



ESTABLISHED 1866. The Columbia Democrat, ESTABLISHED 1887. CONSOLIDATED 1889. PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING...

"Rumors are again rife of a break up in the McKinley Cabinet. It is said that Attorney General McKenna will be named for the place on the Bench of the Supreme Court made vacant by the coming retirement of Justice Field, and that if Secretary Sherman can be persuaded to resign Judge Day will be asked to accept the portfolio of State. If Mr. Sherman will not resign, then Mr. Day is to succeed Mr. McKenna. These rumors are interesting as matters of current gossip, but they are not so well authenticated as to give them more importance."

CONGRESS NEXT WEEK. One of the Most Important Sessions in the History of the Country.

In view of the many questions of vital importance which are certain to come before the forthcoming session of Congress, those persons who desire to be well informed concerning national affairs will be interested in the news that "The Philadelphia Press" has made arrangements to publish more complete reports from Washington than have ever been furnished by any daily paper heretofore.

Electoral Fraud.

If there could have been a motive which more than any other should have moved the voters of Pennsylvania to take the state government out of the hands of the present governing party, it should have been the desire to rescue the ballot system from the debased and corrupted condition to which it has been brought by Republican management.

How the ballot law has been perverted from its intended object of protecting the secrecy and purity of the elective franchise, and made the instrument of electoral fraud and corruption, is a well known and shameful fact. It was done avowedly for the purpose of securing a party advantage, and there was not shame enough in the perpetrators to conceal their object.

But as if there was not advantage enough in perverting the Australian system from its intended object, Republican election officers in Philadelphia, at the last election, made false returns from a number of districts, resorting to such rascally means of swelling the party vote. A number of them were arrested and gave judges Arnold, Gordon and Sultzberger the opportunity of making an example of them, but this method of keeping the Republican party in power can not be stopped until the election laws are thoroughly overhauled and reformed.

Chandler's Prediction.

Senator Chandler, Rep., of New Hampshire, delivers this opinion: As to the elections, they prove with reasonable clearness that if the Republican party permanently acquiesces in "the existing gold standard" and gives up the struggle for bimetalism, that party will be defeated in the congressional elections of 1898 and the presidential election of 1900.

This is a bold prediction. Its importance, however, is not so much as a prophecy as a sign. It forecasts the failure of "currency reform" legislation in the United States Senate. A patch work of eastern and western senators must be fitted together before such legislation can pass and the silver Republican senators of the west will not be in a hurry to join the "gold standard" advocates in the east when an eastern senator assumes this attitude.—E.x.

COMMUNICATED.

The Springfield, Ohio, Farm News, November, 1897, says: "The Kansas bankers have been giving the farmers of their state advice as to what to do with their surplus cash." Sensible fellows—these bankers. Block heads and dummies—these farmers. Don't know what to do with their surplus cash. We hear no complaint of Columbia county farmers being cursed with surplus cash. I suppose if it were the case our bankers would give their advice.

But no one need worry, our farmers will not be burdened with surplus cash. If this should be the case, the Barnum or Poorbach show would soon be around to relieve them. But no one need worry. The single gold standard has already relieved them. Humbly! Barnum said, "the American people like to be humbugged." Of all humbugs, the single gold standard is chief. By the time they are done with this humbug they should be pretty familiar with humbugs. It must be apparent to every right thinking man that there are two classes of personalities, styled personal property. In other words, negotiable commodities, in barter and trade. In barter and trade balances are settled either by cash or other obligations equivalent to cash—a promise to pay. Now these promises to pay are usually secured by bond or mortgage, or other security. Now here comes the cry of over-production. If the farmers' crops are over abundant, they become a glut and command a very low price. But if the balances of trade are against that commodity, it will take nearly, or quite all the surplus products to settle balances. But if there is an over-production of balances against those commodities in the form of obligations, it does not force the prices of these obligations down, but up, by reason of a greater demand for money to meet these obligations, and hence money becomes dearer, and farm products cheaper. The bankers may well give farmers advice what to do with their surplus cash. The more bonds, mortgages and personal obligations they can force upon the country, the greater will be their harvest, and the nearer bankrupt will be the people, and the lower will be their products. The Farm News visits us, and it conveys to us, unintentional, very valuable information. While the paper is designed to deceive the farmers, yet between the lines one can read of the wolf in sheep's clothing. While the tariff has robbed the masses of their thousands, the single gold standard has robbed the masses of their hundreds of thousands.

