

Cambridge Freeman.

FRIDAY, - - JANUARY 18, 1905.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND said he will call the incoming congress together in March in extra session unless something is done at this session to relieve the treasury.

The annual seed distribution at the agricultural department has so far resulted in sending out 1,300,000 papers of vegetable seeds to people throughout the country. The work will probably not be completed before May. There are still about 6,000,000 paper of seeds awaiting distribution.

The state forestry commission has decided to ask the legislature for an appropriation for the purchase of 120,000 acres of land in order that they may create a public forest reservation. This will be a step in the direction of forest parks that will in the future maintain the watersheds and give to the rivers and runs their volume in the dry season.

GOVERNOR Robert E. Pattison was nominated for mayor of Philadelphia by the Democratic convention in Warner's hall, Broad and Wallace streets, on Wednesday. His only opponent was Colonel Charles H. Banes, named by Michael J. Ryan on the part of the Pennsylvania Democracy. The convention, in the words of one appreciative delegate, was "full of ginger."

A crowd of unemployed workmen of St. Johns, N. F., battered down the doors of the legislative building Tuesday, but the members were absent. Then the mob looted several provision stores and were only subdued by a bayonet charge. Several of the ring leaders are in jail, around which the crowd is surging. If further disturbance ensues, marines from the warship Tourmaline will be landed and there may be blood shed.

The new constitution of New York permits the use of ballot machines and one has been tried with satisfactory results. The voter presses a knob opposite the name of each candidate he wishes to vote for and the vote is automatically recorded and counted. No printed ballots are used, no clerks are necessary, repeating is a mechanical impossibility and the moment the polls are closed the footings are ready for the press. It is claimed that by the use of ballot machines an election can be held quicker, cheaper, and with less chance of error than by the present method though this very fact may delay its adoption.

A BILL has been introduced in the house at Harrisburg, by Mr. Cotton, of Allegheny, providing for the execution of criminals by electricity. The proposed act relieves sheriffs from the infliction of the death penalty and places the execution in penitentiaries under the direction of the wardens. It is practically the same as the New York law, except that newspaper men are allowed to witness the execution, and has been approved by sheriffs, humanitarians and all others in the state whose desires that such execution shall take place with as few revolting surroundings as possible. Mr. Cotton also introduced a bill limiting the business of building and loan associations in the county in which they belong.

At the "Good Roads Bureau" of the agricultural department, at Washington the cheering information is given that the prospects are good for a live agitation this year of the question of improvement of the highways in every part of the country. General Roy Stone, chief of the bureau, is now in the West, visiting one legislature after another as he finds them in session, and urging upon them prompt and intelligent action in some way for a beginning of the great work.

The bureau already has a list of about 30 legislatures in which bills for this purpose have been or will be introduced, the trend of intention in most cases being in the direction of the appointment of state commissions and conferring on the counties the power to issue bonds and levy a money tax in place of the primitive system of allowing farmers to "work out" their road tax when and how they pleased.

The plethoric condition of the state treasury will give ample reason to the lawmakers for numerous raids on it and one of the first introduced at this session was that of Mr. Ritter, of Philadelphia, on Wednesday which provides, "that judges who shall resign their office after 20 years consecutive, or more than 30 years aggregate service, and after having attained the age of 70 years, shall receive thereafter the full annual salary paid them while on the bench."

There is no good reason why a judge who has been drawing his salary of \$5,000 a year for twenty years should receive a pension. The salary is ample and in nine cases out of ten, more than the judicial incumbent could make practicing law and we have yet to hear of a judicial district where the dominant party had any trouble in getting plenty of candidates, anxious and willing to accept the office. Over in our neighboring county of Indiana, some of the friends of both judicial candidates have nearly placed themselves in jeopardy of the prison walls in order that their candidate might be elected and that is some evidence of the anxiety of the candidates for election.

We are besides opposed to civil pensions in this country. Give officials a fair salary that will command good service, but no pensions except for military service. A civil pension list should never be tolerated in a free country.

