE INCHES.

—Some fishermen believe that trout under five inches in length can be lawfully caught if they are not sold. In reply to a letter bearing on this question, H. D. Demuth, Secretary of the Commissioners of Fisheries, says: Trout of five inches in length or under cannot be taken from the stream for any purpose. This ought to settle the matter, and if any are catching trout in violation of this decree, under the impression that the law gives them this privilege, they had better desist and avoid getting into trouble.

ENCOUNTERED A PORCUPINE.—Neil Davis' dog, and not an ordinary one, by the way, took a stroll by moonlight last night, and before returning encountered a porcupine. This morning when he greeted his master it was discovered that his mouth and tongue were full of quills. Neil took a unique but very successful way of removing them. He removed a picket from the fence, put the dog's head through and nailed the picket on again. A stick was then placed in the dog's mouth with a string at either end, and tied to the fence to keep the mouth of the canine open. In this way Neil was able to perform a very neat surgical operation. Some of the quills had penetrated more than an inch, and no doubt were very painful to the dog. Neil says that this is the third time that the dog has come in similar contact with porcupines.—Phillipsburg Journal.

THE NEW "ONE OF THE FINEST."

The genuine version of the play, and with a strong dramatic construction, will be presented at Garman's Opera House, April 5th, by E. J. H. Assan's own company. In this instance the play is given in its entirety, and scenes are introduced that never appeared before. There are no "star parts," all the parts being nearly equal in prominence. A tank 50 feet long, in which several boys indulge in aquatic sports, and marine craft and row boats cross and recross the stage, is introduced. A number of specialties are given during the fifth act. Edwin M. Ryan has the part of "John Misher," the policeman, and he enacts it in a style that delights the audience. All the other characters are ably sustained. The piece is well staged, nothing but the company's own special scenery being used, and with the incidental features, the performance will be unusually attractive.

A REMARKABLE TURTLE.

—In June, 1861, W. J. Wilson found back of Mill Hall, in Bald Eagle township, on the Albert Sperring farm, a mud turtle, on the shell of which he engraved "June 1861, W. J. W." Twenty years after this, in 1871, this same turtle was found by Mr. Wilson's eldest son, in Beech Creek township, about seven miles from the spot where it was first seen, and he engraved on it "D. R. W., June, 1881." On Saturday last, or April 25, 1891, ten years later, the elder Mr. Wilson again found this same turtle near his house in Beech Creek township, thirty years from the time he had seen it first. Mr. Wilson showed a DEMOCRAT man this remarkable creature, with the legends engraved on its shell, and the question now is, how long will a mud turtle live if let alone and it takes ordinary good care of its health? When this turtle was discovered in June, 1861, the war of the Rebellion had been in progress for about two months, and it has seen or lived through the presidential administrations of Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, Ulysses S. Grant, R. B. Hayes, Chester A. Arthur, Grover Cleveland and two years of Benjamin Harrison. Where will it be found next and who will be the finder?—Lock Haven Democrat.

CENTRE COUNTY TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS.

'91.—Marion—Jacksonville, Wednesday, May 6; Liberty—Eagleville, Thursday, 7; Curtin, Howard and Howard borough—Howard, Friday, 8; Boggs and Millsburg—Centre City, Saturday, 9; Taylor—Hannah Furnace, Monday, 11; Half Moon—Stormstown, Tuesday, 12; Worth—Port Matilda, Wednesday, 13; Huston—Julian, Thursday, 14; Union and Unionville—Unionville, Friday, 15; Patton—Waddle's school house, Saturday, 16; Harris—Boalsburg, Monday, 18; College—Lemont, Tuesday, 19; Benner—Knox's school house, Wednesday, 20; Burnside and Snow Shoe—Snow Shoe, Tuesday, 26; Bellefonte and Spring—Bellefonte, Friday, 29; Phillipsburg and Rush—Phillipsburg, Tuesday, June, 9; Ferguson—Pine Grove, Saturday, 13; Millheim and Penn—Millheim, Monday, 15; Miles—Rebersburg, Tuesday, 16; Haines—Aaronsburg, Wednesday, 17; Gregg—Spring Mills, Thursday, 18; Centre Hall and Potter—Centre Hall, Friday, 19; Walker—Hubersburg, Monday, 22.

Special examinations will be held at Spring Mills, Lemont, Howard, Unionville, Phillipsburg and Bellefonte, Aug. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 24 respectively; and at Bellefonte, September 12 and 26. All examinations will begin at 9 a. m.

Applicants will be examined in all branches without regard to former marks. Persons failing to qualify at the regular examinations may have a second trial at any of the specials.