

--Possibly it is holding off to snow the day after the February election.

--Many of the new leaves that were turned over have already gone to grass.

--The peanut trust is busted, but DAVID B. HILL's political methods are still intact.

--There is a bare chance that England will become par-boiled if she keeps on getting into hot water.

--Harrisburg water is said to be unfit to drink. How does it come that no complaint of this sort was raised while the Legislature was in session.

--LEVI P. MORTON is being talked of more and more as a Republican presidential possibility. On Levi's bar'l his chances hang, and you can bet your life his boom will bang.

--And to think of it, bustles are going to be revived. As bustles are made up of more wind than anything else the woman who wants to be in style can not enjoy a dead-calm aster.

--The Philadelphia Times says that CHARLES H. BRICE, of Camden, shot himself in his hotel. Now we would naturally conclude that the ball must have entered his stomach, but it didn't.

--GEORGE MILLIGAN, the former Milton man, who was recently cured of deafness by sleeping on a handkerchief that had been blessed by SCHLATTER, the healer, must be either a very happy man or a notorious liar.

--The famous Queen Lane, Philadelphia, reservoir is said to be in use at last. Just what function it is performing in its connection with the water service of that city no one will know until they get it pumped full.

--The SCHOMBURGK line, in Venezuela, is certainly not a very tangible object for two great countries like England and the United States to go fighting over. Both sides acknowledge that they don't know where it is.

--JOHN SHERMAN is deluded by the fallacy that two wrongs make a right. He got the country into its present financial predicament and now he wants to make it worse by advising an impossible way out of the trouble he brought about.

--It is somewhat surprising to learn that the annual proportionate share of salt for the English people is 80 pounds per capita. From recent developments we had concluded that they must be fresh enough to get along without that commodity.

--A modern HERCULES is Mr. ROBINSON, Governor of Cape Colony, but not one like the original son of Jupiter who caught a wild boar alive. The Transvaal Boers seem to be more than this later day HERCULES knows how to cope with. They are of the gressed pig variety.

--Lord DUNRAVEN proved himself an ass, indeed, by coming over here to appear before the New York yacht club without any witnesses to vouch for his assertions that the Valkyrie III was dishonestly defeated by the Defender. DUNRAVEN was only thought to have been an ass before, now it is a certainty.

--Notwithstanding the fact that the Cuban insurgents have lied and been lied about in the most outrageous manner it has at last become evident that they know what they are about, at least. Now in sight of Havana they have laid siege to that city and should it fall Cuba will have gained her liberty.

--The Philadelphia sound money league is an organization of men who are sending out literature and lecturers to enlighten the people of Pennsylvania on the money question. Their methods are decidedly on the kindergarten plan if Mr. THRO. C. KNAUFF, who lectured in this place, on Monday night, is accepted as a representative of their league.

--His was a magic lantern show, not a lecture, and a poor one at that. If the league hopes to tickle the children of the State it will have to provide Mr. KNAUFF with some views with whirrigs and other such improved paraphernalia.

--Mr. ROBERT DORNAN, president of the manufacturers' club of Philadelphia, has published a resolution, adopted by the board of directors of that club, in which a national association of manufacturers is urged. Of course none will gain the manufacturer's right to go into a national association, if he so chooses, but in our minds this association is being designed as an enormous cudgel with which to beat Congress into laying high tariff duties again. We venture the assertion that when the association is organized at the meeting to be held in Chicago, on the 21st inst., one of its first works will be to discuss the tariff with a view to pampering its membership at the expense of the masses.

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The Gold Loan.

When it is necessary for a government to make a loan, it would seem advisable that it should go to the people for what it wants to borrow.

A particular necessity compels the government to borrow. As a requirement of the currency law necessitates the keeping of a certain stock of gold on hand for a special purpose, this stock is subject to constant depletion, and it is to prevent its exhaustion that gold loans must be resorted to.

