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THE COLUMBIAN.

ESTABLISHED 1866.

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

ESTABLISHED 1837. CONSOLIDATED 1869. PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING, at Bloomsburg, the County Seat of Columbia County, Pennsylvania.

Geo. E. Elwell, Editor. Geo. C. Roan, Foreman.

TERMS:—Inside the county \$1.00 a year in advance; \$1.50 if not paid in advance. Outside the county, \$1.25 a year, strictly in advance.

All communications should be addressed THE COLUMBIAN, Bloomsburg, Pa.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1908.

Wages and the Cost of Living.

It took \$3623 last year to pay for the necessities of living that could be bought for \$2500 in 1897. Sixty-nine cents ten years ago had the buying power of the dollar today. This is the graphic way in which Professor Joseph French Johnson, of New York University, drives home the meaning of "increased cost of living." His two simple statements make it startlingly plain that there is a seamy side to modern American prosperity.

Our Republican friends common-point to the existing high scale workmen's wages as evidence of the exceeding blessings of the country under Republican policies. Hardly need be pointed out that the advance of wages is of no advantage to a workman if everything that he buys has advanced in the same proportion. The true gauge of a laboring man's prosperity is the purchasing power of his income, and even those workmen whose wages have most advanced are lucky if they can live as well now as they could ten years ago. With the professional classes and with clerks, salesmen and other middle-priced employes, the situation is much less favorable. Lacking unions to promote their interests and having no organized class identity to enlist the attention of stump orators and legislators, they have had no advance in income to keep abreast of the advance in prices. For the most part, the position that paid \$2500 in 1897 pays the same salary in 1908. The one evident financial difference that the decade has brought to the man who holds it is that the \$2500 of 1897 is worth only \$1725 today.

From the standpoint of the vast class which lies between the great captains of industry and those who labor for them is there not something of mockery in a high tariff prosperity? Just what is there in it for the bank clerk, say, who married ten years ago on \$25 a week? Would not even the high-paid skilled workman prefer to be free to purchase his necessities in the cheapest market and take his chance on being able to exact a good living wage for his labor.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

More Capitol Trials in April.

The next trial of alleged Capitol grafters will take place on April 5, and Joseph M. Huston, the architect, who so far has escaped the net, will be one of the defendants, and he will not be granted a severance this time. Along with Contractor Sanderson and former State Officials Snyder, Mathues and Shumaker, the architect and designer of high-priced trimmings will face a jury.

Attorney General Todd, Assistant Deputy Attorney General Todd, District Attorney Weiss, Senator John E. Fox, of Harrisburg, were present for the prosecution, as was Attorney James Scarlet, of Danville, who left off prosecuting the Powder Trust for the Government long enough to come to Harrisburg to help care for the interests of the State. Mr. Scarlet will again be the chief counsel, taking active part.

WASHINGTON

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 28, 1908. The Ways and Means Committee, that has been sitting so long in Washington, has discontinued its so-called investigations and Congress having adjourned, we are in the midst of the holiday season. An unusually large number of Senators and Members remain in Washington, but these are cheered by the visits of their sons and daughters who are in eastern schools and colleges or may be in western and southern schools and colleges. For there are many worse places to spend the holidays than in the capital city of the United States. The ground is covered with six inches of snow, but the days are bright and there has scarcely as yet been any really cold weather.

The citizens of Washington, those who make it their home, are interested in the preparations for the inauguration of President-elect Taft. Seventy-five thousand dollars have been already subscribed for the expenses of the street pageant and the inaugural ball and it is interesting to note that this amount is \$12,000 greater than the total subscription for President Roosevelt's last inauguration. There is no doubt but that the subscription will be considerably increased for donations are coming in in sums of \$50 or more.

Locally Mr. Taft is a much more popular man than President Roosevelt. He is genial, tactful, imperturbably goodhumored, and as the professor said, Mr. Roosevelt "ain't". Thousands of Washingtonians have a grudge against the President. He extended the working hours in all Departments from 4 to 4:30 o'clock causing what was imagined to be intolerable hardship to at least twenty thousand government employees, interfering with their dinner hour and with the schedules of local trains, for it must be remembered that hundreds of government clerks live eight and ten and even forty miles outside of the city, quite a number of them coming over in the morning from Baltimore and returning in the evening. President-elect Taft will not have to do what Mr. Roosevelt has done, fortunately perhaps for his local popularity but it may be safely assumed that he will not rescind the order.

The inauguration on the fourth of March is expected to surpass in splendor and in volume of spectators, street parade, and inaugural ball, any similar event that has been given before. As usual, Pennsylvania Avenue, on the south side, will be lined with bleachers where the spectators may sit on a rough pine board at an expense of anywhere from fifty cents to a dollar and a half and watch an almost endless procession, military and civic, with fifty or more brass bands interspersed, for five or six hours. The day is usually inclement and frequently almost intolerable. The seats that cost \$1.50 will have awnings; while those of less price will be exposed to the frownings or smiling skies, as the case may be. In thirty years residence, your correspondent remembers only one pleasant fourth of March and that was the day of the first inauguration of President Cleveland.

