

Democratic Watchman

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Perverted by Amendments.

The Prohibition party has received but small consideration from the manipulators of the Baker ballot bill. The conspirators who have sent in the amendments to the Senate have so arranged it that if it should pass as amended the Prohibitionists would have no chance of a hearing at the polls. It provides that no organization shall have the names of its candidates placed on the official ballot unless it polled a certain percentage of the total vote at the previous election, and, as none but official ballots could be voted, parties of small numerical strength, such as the Prohibition and the Labor parties, would be disfranchised. The special object of this is to prevent Prohibitionists from breaking away from the Republican ranks. It is a tyrannical design to preserve intact the Republican majority in the State.

With such amendments, perverting the original object of the bill, it had better be dropped, for so amended the measure is a perfect monstrosity and is infinitely worse in its features than the present system of voting. We trust, however, that there is a sufficiency of honorable men in the Senate to be able to rectify the bill and make it a worthy measure of ballot reform. Let it be recommitted, the objectionable amendments struck off, and the wise amendments advocated by Secretary BINNEY, of the Pennsylvania Ballot Reform Association, incorporated in the bill. The action of the Senate Elections Committee is, however, not in the least bit surprising. The Republican bosses are unwilling that any measure of electoral reform shall pass and they have made the Baker bill objectionable, preparatory to its being rejected. The people, however, are watching the proceedings closely, and they will have something to say about it hereafter.

Well Done.

The State administration, so far as it has legal power and constitutional authority, is treating the labor disturbance in the coke region with energy, intelligence and courage. This was exemplified last Saturday. A complaint was made to the Governor that workmen were compelled to sleep in the mines and were denied the necessities of life. If this were true it would be an outrage that should require the interference of the authorities, and therefore the Governor sent Adjutant General McCLELLAN to the scene of the alleged wrong to make an investigation.

The Adjutant General, upon arriving at the point from which the complaint emanated, went into the mines and made personal examination and inquiry. After five hours of underground investigation he came away thoroughly convinced that there had been a misrepresentation, and he had an admission from the party who had made the complaint that he had been mistaken. If the charge had proved to be true we have no doubt that the Governor would have adopted energetic measures to correct the wrong.

This is the right way to treat such cases. The people, whether laborers or proprietors, are entitled to their rights, and no effort should be spared to ascertain whether their relative rights are respected and protected. In taking hold of this question as was done on Saturday, full justice to both interests was guaranteed. General McCLELLAN did more in this instance to restore tranquility in the coke region than the Pinkertons could do in a year.

Increase in the Cost of Living.

The New York Evening Post has made a careful and exact calculation by which it is shown that the average increase in the cost of living during the past fourteen months is about fifteen per cent. This includes the seven months in which the McKinley tariff has been operating. There has been a reduction in the price of sugar, but this has been more than counterbalanced by the increase in the price of meats, flour, fish, potatoes, coffee, butter and other necessary articles. For the past fifteen years the prices of necessities had a tendency to decrease, but this has been reversed by the new tariff. While the wages are going down the cost of living is going up, a circumstance under which workmen will hardly agree that the McKinley tariff benefits them.

—Read the WATCHMAN for political and general news.

The Slaughter of Ballot Reform.

The Baker ballot bill appears to be doomed. The Republican practical politicians in the Senate having taken hold of it, it has been so amended that very little of its original purpose has been retained. The amendments proposed by Secretary CHARLES C. BINNEY, of the Pennsylvania Ballot Reform Association, were rejected, which have been substituted by others designed to render the bill ineffectual and obnoxious. The bill has been so completely altered that the gentlemen to whom it is indebted for its origin, decline to have further connection with it. Among other amendments the one providing that the official ballot shall contain only the tickets of parties polling more than 10 per cent. of the total vote, is particularly objectionable. Its effect would be to exclude the Prohibition or any independent ticket and so lessen the opportunity or inducement for independent voters to vote any but the regular party ticket. The Republican Senators appear to be completely under the thumb of QUAY, and it will require a Democratic Legislature to do any thing effectual toward the reform of our election methods. We believe the people will see this necessity in 1892.

—Mr. C. S. HALL, President of the Farmer's Alliance of Missouri, is opposed to a third party movement, believing that the Alliance interest can best be served with the present party alignments. He does not favor any party that opposes free coinage, but what he insists upon is "the removal of the present heavy tariff tax from the necessities of life which the poor of our country must have." And he believes that the tariff issue will be the most important in the coming Presidential campaign. On that issue the Democrats and the Alliance people substantially agree and can act together. Upon no issue is there a substantial agreement between the Republicans and the Alliance.