The executive committee of the Democratic association of Minnesota has issued a stirring address in favor of continuing the educational campaign for free trade. There is no mincing of phrases in this address, which declares openly and boldly for "free trade under no import will be taxed for internal revenue." In the estimation of the committee "it is not Democratic to tax men on what they consume and exempt all other forms of property." As the alternative for custom taxes the committee declares that we must frankly accept "a direct tax levied as provided in the constitution of the United States."

One of the best educational agencies in behalf of free trade is the new tariff. When the people come to recognize the beneficent operation of the new tariff in cheapening the materials of industry and in widening the markets for American products, they will proceed, in their own time and in their own way, to further reforms in tariff legislation. But the operation cannot be accomplished in a day or a year, as the adjustments of trade to new conditions are necessarily slow. One point of great importance already gained is that the Republicans dare not revert to McKinleyism. There can, however, be no standstill. Instead of reaction, there will be progress until the last barriers to commercial freedom shall have fallen to the ground. Already the partisan hostility to the new tariff is dying away, and in good time it, too, will be replaced by a better measure, with the hearty approval of the people irrespective of party.

R. G. DUN C.'s weekly review of trade says: Neither the beginning of the new year nor the failure of the currency bill has brought any material change to business as yet. The idea that business would suddenly take a new start after the holidays had rather less foundation even than usual, but the hope of strong revival a little later is cherished by many. The currency bill, with its possibilities of vicious amendments, was a source of apprehension to most, but with that out of the way, the deficiency of treasury receipts remains, and exports of gold do not cease. There has not been much time for change in the industries, but differences observed since the new year began are not in the direction of higher prices or larger demands. There are more indications than of late that stocks of different kinds of goods have been accumulating in consequence of past increase in production.

The weekly output of pig iron for January shows practically no change, but stocks of unsold pig increased during the month about 20,000 tons weekly, so that actual consumption in the manufacture seems to have been about 145,000 tons weekly against 157,000 in November. In any case the industry is doing vastly better than a year ago, when the output was less than 10,000, but indications of excess of production over demand are found in further weakness of prices. Low prices at Pittsburg have checked business at the West.

The estimates of the area, product, and value by state and territories of the cereal crops, together with those of hay, potatoes, and tobacco have been completed by the statistician of the agricultural department and are presented as follows:

The corn crop of 1894, in rate of yield, is one of the lowest on record. In the past thirteen years the yield per acre of but one year, namely, 1881, was lower, the yield for that year having been 18.5, against 19.4 for the year 1894. Severe drought and dry winds in a few of the principal corn-producing states reduced the area harvested for its grain value to 62,582,000 from the 70,000,000 acres of 1893. The product garnered is 1,212,770,000 bushels, having an estimated farm value of \$554,919,000.

The wheat crop is above an average one in yield per acre. The entire product for the country is 400,267,416 bushels, which is below the average for the five years 1890 to 1894 inclusive. The farm value of the crop is \$225,902,025. The area, according to revised estimates, is 34,882,437 acres. In the revision of acreage the principle changes have been made in the spring wheat states. The rate of yield is 13.2 bushels per acre; the average value per bushel, 49.1 cents.

The spectacle of Gorman and Hill disputing as to which of them is responsible for the recent defeat of the Democratic party, says the Philadelphia Times, must have made even the senate smile. They are both of them right and both wrong, though Gorman is the farther wrong of the two.

His pretense that he only tinkered the tariff to secure more revenue is moonshine. Most of his amendments were worthless for revenue, however valuable for protection, and they did more to discredit his party than any of Hill's vagaries did.

The two might be left to fight it out, only that the tariff is not the question just now. The treasury, no doubt, would be in better shape if it had more revenue, but it would take an impossible large surplus now to restore confidence in the currency. The senators should get together and do something, and after that they can settle their old scores.

Snow slides covering five miles west of Lock Haven on the Philadelphia & Erie railroad, blocked traffic Sunday morning. While a freight train, east-bound, was running along the base of the snow-capped Alleghenies, with the icebound Susquehanna below it was suddenly submerged by an avalanche of dry sleet snow which poured down the mountain side between Ritchie and Hyner. The train was covered almost its entire length. Crews from the east and from the west, to the number of several hundred men, came to the rescue, and worked the train through the snow for a distance of five miles.

