

FRIENDS and foes of militarism in Germany rejoice that the empire is freed from depressing uncertainty by passage of the army bill.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND, notwithstanding the croakings of the Republican press, is enjoying himself and regaining his usual robust health at Gray Gables, his country seat on the ocean in Massachusetts. He has now fully recovered from the rheumatism which for some days confined him to the house. He will not return to Washington until the time for the convening of the extra session of Congress.

A DISPATCH from Easton, Pa., says: The last legislature passed an act regulating the fees for constables and justices of the peace. Bills under this act were presented to the county commissioners, who refuse to pay them. A case stated was presented to Judge Reeder who decided the bill should be paid. Judge Reeder on Monday recalled the decree, and stated that only justices and constables elected since the passage of the act were entitled to fees under it. This decision shuts out every justice and constable in the county, and in fact the entire state.

In his address in Tammany hall on July 4, Speaker Crisp said: "If there are thousands of unemployed workmen in our land, if the agricultural interests languish, if trade and commerce are restricted, if there is lack of confidence in financial circles, so far as human laws are responsible, you can charge it to the Republican party. There are laws on our statute books to-day which are in restriction of trade. They are Republican laws which have destroyed the people's confidence and have upset the finances. They are Republican laws." And Speaker Crisp is right.

PAPERS from China, received per latest mail, contain accounts of the great famine in Shansi, from which it appears that in Kueihua and Suiyuan circuits alone over 520,000 people have been receiving relief from the Government. The sufferings of the people are something awful to witness. The famine was caused by excessive rain in some sections and a great drought in others, so that not a grain of any crop was harvested and the people, having no savings, awaited death with folded hands. The strong have left their homes and the weak have died at the roadside. The number of people in distress is estimated at more than 500,000.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT of Public Instruction N. C. Shaffer on Saturday said that the new text book law goes into effect at once. He has rendered a decision that it is the duty of the directors to make provisions for furnishing and equipping the schools with the text books and supplies generally needed by pupils for daily use in the schools, such as slate pencils, paper, pens, ink, tablets, etc., that, while it is no doubt wise to urge pupils to use the books in their possession for the purpose of lessening the immediate outlay of money, they cannot be compelled to use their own books, and that in all the required branches of study books are to be provided by the directors, and for all grades of the public schools, including the high school.

The leading English scientists, Jones, Hilton, et al., are figuring on the probabilities of the earth finally collapsing as a result of the modern craze for tapping nature's great gas reservoirs. They argue that the earth is a huge balloon held up in part at least, by heat and internal gases, and when nature's great gas main is eventually exhausted the earth's crust may break in and fall into million fragments. Ugh! The very thought of such a calamity is startling. They argue that the steady belching forth of millions of feet of gas every hour of the day and night is surely causing a great vacuum somewhere not far beneath the surface, and that sooner or later the thin archway will give way. Then will occur the climax of all earthly calamities.

A JURY was impaneled at Springfield, Ill., Thursday, to determine the identity of the man who claims to be William Newby, of White county, who was shot in the head at the battle of Shiloh and was believed to have been buried in the trenches by his comrades. This man has convinced Mrs. Newby and her four children of his identity. Old friends and comrades of Newby testify to the fact that he is the man. He applied for a pension on account of his services as William Newby, and was indicted for attempting to obtain a pension by fraud. The government claims that he is Daniel Benton, well known in Tennessee. The wife of Daniel Benton arrived there from Tennessee and will testify that the defendant is her husband and the father of her children, and not Newby.

A WASHINGTON dispatch says: Colonel J. M. Wilson, United States Army, who by reappointment of President Cleveland has now charge of the White House and adjacent grounds, has made a strong report on the necessity of some change of the arrangement for the domestic life of the Chief Executive. He says: "It again becomes my duty to call attention to the fact that the Chief Magistrate of our country should no longer be obliged to have his private residence and office under the same roof. Surely he is entitled to the same privacy in his home life as any other citizen, and it is sincerely hoped that either office room may be found for him in the Treasury or the State, War and Navy building, or that Congress will take such steps as are necessary to erect a suitable office building at an early day."

The World's Fair has been made to bear the blame of many phenomena and conditions, but the Union and Advertiser of Rochester N. Y. makes it jointly responsible with the Sherman law and the "industrial" frauds for the financial stringency.

It assumes that there are four millions of the American people not keeping a bank account who have for months been hoarding money, which they would in ordinary years have spent, in order that they may have the means to attend the Fair. It estimates that \$100 is a fair average of the sum that has been thus gradually withdrawn from circulation by or for each of these four million persons, making in aggregate of \$400,000,000.

