

Democratic Watchman

Terms \$2.00 A Year, in Advance

Bellefonte, Pa., March 2, 1894.

P. GRAY MEEK, Editor

The Democratic Majority in the House.

The Philadelphia Press finds itself constrained to regard the Democrats in the House of Representatives as "an impotent, straggling, incoherent majority," incapable of doing anything; "a reckless body" possessed of "a wild, lawless, untaught, untamed spirit."

All these adjectives have been called into descriptive service to give the required force and color to its remarks about the proceedings in the House on the Seigniorage bill.

Those proceedings are far from being an example of what that Democratic majority can do when they put themselves down to work in earnest. The fact is they do not seem to be taking much interest in the seigniorage, otherwise their big majority could easily pass the bill. But when they have a job of wiping out some Republican legislative enormity, or some outrageous policy of that party, it cannot be said that there is anything about them that is "impotent, straggling, or incoherent."

For example, when that majority in the House took hold of that beautiful specimen of Republican legislation, the purchasing clause of the SHERMAN silver law, which had exhausted the revenues of the government and deranged financial and business conditions, didn't they as far as their action could go, wipe it off the statute books with neatness and dispatch?

As a further example, was there anything "impotent, straggling and incoherent" in their action when they tackled that pet Republican monopoly measure, the MCKINLEY tariff, and knocked it higher than GILROY'S kite by an overwhelming majority for the Wilson bill?

And as a still further example, when they took the Federal elections law by the throat and shook it until the bayonets in it fairly rattled, shaking the very life out of that odious force measure, was there any lack of potency, concentration and cohesion in the manner in which they did that piece of work?

The Press must not judge the House from their treatment of such matters as seigniorage, in which they are not much interested. They are lying back for bigger game. They are waiting for more important and congenial work in the repeal of Republican malariousities, financial as well as economic. When they apply themselves to such tasks, it is always found that instead of the "grotesque and helpless demoralization" which the imagination of the Press attributes to them, they are ready for business, and abundantly able to perform it in the most approved congressional style.

The Best Preparation.

The Executive Democratic National Committee at Washington held a meeting this week to make arrangements for the congressional elections that occur this year, and prepare a line of action that will promote Democratic success in the coming contest.

This is highly proper and it attended by favorable circumstances will no doubt be conducive to good results. But what will be the most favorable circumstances and the most conducive to Democratic success, in the approaching congressional elections, is the passage of the WILSON tariff bill. The nearer it shall be kept to the form in which it was passed by the House, the better will be its effect upon the future fortune of the Democratic party.

The tariff measure now pending in Congress, if adopted by the determined and harmonious action of the majority, will convince the people that the Democratic party is capable of and not afraid to fulfill its pledges. It will disabuse the public mind of the false impression that high tariffs are necessary for the prosperity of the country, and will vindicate the wisdom and beneficence of the democratic tariff policy by its beneficial effects.

What better Democratic preparation could there be for the congressional elections?

But the effect on the public mind will be greatly diminished by delay in passing the tariff bill, as dilatory action in its enactment, will postpone the good results and prevent them from having sufficient time to demonstrate themselves before the election.

Pass the Wilson tariff bill promptly, with no more delay than is necessary for decent action upon so important a measure; pass it, if possible, by the first of April, so that it may have at least six months before the election to prove its merits and virtues, and our word for it that the Democratic party will be in good condition to meet their enemy in the coming congressional contest.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

The McKinley Hoo-doo.

Among the many good reasons why the Wilson tariff bill should become a law, a very good one is that it would furnish convincing proof that the prosperity of the country does not depend upon the Republican party. Such proof is of vital importance to good government and the general welfare of the people.

The Republicans have managed to largely impress the public mind with the belief that whatever of prosperity the American people enjoy it has come from their administration of the government. Circumstances have given them the opportunity to work this fake off on popular gullibility to their political advantage.