MORE ANON.

ORONERS AND JURIES. A great deal is said against coroners on account of some of the verdicts rendered by their juries and because it is held that the coroner is a wholly useless official. It is therefore urged that his office be abolished. The coroner may or may not be useless; perhaps he is. But it would not be more fair to abolish the office because coroner's jury verdicts are sometimes silly than to abolish trial juries for their verdicts, which are at times idiotic. For instance, a trial jury in Philadelphia a week ago heard the case of a doctor who was charged with malpractice. As the trial progressed it became evident to the prosecution that it had no case and the jury was so informed by the attorney for the prosecution. Nevertheless the jury returned a verdict of "guilty" and it took the eloquence of the whole court to induce that jury to reverse the finding. Should all juries be abolished because that one was incompetent? And it is not the only one that falls below the standard set up by the public. The Nack juries, for instance, are incompetent under the public standard, for a man who has read of the murder and its developments without forming an opinion as to the commission of the crime has not the mental ability to sit on any case. And here in Pennsylvania juries stop just short of bringing a verdict of "not guilty, but we recommend that the defendant be sent to jail for ten years." No doubt such a jury might find Martin Thorn not guilty but ask that he be hanged. Should trial juries be abolished because of these little idiosyncracies? The coroner, if he is not, may be made a useful official. The usual coroner knows nothing of medicine and nothing of law and not too much of anything else. He should know something of both and at least be an intelligent man with a due regard for the public, his office and himself. Then there would be an end of foolish verdicts and of attacks upon the coroner's office.—Patriot.

Pays Only the One License.

Deputy Auditor General Reeder in an opinion advises the auditor general that when the proprietor of an opera house and similar places of amusement have paid the license fixed by the act of June 24, 1895, he is not legally bound to pay anything further in the way of treasurer's fees to a mercantile appraiser.

Week Remarkable for Wheat Exports.

Lower Prices For Iron—Failures Far Below Those of Last Year.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: The heavy exports of wheat, with the renewed advance in price, is the most interesting and important feature of the week. Since August 1, when the extent of the foreign deficiency became realized, exports have been larger than in corresponding weeks of any previous year. The cotton exports also became very heavy, and the outgo of corn falls but little below last year's unprecedented record, while in exports of manufacturing products, especially machinery, all records for the season have been surpassed.

The iron industry shows no decrease in production or consumption of pig, but with much reduced orders for products excess of production is expected, and Bessemer falls a shade to \$10.15, and gray forge to \$9.25 at Pittsburg, though Chicago and eastern markets show no change. Billets are also weaker, at Pittsburg, \$15.

Expectation of lower prices tends to produce them at a time when new business is naturally small, and the mills are working mostly on old orders with buyers impatient for deliveries. Other large orders are held back in plates by the inability of the works to deliver in the time desired. In bars, agricultural and railroad manufacturing causes a heavy demand at Chicago, iron being preferred to steel, and thin sheets are also in better demand, but bars are a shade lower at Pittsburg, and both wire and cut nails. Some large orders for rails by eastern railroads are reported.

The woolen manufacturer is still consuming heavily in execution of past orders, and many agents are sold so far ahead that they seek no further business, while others are beginning to question whether the demand for the next season will suffice if prices are made to correspond with present quotations of wool. Some reductions in prices of wool appear, possibly averaging half a cent, with sales of Australian amounting to 2,700,000 lbs. in a few large blocks at Boston, but the tone is still strong.

Failures for the week have been 236 in the United States against 500 last year, and 25 in Canada against 38 last year.

MILLIONS IN SNOW HEAPS.

