

The Pennsylvania World's fair building has been sold to a Chicago wrecking company for \$3,500. It cost \$100,000.

CONGRESSMAN CHARLES O'NEILL, the "Father of the House," who inherited the mantle of these distinguished fellow-Pennsylvanians, William D. Kelley and Samuel J. Randall, died of pneumonia at his home in Philadelphia, on Saturday afternoon. His first appearance on the floor of congress was on December 7th, 1863.

It is expected that President Cleveland's message to Congress will deal so fully with the financial policy of the administration that the Republican clamorers will find themselves deprived of their principal argument—the allegation that there is a doubt about the financial intentions of the administration. The message, together with the new tariff bill will put those intentions before the public so plainly that there can be no misunderstanding and no doubt.

POLITICS and wages have been badly mixed by Booth & Flynn, the Pittsburg contractors. Senator Flynn, a member of the firm, is chairman of the city Republican committee. A week before the election he increased the wages of his 100 bricklayers from \$3.50 to \$4.00 a day. A week after the election notice was served that the former rate of \$3.50 would be paid. To this the men objected, and after holding several meetings, decided to strike. They went out on Monday.

REPORTS from all sections of Eastern Pennsylvania state that the condition of the growing wheat and rye is favorable, and that both cereals are in excellent condition for the winter season. The agricultural class feel encouraged by the fact that recent sales of farms show that values have appreciated about 25 per cent. over the prices realized for similar properties six months ago. The general consensus of opinion is that diversified farming will take prominence in the future, instead of depending solely upon cereals.

As the slump into hard times prostrated the industries and financial distress was not the result of a few weeks only, but of the evident tendencies of several years, so that the rebound to a healthier condition of affairs will be gradual and slow. But the rebound is taking place. Things are brightening up. There is a cheery and crisp atmosphere in the world of commerce and trades and industries are beginning to feel that the hour of danger is passed and that they may begin to launch out into action and progress. Slowly, but surely, the good times are coming and the calamity-howlers cannot keep them back.

Every infant industry whose nursing at the government breast has been the least particle interfered with by the proposed change in the tariff, will now be crying that the country is going to hades. Meanwhile the common everyday people who have been standing on their own bottom, making their own living, while helping to keep up the tariff, are coming and the calamity-howlers cannot keep them back.

It is quite unnecessary, says the Philadelphia Times, for the members of the monopoly trusts and combines or for the over-protected manufacturers to tell us that they will close their factories or cut down wages when the Wilson tariff goes into effect. We have heard that over and over again and know just what to expect every time. We all know, and they know, that they are not going to close their factories; and as to wages, they will pay just as much as is necessary to obtain good workmen, and not a cent more, tariff or no tariff.

Many of these same factories are closed now, under the beneficent operation of the McKinley tariff, nearly all of them have been cutting down wages, which range lower than for many years past, and still they can produce more goods than they can find a profitable market for. The Wilson bill proposes to enable them to manufacture more cheaply and sell more goods by removing the taxes from their materials and by promoting the interchange of their products with those of other countries. And yet they raise the same old howl, declaring that they are about to be ruined and that all sorts of calamities will befall the American people.

The monopoly organs re-echo this old parrot cry. They do not stop to examine the new tariff, or to weigh its purpose and effect. They are committed to the Chinese policy, under which combinations of capital have made fortunes at the cost of producers and consumers, and any measures that overturn this false system would be denounced by them. We have heard the same old cry so often that the country has grown tired of it. We had the whole matter threshed over a year ago, and the deliberate judgment of the nation was given for a new American policy.

That policy we are going to have. It is embodied in the new tariff bill. It will be enacted by Congress and approved by the President, and all engaged in legitimate industries will be the first to profit by it. It will go into operation so easily that it will only disturb by hastening the quiet and steady revival of industrial activity which is already assured. Before a year has passed we shall wonder in our renewed prosperity, at the fatuity that ever made possible so violent an interference with the laws of trade as the now existing tariff.

There is no need of any great hurry, says the Pittsburg Post, in discussing the schedules of duties proposed by the new tariff bill. We can afford to wait until their details pass under the hands of experts and are liable to realize just to what extent the new system is likely to increase or reduce imports; what its effect will be on the public revenues, and what its probable influence on established industries. There will be plenty of time for all that. In the main the bill seeks to maintain advantage rather than quantity rates, the latter being based on specific rates of value. It favors free raw material whenever practicable. The internal revenue sections of the bill are as yet incomplete and will be reported at a later day. The income tax appears to be the point of greatest controversy, and it is believed the idea of an individual income tax has been abandoned. It will be confined to corporations.

