

WASHINGTON.

From our Regular Correspondent.
Washington, March 19, 1900.
Mr. McKinley's alleged tender to England of the good offices of this government towards bringing about peace between England and the two South African republics which England is slowly but surely crushing out of existence was nothing more than the attempt of a frightened politician to bamboozle the voters of this country who have been openly expressing sympathy for the fight for life that the citizens of those republics are making.

In fact, there has been no tender of the good offices of this government. All that was done was to forward a cablegram from the presidents of the South African republics to the English government, through the U. S. Embassy in London. There was no word of comment from this government, although Mr. McKinley knows that the right sort of a message from him would result in saving the existence of those republics. The message from the South African governments was not even dignified by being presented by the U. S. Ambassador to England, that official being off on a pleasure jaunt; it was presented by one of his secretaries. It was because of the bad showing that would have been made that Mr. McKinley took advantage of his right and refused to furnish the Senate with copies of all correspondence with Great Britain and the South African republics, which were asked for by the resolution offered by Senator Allen and adopted.

After wrangling and fighting for nearly a week and holding two caucuses the republican Senators have patched up a sort of agreement on the Porto Rico bill. A bill appropriating \$2,000,000 for the immediate relief of the Porto Ricans is to be passed at once, and the debate upon the old bill is to be continued indefinitely. Senator Davis stated in caucus that if the republicans did not give Porto Rico free trade Mr. McKinley would lose the electoral vote of Minnesota, and Senator Beveridge made a similar statement as to Indiana.

Representative Sulzer, of New York, believes that the various stories of complaints of American citizens resident in the Transvaal Republic of the treatment of themselves and other foreigners are fakes circulated to stop the increase of Boer sympathy in this country, and to prove his belief to be correct he has offered a resolution in the House calling on the State Department for copies of all letters received from citizens of the U. S. resident in the South African Republic from January 1, 1892 to the present time.

Having got their gold standard bill beyond the reach of those republican Senators who still claim to be bimetalists, the republicans were very frank in acknowledging the effect the new law will have. For instance, Representative Overstreet, who was in charge of the bill when it finally passed the House, said, in reply to a question of Representative Williams, of Ill., as to whether the clause of the law making bonds payable in gold would prevent their being paid in silver, if international bimetalism should in the future be secured: "The bonds could only be paid in gold. This bill holds out not the slightest hope of international bimetalism under present conditions. I say frankly that this bill will make it practically and absolutely impossible ever to have international bimetalism at the rates of 16 to 1." That fully exposes the hypocrisy of those republican Senators who stated when it was before the Senate that the bill contained nothing that would stand in the way of international bimetalism.

Senator Butler, of N. C., found it necessary while making a personal statement refuting the allegations that he was not in favor of the free coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1, to call Senator Aldrich, of R. I., a liar—his exact words being, "The Senator from R. I. makes a statement that is not true." At the same time Senator Allen, of Nebr., made a statement

concerning the numerous stories about his having lost faith in free coinage, in which he said: "I now want to repeat and I want the Public Printer to put it in black type so that it may stand as a permanent record of my position, that I am a firm believer, as I have always been, in the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 by this country alone and of not waiting for its adoption by any other country."

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has opened headquarters and started the work of the campaign. Secretary Kerr, who is in charge, says the prospect for electing a democratic House is becoming brighter every day and the same thing has been publicly said by prominent republicans.

It was perfectly fitting that Mr. McKinley should give the gold pen which Representative Overstreet bought for him to use in signing the gold standard bill to Mr. H. H. Hanna, of Indianapolis, who was the head of the bankers' lobby which pushed the gold standard bill from start to finish.

Senator Turner, of Washington, made an able speech this week, bristling with legal argument showing that the Constitution necessarily followed the flag into all the possessions of the U. S. He challenged any Senator to produce a single decision of the Supreme Court holding it to be necessary that the Constitution should be extended by act of Congress over acquired territory.

WASHINGTON.
Four-Day Personally-Conducted Tour Via Pennsylvania Railroad.

The almost unparalleled success of the tour last year has induced the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to offer the residents of Williamsport, Wilkes Barre, Sunbury, Harrisburg, and neighboring cities in Central Pennsylvania another opportunity to avail themselves of the peculiar advantages of a personally-conducted tour to Washington, and has therefore arranged for a four day tour to the National Capital on Monday, April 2.

Train will leave Renovo at 6.40 a. m., Williamsport 8.30 a. m., Scranton 7.48 a. m., Wilkes Barre 8.45 a. m., Sunbury, 10.50 a. m., Mt. Carmel 7.30 a. m., Altoona, 7.15 a. m., Lancaster 10.48 a. m., Harrisburg 12.35 p. m., stopping at the principal intermediate stations, and at York. Returning, special train will leave Washington at 3.30 p. m., Thursday, April 5. Passengers from points west of Williamsport, and from Dewart, Selingsgrove, Lykens, Dillsburg, Lebanon, Lancaster, Columbia, Wrightsville, and points on the Shamokin Division will use regular trains from Washington returning. All tickets will be good to return also on regular trains until Saturday, April 7, inclusive.