Claims of Klondikers Grabbed at Fabulous Prices. The rough-dressed millionaires from the Klondike at the Hoffman House, New York, increase. Frank Phiscator, of Dawson City, who is at the Hoffman, sold his Klondike holdings for \$1,000,000 on Friday to an English syndicate, through representatives in New York city and Montreal. Mr. Phiscator, whose home is at Brodie, Mich., was the discoverer of the gold fields on Eldorado, and he staked the first claim. He went to Alaska three years ago, and has traveled 7000 miles in prospecting.

Henry G. Somers, of Dawson City, who is also at the Hoffman, sold a claim for \$1,000,000 last week. Pat Galvin and his wife and sister sailed for Ireland on the Lucania Saturday morning. Mr. Galvin refused \$500,000 on Friday for one claim at the junction of Eldorado and Bonanza Creeks.

One of the most picturesque visitors to the Hoffman House is John McQuesten, the "Father of the Yukon." Before Joseph Ladue ever heard of Dawson City or the Klondike, "Jack" McQuesten had pierced the frozen barriers of the unknown territory. It was at Circle City that he met his wife, and he now has a charming 6-year-old daughter. She accompanied him as far as San Francisco on the present trip, which is his second return to civilization since 1863.

While there he had occasion to visit a big packing house, and took the little girl with him. At sight of all the meat and thousands of cans she drew a deep breath and, with true Klondike point of view, exclaimed: "Oh, papa, what lots of 'grub.'" Mr. McQuesten is a firm believer in the future of the gold region. He added: "Any man, with reasonable care, can live there for \$500 a year. This is just what he can earn by 50 days' work at the prevailing rate of wages, so an able-bodied man can do well there if he is willing to work, and he has always a chance of making a strike for himself."

New Style Postal Card.

It is expected that within a week all the first and second class post offices of the country will have been supplied with the new style postal card. The new issue comprises a small single card with a vignette of John Adams, for domestic use only; a domestic single and reply card, a quarter of an inch or so smaller than the present card, and a new card for foreign use, which is somewhat smaller than the international card now employed.

READY FOR THE FALL OF 1897.

We announce to the public that our stock for the coming season is now complete in every department. We are now showing a large and new line of Woollens purchased before the new Tariff Bill went into effect, which means a saving of 15 to 20 per cent. to the buyer. We are now offering Fall Suits at the old prices. Our line of Over Coatings, Suitings and Trouserings are more numerous than ever. We are putting up Fall Suits in City Style and at the lowest prices, consistent with good material and skilled workmanship.

Correct Style, Reliable Goods, Perfect Fit and Lowest Prices.

Our long experience in the business enable us to give our customers full value for their money. Our Garments are made by skilled workmen, our work we guarantee in every respect. A fine display now on exhibition in the window of

JOHN R. TOWNSEND, Merchant Tailor, Hatter, and Gents Furnisher.

STATE NEWS.

Labor leaders are organizing the anthracite miners with a view to ordering a general strike next year.

Citizens of South Easton are holding meetings to protest against the annexation of the borough to the city of Easton.

The Reading company has issued orders to close down all work at the Monitor Colliery at Locust Gap, Pa., affecting 125 hands.

While hunting near Williamsport last week George Lipp shot and killed a snow white buck deer, a year old, a great variety.

At Tunkhannock Saturday Carlton D. Adams was sentenced to 16 years and 6 months in the Eastern Penitentiary for killing his wife.

Orders for 85000 bicycles have caused the Keystone Manufacturing Company Lebanon, to increase its force of men from 60 to 150 men.

The employees of Jones & Laughlin, at Pittsburg, numbering 3500, have received an advance of ten per cent in wages. The firm had promised the men a raise as soon as business would warrant it.

Near Milton last week, Elmer Smith, a young farmer, was threshing corn with a steam machine, when his arm caught in the gearing in some manner, and was torn from the socket. He is in a critical condition.

Dr. Demmett Walsh, a physician of Grand Rapids, Mich., who came to Columbia two weeks ago to visit his father, David Welsh, after returning from a trip to Europe, has disappeared under mysterious circumstances, and as he had a large sum of money on his person his relatives fear foul play. The last seen of him was on a trolley car between Lancaster and Columbia Sunday evening. Welsh is a graduate of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia.