In the moderate reduction of duties in the protected industries that have made a scandal of protection, the bill, so far as we can judge of its rates, will disappoint the more advanced revenue reformers, as well as the Republican opponents of any tariff change. This is illustrated by the sugar schedule, sent out Monday morning to head off the speculators. It reduces the duty on refined sugar from one-half to one-quarter of a cent a pound, retains raw sugar on the free list and repeals the iniquitous sugar bounty in installment so that it will come to an end in eight years. This is moderation, certainly. Sugar can be refined cheaper in this country than abroad, and the quarter cent duty retained may be low enough to permit the element of foreign competition against the exactions of the sugar trust.

Wool free of tax, with a corresponding reduction of duties on woolen goods of all kinds, is the corner stone of tariff reform. It is one that goes directly to the purchasing power of the wages or salary of every workman and woman in the land. The argument is so strong that if we cannot carry free wool with revenue duties on woolen fabrics we might as well give up the ship. Thirty years of excessive protection on wool has reduced the flocks and the prices; it has not stayed the importation of foreign wools, and the excessive cost it has placed on wools in comparison with outside values has stimulated to an amazing degree the production of shoddy and all other cheap substitutes for honest and healthful wool.

We are the greatest shoddy-producing and shoddy-wearing people on the globe. In our northern states, with extremes of heat and cold, honest woolen wear is almost unknown to the poor man or woman. They cannot afford it because of the heavy taxes on raw wool, and then on the finished product. The new bill of last year, puts wool on the free list and reduces the taxes on woolen goods by one-half in some cases and in others by more. To the American working-man this is as grand a gift as were free breadstuffs and free provisions to the English people at the hands of Peel, Cobden and Bright forty years ago.

In the metal schedule iron ore goes on the free list, while ad valorem rates are established for most articles. On steel rails the duty is 25 per cent, and on structural steel 35 per cent, which would make the specific rate on rails about \$5 a ton instead of \$13.44 and on structural steel about \$8.75 instead of \$20. Pig and scrap iron and steel are fixed at 22 1/2 per cent, instead of \$6.72 a ton. The plate is put at 40 per cent, and pig tin is on the free list. Taking these representative articles on the dutiable metal list, and the rates should meet the approval of our Republican friends, as they fully cover the difference in wages at home and abroad, which is all that the Minneapolis Republican platform demands.

Lumber is put on the free list, as well as salt and other necessities of life. As a rule the duties are made lowest upon the cheaper goods of universal use, and highest upon articles of luxury. It is a poor man's tariff bill, rather than the creation of trust and monopoly.

The McKinley duty on steel rails is \$13.44 per ton, or three and a half times the difference between the labor cost at home and the labor cost in England, as determined by President Harrison's commissioner of labor. The recent history of the rail industry, which has been controlled by a combination since 1887, shows that a duty of \$5 would be ample to compensate for the difference between conditions at home and conditions abroad. Indeed, there are indications that certain manufacturers could sell rails profitably at a price which foreign manufacturers could not meet in this market even if there were no duty whatever. The Wilson bill reduces the duty to 25 per cent. As English rails could be landed at this port, charges paid, and free of duty, for about \$22, this proposed duty is equivalent to about \$5.50 per ton.

The Ways and Means tariff bill, which will probably be known as the Wilson bill, is, on the whole, a satisfactory response to the demands of the country. The Democratic administration and the Democratic majorities in the two houses of congress were chosen to give relief from the high taxation imposed by the McKinley act, and this bill is the response to the country's desire. The bill generally is excellent. It has been prepared with great care and entire conscientiousness. It goes very far and perhaps as far as it is possible to go at once, towards a complete fulfillment of Democratic pledges. When it passes and becomes a law a new and brighter era will begin for American commerce and manufacture.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 28, 1893.—The cold waves have reminded the President that he will soon have to use his own words "a session of congress on his hands," so he has set faithfully to work on his annual message. This communication will doubtless throw some new light on many vexed questions, and is looked forward to with more interest and curiosity this year than generally attaches to annual messages. Not only will it outline the policy of the administration on the question of tariff revision, the question above all others upon which the country was carried last year by such an unprecedented majority, but will throw more light on the financial policies, the Chinese exclusion question, the repeal of the federal election laws, and the absorbing topic of our attitude in relation to Hawaiian affairs. The mystery about the state department in relation to this last question is so thick that even the door-keepers have become sphinx-like with importance, and the thirst for reliable news can in no way be satisfied except by such a plain statement of the President's position as the message is expected to contain. If Mr. Cleveland simply wished to take the popular side of this question, without regard to the rights and wrongs involved, he would have accepted the position of the revolution, and annexation, and all that is implied thereby. But the President has a fair and logical mind, reasoning mechanically and accurately from cause to effect, and is a competent master of details. Having thoroughly investigated and satisfied himself of the justice of the case, he takes up his position in utter disregard of the rankings of revolution, or the clamor of the masses. It is much more difficult in this instance to do right than to do wrong, but we may look to see the sober second thought of the people sustain the President in his endeavor to make a wrong done by one minister, and wipe out the scandal which attaches to us by reason of the flagrant disregard of the rights of a weak nation.

