

NEW YORK CITY is in danger of a winter famine.

The Prohibition vote in the state at the late election, was 18,461, and being less than the three per cent. necessary to secure for that party a place on the regular tickets next year.

The New England Homestead places the yield of potatoes in this country at 194,445,059 bushels, a gain of 49,000,000 bushels from last year, but a decrease of 7,000,000 bushels from 1888.

On the 9,938 ocean steamships that are afloat in the year 1891, says the Cincinnati Enquirer, England owns 5,312 Germany 689 and France 471. What the United States of America own is hardly worth mentioning. We have great shipping laws over here.

On Friday last President Harrison issued his proclamation appointing Thursday the 26th day of this month as a day of Thanksgiving. In accordance with custom Governor Pattison has also issued a proclamation calling on the people of Pennsylvania to observe the same day.

The total number of immigrants landed at the port of New York during the month of October was 39,798. Of that number 8,620 were Germans, 6,298 from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and 3,226 from Italy. There was a marked falling off in the latter named class.

The official vote of this state on November 3, 1891, is as follows: For Auditor General, Gregg, R., 415,555; Wright, D., 359,055; Hague, Pro., 18,461; For State Treasurer, Morrison, R., 418,259; Tilden, D., 359,472; Drayton, Pro., 18,013. The majority against the constitutional convention is 243,522.

GEORGE E. CURTIS, scientific assistant in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, who was sent to Texas along with the Dyrenforth's raimaking expedition, and stayed on the ranch where the experiments were conducted for three weeks says the whole thing is devoid of practical or commercial value.

Six masked men robbed an express train near Milwaukee, Wis., on Thursday night. They bursted the car open with explosives, and threw the safes out, but were unable to open them and had to leave their booty beside the tracks. They stole about \$10,000. Using explosives to force out the end of a car, in addition to pistols and guns, is something new in train robbery.

FOUR Chinamen were arrested last week at Watertown, N. Y. who were making an attempt to cross the Canadian border. The inspector at Ogdensburg, N. Y., in reporting this case, says he has information of the existence of a conspiracy to smuggle several hundred Chinamen into the United States from Canada, and that he is endeavoring to secure evidence against the alleged conspirators.

TREASURER-ELECT JOHN W. MORRISON has been appointed chief in the office of the State Treasurer to succeed William Lively. Mr. Morrison will assume the position on the first of next month. It is probable that he will at the same time tender his resignation to Speaker Thompson as chief clerk of the House of Representatives. This position pays \$2,500 during the year when the legislature is in session and \$1,000 the year following.

Dr. T. W. VAN VLECK of Cincinnati, was arrested on Tuesday for issuing bogus diplomas for money, permitting the holder to practice medicine. The institution which issued the diplomas, and of which Van Vleck is the president, has existed in secret during that time. It was known as the Medical University of Ohio. It has no building and no lectures are given. Van Vleck's charges for a diploma varied from \$500 down to a few dollars. The reporter making the investigation obtained a diploma for a small sum. Van Vleck was released on \$1,000 bail.

The latest dispatches from Brazil are of an alarming character and indicate that the country is in a state of revolution. The garrison at Itagu, on the Uruguay river, surrendered without a battle. Porto Alegre, the capital of the state, is also in the hands of the revolutionists. In the interior of Rio Grande de Sul all the telegraph lines have been destroyed, so that authentic details of what is going on are difficult to obtain. It is believed that several northern provinces will join the movement against the dictator. The fleet that Fonseca was said to have sent to Rio Grande de Sul has not yet arrived at any of its ports.

PENNSYLVANIA contributed \$105,334, 524, or about 77 per cent., of the total internal revenue taxes paid last year. Four states exceeded this amount: Illinois, which is the greatest whisky-producing state, came first; New York was second, Kentucky third, Ohio fourth, and the old Keystone fifth. Not a single state was made in the state last year for violation of the whisky laws, while 400 were made in others and 700 still were seized.

The tobacco manufacturers of the state number 4,883; 22,056,396 pounds of tobacco were used, and 1,169,699,963 cigars and 2,000,000 cigarette were made. The tobacco factories of the state number 49, and they use 4,396,941 pounds of tobacco per year, 72,812 pounds of scamp, 123,925 pounds of stems, 54,434 pounds of licorice, 89,000 pounds of sugar, and 80,000 pounds of other material.