Washington Letter.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 11, 1905.—President and Secretary Carlisle were far from being pleased at the success of the combination of Republicans, populists and anti-administration Democrats, which resulted in the house rejecting by a vote of 123 to 124 the original report from the committee on rules, fixing a day to vote upon the currency reform bill; but they still believe that a bill can be passed. The direct result of that vote is the temporary laying aside of the currency bill, but steps are being taken which it is hoped will result in getting the support of enough of the Democrats who voted against the bill to make the ultimate passage of a currency bill by the house a certainty. Representative Bland, of Missouri, who was one of these Democrats, says it will be an easy matter to get the support of nearly all of them by amending the bill so as to recognize silver. One thing now seems certain. If no financial bill is passed at this session an extra session of congress will have to be called.

Senator Lodge having announced his intention to offer an amendment to the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill, when it comes up in the senate, providing that the consular service shall pass under the jurisdiction of the civil service commission, Senator Cockrell, chairman of the appropriation committee, who will have charge of the bill, was asked if he thought the amendment should be adopted. "No," was his affirmative reply. "Continuing, he said: 'I am not in favor of extending the civil service law over any more offices. I believe that the intention of congress and the spirit of the law have already been exceeded. It was never contemplated that so many branches of the government service now are included in the classified service should be so. I believe both President Cleveland and President Harrison have exceeded their duty and authority in this respect, and if they are going to continue and take any more offices under this humber system, I propose they go the whole hog, and include the heads of bureaus, members of cabinet, and the President himself. I do not see why we should except the president from a civil service examination, if we are going to include all the rest of the executive officers of the government.'"

It will be interesting to note how many Republican newspapers will be honest enough to give the administration proper credit for having completed the government of Spain to remove the discrimination of 75 cents a barrel against flour shipped from the United States to Cuba. This diplomatic victory was not easily won, but President Cleveland and Secretary Gresham decided that it was worth the effort, and Minister Taylor was instructed to inform the Spanish government that it must choose between removing the discrimination against our flour and having Cuban sugar sold out of the United States, and that the choice was for the United States. The Spanish government is notoriously slow in reaching a conclusion upon anything, but in this case it "got a move on" and quickly chose to abolish that discrimination.

Senator Gresham, chairman of the senate finance committee, refused to grant a hearing to Coxey on his good roads and non interest bearing bond scheme, on the ground that it would be an absolute waste of time, as the committee had already heard of the same matter. Coxey was granted a hearing before a subcommittee of the house committee on ways and means, consisting of Bryan, of Nebraska; Dabell, of Pennsylvania; Whiting, of Michigan; and McMillan, of Tennessee, but there is no probability that any recommendation will be made by the subcommittee.

Secretary Carlisle's interpretation of that clause of the new tariff law which repealed the McKinley sugar bounty—namely, that it put the bounty on the payment of bounties—has been unanimously sustained by the court of appeals of the District of Columbia, in a test case. And the court also decides that the sugar bounty was unconstitutional, two out of three judges assenting, the third neither assenting nor dissenting because of his belief that it was unnecessary to pass on the constitutionality of the bounty at this time.

Representative Sibley, of Pennsylvania, who was elected to the grand Democratic vote, but who long ago framed himself to be a Republican on the finance question, disgraced himself and his constituents by making a personal attack upon President Cleveland, in a speech in the house, which was one of the coarsest, most vulgar, and most ungentlemanly ever made in congress. Opinion is divided as to whether he is half-way crazy or merely seeking notoriety, and pity and disgust are the sentiments respectively held concerning him.

Killed By An Explosion.
Butte, Mont., January 15.—A fire occurred in the Hardware Company's ware house to-day, in which giant powder was stored.