As the President and the cabinet ministers are engaged on their annual reports, necessarily a large number of infelicitous "Me Toes" in the shape of assistant secretaries are doing likewise. But the thought that these estimable gentlemen are not important factors in the great structure of government leaders on the sacrificial altars. No ambitious pulpit contemplating her initial egg was ever half so important nor nearly so long-lived as the chair of a government official in critical review before these ledgers in statesmanship, and they feel themselves sitting in the heated focus of the gaze of sixty million souls, allowing one word to each individual and firmly believing that if they should prove too weak for the burden laid upon them, the flaming torch of liberty which has been handed down by the fathers, and kept brightly burning by the sons, will be extinguished, and its light will be lost in the black night of anarchy, and chaos. Of course they are not as important as they think, and a year hence will find that more than the profane readers have really read of the book, but in the first sweet blush of their enthusiasm they have a delectable appliance, and see, with clairvoyant vision, themselves the objects of an awakening people's gratitude.

About the most remarkable case of deliberate and persistent partisan blindness that has ever been exhibited in this country, is shown by a glance at the history of the last ten years. The Republican platform of 1880, and the contemporary statements of certain Republican politicians and papers. In 1880 the tariff act was passed, and pronounced to be in the party of the most righteous harmony with the interests of the people. But by the national elections of that year came along, and swept out of public life nearly every man who was a prominent advocate of that measure. But we did not hear anything from Republican sources about the tariff tinkers being rebuked. It was caused by the influx of foreigners, or the murdering of negroes, or the heavy rainfall, or the great drought, anything and everything that it was not they. Then came the presidential election of 1892. Every prominent man on both sides declared that protection was on trial, and that the result must be accepted as expressing the sentiments of the voters on this question. The Republican platform had declared for protection, with reciprocity for desert. Mr. Harrison was in the fullest accord with the platform. The Democrats declared for revenue only, and no public man ever stood more squarely upon a question than had Mr. Cleveland for five years on the question of tariff reform. There had been no business depression, no executive acts to be regretted, no foreign complications to turn the people's heads, and what was the result? The most overwhelming avianism that ever before a party swept away the advocates of the McKinley line. No candidate ever carried so many states before, and no President had ever before received so many electoral votes as did Mr. Cleveland, and yet not a single statesman or paper opposed to his policy was frank enough to admit that it was a rebuke to protectionism. Now, however, when there has been an election in five or six states, at which not a single electoral vote was cast for the Republican cause, the Republicans had been defeated to us as well as with us, when purely local and not national issues were in the main discussed, the high priests of the McKinley line, who had been so full of themselves, and so full of the idea that they were the saviors of the nation, and the stars of heaven combined, in point of numbers, and the speller which taught persistence to Bruce could receive a multitude of pointers on his favorite subject from this class of visitors. A few years ago members of congress were shadowed by an old crank who fancied that he had fallen from the land on which the city of Frankfort, Ky., stood, and for many sessions he was a very troublesome lobbyist, importing congress to pass a bill to restore him the dominions of his father. When finally some of the members made him the subject of a cruel joke, by suddenly announcing that his bill had passed, and by turning over to him a check on the secretary of the treasury for \$100,000,000, the old man went into raptures over the good news, and shook hands with everybody in the capitol from the coal-heavers in the basement to the senatorial voters in the senate. When he discovered that it was a hoax, and then he procured a shot-gun and hunted for several days for the members who had played upon his credulity so mercilessly.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 26.—Yesterday's sessions of the Knights of Labor convention were characterized by repeated and successful onslaughts on General Master Workman Powell, who finally resigned in his resignation, which finally resulted in his resignation, rather than his submission to the certain indignity of a second deposition from his high office.

MEMBERS of the Nashville, Tenn., coal combine have been indicted under the anti-trust law.

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

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