

Democratic Watchman

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P. GRAY MEEK, Editor

Mistaken in Regard to Sugar.

We greatly regret to see that an esteemed Philadelphia contemporary which has done excellent service to the cause of tariff reform should be so badly out of joint in regard to free sugar.

Of the many strong arguments it has made against the Republican tariff system none was stronger than the position it has always taken that such a tariff is oppressive to the general class of citizens, inasmuch as it taxes the necessities of life. Take away this objection and but very little if any ground of contention against a tariff would remain.

Now if there is anything that is a thorough necessity, generally needed and used in every household, it is sugar. What then becomes of our esteemed contemporary's objection to tariffs that oppressively tax the necessities of life when it would select as a special object of tariff taxation the most necessary of necessities, the article extensively used in every family, and in the aggregate vastly more by the working people than by the wealthy?

To say that a tax on such a necessary is required for the purpose of revenue is no argument, unless it can be shown that there are no other sources, less oppressive, from which the needed revenue could be raised. To resort to such a tax because sugar can be readily handled as a subject of tariff duties is rather hard on the general consumers who are to be subjected to such an imposition because it can be handled so easily.

Our excellent contemporary makes a mistake when it says that the Democratic newspapers which oppose the tariffing of sugar "are merely making a parrot-like repetition of the cheap demagogic cries of the McKINLEYITES when they repeated those duties." There is not a Democratic newspaper that does not know that Republican "free sugar" is a fraud. The trust was given the advantage of free raw sugar, but the duty was kept on the manufactured article that is used by the people. It strengthened the trust without benefiting the consumers. When Democratic newspapers ask for the removal of duties from all kinds of sugar, refined as well as raw, there is no parrot-like imitation of Republican humbug on the sugar question in such a demand.

It is no doubt true, as declared by the journal we speak of, that one of the objects of the Republicans in repealing the duty on raw sugar was "to despoil the Treasury of revenue and to obstruct tariff reform;" but their first and biggest movement towards making a tariff financially necessary by removing other sources of revenue was in the abolishment of the income tax. It was the first thing they did in preparing for that system of taxation which our contemporary has so often righteously denounced as spoliation and oppression of the general class of consumers.

The income tax having been gotten out of the way in order to make tariffs permanently necessary as fiscal instrumentalities, should it not occur to our esteemed contemporary that a restoration of a tax on incomes would be a legitimate and logical way of avoiding the taxation of necessities which has so long been the subject of its denunciation?

Without being disconcerted by the charge that a Democratic newspaper that opposes a tax on sugar merely parrots the cheap demagogic cries of the McKINLEYITES when they jugged with the sugar duties, we contend that it is fairer and more equitable that the public revenues should be derived from the incomes of the wealthy than from the sugar bowls of the working people.

Presidential Recuperation.

We observe that some of our Republican contemporaries have given themselves considerable trouble about the President's recent ducking expedition. They declare it to have been a great neglect of official duty for him to leave his post at Washington and engage in such diversion at a time when the country is in such a distressful situation. Their complaint, however, would make more of an impression if they would state in what way the constant presence of the President at Washington is required at this particular juncture to relieve the calamity which is the subject of their lamentations.

A Democratic Congress, in the face of great difficulties and many obstacles that oppose its movement, is engaged in undoing the evils of past Republican legislation. It has imposed upon it

the task of correcting injurious policies and extravagant practices that have done more than anything else to bring the country to its present plight. Its movement is necessarily slow. The President, whose functions are not of a legislative character, must await the action of Congress before he can do the part that is required of him, and if in the meanwhile, he recuperates his physical vigor by taking a crack at the ducks, he only puts himself in better condition to assist in knocking over Republican economic abuses by his signature to a reform Democratic tariff bill.

The President neglected no public duty in going duck shooting. When there is work to do that comes within the line of his official duty, for example the signing of a bill for the repeal of a vicious Republican silver purchasing enactment, or of a law authorizing the forcible control of the elections, he is always on hand to do his part, and he will be found doing business at the Presidential stand when the Wilson bill is presented to him for his autograph.