The control of public affairs came into their hands through the accident of the war. As war measures they passed tariff laws, periodically increasing their exactions. Eventually they succeeded in increasing a public impression that their tariff was positively necessary for industrial interests, particularly beneficial to the working people, and absolutely indispensable to general prosperity, ignoring the natural resources of the country and its ability to grow in wealth and industrial development in spite of disadvantageous and injurious economic regulations.

With such a basis of popularity, buttressed by the public delusion that to disturb the Republican tariff was to strike down American industry and impoverish the people, they allowed themselves to commit almost any enormity in the management of the government, assured that the popular hypnosis concerning the benefits of their tariff would sustain them in such conduct.

They were thus encouraged to practice the most extravagant methods of administration. They squandered the public revenues without a sense of responsibility. They adopted policies which exhausted the Treasury for objects of political advantage. They placed thousands and tens of thousands of unworthy names on the pension rolls for no other reason than that of attaching a large voting element to their party. They even ventured to bring the elections under the control of the Federal power with which the tariff delusion pervading the public mind seemed to have permanently invested them.

Such have been the consequences of the false impression that the country owed its prosperity to the Republican tariff policy, and of the fear that it would be ruined if that policy were disturbed.

The evil of such a delusion, and the tenacity with which, it retains its hold are strikingly displayed in the intent and effect of the calamity howl.

What are the facts which that howl is intended to pervert? A majority of the people, after a long and struggling process of education, had at last become convinced that a change in the tariff was needed, and voted for tariff reform. But before this change could be effected, and while it was pending, the natural fruit of the MCKINLEY tariff ripened into one of the most thorough business collapses the country ever saw.

That collapse had its origin in the policies of the party that had bankrupted the government and imposed the shackles of a monopoly tariff on every productive industry. It was bound to come, and it did come just at the time when the government passed into Democratic hands from the control of the party whose management had caused this wide-spread business prostration; but its coming, as was natural it should come in the unavoidable order of cause and effect, was immediately seized upon and put to political use by Republican calamity howlers who represented it as being the effect of Democratic administration just invested with the control of public affairs, and a result of tariff changes not yet made, many weak-minded voters being influenced by so palpable a falsification as shown in recent elections.

To remove so dangerous a means of popular deception, which has cost the country a fearful price in the long continued corruption and demoralization of Republican administrations, and consequent injury to good government, the Wilson tariff bill should be passed with all the dispatch that can be given it by earnestness in the performance of so imperative a duty. Such a consummation will end the economic delusion that has enabled a fraudulent party to retain its hold upon the government which it has plundered and bankrupted.

The passage of that bill will break the delusive charm and permanently dispel the malign influence of the MCKINLEY hoo-doo.

A Word to Election Officers.

It seems like a veritable case of locking the stable after the horse is stolen, but we feel it our duty to call the attention of those men who have been elected to serve on the Board at the next general election, to a matter of importance, in which all should be interested.

In going over the certified returns of the various precincts of this county, as filed in the Prothonotary's office, one day last week, we found many of them in such a condition that no one can tell the results which they are supposed to certify. Many of them are dirty and besmeared with ink and grime in such a way that the writing on them is altogether unintelligible. Others are so badly written that we verily believe the men who did the work cannot read them to-day; while quite a number have the names of the candidates, who ran for office, written indiscriminately across the sheets, without heading or any designation to tell what office they aspired to.

Now such a condition of affairs is altogether inexcusable, for there can be no reason why the exercise of a little care in making out the return sheets should not be demanded by the Judge of the Board as he is certainly held responsible for the condition in which the returns from his precinct are found. If the officer who does the writing exercises the least care, he can write so that any one can read, remembering that names should always be spelled out in full. For he must not take for granted that everyone who reads the returns will know that J. is intended for Joseph Smith and not James, or John, or Jonathan. Then all names of candidates should be classified on the return sheet in the same order that they appear on the ticket, with the office for which they ran above them.

With such care there is every reason to believe that the trouble we experienced last week would be altogether eradicated and election boards would bring more credit to themselves by showing that they appreciate the responsibility of their positions.