The next battle for the Presidency says the Philadelphia Record will be fought on the issue of tariff reform, no matter what candidates may be in the field. Nothing can be accomplished before the election of 1892 that will shift the battle to other issues. As the Democrats are in control of the House of Representatives, it will be in power to make the position of their opponents more intolerable by the passage of a bill to put wool, iron, ore, coal, salt, lumber, flax, hemp, and cotton ties on the free list, and repealing that clause of the McKinley act which empowers the President to reimpose duties on sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, in certain contingencies of which he is to be the judge.

A bill of this kind should be sent to the Senate; and upon that body the President should be placed the onus of a refusal to pass or to approve it. Such a bill would be strengthened by a provision making a 20 per cent. reduction of the tariff rates upon manufactures of wool, iron, flax and hemp, as an equivalent for untaxing the raw material. It would not be worth while for the House at the coming session to undertake a thorough revision of the McKinley tariff. Such a scheme might be perfected and carried through; but the labor would be lost. The bill would fall in the Senate, or be vetoed by the President. It would be better to go to the people on the issue as it stands, giving the administration the opportunity to extend the free list, or forcing it to go on the record as opposed to further modification of the most outrageous tariff ever imposed upon the country.

The repudiation of the McKinley legislation of last year by the election of an overwhelming majority of Representatives opposed to it would appear to necessitate such action on the part of that majority as would give the Republican Administration the opportunity of responding to the desire of the country. The test can be made on free raw material. That is the beginning of tariff reform; and there is no doubt of the issue of a new appeal to the people based upon that strong ground.

A difference of opinion in regard to tariff legislation, says the Philadelphia Record, may be readily reconciled has sprung up among some of the Democratic members of the coming Congress. Mr. Mills insists that a complete tariff bill should be prepared as soon as possible, so that the Democratic party may go before the country upon its principles of tariff reform. Mr. Springer urges, on the other hand, that instead of a general bill the House should pass special measures putting wool, iron, ore, coal, salt, lumber, cotton ties, dye stuffs, chemicals used in manufactures and other articles on the free list.

There is not necessarily any inconsistency in these two positions. While putting a general tariff bill upon its passage, the House could pass and send to the Senate at the same time the special measure suggested by Mr. Springer. While the Senate would be likely to delay or reject a general tariff bill, a majority of its members might vote to put wool on the free list, which would be a great stride toward the triumph of tariff reform.

But the country will expect the House to pass a general measure of tariff revision. This measure, far better than the resolutions of a party convention, would constitute the Democratic tariff platform in the next Presidential contest. The people would know from it just what to expect from the Democrats upon their return to power. Such a bill, though it might not escape a Presidential veto if it should pass the Senate in the fifty-second Congress, would speak for itself and for the Democratic party, and thus check the partisan misrepresentations of the aims of the party in tariff legislation.

For the year ending November 1 there were 23 failures of National banks, and 7 other banks were closed temporarily, but allowed to resume. This is an unusually bad record, for the average heretofore has not been more than six or seven a year. Five more national banks have been closed since November 1, and are not included in this report. There is no special dullness in business to bring on these failures in the natural course of events. They mainly originate in the bank-wrecking of speculative bank officials. The failures of the year, by reason of their character more than their number, direct attention to the office of the comptroller of the currency. Insolvent banks should not be allowed to go on doing business and increasing in number until the reverses of a single year multiply the average failures by five. That argues neglect of duty on the part of the bank examiners.

HON. THOMAS F. BAYARD will address a meeting of Democrats in Wilmington on Friday evening. This meeting is the first of a series that will be held this winter with a view of familiarizing the Democratic voters of that city with the provision of the new law under which the next general election will be conducted. Mr. Bayard will take the new law for a text and thoroughly explain its provisions. He will also recommend the holding of "voting schools," such as were held in Ohio during the recent campaign, where all the forms of registration and voting can be executed and much practical information imparted in advance of the election. The new law is not complicated or cumbersome, but still it is a radical departure from the system of voting to which the people of the state have heretofore been accustomed.

ABOUT 200,000 voters who voted for state officials failed to cast a ballot either for or against the calling of a constitutional convention. By all odds the most important matter requiring the attention of electors was least thought of at the polls. Had all the non-voters cast their ballots for a convention it would have still failed of a majority.

Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C. November 14, 1891. Not since the "packing" of the United States Supreme Court by a Republican President, to get the celebrated legal tender decision, has there been such a bold attempt on the part of an Administration to influence a decision of the Supreme Court as that which occurred here this week when the Attorney General informed the Supreme Court, then sitting in an argument by the solicitor general in the now celebrated Sayward case, in which the question of American jurisdiction over Bering's Sea, that a treaty had been concluded with Great Britain, by which the disputed questions concerning the rights of the United States are to be settled by arbitration. Without entering into the question of the rightfulness of the position taken by the United States in its arguments in this case—the case is a political and therefore under the exclusive jurisdiction of the President—it is not difficult to see that the Attorney General, in influencing the Court to decide that it has no jurisdiction to decide the last day of the arguments that the solicitor general, apparently by a slip of the tongue, alluded to a treaty with Great Britain for the arbitration of the Bering's Sea, was guilty of a serious error. It is a question concerning that treaty, and the solicitor general, apparently confused, said that he was afraid that he had betrayed a state secret. Just at this opportune moment the Attorney General arose and dramatically stated that such a treaty had been negotiated, and that only the ratification of the Senate was necessary for it to go into effect. It was plain to be seen that the statement created a sensation among the justices of the court, just as it was intended that it should. There is no doubt that the seven had been previously carefully rehearsed by the Attorney General and the solicitor general, nor is there that this information was made public at just this time and place for the express purpose of influencing the court to decide the question as the administration wants it decided. No details are ascertainable of this alleged treaty, and there are grounds for the belief that the executive branch of the government, notwithstanding the positive statement of the Attorney General, Mr. Blaine refused to put blank to say one word about it, which is of itself significant. But whether the treaty has been concluded or is only near conclusion, makes no difference. The time, place and manner of making it public was wrong. The executive branch of the government exceeds its Constitutional authority whenever it attempts in any way to influence the judicial branch, which is by the Constitution made a separate and independent authority. But, come to think of it, what Republican administration ever respected the Constitution when it did not accord with its designs.

Four of the candidates for Speaker are in Washington—Messrs. Mills, McMillin, Springer and Bynum—but as the number of Democratic Representatives here is small, there is nothing new in the names of the candidates. Each of the candidates appear to be confident of success. As there will be ten days between Thanksgiving day and the opening of Congress this year, it is probable that the executive branch of the government will be compressed into those ten days.

Mr. Harrison is having considerable trouble in making up a new slate for the important appointments soon to be made in place of those who resign during the state elections. He is seeking advice in all quarters. This week Boss Clarkson paid him another visit, and Senator Plumb, who last week last year on account of his being previously carefully rehearsed by the Attorney General and the solicitor general, nor is there that this information was made public at just this time and place for the express purpose of influencing the court to decide the question as the administration wants it decided. No details are ascertainable of this alleged treaty, and there are grounds for the belief that the executive branch of the government, notwithstanding the positive statement of the Attorney General, Mr. Blaine refused to put blank to say one word about it, which is of itself significant. But whether the treaty has been concluded or is only near conclusion, makes no difference. The time, place and manner of making it public was wrong. The executive branch of the government exceeds its Constitutional authority whenever it attempts in any way to influence the judicial branch, which is by the Constitution made a separate and independent authority. But, come to think of it, what Republican administration ever respected the Constitution when it did not accord with its designs.

There is no difficulty about revising the precincts in the chief cities, and with the State, as the Constitution is mandatory in limiting the number of voters at 250 in each; but it is not mandatory in the smaller cities, and the Attorney General and the County Commissioners should promptly and carefully consider the matter and have their precincts revised before making their returns of election districts to the Auditor General.

In many rural districts one-half or more of the votes are cast between five and seven o'clock in the evening, and in some cases nearly or quite half the votes are cast between six and seven. These facts are known to the Commissioners, and they should so revise the districts of their respective counties as to assure the convenient polling of the voters each time, and in every case be most likely to attend the election.

The new ballot law has many imperfections, most of which are studied inventions to hinder or defeat the reforms made at the polls. Each of the reforms is the law of the state and must be executed as it is. Let the County Commissioners take prompt and thorough measures to put the new system into effect, and as far as possible, and the few good results likely to be attained will make it possible to get thoroughly honest ballot returns in Pennsylvania in the near by and by.