Probably this is an excessive estimate, but it is rational to suppose that the aggregate of the small sums which the people have saved and kept lying idle for months in pockets or bureau drawers or other depositories for the purpose of going to the Fair is indeed a vast sum, and sufficient to produce a sensible diminution of the active currency of the country. Of course, this hoarded money is now being spent, and by November it will all be spent. Most of it goes into the possession of railroad companies, hotel keepers, merchants, etc., who keep bank accounts. This in again becomes a part of the money in use, and to this extent operates to relieve the stringency which has been felt.

The new law passed by the last legislature relating to married women provides that a married woman may have the same right and power as an unmarried person to acquire, use, lease and dispose of property, but she may not mortgage or convey her real estate unless her husband joins. She may also make any contract in writing or otherwise which is necessary, appropriate, convenient or advantageous to the exercise or enjoyment of her rights of property, but she may not become accommodation indorser, maker, guarantor or surety for another. She may sue and be sued civilly, but she may not sue her husband except for divorce or to protect or recover her separate property when deserted or refused support, and he may sue her for divorce or to protect or recover his property when deserted by her, but she shall not be arrested for her torts.

The weekly crop report of the weather bureau at Washington states that the warm dry weather has been especially favorable for harvest work and haying, which is well under way as far north as southern Minnesota. In view of the reported shortage in forage in Europe it is worthy of special note that the hay crop is excellent in almost all sections. Some injury has resulted to crops in Kentucky, Tennessee and portions of Illinois, owing to the hot dry weather, and rain is generally needed east of the Mississippi, in Texas and in the upper Missouri valley. There has been a general improvement in crop conditions during the week. Corn is reported in excellent condition in most states. In Pennsylvania alternate showers and sunshine are very beneficial to crops; corn and tobacco making excellent growth, oats ripening; outlook brightening in dry sections.

A WASHINGTON dispatch says Postmaster General Bissell has decided to abandon the three sizes of postal cards now in use and to substitute one size for both single and reply cards. With that purpose in view the specifications, which have been sent to prospective bidders for the contract of furnishing the postal service with cards during the next four years call for single cards of the uniform size of 3 by 5 1/2 inches. That is what is known as the international size, it being used generally by the countries composing the national postal union. The double or reply card now in use will be continued with the size, when folded, reduced to that of the international card. These two cards will take the place of the small or ladies' card, the medium and the large card and the large return card.

The Auditor General under section eight of the act of April 23, 1893, has demanded from the county officers half the fees which they have collected over and above the sum of \$2,000. All county officers are instructed to keep a special book, to be audited by the auditor appointed by the court of common pleas, showing all fees received. Under the recent act of 1893 monthly, instead of quarterly, returns will be required. Clerk hire and office expenses are to be deducted from the fees received. Philadelphia last year yielded in fees to the county officers over and above the salaries paid the sum of \$318,210. Half that sum, under the fifty per cent. act, the state proposes to appropriate to its own use.

In this day of pension frauds and men who draw regular salaries from the Government because they are bald-headed or have corns, Baltimore is proud of one who voluntarily gives up his \$12 and wants to go quietly off and have nothing said about it. Saloonkeeper Joseph P. Clarke last Thursday surrendered his pension of \$12 a month. He said he had recovered from the disability for which the pension had been granted.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 15, 1893. Facts are stubborn things, and now that the Democrats have an opportunity to examine the pension rule they are turning up every day to prove that the claim made by Democrats for years that millions of dollars were being paid out illegally for pensions, was correct. Cases are numerous where men are drawing \$72 a month for total disability and are in addition following ordinary avocations and drawing the same salaries as un-injured men. Two cases of this sort turned up this week right here in Washington, one man a musician regularly employed and the other a government clerk, and there are many more here. These two men were re-examined and their pensions reduced to \$17 and \$23 a month respectively, and so apparent was the justice of the reduction that neither of them availed themselves of the right to appeal from the decision of the board of examiners.

A little incident occurred this week at the Pension Office which shows that politics do not enter into the present conduct of that office. A Democratic Congressman called to protest against the reduction of the pension of a prominent Democratic worker in his district, and said that the man had influence enough to throw his district, which is close, to the Republicans. The papers in the office produced and it was conclusively shown that the man was drawing a larger pension than he was entitled to, and the Congressman had to acknowledge it, although he was not allowed to have his name removed. He was informed, as other Democratic Congressmen have been who called upon similar errands, that the policy of this administration was to administer the law as it exists without scientific experiments along lines which nobody really knows anything about is all wrong, and in consequence of those thoughts he has notified several professors who have been engaged upon work that was of immediate practical use either to the Bureau or to the public that their service will be dispensed with.