—Through an oversight in proof reading last week an editorial in the WATCHMAN led its readers to believe that JACKSON had been the Democratic candidate for State Treasurer, last Fall, and that OSBORNE was the Republican candidate, when just the reverse was the case. The figures were correct, however, and our readers doubtless understood the meaning of the writer, though there was an awkward transposition of the names of the last Fall's candidates with whose vote a comparison was being drawn.

Gotham Snowed Under.

The Heavy Fall of the Beautiful Followed by a Fierce Wind.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—The Arctic artists came to town Sunday night and at dawn to-day the north facade of every building heretofore shimmered much like silver. There was a fierce sleet storm, which succeeded the horizontal rush of snow that set in on Sunday night at noon the sleet stopped a bit, and then the snow resumed business. The sleet packed the snow, which had been softened by occasional rains. Very hard, and the snow fall really amounted to eight inches. From noon until 3 p. m., when the snow practically ceased, seven inches of snow or its equivalent had added themselves to the solid accumulations of the morning, making 15 inches in all. The wind was doing its worst at 9 a. m., when the prophet's anemometer was whizzing round at the rate of 42 miles an hour. Toward nightfall the wind veered to the North and backed around the North-west before 8 o'clock, and the mercury began to fall.

The wires connecting Quarantine and Sandy Hook with the city went down under their weight of sleet, and news from the sea came up in primitive fashion—by boats. All sailing vessels and several steamships that were to have sailed to-day decided to stay in port until the blast blew itself out.

Eighteen inches of snow were reported to-day from Pomeroy, O.; 14 inches at Parkersburg and still snowing. Trains are badly delayed and street car lines are blocked.

Five at a Birth.

Event of the Season in an Armstrong County Town.

KITTANNING, Pa., Feb. 27.—Last night the wife of David Rosenberg living near Blanket Hill, gave birth to five children, three boys and two girls, all of whom are alive and healthy. Rosenberg is a farmer, 45 years old. Several children had been born previous to last night's quintuple feat.

Oil City, Pa., Feb. 27.—A most interesting and rather unusual event occurred at the home of Joseph Richert, of North Seneca street, at midnight Monday, when Mrs. Richert presented her husband with three daughters. The little ladies are lively and healthy. The mother is doing well.

Grow's Plurality 187,169.

Full Returns of Last Tuesday's Election Show No Room for a Contest.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 27.—The official returns from all the counties of the state give Grow a total vote of 487,670 and Hancock 300,501, making Grow's exact plurality 187,169. Markley got 2,457, Morrow 5,256 and Lotter 3,848.

Number of Farmers Poisoned.

At a Public Sale They Ate Meat Boiled in a Copper Kettle—Two Die.

SOMERSET, Pa., Feb. 26.—From the best information obtainable here to-night two farmers are dead, 10 or 12 are seriously sick, and 50 more are suffering from the effects of eating poisoned meat at a sale held February 22, in Quemahoning township Jeremiah Ringler, a prominent citizen of Quemahoning township died this morning and Alexander Rhodes, a leading citizen and farmer of Jenner township, is reported to have died during the day, both from poisoning. Those suffering from the poison are scattered all over the north of the county.

It is customary in rural communities to prepare a cold dinner for all persons who attend a public sale of personal property and last Wednesday the woman who had charge of the effects of the late William Holder, of Jenner township, whose household goods and farming implements, had been advertised for sale the following day, prepared to feed the crowd. Among other articles of food prepared was a lot of beef that had been boiled the previous evening in a copper kettle and had been permitted to remain in the vessel over night. Thursday morning it was cut up and handed out at lunch time among the 250 farmers who attended the sale.

Shortly after eating the meat a large number of persons were taken violently sick, among them Auctioneer John Talmon, of near Somerset. Talmon had not relinquished the block more than 14 minutes when the second auctioneer, John A. Walter, of Somerset, was seized with a fit of nausea but he continued knocking down articles to the highest bidder until the spectators all left for home, a majority of them complaining of feeling sick at the stomach. Talmon says that a number of persons were seized with violent fits of vomiting shortly after they had partaken of the meat, while others only complained of feeling uneasy in their stomachs. Talmon came home the same evening, where he was seized with a fit of vomiting.

