

WASHINGTON LETTER

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C. Feb. 11, 1891. W. W. Dudley, of "blocks of five" notoriety and ex-Assistant Postmaster General Clarkson, both shining lights in the republican national committee are, if my informant isn't mistaken, and he assures me that he isn't now handling "blocks of five", hundred dollar bills, as the disbursing officials of Jay Gould's Western Union Telegraph lobby which is said to have divided \$50,000 among certain members of the House for the purpose of defeating Mr. Wanamaker's postal telegraph bill. The bill has really never had much chance of getting through, because of a lack of general interest in it, but Dudley and Clarkson made Gould believe that it was certain to go through unless something was promptly done to prevent it. and the particular "something" in this case was the payment out of a big pile of the "little wizards" money.

Another scheme backed by a big lobby is the Nicaragua Canal company's bill making the United States Government endorse \$100,000,000 of its bonds. This lobby is made up of members of both political parties, and all of them are either officials or ex-officials of the House or Senate, which gives them unexcelled facilities for reaching Congressmen, facilities that they have not neglected. The bill will pass the senate without a doubt, but by the time the House hears from the country it will probably strike a big snag, although the lobby hopes to rush it through during the closing hours.

The administration scheme for killing the free coinage bill is now being boldly worked by the anti-silver majority of the House committee on coinage. It gives Mr. Harrison two chances of killing the bill without squarely vetoing it. The aim is to keep the bill in committee under pretense of "hearings" until within ten days of the end of the session; then it will be reported. If the house has time to vote upon it, and passes it, Mr. Harrison may then quietly dispose of it by what is known as a "pocket" veto, by not signing it previous to the expiration of the Fifty-first Congress.

The anti-silverites claim that the vote of the House—134 to 127—sustaining a decision of the Speaker declaring Mr. Bland's motion to attach the free coinage bill as an amendment to an appropriation bill to be out of order, makes it certain that the free coinage bill cannot pass, but the claim is not based upon a solid foundation. There were only eleven republicans who voted against sustaining the Speaker, and it is well known that there is a much larger number of republicans in the House who would vote for free coinage pure and simple if they were given a chance to do so. There was a proposition a few days since to have the Senate put the free coinage bill on one of the appropriation bills as a rider, but when it was suggested that the republicans of the House might add as another rider on the same bill, the force bill, the idea lost popularity with the democrats. A caucus of the House democrats passed a resolution asking that the committee report the silver bill.

Mr. Blaine's reciprocity treaty with Brazil is being worked for all it is worth to carry the ship subsidy job through the House, and from present indications the probabilities are in favor of its doing it. The democrats of the House have themselves on record as opposed to the extravagant salary list of the World's Fair Commission. The intelligence of the death of Representative Phelan of Tennessee, who died at Nassau on January 30, did not reach this city until Saturday afternoon. It was known that his health was bad, but his closest friends were greatly shocked to learn of his death.

When the Senate got through amending the eight hour bill it would scarcely have been recognized by its best friends. It is believed that the republicans hope to kill the bill by getting it into a conference committee and keeping it there until the session ends. Beginning to day the Senate will have evening sessions daily to the end of the session. The House may or may not follow suit. The fact of the matter is that evening sessions have never been favorably regarded by the friends of legitimate legislation, although it has been customary to have them at the rag end of every Congress. The pension sharks made no mis-

take in counting upon the assistance of the republican Senators to cut out the reduction in fees placed in the pension appropriation bill by the House. The Senate made the attorneys fee for all future increases of pension \$5, instead of \$2, as the House had it, and upon motion of Mr. Quay the new fee is only applicable to applications filed after this bill became a law. That motion, if not interfered with by the House, is estimated to be worth more than \$5,000,000 to the pension attorneys.

Mr. Harrison is still wrestling with the army of hungry republicans, each of whom wants to be Secretary of the Treasury.

I Have Always Paid Rent.

For a house to live in. This year I have paid for a cottage, with money which, before I used Sulphur Bitters in my family, was paid to the doctor and druggist. They cured my wife of Female Weakness.—W. P. Stampson, Salem, Mass.

The Legislature.