Round trip rate, covering transportation, hotel accommodations from supper on date of tour until after luncheon, April 5, \$12.50 from Williamsport, \$13.60 from Wilkes Barre, \$11.70 from Sunbury, \$14.00 from Altoona, \$10.10 from Lancaster, \$10.10 from Harrisburg, and proportionate rates from other stations, including stations on the Cumberland Valley Railroad north of Chambersburg. Guides to Washington will be distributed free on the train.

For itineraries, rates, tickets, and full information apply to ticket agents; F. S. Harrar, Division Ticket Agent, Williamsport, Pa.; Tourist Agent, Wilkes Barre, Pa.; or address Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad St. Station, Phila.

Started With Prayer.

Sheldon's Christian newspaper, the *Topeka Capital*, began with a prayer, the first column of the first page being given up to this prayer from Bishop John H. Vincent, of the Methodist Episcopal Church:

"A morning prayer and resolution: I will try this day to live a simple, sincere, serene life, repelling every thought of discontent, self-seeking and anxiety, cultivating magnanimity, self control and the habit of silence, practicing economy, cheerfulness and helpfulness."
"And as I cannot in my own strength do this, or even with a hope of success, attempt it, I look to Thee, O Lord, my Father in Jesus Christ, my Saviour, and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit."

The Pennsylvania railroad company will, within the next two years, build a bridge across the Susquehanna river at Rockville, to replace the present bridge running from Rockville to Marysville, a short distance above Harrisburg. The new bridge will be built a short distance east of the present structure. It will be over 3,600 feet long and will take forty-eight arches to cross the river. This will be one of the longest stone bridges on the Pennsylvania system. The present structure has been in service about 1873. Work on the new bridge will begin this year, and the company expects to have a third of it completed by Dec. 31st.

THE BIG CENSUS JOB.

Great Count to Begin June 1.

Each Enumerator Will Visit an Average of 1,500 Persons. The Preliminary Work is Well Advanced and the Authorities are of the Opinion That There Will be no Trouble in Doing the Work in the Given Time.

Seventeen census supervisors from Pennsylvania, and two from New York went to school for supervisors in Harrisburg and were told by Frederick Wines, assistant director of the census from Washington, just what they have to do to get an accurate census. Mr. Wines was asked all manner of questions and when the meeting adjourned the supervisors were pretty well informed as to their duties.

The enumeration of the population will begin June 1st, and be completed in thirty days. The collection of manufacturing schedules will follow soon after, and will be substantially completed by July 31st.

It is the aim Dr. Wines told the supervisors, to give to each enumerator, on an average, 1,500 persons to be counted, but at the same time to follow as closely as possible the political lines of division of the state into voting precincts. The rates of compensation will be so adjusted that any competent person can earn from \$3 to \$5 a day during the time employed.

Mr. Wines stated that Pennsylvania has a better force of supervisors than during any previous taking of the census, and that the department expected big results from the state. Mr. Wines advised the supervisors to send in the list of the enumerators as soon as possible, and under no circumstances to be later than April 28th. He said it was the aim of the department to get the instructions in the hands of the enumerators by May 1st. During the first census many of the enumerators did not receive their instruction papers until June 1st, the day for the commencement of the census. "As a result many of them," said Mr. Wines, "stuck their instructions into their hip pockets; this year we are going to try to get them into their heads."

Special attention is to be paid this year to political divisions. The names of every voter in every election precinct, ward, township, county and state will be taken, so that hereafter for a time at least, election frauds by the methods of bogus voters would be stopped. This census would give a complete list of voters and repeating could hereafter be easily detected.

The supervisors are to be absolute masters of the situation. They will be expected to make all appointments for enumerators and the commissions are to be signed by them.

Several of the supervisors said they had received no applications for enumerators in certain districts. Mr. Wines said this was a frequent complaint, and that the supervisors would have to go out and find some person to do the work. If a district is missed it means just that much less in population and political representation.

The question of employing minors was raised, and Mr. Wines stated there was no rule against their appointment. In extreme cases, if a man or woman of mature age cannot be secured as enumerators, then a minor could be appointed, but he must be competent and endowed with common sense.

Mr. Wines also suggested that after the supervisors had been notified that their lists of enumerators had been approved by the department that the supervisors hold a conference with the enumerators at the county seats, to give full instructions for the manner of taking the census.

The Ashley Claims.