Jeremiah Ringler, who died this morning, took sick immediately after the sale and lingered in great agony until he expired. Alexander Rhodes is known to have been prostrated from the effects of having eaten the meat, and it was reported yesterday that he could not recover. A rumor reached here to-night that at least 10 other residents of Jenner and Quemahoning townships cannot recover. The second auctioneer, Walter, was sick all day Friday and Friday night and says he is positive his sickness resulted from eating the poisoned meat.

Opposed to It.

Senator Hill and Senator Murphy Are Said to Be Antagonistic to the Wilson Bill.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 27.—According to a letter received yesterday at the headquarters of the Window Glass Workers' association from ex-President James Campbell, a leading member of the committee which is in Washington to fight for a window glass tariff, several Democratic senators, including Senator Hill, of New York, will fight the Wilson bill.

Mr. Hill assured the committee that he will fight the bill in every way, both in committee and on the floor of the senate, and that his voice and vote would be against it. It is believed that Senator Hill's attitude will be reinforced by Senator Murphy, his colleague. The Pittsburgh labor organizations and manufacturers have loaded up the distinguished senators with ammunition against the bill. New York state contains many glass factories and industries that have been affected by Professor Wilson and his colleagues.

Senator Cameron promised to work and vote against the bill. Senator McPherson promised that he would do all in his power to get a better tariff on window glass while the bill is before the finance committee, but he said he would be forced to vote with his party when the bill comes up in the senate.

Senator Brice said that he, of all the senators in congress, was hit hardest by the Wilson Bill, on account of the great industrial interests in Ohio.

He would do his best to have the window glass schedule changed but he would have to vote with his party on the bill in general. Senator Kyle, of the South Dakota Populist, presented one of the curious contradictions of his party by saying he was opposed to the Wilson bill, but would vote for it. Senator Peffer said that he would fight and vote against it.

Chief Arthur's Wealth.

The Great Labor Leader Is Said to Be Worth More Than \$85,000.

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 27.—The agitation of the Des Moines, Ia., Knights of Labor regarding the property upon which Chief Engineer P. M. Arthur pays taxes in Cleveland, and the statement that they would investigate the matter, has given rise to the inquiry as to how much property is owned by Mr. Arthur in this city.

An investigation of the tax duplicate for 1893 at the county Court House shows that last year Mr. Arthur paid taxes upon real estate upon a listed valuation of \$45,650. The taxable valuation upon property is about 50 per cent. of its value. This would make his estate worth about \$85,000. Mr. Arthur's personal estate was assessed at \$3,150.

Reduction in Miners' Wages.

POTTSVILLE, Feb. 28.—The committee of the Schuylkill coal exchange has fixed the rate of wages for mine employes of the region for the last half of February and the first half of March at 2 per cent. below the \$2.50 basis, which is a reduction of 6 per cent. as compared with last month.

Miner's Imprisoned.

Caught in the Boston Run Mine by an Avalanche of Crop and Surface Coal.

ASHLAND, Pa., Feb. 28.—While seven miners were at work this afternoon in the west gang of the Boston Run mine an avalanche of crop and surface coal swept down upon them and imprisoned them in the dark passageway in which they were laboring. The rumble of the mass of coal and dirt as it swept down the gangway and the cloud of dust that arose from the mouth of the shaft were all too familiar signs of a disaster to the surface men, and an alarm was given that an accident had occurred. Men, women and children flocked to the mouth of the shaft, and for a time confusion reigned around the yawning hole that might be at the entrance to the tomb of seven men.

The cool counsel of the experienced miners in the crowd soon brought some order out of the excitement and a rescuing party was formed. The rescuers entered the shaft, and after a short time a cheer from those nearest the entrance of the gangway announced to the anxiously awaiting crowd that some of the men had been found. Two men emerged from the shaft and they proved to be John and Joe Wickes, brothers. They said that five more men were still imprisoned in the gangway, and that they were Lewis White, Charles Mohm, Elwood Mingle, James Kramer and William Irvine. All the men live in Frackville, and are well known miners.