Boy and Diamonds Gone.—KANSAS CITY, Mo., Nov. 14.—Oscar Twitcheil, a merchant of Philadelphia, who had been to American, Kan., to get his nephew, Oscar M. Preston, whom he intended to train for business, left the young man on a train at the depot near the city of Philadelphia, on a train containing diamonds valued at \$15,000, or more while he went to a drug store to secure a porous plaster. When he returned, train, satchel and the young man were gone.

Iron Contracts for the Fair.—It is announced that the contract for the iron and steel work of Machinery Hall, for the Chicago Exposition, has been awarded to the Coffrode & Saylor Manufacturing Company, of Pittsburg, Pa. This structure, including the main building and annexes, will be the most extensive of the Exposition. It will be 550 feet long and 400 feet wide, the width being covered by three steel arches over 100 feet in height. The central transept, 130 feet wide, will be surmounted by three domes 250 feet high. The steel will be rolled by the Reading Rolling Mill but the fabricating will be done at Pittsburg. The work is to be completed and in place by May, 1892.

Western Storms.—MICHIGAN CITY, N. D., Nov. 17.—Fully 10,000 acres of grain are still standing in the shock in this (Nelson) county, covered with a snow from the depth of three inches, and threshing machines and crews that came from the South are leaving the farmers in bad shape. Very little if any collecting has been done as the farmers have not had time to haul their grain.

Lovers Deded the Father.—LEBANON, Pa., Nov. 16.—Cyrus Kleiser, proprietor of the American House, Lebanon, objected to some unknown reason, to Robert Eckert paying attention to his pretty 19-year-old daughter, Tillie. Eckert is the proprietor of a cigar store and steam laundry. He was not permitted to call on Miss Tillie, over whom a strict watch was kept; but, with the assistance of friends, a correspondence was maintained and on Saturday the couple visited Camden and were married. They are in Philadelphia at present, where they will remain until a truce is patched up.

Look to the Election Districts.

The Board appointed under the act of June 19, 1891, known as the new election law, to go into effect in March, 1892, consists of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Secretary of Internal Affairs and Auditor General. It is their duty to decide upon the booths, etc., to be used at the polls under the new law, and to take all necessary steps to facilitate the execution of the new system. The members of the board have given notice to all the County Commissioners of the state to meet in the Supreme Court room at Harrisburg on Wednesday, the 25th inst., to aid the Board in the inspection of the varied samples of shelves, compartments, guard-rails, ballot-boxes, etc., so that the decision may be as generally acceptable as possible. Every Board of County Commissioners in the State should send at least one of its members to this meeting, not only to aid the State Board in reaching the best conclusions, but also to familiarize the local Boards with the new election system.

The Constitution requires the cities of Philadelphia, Pittsburg and Erie to increase their voting precincts from time to time to maintain 250 voters to each as the maximum number, and precincts in the smaller cities, towns and counties are required to be similarly increased. The convenience of electors and the public interests will be promoted thereby.

It is important, in view of the slower process of voting attending the best conclusion, that both cities and counties should at once have their election precincts revised by the courts to comply with the plain letter of the statute. It is not necessary that the state in its plain spirit in the smaller cities, towns and counties.

The State will furnish the Commissioners of the counties with the necessary fixtures for the number of election precincts in each city and county, and the fixtures will then become the property of the county. The Commissioners will be required to send to the Auditor General in the next summer, the number of election precincts in each county, and before that return shall be made, the districts of each city and county should be carefully scrutinized by the Commissioners, and needed new precincts created by the courts. Precincts should be divided in every case in the cities where the constitutional limitation is exceeded, and in every case in the country where the number of voters is so large as to crowd the polls inconveniently at any hour of the day.

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Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

NEWS AND OTHER NOTINGS.