The Unworthy Should Be Dropped.

At the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Division of the Grand Army of the Republic, which was held in Philadelphia last week, commander SAMPLE, in his address to the veterans, said in regard to the recent dropping of pensioners from the rolls that "no consistent member of the Grand Army of the Republic desires an illegal pension to be paid," and he believed that "every comrade was ready to assist the government in purging the roll of every fraudulent pensioner," but he further said that the Grand Army "should demand that no names should be stricken from the rolls simply to reduce the amount of money to be paid by the government."

This is something of a concession, and a decided lowering of the arrogant tone by which any attempt to check pension abuses was denounced from that quarter. It is pitched in a less offensive key than that which characterized the tirades against President CLEVELAND when he exercised his veto against individual cases of improper pensioning.

To say that the Grand Army does "not desire an illegal pension to be paid," does not cover, nor offer a remedy for one of the most flagrant abuses connected with the pension system. The greatest abuse connected with the system is the legalizing of pensions to persons who are not in need of them. Such cases as that of Judge LONO, of Michigan, the affluent pensioner who is contending in the courts for his legal right to a pension that is not needed by a man in his pecuniary circumstances, is an illustration of this shameful method of misapplying the bounty of the government. There is hardly a section of the country in which dozens of pensioners can not be pointed out who are receiving this government bounty, not because their circumstances are such that they need it, but because the law has been so improperly framed as to give them a claim to it.

To change the pension laws so that all pensioners whose pecuniary condition does not require the assistance of the government shall be dropped from the rolls should be the object of Democratic legislation.

The remark of commander SAMPLE that "no names should be stricken from the rolls simply to reduce the amount of money to be paid by the government," is not controverted in any quarter. When the claim is a worthy one and the bounty is needed it is an obligation sacredly binding upon the government; but when there is an annual drain of more than a hundred and fifty millions of dollars on the public resources, there can be no question of the urgent necessity of "reducing the amount to be paid by the government" by dropping the class of pensioners who are absorbing a large portion of this vast sum for no other reason than that improper and vicious pension laws give them a legal claim to it.

A Marked Difference.

The difference between Democratic justice in New York and Republican justice in Philadelphia, is not only observable but very marked. In New York they put the fellow, who commits a crime against the purity of the ballot in prison, as they did McKANE, while in Philadelphia they put them in their council as they did DAVE MOUTAT and HARRY HUNTER. As long as McKANE is in Sing Sing and HUNTER is a Philadelphia councilman, and out of Moyamensing, Republican papers ought to be ashamed to speak of the purity of elections or the justice of Republican courts.

A Successor to Senator White Appointed.

NEW ORLEANS, March 7.—Congressman M. C. Blanchard has been appointed United States senator by Governor Foster to fill the unexpired term of Senator White until the legislature meets in May this year.

Many Pension Frauds.

Gen. Black's Brilliant Defense of the Present Policy and Methods of Government Officials.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—The House today devoted the greater part of the session to the consideration of the pension appropriation bill. After important business was disposed of Mr. Pickler (South Dakota) took the floor and made a vigorous speech in behalf of a liberal pension policy. The old soldier, his widow, his children and his grandchildren should have justice, he said.

General Black, of Illinois, ex-Commissioner of Pensions, followed Mr. Pickler, whose kindly speech, he said, might almost be adopted as the declaration of the House. While it was true that there was no praise of the Union soldier that would not find an echo on the Democratic side, the assault of Mr. Grout, speaking for the Republican minority, could not be overlooked.

Mr. Grout, Mr. Black said, had laid down three propositions: First, that the pension office was unfriendly to the soldiers; second, that it was inimical to their habits; it was this sort of skeleton work which produced such enormous results. He did not say this in criticism, only to show the methods that obtained. It was impossible, except by the interposition of a miracle, to avoid gross and extensive errors with such methods.

There was an entire neglect of the great requisite of the law—that the condition of the applicant should be shown not to have been the result of his own vicious habits. It was this sort of skeleton work which produced such enormous results. He did not say this in criticism, only to show the methods that obtained. It was impossible, except by the interposition of a miracle, to avoid gross and extensive errors with such methods.