The Amended Bird Law.

The law that prohibits the killing of wild birds, usually called insectivorous, has been amended by the present State Legislature in a very important particular. It was passed two years ago, inflicting a penalty of from ten to fifty dollars fine. The money derived from these fines was directed to be paid into the county treasury. There was therefore no personal inducement to make information against the violators of this law, which in consequence was practically a dead letter.

A supplement to this act has been passed and has been signed by the Governor, providing that in every case of conviction one-half of the fine shall be paid to the informer and the remainder into the county treasury. By this means it is hoped to secure the proper enforcement of the law and prevent the wanton slaughter of birds. Constables and other well-disposed citizens can make it to their pecuniary advantage to keep a lookout for infractions of this law.

Arbor day was celebrated in New York State on Friday last, and it is reported that 30,000 trees were planted by the school children, thus showing a steady increase in the number for the last three years. Interest in Arbor Day has been largely stimulated in New York by the bestowal of prizes for the best kept school grounds, for the best essay on the plans for the most profitable observance of the day, and for the best collection of bark, leaves and seed of the maple tree. The time may yet come when the Legislatures of all the States will see the wisdom of passing forestry laws that will prevent the waste which is laying bare our most picturesque woodland.

The Half Holidays.

The bill for the Saturday half-holiday has passed the Legislature and is now in the hands of the Governor. It is entitled, "An act designating the days and half days to be observed as legal holidays." The full holidays are New Year's day, Washington's birthday, Good Friday, Decoration day, Independence day, Labor day, Thanksgiving day and Christmas day. The half-holidays will be the afternoon of every Saturday from and inclusive of June 15 until and inclusive of September 15. There is a permissive clause in the bill for the special accommodation of banks and their customers, making it subject to adoption when a majority of the directors so decide. This will remove the objection to the Saturday half-holiday so strongly urged in New York. Doubtless, too, there will be more or less public discretion exercised as to its observance. Though it only applies to three months of the year, from June 15 to September 15, it certainly will prove a great boon to employes generally whose employers cheerfully give them the advantage

The Tax Bill in the Senate.

The supporters of the Revenue Bill, known as the Grangers' Tax Bill, offered important amendments on Tuesday, which would exempt from taxation horses and cattle under the age of one year, sheep and swine under the age of one year, wearing apparel, household furniture, musical instruments under \$100 in value, tools, implements, instruments and books used for pursuing a trade or calling, and the unsold products of agriculture, gardens or manufactories at place of production.

Section 21, requiring full lists of all taxables to be printed and distributed, was stricken out, and the present method of giving assessment notices allowed to stand. The portion of section ten, containing what is known as "the spy feature," encouraging complaints, was stricken out. All these corrections were made at the forenoon meeting and no objections were presented.

At the afternoon meeting the opponents of the bill showed their animosity very plainly. What is known as the Boyer bill, which gives, as Senator BOYER puts it, "a crumb from the rich man's table," was considered, and Senator PORTER moved its substitution in place of the bill advocated by the Grangers. Senator BOYER vigorously opposed this, but without avail, and the Boyer bill was accepted by the Senate Committee in place of the Granger Bill. What this substitution may amount to remains to be seen, but it looks as if the bill, as designed for the granger interest, is in a precarious situation.

Should Be Investigated.

The Governor is said to have ordered an investigation of the charge that imported foreign laborers are compelled to work against their will in the coke regions. At the same time the report comes from that district that the houses from which the strikers have been evicted are being set fire to. All such statements should be thoroughly and impartially investigated, and if either act has been committed the law should apply the prompt remedy. It seems incredible that in this country any one can be forced to work against his will. It ought to be incredible that workmen can be so lost to every consideration of law and good sense as to try to support their cause by incendiarism.

Nevertheless, when a conflict has got to the pass where charges are rife on both sides that law, property and liberty are set at naught, it is time to have a thorough investigation. The parties found guilty, if there are any, should be given a severe lesson that the law is supreme.

The country regrets to learn of the serious illness of Mr. BLAINE, who, while on a visit to his daughter in New York this week, was overtaken with illness that has assumed a dangerous appearance. The Secretary, who furnishes the larger part of the brains of this administration, has been doing much hard work recently and appears to have broken down under it.

When Will the Legislature Adjourn?