Andrew Carnegie's admission before the Committee on Ways and Means that an international combination of steel manufacturers existed has naturally excited many people interested in the tariff problem and it is said that steps will be taken to get to the bottom of this alleged international trust. Mr. Carnegie denied that he knew anything of it personally, but he did not deny its existence and had heard of it from several sources. There has been talk of summoning J. Pierpont Morgan, on the assumption that if there is a big trust anywhere, he is in it, or may know something about it. Moreover, Mr. Morgan had much to do with the creation of the steel trust and it is somewhat natural to suppose that he is advised as to any international relations.

It is predicted by those who profess to know that President Roosevelt's reply to the demand of the House of Representatives for the information upon which he based the assertion in his annual message that Members of Congress were averse to investigation by secret service men, is prepared and in the form of a special message. It is said that the President has completed it after working day and night to get it off his hands in order that he might enjoy the Christmas holidays with a light heart. The draft of this message, it is said, has been submitted to the Cabinet and the paper was carefully scrutinized by every one of the President's counselors. It is said that those who are anticipating a vitriolic document will not have their expectations realized. The paper is said to be conservative, calm and temperate. Congress will scarcely have assembled in the Capitol before this paper will be received by it and those who have seen it, believe that the country will be convinced, as will also Members of Congress, that the President had sufficient reason for the words that have been so heatedly criticized and discussed in his annual message.

The American Eagle. Will Not be Protected Any Longer in Pennsylvania. The State of Pennsylvania will remove its official protection from the great American eagle if a bill in contemplation and having the backing of the State Game Commission becomes a law. Now the eagle is protected and there is a fine of \$50 for each and every eagle killed. The state game officials take the ground that the eagle is a bird of prey and does more damage than good. It has been ascertained that the United States government does not protect the eagle, and the plan is to make it legitimate game.

U. S. Navy Second in World. England Alone Now Leads Us on the Sea.

Our navy stands second among those of the great world powers at the present time, according to the navy year book, prepared by Pitman Pulsiver, clerk to the senate navy committee. Germany follows third, while France has dropped to fourth place and Japan to fifth. The year book shows that Great Britain has sixty-one first-class battle ships, the United States thirty-one, Germany thirty one, France twenty-six and Japan fifteen. France takes precedence of both the United States and Germany, if the tonnage of all the vessels in the navy is counted. All told, France has 516 vessels.

Pennsylvania's Big Bridge. One of the most daring and remarkable engineering structures ever proposed is the bridge which the Pennsylvania Railroad will begin building from Port Morris, a suburb of New York, to Queen's county, Long Island, as soon as work on its terminal station is farther advanced.

With the approaches the bridge will be three miles long and span the Hell Gate ship channel with an enormous arch 1000 feet in the clear. The entire bridge, except the piers for the arch, will be of steel, having an estimated weight of 80,000 tons. The novel feature of the plans is that the train floor of the bridge instead of resting on the crown of the arch is hung from it. The crown is 300 feet above the water and the floor 140 feet, enabling the largest steamer to pass under with ease.

The bridge will have four tracks, two for passenger trains and two for freight, and is designed for live loads on each of the tracks of two 190-ton locomotives, followed by a uniform load of 5000 pounds per linear foot. The main arch is to be flanked by piers, from which will rise double towers 200 feet high. The towers will be of massive proportions, with the lower portion of granite and the upper of concrete.

William Rabb of Danville, son of Dr. I. L. Rabb of this town, was united in marriage on Monday to Miss Anne Reifsnnyder of Danville. The ceremony was performed in Binghamton.

Weak Throat—Weak Lungs. Cold after cold; cough after cough! Troubled with this taking-cold habit? Better break it up. We have great confidence in Ayer's Cherry Pectoral for this work. No medicine like it for weak throats and weak lungs. Ask your doctor for his opinion. He knows all about it. His approval is valuable. Follow his advice at all times. No alcohol in this cough medicine. J.C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

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Worth Knowing. Burning oil is spread by water. To extinguish it throw down flour, sand or earth. The idea is to prevent the oil spreading. Fried chicken with cream sauce and corn fritters is an old dish, but one that too seldom finds a substantial place in the home. A faint scent of violets is imparted to handkerchiefs by adding a small piece of orris root to the water in which they are boiled. To soften hard water, put one ounce of quicklime into four gallons and a half of water. Stir it thoroughly and allow it to settle. Then pour off the clear solution which will be enough to add to four barrels of hard water. Trespass Notices. Card signs "No Trespassing" for sale at this office. They are printed in accordance with the late act of 1903. Price 5 cents each.