Under this compulsion this administration has made a number of gold loans, the first two of which were taken by irresponsible parties who almost immediately after the delivery of the gold managed to draw it out again from the treasury by collecting a quantity of the government's paper and presenting it for payment.

The last loan was taken by a syndicate that bound itself not to practice this game, and guaranteed to protect the reserve from the danger of depletion for a certain length of time.

The decline of the stock of gold in the treasury has compelled the loan that is now pending, Congress having refused to do anything for the relief of the authorities upon whom is imposed the duty of maintaining the credit of the government. In deference to public sentiment the secretary of the treasury has concluded to make this loan a popular one, but it is not done without some apprehension as to the result.

It is feared that there is not enough gold at the command of the public to make it of practical account, and also that gold will be cornered by the professional money changers to an extent that will render it unavailable to the people.

Reform Within the Party.

Philadelphia is going to try to perform the miracle of reforming its municipal government through the instrumentality of its machine politicians.

For the accomplishment of this great task, the joint committee, representing the two Republican factions in the city, are coming to an understanding as to who shall be candidates for city councils. For the purpose of "reform" it is highly important that there should be no factional clash that might interfere with the election of the candidates selected.

"Reform within the party" requires that the nominations made by the party machine should be equivalent to an election. It is for this reason that every effort is being made to bring the two factions together and remove the misunderstanding that existed between them.

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A Check to English Landgrabbing.

The English have met with a setback in their land-grabbing enterprises in South Africa. The gold regions of that country have offered tempting prizes, most of which have fallen into JOHN BULL's possession, but the Dutch Boers had a gold producing tract in the Transvaal, which had not yet been seized by the English and it was the misfortune they met with in their attempt to get hold of this tract that has set all England howling.

A regular military expedition with a force of 800 men, armed with the most improved implements of warfare, was organized to invade the Transvaal country and occupy the coveted gold region; but the Boers proved themselves to be tough customers to deal with, and the raid resulted in the complete defeat of the English land-grabbers, a number of them having been killed and wounded, and the balance of them captured.

But the most interesting feature connected with this occurrence is the part taken in it by the Emperor of Germany. Immediately upon receipt of the news of this defeat of the English gold marauders he telegraphed his congratulations to the President of the Transvaal republic, and offered his service in maintaining the independence of the Dutch Boers against the designs of the English to bring them under subjection.

The significance of this action of Emperor WILLIAM is the more impressive from the circumstance that he agrees with President CLEVELAND that it is about time to stop England's grabbing all the gold regions within her reach.

The Senate's Two Elephants.

The two bills which the House has dumped upon the Senate will prove to be a pair of very troublesome elephants to that august body. The Republicans have surrendered the management of that branch of Congress to the Populists, but they have not divested themselves of the responsibility for its action, and when the bond bill is tied up, unless the terms demanded by the free silver advocates are granted, the Republicans are to be held answerable for so important a public measure being put in such a dilemma.

The anti-silver Republicans realize their situation. They begin to appreciate the consequence of the Senate's being blocked when the whole country is demanding measures for the relief of the treasury and for legislation that will prevent the occurrence of another business collapse. The administration having clearly defined the measures that are necessary for the emergency, the people understand the necessity for what the President and the secretary of the treasury ask for, but the Republican Senate finds its hands tied and can do nothing. The bond bill is an elephant that it cannot manage, and it is likely to disgrace both itself and its party by its inability to do anything when the government credit calls for immediate and effective action.

But if the bond bill is an elephant that is difficult to manage, the tariff bill which REED, DINGLEY & Co., have sent to the Senate is equally troublesome. Passed through the House under the pretense that it was intended merely as a revenue measure, to meet the demands of the President for the relief of the financial embarrassment, caused by a depleted gold revenue, it will be loaded down in the Senate with amendments of the rank McKINLEY brand. Already a number of such amendments have been offered, and the tariff beneficiaries are flocking from all parts of the country to have their special interest attended to in this bill.

It will be a regular symposium of tariff greed. If such a bill should be finally passed the President would, of course, veto it, and he would have the approval of the people for doing so.