Since 3 o'clock this afternoon the rescuing party has been at work clearing away the debris in the gangway, and they hope to reach the shut-in men to-night. Whether they will be alive or only their dead bodies will be found can only be surmised, but it is hoped that the men still live. A crowd of anxious women and children are congregated around the shaft's mouth awaiting the end of the rescuing party's quest.

The Boston Run mine belongs to the Reading company and is one of the largest in the Mahanoy district.

Witchcraft in Indiana County.

A Young Man Acts the Necromancer for Rev. O'Neil.

INDIANA, Pa., Feb. 28.—John Little, of Green township, in an information made before Squire Marlin, is charged with practicing upon the superstitious nature of Miss Jane Black, with a view to gaining possession of her property. Miss Black is an aged lady, residing upon a farm. Her brother Reuben, who died about two years ago, and she are said to have been repeatedly imposed upon by witch doctors. It is alleged that they gave one fellow a cow for banishing the witches from their herd; but the neighbors, seeing how the old folks had been victimized, interred and the animal was returned. Miss Black is said to have declared that she knew there was a witch in the house because her bed moved about the room at night, strange noises were heard in the chimney and the dog, after an absence of two days, came home with a bloody breast. The impostors are said to have got \$60 for banishing the witches on this occasion. One swept the ceiling from east to west and from north to south, and the other, with his face blackened, played spook, vanishing when the old couple had been scared nearly to death.

It is alleged that since Reuben's death Little has told Miss Black that he had talked with her brother's spirit and that it was Reuben's desire that Little take charge of the farm. Miss Black has a brother who doesn't believe in witches and he is prosecuting this case. He claims that Little has already secured considerable grain and was reaching out to get the farm and the old lady's money in the bank.

Battle in West Virginia.

Working Miners Repulse Strikers in a Bloody Encounter—At Least One of the Assaultants Is Killed—The Governor Orders Out Troops.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Feb. 28.—Governor McCorkle received a dispatch this afternoon from Eagle, a mining town on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad about 30 miles east of here, saying that there was trouble with strikers and asking him to send troops. The Governor sent his private secretary to the scene to report if the military was needed. Later dispatches from Eagle report a meeting of strikers from New River and Mt. Carbon this afternoon. It was determined to proceed to come out.

They went down to Wyant's mines at Eagle about 300 strong, without organization, but with 50 guns. The working miners had taken refuge in the tipples, all well armed. The strikers approached by the mountain above the tipples, and when within about 100 yards, began firing. The men in the tipples replied, killing one man and wounding several. The firing lasted for two hours.

On receiving the private secretary's report, the Governor ordered out the troops to-night.

Ungrateful Mr. Barnard.

He Says Mrs. Lease Is a Liar in Claiming to Be a Mason.

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—Secretary G. W. Barnard, of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Illinois, said to-day that Mary Ellen Lease is "a deliberate liar when she said she is a member of the order." "The trouble with Mrs. Lease," said Mr. Barnard, "is that she is afflicted with the 'strong jaw.' Her story is absurd."

Hundreds Killed by an Explosion.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—A dispatch from Shanghai says that 450 men were killed recently by an explosion in a coal mine in the province Shang Tung. No details are given.

The Democratic Senators Have Sent the Tariff Bill Back to the Committee.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—After spending the better part of three days in a caucus on the tariff bill the Democratic senators this afternoon sent the bill back to the finance committee without expressed but strongly implied instructions to amend it according to the consensus of the opinion as expressed during the discussion. No dictation was made to the committee as to what articles should be put on the dutiable list, nor were any rates suggested, the committee being left free to exercise its own judgment in the light of what has transpired during the past three days.