The question of adjournment forces itself upon the attention of the Legislature, but although the session is approaching the end of the fifth month, the time for adjourning has not yet been determined. There is business yet unfinished which may keep the Legislature together until some time in June. The leading questions that have occupied the legislative attention still remain unsettled, such as ballot reform, the revenue bill, the apportionment bills, and others of importance. It is said that the granger element is determined to prolong the session until tax legislation satisfactory to the farmers shall be passed, which might keep the lawmakers at Harrisburg until the middle of June, and then not effect the object intended. There is a disposition to adjourn on the 28th of this month, but it is doubtful whether it can be carried out.

The Harrisburg Patriot of Wednesday, says: After encouraging to second reading, the House last night threw out, by indefinite postponement, the amendment of Senator MEEK to the Brooks bill limiting the number of licenses in accordance with the population—not more than one license, in cities, to each seven hundred inhabitants. The purpose of the measure was to curtail the number of licenses granted in populous places, and it should have had fairer treatment from our legislators. The Brooks bill is good as far as it goes, but there are many more restrictions which should be imposed upon liquor-sellers than they are now subjected to. Likewise could the number be cut down in most places, and the MEEK bill tended in this direction. It was unwise for the House to set it aside.

The Road Bill Vetted.

On Wednesday Governor PATTERSON sent the Road Bill back to the Legislature with his veto appended. The bill as originally intended was designed to give the State better roads, but it contained so many objectionable features that we believe the people will sanction the Governor's negative action in regard to it. We will publish the Governor's veto message next week.

—With commendable energy the Williamsport Breakfast Table last Sunday came out in a sixteen-page "Industrial Issue" detailing the numerous improvements in the enterprising and progressive city on the West Branch. The advantages of the "Lumber City" in the way of attracting industries are well illustrated, and justice is done to the many manufacturing establishments and the various occupations of Williamsport. The Breakfast Table is in full touch with the growing city in which it is issued.

—Ex-Congressman JAMES LYNCH of Wilkesbarre, has been appointed Law Judge for Luzerne county, by Governor PATTERSON. There were some who were uneasy about the Governor appointing a Republican, but they were giving themselves unnecessary trouble.

Peaches Is Safe.

New York Herald.—"Yes, sir," said an old Pennsylvania farmer, as he dusted the frost from his beard, where it had collected in the course of a three hours' ride in the early morning, "you can just bet your boots on what I say, and that this year peaches is safe as if they were picked. 'I've watched that 'ere fruit this fifty years, and I reckon I know a thing or two about the effect of frost on the blossoms. If you catch it on the buds before they open look out. Like as not your crop's a goner. Or if it strikes 'em when the bud is wet then you are certain to miss your crop. But once get 'em wide open an' dry, like what they is now, an' you have got a sure thing of it. When once the fruit begins to form it takes, harder teeth than them of frost to touch it. Tain't the same with plums an' cherries, which'll blight even after they blossomed. No, kind sir, peaches is safe this year, you take an old man's word for it. An' I should say it is about time."

Harrison's Check on Blaine.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 8.—The Harrison people are mysteriously intimating that Harrison has a letter from Blaine in his possession which will aid him greatly in his effort to have Blaine declare that he is not a candidate. This letter was written by Blaine to Harrison before the latter came to Washington in response to Harrison's letter offering Blaine the Secretaryship of State, and defining the foreign policy which the Administration was to follow. Blaine's letter, they claim, contained a statement to the effect that he would never again be a candidate for the Presidency, or, at the very least, that he would not be a candidate in 1892. This letter, which they refer to as the pledge of loyalty, "is to be published if Blaine does not declare himself, as Harrison desires, this summer." At present it is to be kept secret, so that it may be the more effectively used upon Blaine when the President has his settlement with him.

The Government Labor Bureau is a part of the Department of the Interior. It was established in 1884. The head of it is known as Commissioner of Labor, and his pay is \$5,000 a year.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

WANTED.—A good horse in exchange for carriage work. McQuiston & Co.

—If you are asked for a contribution to the proposed 4th of July celebration, don't hesitate to make a liberal one.

—The buggies purchased from McQuiston & Co. always give satisfaction. Long experience and practical workmen are guarantees of good work.

—Miss Mary Hunter Linn left on Friday morning last for an extended visit, at Ithica, New York. She visits at Sage cottage on the grounds of Cornell University.

—Frank Peabody Atherton, eldest son of Dr. Geo. W. Atherton, President of State College, has composed the music for a new farce comedy entitled "A Spring Chicken."

—C. U. Hoffer, Esq., of Phillipsburg, spent Sunday with his wife and children who are visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Gerberich, on Thomas street.

—Kepfinger & Co. are removing their undamaged stock to the Ammerman room on Bishop street where they will stay temporarily until the old room is repaired for them.