The Republican party will have but little credit for the final outcome of these two measures. It is likely to go before the people in the next election with the stigma of its inability to pass a currency bill when an urgent financial necessity called for it, and with the disrepute of passing a tariff bill which attempted to restore the McKINLEY taxes, but which the President had to veto for the protection of the public interest.

A Grand Success.

As a declaration of a great national principle, and a notice to the world that it will be enforced, the message of President CLEVELAND on the question of the Venezuela boundary has been the most impressive and successful state paper that was ever issued relative to our foreign relations.

Previous to the appearance of that document the MONROE doctrine was a misty principle that had never been clearly defined by our authorities, and received but indifferent recognition from European powers. Foreign nations regarded it as an American pretension which had not the binding force of international law. That it was considered by the English as an untenable Yankee claim was shown in SALISBURY's reply to the protest of our state department, in which he almost ridiculed the idea of the MONROE doctrine being applicable to the Venezuela case.

He has been taught a great deal since he sent those papers in which he assumed that American objection to European encroachment upon this continent could be treated with indifference. The Venezuela message has been the means of his enlightenment. It set forth in plain terms the determination of this government to enforce the MONROE doctrine. It declared the applicability of that doctrine to the claim which England was pushing against a weak South American republic, and gave sharp notice that if the English authorities would not consent to an arbitration of the matter in controversy, by which the respective rights of the two parties might be fairly ascertained and determined, the United States would institute an inquiry, and its action would be governed by the facts which such an investigation would develop.

This was heroic treatment of the case. It no longer left any doubt in the minds of the English ministry that the American government was in dead earnest in its determination to prevent foreign interference in the affairs of this continent. It raised the MONROE doctrine from a mere sentimentality to a principle of international law which European nations will have to take into account. This is a great achievement, and that it is due to the patriotic action of a Democratic President is eminently becoming.

If the late ANDREW GREGG CURTIN were alive to-day to read the biography of him compiled and just published by Dr. WM. H. EOLE, state librarian, he would doubtless feel very much chagrined to read the chapter on "CURTIN's personal attributes" over the signature of DANIEL H. HASTINGS. He would not regret that Governor HASTINGS had been selected as the man to tell of his personality, but he would feel shame that in his endeavor to compliment him the thoughtless biographer had slurred three of the most eminent jurists the country ever knew.

When Governor HASTINGS wrote: "In those days when law suits were generally won or lost by the character of the speeches to the jury after the evidence was closed, the niceties of pleading, subtle law points, finely drawn constructions and the strict application of rules of evidence weighed not so much with judges or lawyers as the power of oratory. And this was likewise true of the twelve men in the box;" he must have forgotten the eminent judges HUSTON, WOODWARD and BURNSIDE who sat on cases in the days referred to.

It is a questionable compliment to a dead hero to "state that his oratory led men of such characters to forget their duty. Even the warmest friends of the lamented CURTIN will resent such an implied slur upon the integrity of men whose rulings have become law in these United States.

The English free-booters who thought the time was ripe for seizing the old republic of the Transvaal, in South Africa, ran up against a snag in the person of the avuncular KRUGER, of that country. The sardonic, graying policy of England has invoked the odium of nearly every nation on the face of the earth and this latest expedition, though said to have had no encouragement from the English government, nevertheless evidences the greed of the British South African company, which is nothing less than a corporation of English government officials.

Mormons and Statehood.

From the Philadelphia Times. The President's proclamation certifies the constitutional establishment of the State of Utah and "its admission into the Union on an equal footing with the original States." Thus is at length accomplished the erection of a free commonwealth upon the foundations laid by the Mormon colony.

It was a strange community that braved the isolation and the perils of the far West and made the settlement that proved so prosperous under their industry and thrift. They own their laws and customs of their own they were quite out of harmony with modern institutions, and even before the railroad reached the Great Salt lake they could not keep out of conflict. Gradually civilization overtook and surrounded them and penetrated their own borders, and gradually they succumbed to it.