The only effort made to secure an expression by vote on any special schedule was made by Mr. Pugh this afternoon on iron ore and that resulted in an endorsement, although by an exceedingly small majority, of the committee's action. Mr. Pugh moved that iron ore be changed from the free list to the dutiable list, and on a yeas and nays vote this proposition was defeated by a vote of 19 to 17. The bill is again in the hands of the committee and an effort will be made to have it repaired in time to lay it before the full committee on finance by Saturday, or at least Monday morning. There will probably not be another caucus, but in order to provide for emergencies, Mr. Gorman has been given authority to issue a call if he thinks necessary.

An Unwise Experiment.

Enlisted Indians Will Be Allowed to Retire From the Army.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The War Department authorities have come to the conclusion that the experiment of enlisting Indians in the army is a failure, and will make no further effort to secure them for the cavalry and infantry regiments. The Indians have been found to be poor material for soldiers, and after a year or two of service are anxious to rejoin their tribes, and give up army life. Hereafter no obstacles will put in the way of any Indian who may wish to purchase his discharge, and he will be allowed to return to the prairies without hindrance.

When the attempt was first made a few years ago to draw upon the savages for enlisted forces it was believed by many officers that the Indians would prove a failure, and recent developments have borne out his prediction.

There are now two regiments of cavalry composed entirely of negroes. These regiments have reached a high state of perfection and the colored men are said to make admirable soldiers. Difficulty was found at first in securing officers who were willing to be assigned to colored regiments and for some years the discipline in them became lax and indifferent. Just across the river from Washington are four troops stationed at Fort Myer, who are admired for their drillings every fine afternoon these days by a number of persons from the city.

Gladstone Still in Office.

Though He Holds a Conference With the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—Mr. Gladstone had a conference with the Queen at Buckingham Palace to-day. It was at first thought his visit was for the purpose of tendering his resignation, but it was understood that subject was not broached during the interview. In spite of the cold, Mr. Gladstone drove from his official residence to Buckingham Palace in an open phaeton. The general opinion seems to be that Mr. Gladstone has either resigned or will shortly resign the Premiership.

After Mr. Gladstone's return the Associated Press correspondent called at Mr. Gladstone's residence. Secretary Littleton informed the correspondent that Mr. Gladstone had not resigned and that the situation remains unchanged. The Associated Press correspondent then asked Mr. Littleton if the situation is at present exactly the same as when Sir Algernon West telegraphed from Biarritz after Pall Mall Gazette first started the report that Mr. Gladstone intended to resign. After some hesitation Mr. Littleton replied that the situation of affairs is the same as when the much discussed Biarritz dispatch was sent.

Eighteen Men Lost.

One Vessel's Crew and Part of Another Go Down in the Deep.

GLoucester, Mass., Feb. 28.—On November 23 the schooner Henrietta, under command of Dominique Pinelli, left for a trip to the Banks. Since she was at Canso nothing had been heard of her. To-day the bells here tolled for the lost. The schooner was probably overtaken by the memorable gale of February 12 and overwhelmed. She carried a crew of 14 men as follows: Dominique Pinelli, Laramonci Gabriel Desire Emille Poirier, Albert Johnson, John Reed, Albert Turner, Oliver Larson, Benjamin Delaney, Leon Bourveta, Paul Armstrong, Grimar Marrien, Michael Boudret, Albert Durjay and Fred Harrison.

The steamer Resolute which has just returned from a fishing trip, reports that Tracy Presson, William Ferguson, Alexander Stewart and Augustus Christensen, members of the crew, got astray from the vessel while attending trawls. A heavy gale came on and the men were drowned.

Don Jan Gets 18 Months.

The Crank Writes a Costly Postal to Vice President Stevenson.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 28.—Joseph Don Jan, who sent the following postal card to Vice President Stevenson, was tried in the United States District Court to-day on the charge of violating the postal laws:

DOOMSDAY—If you do not send me my expenses—\$25—then you will be one of the first to be kicked out; but if you do, then I will see you first before I do anything else, send quick.

The jury, after a brief consideration, returned a verdict of guilty, and Judge Morris sentenced Don Jan to the penitentiary for 18 months.