Mr. Black went on to cite the case of a Northwestern regiment which was at the battle of Gettysburg and never saw the smoke of battle nor heard a musket crack. Six hundred and fourteen in that regiment were on the pension roll under the act of 1890 with two companies unaccounted for. Was that making the pension a roll of honor. [Democratic applause.]

Pension Frauds Alleged.

This statement caused great interest. Mr. Ray, of New York, wanted to know if General Black was not aware that those men had been pensioned for gallant and meritorious service in other campaigns.

General Black replied that he knew nothing of the kind. Mr. Lacey insisted on knowing the name of the regiment, and Mr. Black declined to give it, saying that he was not playing the part of detective. He insisted that if a soldier was pensioned as a member of a certain regiment he was pensioned for service in that regiment.

Mr. Black then drifted into a discussion of the frauds unearthed at Norfolk, New Orleans, New Mexico, Chattanooga, Iowa and Minnesota by the present Commissioner of Pensions, which he said, since December 23, had resulted in 28 arrests, 82 indictments and 61 convictions. He cited them, he said, to show that Mr. Lacey had been active in the discharge of his duty as an honest man.

The repeal of order 104 was not to be deemed an evidence of Democratic hostility to the pensioners, he said. With reference to the charge that the Democratic party was hostile to the soldiers, he pointed out that since 1861 the House had originated all pension appropriation bills and been 18 years under the control of the Republican party, and during that time it had appropriated \$676,000,000, while during the 16 years of Democratic rule the House had sent to the Senate bills appropriating \$951,000,000.

"Which party originated the pension legislation," asked Mr. Grout.

"Both parties," replied Mr. Black.

Brilliant Defense of Lochren.

"Has a pension law ever been originated by the Democratic party," inquired Mr. Grout.

There are many of them. The arrears of pension is one of them," replied Mr. Black. Mr. Black, in replying to the charge that Commissioner Lochren was dominated by Secretary Smith, an ex-Confederate soldier, paid a glowing and eloquent tribute to the former's war record. With vivid words that held the House spellbound he drew the picture of the second day's battle at Shiloh; how, after Sickles' corps had been turned back by the flame and fire of the gray-coated avalanche, Hancock, the superb, had ordered the First Regiment of Minnesota, with Lieutenant Lochren in the center, to check that charge. Their task, said General Black, was as hopeless as that of the Greeks at Thermopylae. But they did their duty with a loss of 215 killed and wounded and the tide of battle was turned back. Only 47 came off the field unscathed. To attack the friendship of such a soldier for his comrades, concluded General Black, was to stamp the whole vast tissue of slander as unworthy even of the calculators.

Cheers upon cheer from the gallery and floor followed the brilliant peroration, and his colleagues crowded around and congratulated the speaker.

Mr. Waugh (Rep., Indiana) declared that no pension bill, general or private, had ever been rejected by a Republican vote. At the conclusion of Mr. Waugh's speech the committee rose. On motion of Mr. Cogswell, of Massachusetts, a bill to pension Hannah Lisle was passed, and then, at 3:55, the House adjourned.

Professor Wilson Improving.

CITY OF MEXICO, March 6.—A dispatch from Guadalajara says that Congressman Wilson was well enough to sit up three hours to-day. It is expected that he will be able to come to this city in about ten days. When he arrives here he will be accorded a reception by the government.

In Washington Again.

The President's Hunting Trip Was Very Successful.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—Captain Evans, of the light house board, who was in charge of the president's party in his recent trip to North Carolina, stated that, from a sportsman's view, the trip was eminently successful and nearly every day after reaching the North Carolina coast, the entire party enjoyed excellent shooting.

The trip down the river was entirely without incident. A blizzard which had been threatened Sunday overtook the Violet below Fort Washington and when Quarantine was reached it was deemed prudent to anchor for the night as the storm was so thick that the pilot could not see a ship's length ahead of him. The second night was spent at Portsmouth, Va., the third night at Long Point, N. C., the fourth night at Croatan Sound, N. C., the fifth and sixth nights at Hatteras, the seventh night on the return trip to Roanoke Marshes, eighth night at Long Point, and the ninth night (last night) the vessel ran all night.