Though the influence of the Mormon organization is still powerful, it is no longer supreme, and Utah does not differ essentially from other Western commonwealths. It has accepted the general principles of American law and liberty and so at last is admitted to the sisterhood of States, the forty-fifth, where at first there were but thirteen.

The Wrong Way to Increase Profits.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer. The men who have combined the Philadelphia street railway corporations into the Union traction company, and who have promised the stockholders increased dividends therefrom, find themselves confronted with the necessity of making part of this increased profit off their employees. They find that their undertaking will be a failure unless they can grind down their labor.

This is the reason of the strike of their employees. They want them to strike; they provoke them to it that they may in the end secure cheaper labor. This is obvious from their failure to meet the popular wish that they shall accommodate the demands of their employees. Welsh, Elkins, Widenor and that lot of beasts in search of plunder find that they need to raise an additional million or two of net revenue, and they propose to get it by cheapening their labor.

Things Are Different Now.

From the Mercer, Western Press. Spain is said to be endeavoring to form a quadruple alliance, to consist of its own precarious government, Holland, France and England, to prevent the United States from protecting weak American republics from European encroachment. It is hardly likely Spain will succeed. The other powers will not enter into an agreement which may bind them to help Spain save her Cuban possessions. In this connection the peculiar changes which time effects may be remarked. The Monroe doctrine was declared at the suggestion of England to frustrate Spain's efforts to obtain a stronger foothold to this hemisphere. Now England wants the Monroe doctrine cast away and Spain wants to help her. Spain has at least the merit of consistency while England unblushingly claims she was wrong in her position seventy years ago.

The Way They Stand in the Senate.

From Herbert Welsh's City and State. Notwithstanding the frequent assurances given us by the "great newspapers" that the "silver craze is dying out," a poll of the Senate, at Washington, shows that of the members of that body ranked in the two great parties of the country, forty-one are of the "silver craze" persuasion, and only thirty-eight are so called "sound money" men. Twenty-five of the latter Republicans and thirteen are Democrats, while of the former twenty-four are Democrats and seven are Republicans. The Populists, of course, are all silver men.

Get Ready for the February Election.

From the Port Allegheny Reporter. Election day comes on Tuesday, the 18th day of February and is but six weeks away. The law in regard to the spring election has not changed since a year ago. Nominations by party primaries for borough and township offices and school directors must be filed at the county seat at least eight days before election, therefore the primaries should be held as early as the 25th of January.

The Birds Coming Home to Roost.

From the Philadelphia Record. The State Treasurer, it is announced from Harrisburg, will be compelled to borrow nearly \$3,000,000 from the '96 account to square up accounts for the past year. The bird book Legislature came very high--higher, in fact, than is fairly indicated even by this measure of shortage, since many phases of extravagance saddled on the people have not yet become operative.

A Southern View of It.

From the Sumpter, S. C. Watchman. It will be much better to borrow gold from Russia than from the Wall street syndicate, but better still to issue bonds in the form of a popular loan to the people of the country at large.

Spawls from the Keystone

--Assessors returned \$7,742 voters in Berks county.

--A woman who smashes windows operates at Altoona.

--Coal trade is heavy over the East Broad Top railroad.

--The Schuylkill county judicial contest will begin at Pottsville to-day.

--An Allentown man, Thomas Mintzer, found a \$300 pearl in an oyster.

--The great National tube works, at McKeesport, started up on Monday.

--Skating into a hole in the ice at Mahoning town, Earl Rauscher perished.

--It was 14 degrees below zero at Harvey's Lake, Luzerne county, Monday.

--The National Svingerfest will be held at Pittsburg during the week of June 6.

--There are 179 prisoners in the Pottsville jail, the biggest number on record.

--The Allegheny county bar Saturday decided to admit women to practice law.

--William Dent was appointed fourth-class postmaster at Brookland on Saturday.