The Jersey Central Railroad Company is settling with those whose property was damaged by the explosion of dynamite at Ashley in January. Many of the claims have already been paid and some will probably never be paid because of their excessiveness. The damages run all the way from \$1.50 to \$400, and some are trying to take advantage of the company by extortionate claims. One man, whose bill was over \$150, said he would call it square for \$50. Another turned in a large bill for damage to his furniture, itemizing each scratch at \$6. Another man turned in a bill for \$8 for a barrel of sour kraut that he claimed was spoiled by the shock from the explosion, and some other bills are equally ludicrous.

Would Guard Guest's Cash.

James Swan, a Williamsport jurymen, was the victim of a unique bunco game. After he had retired to his room at Hotel Crawford, Swan was aroused by a colored man, who represented himself as an attaché of the hotel, and volunteered the information that it would be risky for Swan to keep any money in his room, and that he should turn it over to him and have it deposited in the hotel safe. Swan obligingly handed over \$21, all he had, and he is now looking for the colored man.

An Important Decision.

That is of Interest to Every Borough in the State.

Judge Biddle, of Dauphin county, has just given a decision that is of interest to every borough in the State. It is in the case of the Borough of Mechanicsburg vs. John Koons, agent for The Grand Union Tea Company, of Harrisburg, and the decision is against the borough.

It appears that in January last the defendant, as the agent of The Grand Union Tea Company, canvassed from house to house in the borough of Mechanicsburg for the purpose of soliciting orders for tea, of which he exhibited samples. An ordinance of the borough, approved November 30, 1899, enacts that every person before doing, or offering to do, any business as aforesaid, shall take out a license from the burgess and pay a specified fee: "Provided, that the provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to persons selling by sample to manufacturers, or to license merchants, or to dealers residing or doing business in said borough, nor to persons selling their own farm produce." The defendant refused to take out a license or pay the fee for the privilege of canvassing, and action was instituted to collect the sum of five dollars, the amount of a fine imposed upon him under the terms of the ordinance for his failure to comply with its mandate. The defendant contended that the above mentioned municipal legislation is an unlawful attempt to regulate trade by creating a favored local class and therefore could not be enforced.

In deciding the point at issue Judge Biddle said that the exact question involved had been decided in the recent case of the Commonwealth vs. Snyder, 182 Pa. 630, where it is ruled that a statute which imposes a license fee on peddlers in Perry county, but which also contains a proviso exempting from its operation all persons who sell exclusively to merchants of the county, is in conflict with article 4, section 2, clause 1, of the constitution of the United States, and is consequently null and void.

A discrimination of this kind, either by statute or by ordinance is a trade regulation and its manifest effect is not to prohibit an injurious business, but to suppress harmful competition: Sayre borough vs. Phillips, 148; Shamokin borough vs. Flannigan, 150 Pa. 43.

Side Path Commissioners.

The Bicycle Side Path Commission of Lycoming county have decided to call a convention of side path commissioners, to be held in Williamsport May 10. The object of the convention is to formulate an amendment to the act creating the commissioners and to arrange plans for a series of trunk lines throughout the State. The Lycoming commission was the first one to form and it was for this reason that they took the initiative in calling for a state convention.

He's Still Digging "Taters."

A neighboring newspaper man was almost overwhelmed the other day by the following epistle which one of his subscribers wrote when he discontinued his paper. It ran as follows: "I think folks ortent to spend their money for paypur, my dad dien't and every-one said he was the intelligentist man in the country and had the smartest family of boize that ever dug taters."

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RAILROADS BUILT IN 1899.

About 4,500 Miles of Track Laid in the Year—Best Record Since 1880.

The Railway Age has made a canvass of the country in regard to the building of new railroads during the past year, and finds that about 4,500 miles have been added in that time. This is the greatest amount of new railroad that has been built in any one year since 1890, when 5,670 miles were completed. Scarcity of labor and the great increase in prices for rails and other supplies is believed to have had a material effect in keeping down the new mileage, and the coming year will without doubt see continuation of building.

Iowa stands at the head of the list of states in its figures for new mileage with 585 miles to its credit, although the previous ten years had seen little or no additions made to its railroads. A notable fact about the railroad building of the year is that there has been comparatively little building by new companies, while a number of the older roads have made important extensions. As examples, the Chicago & North-western has built 357½ miles; the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, 95 miles; the Northern Pacific, 95 miles in the United States and 29 miles in Canada; the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, 82 miles; the Atchafalaya, Topeka & Santa Fe, 160 miles; the Illinois Central, 190 miles; the Burlington system, 80 miles; the Louisville & Nashville, 74 miles; the Senobar Air Line, over 100 miles; the Great Northern, 74 miles, and the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf, 162 miles. During 1899 Massachusetts had the lowest record of new trackage, the number of miles being only 4.20.

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