While lying at Hatteras the president and party took a steam launch and visited the neighboring inlets and lighthouses in that vicinity. He met a number of the people inhabiting that section and shook hands with them. He was treated with the utmost respect and consideration by all.

Mr. Cleveland buckled down to work a few minutes after he reached the white house. In ten minutes after he sat down at his desk, he and Private Secretary Thurber had disposed of a pile of routine business. Soon after 3 o'clock Secretary Carlisle called on the president and the two had a talk over treasury matters.

By the president's direction the wagon load of game was distributed at the houses of all the cabinet officers, Private Secretary Thurber and Captain Evans.

Caring for Soldier's Widows.

Assistant Secretary Reynolds Says Death is an "Honorable Discharge."

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2.—Assistant Secretary Reynolds to-day decided a case which will render pensionable a meritorious class of claimants under the act of June 27, 1890 who were excluded under the previous decisions of the department. The case is that of Mary E., widow of Samuel H. Walker, whose husband had served a term of 90 days had been honorably discharged. Walker again entered the service and was commissioned, and while serving his second term of service was killed, but not in the line of duty. His claim was rejected by the Pension Bureau in conformity with the departmental decisions that a soldier not having been honorably discharged from his second term of service his widow was not entitled to a pension, notwithstanding the fact that he had served 90 days or more and had been honorably discharged from a previous enlistment.

Assistant Secretary Reynolds decides "even though the words honorably discharged be interpreted in their broadest sense, and held to mean an honorable discharge from each and every term of service, yet death in the second term of service should be considered an equivalent to an honorable discharge unless occurring under circumstances which would have warranted a dishonorable one."

The action of the Pension Bureau of June 23, 1891, rejecting this widow's claim, is therefore reversed and the Bureau of Pensions is directed to proceed to adjudicate this and all similar cases in accordance with the rule as herein indicated.

Parliament Meets.

The Queen's Speech Was Read in Both Houses—Some Changes in the Cabinet.

LONDON, March 5.—The house of lords met at 1:30 p. m. The local government bill received the royal assent, the queen's speech was read and the house adjourned. The speakers and the members of the house of commons were summoned to the house of lords to hear the queen's speech read. Mr. Labouchere and half a dozen other radicals remained behind. Later the queen's speech was read in the house of commons and that body adjourned. Thomas Ellis has been selected as Lib. whip in place of Mr. Majoribanks, who goes to the house of lords. Mr. Gladstone will recommend that his friend Stuart Rendel and Reginald Wylie be raised to the peerage.

Is Hopelessly Insane.

MEDIA, Pa., March 6.—The trial of Prof. S. C. Shortridge for the murder of his young wife will probably take place next week. Since the week after the murder Shortridge has been in the Norristown insane asylum and he is said to be hopelessly insane. His friends are therefore anxious that the charge of murder against him should be tried and disposed of. Judge Clay said to-day that if counsel could agree upon some day next week for the case to come to trial he would hear it. It will be necessary to bring Shortridge from Norristown on the day of the trial and Judge Clayton said that he thought the case could be disposed of in a single day and Shortridge would not have to spend the night in the jail here.

Nominations Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The senate has confirmed the following nominations: Charles Jonas, of Wisconsin, consul general at St. Petersburg. Postmasters: F. C. O'Connor, Mahanoy City, Pa.; J. F. Early, Osceola, Pa.; Joseph Delehunt, Houtzdale, Pa.

The injunction of secrecy was removed from the following nominations, which were confirmed yesterday: St. Clair A. Mulholland, pension agent; P. Gray Meek, surveyor of customs; J. Marshal Wright, naval officer.

If you want printing of any description the WATCHMAN office is the place to have it done.

In the Empire State.

After Yesterday's Election There Is But Little of Democracy Left—It Was a Republican Day—Even in Brooklyn the Untrifled Are Forced Under and in the Cities of the State the Land Slide Was of a Destructive Character.