The Secretary intends that the entire work of the Bureau shall be devoted to improving the daily forecasts of the weather, which he believes to be the work which is the most beneficial to the public. "How far would fly," remarked a man who knows considerable about the inside workings of the government, "if a man like Morton was put in charge of the Geological and Coast Survey offices. He knows enough about science not to allow himself to be bamboozled by the fake scientists whose sole object in life is to hold on to a job, but she shall not be arrested for her torts."

Senator Voorhes, whose long Congressional experience makes his opinions valuable, takes no stock in the talk about the extra session being a short one. Speaking of it he said: "Congress will probably be in continuous session until August 15, 1894, if not longer. Representative Wilson, of West Virginia, the gentleman who is thought to stand the best chance of being the chairman of the Ways and Means committee of the House, should Mr. Springer get in, again, also thinks the extra session will run into the regular session and that the latter will be an unusually long one. Mr. Wilson thinks the tariff will be taken up just as soon as the Ways and Means committee is announced by Speaker Crisp, and it is expected that will be immediately after the House goes through the formality of re-electing Mr. Crisp Speaker."

Many mistakes have been made concerning the alleged antagonism between the administration and the silver Democrats in Congress. Representative Wheeler, of Alabama, is a silver Democrat, and this is the way he expressed his antagonism: "I have unbounded confidence in President Cleveland, Secretary Carlisle and the Democratic administration. My only objection is that the key-note in his letter of acceptance when he demanded legislation which would give adequate money for our business needs, and also legislation which would insure the proper distribution of this money throughout the country. Under his wise leadership we will be able to frame a measure which will be satisfactory to all the interests of our land."

Pensioners Suspended. WASHINGTON, July 14.—It is learned at the pension office to-day that 2,500 pensioners have been suspended up to date under Secretary Holder Smith's recent ruling requiring beneficiaries to file a certificate of residence to prove total disability where they are drawing pensions of \$12 per month. The suspensions are limited to particular classes, but are well distributed throughout the country. No pensioner has yet been dropped under the decision for the reason that the sixty days allowed the pensioners in which to make proof of disability have not expired. The cases pending will not result in the dropping of the pensioners, but may be confined to a reduction of pension according to the degree of disability and its cause as shown by the proof submitted.

Difficult to Prevent Bloodshed. TOPEKA, Kan., July 16.—It will be difficult to prevent bloodshed in this Kansas coal mines strike. Strikers march on shift to shift, threatening the mine owners and miners who are at work in the vast landscape. Alters, the leader of the strikers, openly advises bloodshed if necessary to gain his point. He has incited strikers to seriously beat several men who wanted to work. His speeches from Pittsburgh to-night say that trouble is expected to-morrow. Captain O. S. Cassad, commanding the militia company at Pittsburg, has received orders to hold his men in readiness for any possible contingency.

Negroes Ordered to Leave. LITTLE ROCK, July 19.—The white people in the town and vicinity of Neeleyville, Mo., a few days ago served notice on the negroes at that place to leave the farm to leave the country. The negroes refused to go to have purchased guns, pistols and ammunition in large quantities, and informed the white men that they were ready to stay where they are and fight to death before surrendering a single one of their rights. There has been no conflict, but one is likely to occur at any time.

The election of Miss Ella M. Grubb as superintendent of schools for Adams county, Ill., has aroused great interest there, for next to Cook county, the city of which is Chicago, Adams is the most populous county in the state, and this is the first time in its history that a woman has been elected to office. Miss Grubb is only 28 years old. An instance of her pluck and high character may be said that she has already paid back from her earnings as a teacher the money she was compelled to borrow to secure a college education.

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Found a Crook of Gold. PHILADELPHIA, July 17.—Until Saturday, Domingo Arletti was a laborer carrying \$1 25 a day with a pick and shovel. Now he revels in wealth and is in New York waiting for the first outward-bound steamer to carry him back to his beloved Italy, where he anticipates a life of luxurious ease. His sudden acquired wealth came to him Saturday morning. Arletti was one of a gang of laborers employed in cutting away the sloping lawn in front of the old Milfin mansion, at the Falls of Schuylkill. The earth was being used to fill in the extension of the East Park drive along the Schuylkill.

He was awakened from his day dream by his pick striking against some substance, planning and lifting sharply, and he discovered that he had struck a gold nugget. The Italian found that his pick had struck an old-fashioned stoneware crock. This was easily uncovered, the lid was removed, and the gleam of gold caused the man to thoroughly awake foreigner to retire to a secluded spot. There he found that the crock was partly filled with English sovereigns and Spanish doubloons. Arletti stuffed the gold into his pockets and dinner pail, and the two hurriedly left the diggings. Arletti returned in a few hours and told his companions that the crock contained six sovereigns and six doubloons, and that a banker in the city had bought them for 5,000. Arletti, he said, had rigged himself out in a full suit of clothes and had taken a train for New York with the intention of sailing for Italy.