Near Millin on Tuesday morning an engine struck and instantly killed Michael Weller, a railroad watchman. The Illinois Steel Company, of Chicago, will soon erect 600 coke ovens near Uniontown to furnish coke for their plant. While the armies of the British Empire cost about \$17,000,000 a year, the German army costs about \$107,000,000 a year, and the French army a little over \$40,000,000. Dr. Runyon, a well-known physician of Canonsburg, was seriously hurt in his laboratory on Sunday afternoon while experimenting with an apparatus for producing oxygen. It exploded. The remains of an unknown tramp were discovered on a stack pile at Douglas station on Monday. In the man the gas arising from the burning stack is supposed to have caused his death. Charles Wall, the Wyoming county wife-murderer, now under sentence of death, has started to starve himself. He refuses to eat anything, saying he prefers death by starvation to hanging. People of Clermont county, Ohio, are panic-stricken over the prevalence of black diphtheria. In many villages it has paralyzed, and many are leaving the plague-spot. The disease is unprecedentedly fatal. H. W. Cogan, of Hopewell township, Bedford county, while husking corn on a power husker, was caught in the machine and had his right hand badly mangled. Part of his hand and three fingers were amputated. George Kepler, a well-known oil-producer of West Virginia, was shot and killed on Saturday by shooting himself through with a revolver while alone in his bath room. The act is attributed to worry over financial troubles. A Florida Charlatan, a terra cotta workman, fell ninety stories from the top of the Masonic temple building, in Chicago, on Saturday, and was crushed into unrecognizable mass of flesh. He was married and leaves a family. It is probably the best timbered state in the Union. Out of 38,000,000 acres, only some 3,000,000 are included in farms, the rest, eleven-twentieths, exclusive of the area covered by lakes and rivers, being covered with heavy forests. Michael Ruddy, an insane minor of Wilkesbarre, went to the cellar of his house on Sunday night, poured coal oil over himself, set it on fire, and cut his throat from ear to ear. The house took fire and Ruddy's body was burned to a crisp. The telephone line between Manitow and Pike's Peak has just been completed, a distance of about nine miles. It is the highest telephone line in the world. The peak is 14,115 feet in height, while the village of Manitow is only 5,000 feet above the sea. John T. R., a prominent resident of Deadwood, S. D., and a naturalized citizen of the United States, has been arrested in Germany, where he had gone to visit friends, as a deserter from the German army. Uncle Sam will be asked to secure his release. The two largest driving belts ever made in the United States are now being made in St. Louis for an electric power station. They are of three thicknesses of leather, each 72 inches wide and 150 long. They weigh about 1,800 pounds each, and each belt contains about 200 tanned hides. Frank Siddals, the prominent soap manufacturer, was once asked why he did not advertise his goods, and he replied that he did not follow other manufacturers, putting up sign boards etc. He replied that in his experience he found that the man who does not read newspapers never sees soap. While a wagon belonging to the United States Express company, with a safe containing \$5,000 was standing at the depot at Greenville, O., Saturday night, a brace of thieves jumped in the rig, put the whip to the horse, and rapidly drove out of sight. The safe was found later riddled with its contents. A Delaware robber gave his wife a certain sum of money each week for her personal use. He never inquired what she did with it, but after 20 years of wedded life, the wife died, and in the drawer of an antique table, the husband found a bag containing gold, also a lot of greenbacks, amounting in all to \$10,000. Dr. Geo. Fasset, of Foster, Pa., while walking from church on Saturday afternoon on the tracks of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, was struck by a passenger train and killed. It is said that the unfortunate man was a cousin of the late candidate for governor of New York on the Republican ticket. Nettie Birdler, a captain of the Salvation Army, shot and killed Captain Hattie Smith, and then suicided, at Omaha, on Sunday evening, during the progress of a reception that was given to the heads of the Salvation Army in France and America. La Marchese Booth-Gibbons and her brother, Commissioner Burlington Booth. A mystery surrounds the tragedy. Miller & Sibley, of Franklin, Pa., sold to the Kidgely Brothers, of Springfield, Ill., on Saturday, the Election outfit, Conductor, for \$30,000. As a three-year-old in 1880 Conductor made a record of 2,254 1/2 miles. The dam of Conductor is Soutag Mohawk, which seven years ago was on the tracks of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, was struck by a passenger train and killed. It is said that the unfortunate man was a cousin of the late candidate for governor of New York on the Republican ticket. Nettie Birdler, a captain of the Salvation Army, shot and killed Captain Hattie Smith, and then suicided, at Omaha, on Sunday evening, during the progress of a reception that was given to the heads of the Salvation Army in France and America. La Marchese Booth-Gibbons and her brother, Commissioner Burlington Booth. A mystery surrounds the tragedy. 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