AMSTERDAM, N. Y., March 6.—The republicans had a sweeping victory in this city to-day. They elect a mayor, city recorder, city treasurer, five aldermen, and four out of five supervisors.

ROME, N. Y., March 6.—The charter election to-day resulted in the election of Charles Carmichael, democrat, for recorder. The common council will stand the same as last year, ten republicans to seven democrats, with a democratic mayor holding over.

TROY, N. Y., March 6.—Incomplete returns indicate the election of Molloy, the regular democratic nominee, by a majority of 1,200. The board of aldermen will remain under democratic control.

There were five candidates for mayor in to-day's election, but interest centered in the contest between Mayor Whelan, independent democrat, whom the republicans endorsed, and Francis J. Molloy, the choice of the regular democracy and the adherents of Senator Murphy.

HORNELLSVILLE, N. Y., March 6.—The election to-day resulted in a republican victory.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 6.—The republicans have elected the entire city ticket.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., March 6.—Elections took place in the twenty towns in Dutchess county, outside of Poughkeepsie, to-day. The republicans elect sixteen and the democrats four supervisors. Last year the same towns elected nine republicans and eleven democrats. In the city the republicans have four and the democrats five, making the board stand twenty republicans and seven democrats, instead of fourteen republicans and four democrats as before.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., March 6.—William A. Stamsbury, republican, was to-day elected mayor of this city. The republicans sweep the city.

ITHACA, N. Y., March 6.—At the city election here to-day the republicans elected the recorder and the city civil justice. The republicans carry three of the four wards.

OSWEGO, March 6.—The charter election held here to-day was the most exciting and the most closely contested in the history of Oswego. The great contest was between Bulger, Cleveland democrat, and Higgins, republican, and it will require the official count to determine the result. The republicans elect six out of eight aldermen.

NEWBURGH, March 6.—The republicans to-day elected all their candidates.

PEESKILL, March 6.—The republicans carried everything here to-day.

ATURN, N. Y., March 6.—The entire republican ticket was elected to-day.

ELMIRA, N. Y., March 6.—The democrats elected their candidates here to-day.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., March 6.—The special election ordered by Governor Flower for the purpose of electing a supervisor from the Eighth ward resulted to-day, in the election of August C. Fisher. The election of Fisher gives the republicans full control in the board of supervisors.

LE ROY, N. Y., March 6.—The republicans elected their entire ticket here to-day.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., March 6.—The election to-day was unfavorable to the democracy.

CORNING, N. Y., March 6.—The election to-day resulted in the republicans electing their entire ticket.

BATAVIA, N. Y., March 6.—The republican elected their whole ticket by large majorities.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 6.—Out of thirty-nine towns and wards the democrats to-day elected but six supervisors.

BATH, N. Y., March 6.—The democrats to-day elected T. W. Gould mayor. The whole democratic city ticket was elected. It was the hottest contested election ever held here.

Portuguese and British Come Together.

PORT NATAL, Southeast Africa, March 7.—The Portuguese having obstructed the progress of the British parties engaged in constructing the telegraph line between the British sphere and Tete on the Zambezi, Lieutenant Commander Carr, in command of the gun boat Mosquito, landed a party of blue jackets in order to protect the men at work upon the telegraph line. The Portuguese fired upon the British landing party and the fire was returned. The latest advices from the scene of the encounter say that Governor Quillman, the Portuguese official in charge of the district within the Portuguese boundaries, has been summoned to the spot where the conflict took place, and he is said to be on his way there with two Portuguese gun boats and a number of troops.

It is added that the British commander is believed to have asked for reinforcements and the latter are said to have been hurried forward immediately upon receipt of the message announcing the conflict with the Portuguese.

In Executive Session.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The executive session of the Senate to-day was confined to routine business entirely. Among the nominations confirmed, but from which the injunction of secrecy was not removed was that of S. A. Mulholland to be pension agent at Philadelphia. The following Philadelphia nominations have been favorably reported: John R. Read, collector of customs; P. Gray Meek, surveyor of port; J. Marshal Wright, naval officer.