There are a large number of members in the present House who act like children. They are specially distinguished by their persistent asking of useless questions. During the progress of a debate they will sit staring vacantly into space or twiddling a piece of paper in their fingers, when suddenly they will spring to their feet, interrupt the speaker, and after attracting the attention of the whole house propound a question which the man on the floor has just elucidated. They had not been paying attention. Every one of such interruptions costs the State about \$20. The Speaker had an experience of this kind on Friday morning. At the end of every year and may vote half a dozen members have been in the habit of asking to have their votes recorded. Speaker Thompson on this occasion waited patiently till all the careless ones had had their votes entered, and then he read the rules, viz., that members present and not responding to their names could not go on the list after the close of the roll-call. He had scarcely finished when a member in the rear row on the Republican side stood up with a grin on his broad face and asked to be recorded. The supreme ignorance or the unlimited gall of the man provoked a general laugh in which the Speaker was forced to join. The rule will be enforced hereafter with a hand of iron, as it should be.

The State Board of Health is figuring considerably in legislation. It has drafted a number of bills as the result of its investigation the past year. Among these is one to protect streams from impurities. This bill provides a penalty of from \$10 to \$100 for permitting a carcass or other nuisance, to lie within one hundred yards of high water mark. The act is not intended, however, to interfere with the cultivation and use of the soil in the ordinary methods of husbandry. An additional fine is impossible for a failure to bury the nuisance when ordered to do so by the proper authority.

The bill authorizing boroughs to manufacture electricity for commercial purposes is regarded as of great importance by these municipalities. As introduced the bill was prospective in its operations, but an amendment has been inserted validating the acts of boroughs which have these companies in operation. Under the proposed law a majority of the qualified voters of a borough must vote for an increase of indebtedness necessary to manufacture electricity before a plant can be established by the municipal authorities.

Bills to prohibit the sale of intoxicating drinks on Decoration Day have been introduced in both houses. The one read in place in the Senate has been crippled by having an amendment inserted into it which exempts Philadelphia, Pittsburg and Allegheny from its operation. A bill to prevent the sale of intoxicants on all legal holidays was shelved early in the session.

Unless the Senate and House differ as to the merits of the bill to have all murderers hanged within the walls of the Eastern and Western Penitentiaries it will be among those sent to the Governor for his consideration. The Senate took very kindly to the proposition to relieve the counties of the duty of executing criminals, and after a little discussion passed the bill having this purpose in view unanimously. The spectators are confined to the Sheriff, inspectors and clergymen in attendance on the prisoner, not more than three persons, whom the criminal may designate; twelve citizens to be chosen by the warden, and as many physicians and representatives of the press as the warden may select. If requested by the friends of the man executed, the remains are required to be sent to them for burial, their transportation and funeral expenses to be paid by the State, provided they do not exceed \$50.

A number of bills are not being pushed because of the complications they might introduce in the election contests of this month. Senator Thomas' bill to compel telephone and telegraph companies to put their wires underground in Philadelphia is one of these. It is in committee and will remain there until the people have spoken at the polls. The bill to take from the State the one-fifth of the liquor license fees it now receives and

give it to the counties is in the same boat. The elections have also something to do with the slow progress being made with the bills largely increasing the salaries of the Supreme Court and other Judges.

The concurrent resolution providing for the printing and circulation of 34,000 copies of the book entitled "The Birds of Pennsylvania," received a check in the House, which is interpreted to mean its defeat. This work is so popular among agriculturists and many other people that it was supposed that the resolution authorizing a further distribution would go through with a rush, but the anticipated large cost is having its effect on the members. The 19,000 copies printed under the authority of the Legislature of two years ago cost the State about \$94,000. It is said that Dr. Warren who prepared the book, has decided to utilize it as a private enterprise in view of the opposition in the House to the resolution providing for the printing of additional copies.

Not One in Ten.

Of the people you meet from day to day has perfectly pure, healthy blood. The hereditary scrofulous taint afflicts the large majority of people, while many others acquire diseases from impure air, improper food and wrong indulgences. Hence the imperative necessity for a reliable blood purifier like Hood's Sarsaparilla, which eradicates every impurity, and gives to the blood vitality and health. It cures scrofula, salt rheum, humors, boils, pimples, and all other affections caused by impurities or poisonous germs in the blood. All that is asked for Hood's Sarsaparilla is that it be given a fair trial.

FARMER, OPEN YOUR EYES!

READ THE TRUTH.