—Mann's Axe Factory was added to the already long list of closed manufactories, on Monday. A short demand for the product necessitates a suspension for several months.

—Old Mr. Davis Sellers, one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Buffalo Run, died at his home in Maternville, on Tuesday, the 12th inst. Deceased was one of the pioneers of the valley and had passed his 70th milestone when death overtook him.

—Gregg Post will celebrate memorial day with fitting ceremonies.

A SORRY SPECTACLE.—On Wednesday afternoon a party of little boys, between the ages of 8 and 14, were seen emptying the stale beer kegs which had been piled up at the rear of the Bush House. When they got their cans full all went away to drink it and it was not long until one of the alleys over in the west end was lined with children too drunk to stand up.

—Sam Rine, who presides with such efficiency at the Water Works, deserves great credit for the plentiful supply of water he kept in the reservoir on the occasion of the Allegheny street fire Wednesday morning. Mr. Rine is always equal to such emergencies, and takes great pride in keeping everything in the best of order about the spring and the water house.

THE KIDNAPED GIRL.—The Harrisburg Patriot, of Thursday, has the following to say about the little girl who was discovered at Phillipsburg, this county, as having been kidnaped by gypsies:

Little Laura Virginia Davis is still in the custody of the authorities at Phillipsburg. The citizens of that place have taken a deep interest in this unfortunate child and are doing everything possible to make her comfortable. She has many admirers, among them Mrs. Rose Pierce, who came to Harrisburg last evening to investigate the condition of the Dougherty family and ascertain whether the statements made by Laura are correct. She made a careful investigation and is satisfied that the child's story that she was kidnaped by a band of gypsies is true.

Last evening Mrs. Pierce visited the Mayor's office and obtained from Mayor Fritchey a letter to the Phillipsburg authorities asking them to release the child. If they do this little Laura will be taken care of by Mrs. Pierce until she can find a suitable school to send her to. Mrs. Pierce told a Patriot reporter that the gypsies threaten to burn Phillipsburg if the child is not returned to them. Mrs. Pierce has taken an interest in the child because of its truthfulness and honesty, and declares she has not made a single statement that she could not substantiate.

Laura tells a shocking tale of the cruelty and wickedness of the gypsies. She says they forced her to beg and steal, and beat her savagely if she was unsuccessful. She says they killed a man at Harrisburg and burned the house to conceal the crime. She also says they killed a man some place on the road and cut him up and buried the mutilated body under a big rock in the woods. She further says they have stolen several other children and haven't a little baby which they stole out of the house.

AN INVESTIGATION NEEDED.—A number of complaints have been heard lately about the filth that occasionally flows out through the water pipes at different points in town. We have been trying to learn its cause for some time without success, but a visit to the reservoir on Wednesday forever dispelled all doubt as to the origin.

The large basin which is used as a receiving tank for our water supply is in a most filthy condition, and it is a wonder indeed that the water has not become so contaminated as to produce universal sickness. Over its sides and on the bottom there is a coating of slimy green moss to the depth of at least six inches. In this place frogs, fishing worms and minute aquatic life of all descriptions swarm. Are you surprised then, when drawing a glass of water at the faucet in your house, if a fishing worm comes wriggling out of the pipe or a frog hops into your glass?

The place is in a fearful condition and demands the immediate attention of the Water Committee. If allowed to go much longer, with the weather as hot as it is, disastrous results may be looked for.

A CREDITABLE SEASON.—On last Thursday night Manager Al Garman closed the theatrical season with the musical aggregation known as the Noss Family. Mr. Garman has merited much praise for his careful and conscientious management of his pretty little play house, and while the season's run of shows was not quite up to the standard, it would have been had the house been opened earlier, so that good bookings could have been made. Bellefonte theatre goes nevertheless forget the few "fake" shows that imposed themselves on the young manager, in the pleasant memory of hours spent with Frank Mayo, Marie Greenwood's Opera Co., Gorman's, Fields' and Vreeland's Minstrels, the Kindergarten Company, Lizzie Evans, and other shows of high order that held the boards.

On the whole the season was a success, and we can assure the public that this year's work has been a valuable experience to the management, which will aid him very materially in making his bookings for next season.

A HINT FOR BELLEFONTE.—The following item is clipped from the Williamsport Sun:

"Shamokin isn't the liveliest town in the state, but the barbers of that place have good common sense. It costs twenty-five cents to get your hair cut in Shamokin on Saturday, and the men who go into the shops to get shaved do not have to wait half an hour longer to allow some thoughtless fellow time to have his bersute appendage removed. Score one for Shamokin."