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From Honolulu.

The Provisional Government Preparing to Hold a Constitutional Convention.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 7.—The schooner Transit arrived from Honolulu at 11 o'clock this morning bringing advices up to February 29. Atty. Gen. sent by the Oceanic, on the 15th ult., reported important action having been taken by the provisional government in the matter of preparing for a constitutional convention to organize a representative government. This was followed on the 17th, after an evening meeting of the annexation club, by action on the part of the leading members of the club as citizens in organizing formally as a political party in support of the government. This movement embraces all classes and divisions hitherto arising among the supporters of the provisional government. Among the principals of the platform agreed upon are the following:

To support the provisional government.

Resist the restoration of a monarchy.

Establish a practicable form of representative government.

The government to be united as soon as possible with that of the United States.

To condemn legislation discriminating against any class of loyal citizens.

No persons to be employed by the government unless loyal to it.

Terrorized By Negro Tramps.

STROUDSBURG, Pa., March 7.—Residents of this section of the country have been terrorized by the petty depredations of a party of negro tramps who live in a camp near Tannersville and from which came the negro Puryear, who is in jail charged with murdering Christian Ehlers. The negroes were brought here about a year ago to work upon the Wilkesbarre and Eastern railroad. They have become utterly destitute, having hardly enough to eat. They prowl around the country and when their demands for food and clothing are refused they make threats of violence. So intolerable has the fear become of what these negroes may do that to-day about twenty-five men of the village of Tannersville determined to put an end to their depredations. Arming themselves with their shot guns the whites made a descent upon the negro camp. The negroes were overawed and when told they must leave this part of the country promised to do so, but asked for money to take them away, as they were utterly penniless. The matter is to be brought before the township authorities and it will be demanded that they defray the expenses of sending the negroes away.

Crack at the White House.

He Sought to Take Charge, but Went to Prison.

WASHINGTON, March 5.—The periodical crack turned up at the White House again this morning, and, taking advantage of the president's absence, sought to take charge.

At 9 o'clock, an hour before the White House is opened to the public, a wild-eyed, commonly dressed man, about 50 years of age, appeared at the entrance and told the waiter man that he had come to take charge. He said he had a revelation from God, and had been directed to come here, take charge of the White House and turn it over to the Jews. The Democrats had to go out and the Republicans could not get in, but the third party, to which he belonged, would predominate. The man was not violent, but he was very positive and insisted. While he was talking a telephone brought the police patrol wagon to the door, and the man was arrested and locked up in the Third precinct station. He gave the name of Abraham Julius Kessler, and said he had come from Baltimore.

Saw His Mother Behimored.

PARIS, March 6.—A dispatch from Dahomey says that King Behanzon, on the eve of his surrender, summoned his widow and mother, and after telling her of his intention to submit to the French, said he must inform his father, and would therefore have her take him a message. Behanzon therefore ordered that his mother be beheaded, and, smoking a pipe, calmly looked on while the attendants decapitated her.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

Squire Samuel Foster, of water street, is lying dangerously ill at his home in this place, with little hope of recovery.

Late news is to the effect that the death of Mr. Henry Robb, the Nitany hotel-keeper, is expected at any moment. He was stricken with paralysis two weeks ago.

Miss Mame E. Quay, of Beech Creek, died at her home in that place last Saturday morning. She was a daughter of James R. Quay, and died of rheumatism in her 89th year.

There is a probability of J. A. Feilder and editor Tuten, of the Republican, pooling their interests and publishing a paper under the caption, Republican-Gazette, from the Republican office.

It is a well grounded report that the Bellefonte Central rail-road will be extended from State College to Pine Grove Mills during the summer. Our informant was a gentleman who knows.

D. P. Gwin Esq., one of Huntingdon's wealthiest citizens died of inflammation of the liver on last Saturday evening. He was vice president of the First National bank of that place and was 66 years old.

Of the thirty three license applicants who appeared before court here on Tuesday and Wednesday, all the old ones were re-granted and the new ones have been held over for further consideration.