We challenge a refutation of these facts. A tabular statement shows that the number of acres of seated lands in Columbia county is 239,406. Probably one third of this is unimproved. Be that as it may, for convenience of illustration we will assume that it is all improved. We will now proceed to give the highest possible estimate of its productive capacity, and you shall be the judges, whether or not, it is overestimated by one third. As we have not the census we are obliged to make the following estimate:—One fifth of the whole number of acres is annually sown to wheat, one fifth planted to corn, one fifth sown to oats, one tenth sown to rye, one fifth mown for hay, one twenty fifth planted to potatoes, and the balance 9400 acres is pastured. Hence 47,889 acres of wheat, averaging 15 bushel per acre, at \$1.00 per bushel equals \$718,335. 47,889 acres of shelled corn, averaging 40 bushels per acre at 50 cents per bushel equals \$957,780. 47,889 acres of oats, averaging 35 bushels per acre, at 35 cents per bushel equal \$586,640. 28,944 acres of rye at 12 bushels per acre, at 50 cts. per bu., equals \$173,664. 47,889 acres of grass (hay) at 1 ton per acre at \$10 per ton equals \$478,890, and 9577 acres of potatoes, averaging 50 bushels per acre, at 50 cents per bushel equals \$239,425. A grand total \$3,154,734. After all the cost of this production—fertilizing, hired help, expenses, wear and tear, feeding and clothing the multitude engaged in farming in Columbia county, and after paying their taxes, how much surplus would be left to pay interest on mortgages, or liquidating other debts is a matter of small conjecture. Take four times the valuation of the estimated product and allow two thirds of this amount which is about \$8,000,000 as a basis for taxation to which the farming interests are subject under the present wicked and iniquitous system, from which corporate interests are exempt, will, at 2 1/2 mills on the dollar valuation, produce \$20,000 for county purposes. \$28,790.46 was levied for the year 1889, and from the most available sources at hand we find that about \$20,000 was collected from the farming interests in the county. All other interests made up the balance. The following quotation is from the biography of the Hon. M. W. Jackson of Berwick as found in the "History of Columbia and Montour counties, Pennsylvania illustrated, 1887," Briar creek. It is full of instruction. "The foundry was first started on a very small scale doing business for the first few years of about \$10,000 to \$20,000 per annum. In 1866 the buildings were all destroyed by fire but were immediately rebuilt. The firm worked night and day and their business increased very rapidly until now they do about \$1,500,000 per year, and give employment to about 1200 men when running at full capacity. The firm also own and operate a large store and do business from \$100,000 to \$125,000 per annum." From the county statement we learn that the borough of Berwick was assessed \$1968.15 in 1889 for county purposes, which develops an aggregate valuation of the entire borough, real estate and personal property, subject for county and municipal purposes of \$787,260, about one half of the annual product of "the Jackson & Woodin Mfg. Co. We also discover that the borough paid a state tax of \$595.02. At a 3 mill tax this sum represents a valuation of \$198,340. But no doubt a large part includes other values—watches, furniture

&c. Searching the "Auditor General's Report" for the year 1888, we find that the "Berwick Water Company" paid a state tax of \$45,000, on corporation stock and the First National Bank Berwick \$630.00, on "Bank Stock." At a 3 mill tax the former represents \$15,000 and the latter \$210,000. We failed to discover "The Jackson & Woodin Mfg. Co." in the list of corporations in the Auditor General's report as paying a state tax direct to the State Treasury, hence the total of all values that we can find on record for taxable purposes of all kinds for said borough of Berwick, is, \$1,210,600—several hundred thousand dollars less than the annual product of "The Jackson & Woodin Mfg. Co." The borough of Berwick has a greater capacity for producing wealth than the combined interests of the agricultural industry of Columbia county and is practically exonerated from taxation. Practically exonerated, did we say? No, sir, not exonerated neither. We discover that those in moderate circumstances and poorer classes are burthened with crushing taxes, no less than the farmers of the rural districts. The statistics of the School Report for the year 1886 shows that a school tax was levied for that year of \$4587.60—104 mills for school and 2 mills for building purposes. And in the year 1889 a school tax of \$5970.65 was levied, 7 mills for school and 1 mill for building. These are crushing rates for the poor, but exonerative for the rich of that place under such iniquitous inequalities of valuations for county and municipal purposes. If "The Jackson & Woodin Mfg. Co., and their interests were assessed and taxed on an equally with real estate and according to their remunerative valuation as represented in Mr. Jackson's biography the county tax of that corporation at present rates would exceed \$10,000, and their school tax would be accordingly.

What is a corporation or protected industry but a sponge that absorbs all matter of profit or value, and wipes out all that aspires to prosperity and competency, and prohibits fair competition. From this onward let the rallying cry be "equalization of taxation."

Manufacturing companies, except those engaged in making malt or vinous liquors or gas are exempt from taxation on their capital stock.

Revenue act of 1885 Sec 20 (P. L. 1885 p. 199)

FARMER.