A second knock-out has been given to the Pure Food State Commission of this State. The commission brought suit against Charles Brown and Learn & Waas for selling impure vinegar. The attorneys for the dealers asked that the indictments be quashed, on the grounds that an act of Assembly passed in 1897, subsequent to the time of the defendant's arrest, repealed the acts under which they were taken up. Judge Craig said in his decision: "It is impossible for us to sustain this indictment."

THE PRESIDENT'S CLOSE CALL.

Narrowly Escapes Collision With an Electric Car.

President McKinley had a narrow escape from being run over by an electric car running at 15 miles an hour, late Friday afternoon. After a long, hard day, in which he says more callers than on any other day since his vacation, he went for a drive to get fresh air before dinner, and while crossing Connecticut avenue, on R street, the carriage, in avoiding a fast electric car going in one direction got just in front of another coming as rapidly in the other direction, and nothing but the presence of mind of the motorman, who succeeded in suddenly stopping the car within two feet of the carriage, saved the President from possible injury.

Our Own State.

Pennsylvania ranks first in rye, iron and steel, petroleum, coal; second in population, manufactures, buckwheat, potatoes, printing and publishing; third in milk cows, hay, miles of railway; fourth in oats and tobacco; fifth in silk goods, wool, malt and distilled liquors; sixth in salt, copper and agricultural implements; eighth in horses and sheep. First settlement English, 1682. One of the original states.

Languages of America.

There are, according to an eminent archeologist, no less than 120 to 130 absolutely distinct languages in North and South America. As the growth of language is very slow, he thinks the fact of the existence of so great a variety of speech on the western continent proves that the native red men have inhabited them for many thousands of years.

When bilious or costive, eat a Cas-carel, candy cathartic, cure guaranteed, 10c, 25c.

THE HOLIDAY DREAM Soon to be Fulfilled.

This store has proved its advantage as a shopping place for holiday gifts. The various departments began months ago to bring together the vast collection. What you find here, too, is priced on the close-margin plan. Be careful that you don't chance to buy an article elsewhere, and pay more for it. Twenty-five, fifty cents, and one dollar savings are worth looking after—whether the list is a long or a short one.

THE DISSOLUTION of partnership adds to the heretofore great saving you always have here, as the stock must go down, no matter what the cost is. Your shopping bills will therefore not be as heavy, unless you buy more than usual.

Sensible Gifts.

They will go to thousands of homes at prices figured down to the lowest notch of economy.

Our buying method of pure pressure enables us to openly guarantee a saving that no competition has yet approached.

Cloak Departm'ts.

Our reputation for coat selling is wide. We always sell at prices that, quality taken into consideration, can't be equaled. Our selling prices are now more than ever far below the usual low prices, and as the weather gets colder and you want a coat, look here before you buy elsewhere. It will pay you.

Stamped Linens

In all the new holiday designs. Tray cloths, doilies, scarfs, cushion covers, at the same close margin prices to you. We offer you four (4) lots this week.

Handkerchiefs.

Not a tray full but a store full, and at prices that we can defy competition. Never offered you such handkerchief bargains. Pure linen, hemstitched, 12c. 18c value. Embroidered edge, 12c. 18c value. Sheer linen, lace edge, 15c. 25c value. 100 assorted Swiss, embroidered and hemstitched, 5c.

Your Holiday Dress Goods.

It is so generally conceded that our showing of dress goods is equal to every demand. When you are buying dress goods, it's comforting to feel, to know that you are choosing from a stock which has built for itself a rep-

Pursel & Harman, BLOOMSBURG, PA.

Not Mere... Foot Covers... but easy, comfortable, stylish shoes.

SHOES THAT ARE CORRECT

That's what up-to-date men want. That's what we sell, and we don't draw heavily on pocket books either. Fitting feet is our specialty, and we assure perfect comfort to every patron. We carry the largest stock of boots, shoes and rubbers in the county, and all new and fresh and bright. Every size, every shape, and prices not too high—nor to low.