Caught in His Own Trap. MEMPHIS, TENN., July 17.—An evening paper prints the following singular story: A young man near Shubuta, Miss., named Charles Hardeman had been trying to catch some cotton-tail rabbits his cornfield, and not having a steel trap Hardeman improvised a snare by bending down a tall sapling and tying a rope to the top of it, and by an invention of his own fastened the rope, which had a noose to it, by a trigger to the ground. Then he carefully sawed off the top of the sappling, so that when the coon pulled the corn off the trigger fastening would be released and the spring of the trap would jerk Mr. Coon high into the air.

While the young man was adjusting the bait on the trigger he accidentally stepped on it and he caught his arm and he was jerked off the ground just high enough to keep his feet from touching, and all efforts to release himself proved fruitless, and he remained there suspended in mid-air by one arm for three days before he was discovered. He was taken down and medical aid summoned. He will recover, but it is thought he will lose the use of his arm.

Collapse of a Grand Stand. MONTECAL, July 17.—A grand stand, containing one thousand men, women, and children, collapsed at the Park Royal yesterday afternoon. It was the third day's celebration of the Fall of the Bastille, under the auspices of the National League. The stand, with its human load, crashed to the ground without a crack or the slightest sound of warning.

A terrible panic ensued among the thousands of people who thronged the Park. The unfortunate who went down with the stand lay piled in inextricable confusion amid the wreck of beams and planking, while over them trampled the trampled the feared maddened crowd who filled the reserved seats inclosure. Cries of pain and terror filled the Sunday air for many moments. Men seemed to have lost all presence of mind, and the managers and crowd finally regained their senses and the work of extricating the people from the wreck of the stand was begun. It was ascertained that no one had been killed in the collapse, but many were injured and some seriously.

Can't Agree on a Scale. PITTSBURGH, Pa., July 17.—The conference between the Amalgamated Scale Conference Committee and the Pittsburg Iron and Steel Manufacturers broke up to-day without a settlement, both sides declaring they could make no further concessions. President Garland, of the Amalgamated, says the modified scale will now be printed and sent to the local unions for presentation to their mills. The present scale is reduced from \$5.50 to \$5 per ton, as a basis, and there are reductions of from 10 to 20 per cent. on large structural mills very much greater reductions are made, according to the output, and 10 percent on the roller in shell mills. President Garland thinks the manufacturers will quietly sign when they are ready to resume.

Homestead Poison Cases. PITTSBURGH, July 14.—Patrick Gallagher and J. M. Davidson, who are serving terms in the Western penitentiary for self-confessed complicity in the alleged poisoning of the mill hands at the Homestead mill, have made another confession in which they say they were paid to swear away the liberty of Hugh F. Dempsey and R. J. Beatty, both of whom they now assert were innocent of the crime of which they were convicted. They further state that so far as they know there was no poison administered to the men in the Homestead mill, Gallagher's confession is written by himself and a sworn to before Squire S. D. White, of Haysville. Davidson's was given verbally in the presence of witnesses.

Cleveland Off to Newport. NEWPORT, R. I., July 17.—President Cleveland arrived here about 7 o'clock this evening. The Onondaga anchored in the outer harbor, and no one but the steward had been ashore. Few knew of the President being in this locality. He apparently does not desire any demonstration, hence the anchorage in the outer harbor, instead of at the wharves in the inner harbor. It is expected that to-morrow an early start will be made for the westward, where fishing will be resumed. During the evening the electric search lights at the torpedo station and upon the yachts in the harbor gave quite an exhibition of their power. It was witnessed by the President, though the operators were not aware of that fact.

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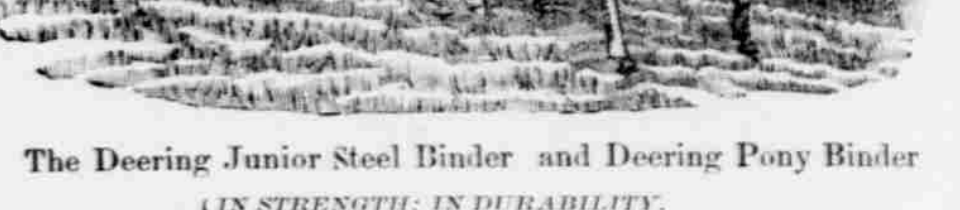
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