--Little Maggie Milran, while playing with fire, at Harwood, was burned to death.

--Ex-Congressman Ammerman may be the Democratic candidate for mayor of Scranton.

--Crystal spring company was indicted for furnishing impure water to Wilkes-barre.

--Charles W. Plank was elected chairman of the Reading city Republican committee.

--A man named MelHenry, of Jeanette, who was dangerously shot, accuses James Thompson.

--Assistant district attorney Edwards has sued Allegheny county for \$5,056 unpaid salary.

--Four girls and their beaux, at Schaffers town, were arrested for disturbing a religious meeting.

--Camborland county commissioners refuse to pay for fox scalps, believing the law unconstitutional.

--While making coffee at Ashland Little Lizzie Tyler, in St. Mauritas' parochial school, was fatally burned.

--Wm. Abel was jailed at Carlisle, accused of furnishing fire-water to an Indian boy in the national school.

--When opening his newly-rented house at Hornord, Howard Engle found \$100 in gold buried in the cellar.

--The Attorney General will withdraw suits against a number of railroads which failed to make the proper state reports.

--Ex-Assemblyman F. L. Reber denies the charge that he offered at Berks county prison inspector \$50 for his vote.

--Dr. William L. Estes, of Bethlehem, addressed the meeting of the Schuylkill county medical society on Tuesday.

--The Hand-in-Hand fire company, of Philadelphia, was entertained at Reading yesterday by the Keystone fire company.

--Doctors informed Judge Clayton, at Media, that H. Wrench, the window smasher, is not responsible for his actions.

--The master house painters' and decorators' association, of Pennsylvania, began their State convention Tuesday at Reading.

--Schuylkill county justices and constables held a convention at Pottsville and elected D. M. Mellon, of Tremont, president.

--Scranton Republicans who were walloped at the primaries by the Council Republicans, at Scranton, resolved not to bolt the ticket.

--Under the act passed by the last Legislature, all constables elected for three years, last February, must again be voted for this year.

--D. W. Woods, Esq., has been superintendent of the Presbyterian Sabbath school at Lewistown for a period of 41 years; quite an honorable record.

--Adjutant General Stewart has sent to the different commands of the National Guard the last half of the annual allowance, amounting to \$30,000.

--Captain W. C. Kress, reporter of the state supreme court, has appointed Edward C. Allison, of Philadelphia, as his assistant at a salary of \$2,000 a year.

--The Philadelphia & Reading company, which pays two thirds of all the tax in Branch township, Schuylkill county, appealed to court for a rate lower than 6 mills.

--W. W. Latherow, who was recently injured by the cars at Tyrone and who had his leg amputated below the hip joint at the Altoona hospital, is very ill in that institution.

--It is rumored that the P. and E. railroad will construct ore docks at the harbor in Erie at an outlay of \$75,000. The company will make a number of improvements at points between Warren and Erie.

--At Coudersport, Friday, Andrew Strop, aged 19, died from the effects of being struck on the head with a billiard cue by Julian Zimmerman during an altercation in a pool room a few days ago. Zimmerman is 28 years old and has a wooden leg. He has been held for court on the charge of murder.

--The water company, DuBois, has spiked forty-eight public fire hydrants because the court, on a petition of town council, declared the contract annulled and the company lost the suit for recovery of rental. Two steamers will furnish fire protection, and the borough will vote on bonds for a city water system in February.

--According to the statement received by the county commissioners from the western penitentiary managers, Clinton county has in that institution twenty-eight convicts. The cost of their keeping for 1895 was \$2,111.32. From that amount \$465.21, credit by labor, is deducted which leaves \$1,646.11, the amount that the commissioners will pay.

--A dispatch sent from Wellsboro states that Miss Nellie White has been lying in a stupor at Holliday for ten days. She was found unconscious in her room, and nearly nude, the day before Christmas. She had been alone in the house, and it is believed she was the victim of an outrage. She will probably die, and if the end shall come before consciousness is restored the secret of her case will be buried with her.