P. S. From a business stand point, a property, place, business, occupation, profession or thing becomes valuable only in proportion as it becomes profitable. Valuation for taxable purposes should be rated accordingly. If it can be proven that the farmer pays no more than his just share of taxes from the above principle he will be satisfied. All the farmer asks is an equal distribution of pecuniary advantages based upon Equalization of Remunerative Valuation for all taxable purposes.

F.

Husband and Wife.

Have more than once been saved by timely use of Kemp's Balsam for the throat and lungs, after all other remedies have been tried in vain. The Balsam stops decay of the lungs and cures influenza and acute and chronic coughs. There is no other medicine in the world that acts so promptly, certainly none that does its work so thoroughly as Kemp's Balsam. All druggists sell it. Large bottles 50c and \$1.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

MESSRS EDITORS: I read Gov. Pattison's message published in the COLUMBIAN with a great deal of pleasure. It has the right ring in favor of fair, honest, and upright legislation, just what we farmers and taxpayers repeatedly asked and plead for, yet all our petitions were in vain. The result of the late election shows that we are bound to be heard, and receive fair, honest and just legislation, not such as has made the rich richer and the poor poorer. Railroad companies and corporations have too long been favored with this kind of class legislation at our expense. The repeal of the fence law compelling us to fence railroads at our own expense or have our stock killed without redress is unfair. It is claimed that this was brought about with boodle and free railroad passes to members of the Legislature. To know just where we farmers stand permit me to ask Messrs. Krickbaum and Tewksbury whether they are under any obligations to any railroad company and whether they ride to and from Harrisburg on free passes. Please, gentlemen, let us hear from you, and you will not only oblige me but every person who endorses Gov. Pattison's message. Respectfully yours, B. A. HARTMAN, Fishingcreek, Pa.

To Purify your blood, Build up your nerves, Restore your strength, Renew your appetite, Cure scrofula, salt rheum, Dyspepsia, sick headache, Catarrh, rheumatism or malaria—Take Hood's Sarsaparilla, 100 Doses One Dollar.

MAKE A NOTE OF IT! We begin the New Year by Marking Down all WINTER CLOTHING. STORM COATS AT COST. OVERCOATS at COST. CHILDREN AND BOYS, OLD AND YOUNG, CAN BUY CHEAPER THAN EVER AT LOWENBERG'S POPULAR CLOTHING STORE.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF CARPET, MATTING, or OIL CLOTH, YOU WILL FIND A NICE LINE AT W. H. BROWER'S 2nd Door above Court House. A new lot of Window Curtains received this week.

ALEXANDER BROTHERS & CO. DEALERS IN Cigars, Tobacco, Candies, Fruits and Nuts SOLE AGENTS FOR Henry Maillard's Fine Candies. Fresh Every Week. PENNY GOODS A SPECIALTY. SOLE AGENTS FOR F. F. Adams & Co's Fine Cut Chewing Tobacco Sole agents for the following brands of Cigars: Henry Clay, Londres, Normal, Indian Princess, Samson, Silver Ash Bloomsburg, Pa.

J. G. WELLS, JEWELER & OPTICIAN. Be sure and look at the display of JEWELRY, WATCHES, &c. FINEST LINE IN THE COUNTY.

HAVE YOUR EYES FITTED FREE OF CHARGE AT J. G. WELLS'. ALL GLASSES GUARANTEED TO FIT. Prepared to turn out fine Watch and Jewelry Work of all kinds on short notice. All work guaranteed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. Estate of Martha J. Edgar, deceased. Notice is hereby given that letters of administration cum testamento annexo on the estate of Martha J. Edgar, late of the township of Orange, county of Columbia, Pa., deceased, have been granted to Thomas W. Edgar, residing in said place, to whom all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims or demands will make known the same without delay. THOMAS W. EDGAR, Administrator.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. Estate of Jacob H. Fritz, late of Sugarloaf township, deceased. Notice is hereby given that letters of administration on the estate of Jacob H. Fritz, late of Sugarloaf township, Col. Co. Pa., deceased, have been granted to Thomas W. Edgar, residing in said place, to whom all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims or demands will make known the same without delay. AMANDA FRITZ, AMANDA FRITZ, GUAVA, Pa.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary on the estate of Mary A. Hagenbuch, late of the township of Orange, county of Columbia, Pa., deceased, have been granted to William Hagenbuch, resident of said township, to whom all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims or demands will make known the same without delay. WILLIAM HAGENBUCH, Executor. Wm. H. SNYDER, Atty.

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