Just so, and let Bellefonte barbers take the hint and adopt the plan. Saturday hair cutting, when everybody is in a hurry to get shaved, is a nuisance.

"CRANKS, FOOLS AND CAMDEN MARRIAGES."—Is the subject on which Rev. I. W. Bagley, the popular Camden, N. J. Minister and lecturer, will talk in Pruner's Arcade, Tyrone, on Thursday evening, May 28th. In his lecture he will relate about the eleven hundred marriage ceremonies he performed in a little over a year, all of whom were Pennsylvania people. He will also describe and illustrate the different kinds of "cranks" and "fools" of the present day. As a lecturer and impersonator Mr. Bagley has few equals and no superiors on the American stage to-day. All who go to hear him will be delighted. The press and public everywhere are loud in their praises of his excellent talks.

THE ASSESSOR ON HIS ROUND.—There is no way in which the business condition of a town can be found-out, just so well as by the assessor's report. We dropped into H. H. Harshbarger's office on Wednesday afternoon and in a short talk with that gentleman we found that sixty and more idle houses tell the tale of Bellefonte's idle industries. More than thirty-five of these are located in the North ward while the rest are about equally distributed between the West and South. These figures do not include the numerous unrented flats and rooms in the various large buildings! Something must be done to relieve our town of this stagnation. What has become of the Building and Loan Association? Why don't it agitate new manufactories and endeavor to interest foreign capital in the exceptional natural advantages of Bellefonte?

MARRIAGE LICENSES.—Issued during the past week:

Samuel Loose and Lydia Bierly, both of Hebersburg. Frank Detrich, of Zion, and Emma Dugan, of Farmers' Mills. Jeremiah Phink and Kate Rothrock, both of Phillipsburg. Irvin Way and Estella M. Hoover, both of Unionville. Leander Green and Annie Stuart, both of Bellefonte. J. A. Weaver and Fannie K. Mowrey, both of Hüllersburg. Geo. Hollabaugh, of Moshannon, and Ellen Daughenbaugh, of Port Matilda. Harry Eckenroth, of Unionville, and Sarah S. Hinton, of Snow Shoe. Martin Yanoski and Mary Minarick both of Snow Shoe. Robt. J. McCans, of Johnstown, and Laura Mulroys, of Phillipsburg. Andrew Bottomley and Annie Sackett, both of Snow Shoe. Ira C. M. Ellenberger and Mary M. Hastings, both of Gatesburg. James W. Quick and Maggie C. Eye, both of Moshannon. T. J. Moore, of Howard, and Mary E. Bartholomew, of Hüllersburg. Mike Koopst and Annie Patris, both of Phillipsburg. R. C. Leathers, of Mt. Eagle, and Fannie D. Gardner, of Howard.

Pine Grove Mentions.

Miss Nancy Oliver, of Greysville, is the guest of Mrs. A. P. Mitchell.

The epidemic of measles which has infested this section is subsiding.

The late cold snap did very serious damage to fruit of all kinds in this section.

Our young friend, John Reynolds, is dangerously ill with typhoid pneumonia.

Mr. Russell Port, after spending several years in search of fortune in the west, recently returned to his parental roof a physical wreck from rheumatism, scarcely able to go about.

Owing to the prolonged drouth many of our farmers are stuck, waiting for rain to plow for corn, whilst others are anxiously waiting and watching for the early planting to peep up through the scorched and dry soil.

The death of Phoebe Fisher occurred at the home of John Grimes in this township, on the 4th inst., of diabetes, aged 70 years. She had been unwell for some days, but always able to go about and attend to the domestic affairs of the home. Two days previous to her death she lay down to rest, as the family thought. When found she was in an insensible condition from which she never recovered. Her remains were interred in the M. E. cemetery at Pine Hall, on the 6th instant. We believe that one sister survives her, Mrs. John Houtz, in the western part of the State.

The forest fires are still raging, the sky being lighted up with fire apparently in every direction. The people who live along the barrens have suffered more or less. On last Sunday forenoon, while people were attending church, the wind began to blow a terrific gale which fanned the sparks, that were thought to have been extinguished, into a most smothered, suddenly into raging flames, which leaped for rods over men's heads who were firing against it, and in some instances men had to flee for their lives before the flames. The air was full of burning missiles, which set fire to hay stacks belonging to John H. Nidigh; at on the ground for the erection of a new barn, all of which went up in the flames, best several hundred panels of fence were destroyed for Mr. Nidigh. The barn of D. L. Mr was saved only by the timely arrival of neighbors.