The fire department were at work on the fire when an explosion took place, killing a number of people. While the fire was being made to remove the dead and wounded, a second explosion occurred. The entire fire department was wiped out, including the chief and all the horses. Three policemen were among the killed, who number at least seventy-five. Plate glass was broken all over the city, and the damage to property is enormous. It is impossible to get details at present. All the ambulances are rushing to and from the scene of the explosion. The relatives of the killed are frantic and the city is in consternation. The powder in the warehouse was in violation of law. It was the greatest explosion in the history of the west.

That Income Tax.
Washington, January 14.—The senators and a large number of spectators in the thousand galleries were entertained for five hours to day with speeches by senators Gorman, of Maryland, and Hill, of New York, on the subject of Mr. Hill's amendment to the urgent deficiency bill, by which the acceptance and enforcement of the income tax is permitted in advance of the collection of the income tax to decide upon its constitutionality and validity.

Mr. Gorman discussed with great earnestness the condition of the treasury and opposed warmly any proposition that would impede the collection of revenue. In doing so he criticized very freely Mr. Hill's whole course in regard to the tariff law. Mr. Hill defended his position and retorted upon the Maryland senator with an equally severe criticism of his course.

Those who have gone to the hardware stores the last few weeks to buy skates could not fail to notice the cheapness of the article. Skates that so late as five years ago cost \$5 to \$6 can be bought at one tenth that price. A hardware dealer explains this by the fact that most of the patents that made the skates expensive have expired, and that the process of making the article has been so improved as to reduce the original cost to a minimum figure. He said that a first class pair of skates can be bought for 50 cents. The article cost \$5 ten years ago.

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

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

Roasted Alive in His Home.

Port Richmond, S. I., January 12.—Hugo Schmid was burned to death here to night in the sight of a crowd of people. The fire in which he perished destroyed three dwelling houses. The fire was started by an explosion for which Schmid himself was probably responsible. Schmid was the only occupant of the house where the fire started. Just how the explosion occurred will never be known.

At 6:15 o'clock there was a loud report, and several persons declare that the house seemed to be lifted clear off its foundations, then tumbled back a wreck, and an instant later was wrapped in flames. The persons first on the scene discovered Schmid standing in the front doorway, the door having been blown from its hinges. He was buried to his waist in wreckage and surrounded by flames. Half a dozen men attempted to pull him out, but he was badly injured. In three times they were driven away by the flames, but urged by the unfortunate man's cries, returned to the work of attempted rescue, but these efforts were in vain.

As soon as the firemen had the flames under control they made a search for Schmid's remains, which were recovered burned beyond recognition.

Twenty Lives Lost.

London, January 14.—An accident occurred to-day at the Bag Lake Colliery, at Andley, North Staffordshire, by which it is thought that at least twenty persons lost their lives.

Two hundred and thirty men and boys were at work in the colliery when at about 12 o'clock there was a sudden rush of water from the old workings. About seventy men reached the shaft and were speedily hoisted out of danger. The pumps were promptly put at work and rescuing parties descended into the mine.

The news of the accident spread with great rapidity, and a wildly excited crowd was soon gathered about the pit head. It was not long before the rescue party had reached the surface, and every fresh arrival at the mouth of the pit was greeted with cheers.

By 5 o'clock one hundred and fifty of the men and boys had been rescued. Of the eighty who were below it was thought that twenty were in the lower workings when the mine was flooded and that they had been drowned. The rescuers are doing their utmost to save the living and get the bodies of the dead.

Many Lives Lost.

London, January 13.—The weather has been very severe, and many accidents to vessels are reported from various parts of the coast. Two ships foundered in the Humber, and their crews were drowned.

A large vessel wrecked off Sandgate, Kent, and the rescue of her crew was accompanied by exciting scenes. The life boat men attempted to launch their boat, but the craft got stuck in a snow bank and it was found impossible to get her into the water. At this juncture a heroic coast guardman divested himself of his heavy clothing, and carrying a life line, sprang into the boiling surf, swimming with powerful stroke, he, after a severe struggle, reached the wreck. Then a heavier line was drawn aboard, and soon the crew and their gallant rescuer were safe on shore.

The schooner Vesper, capsized to day off North Sunderland Point, and all her crew were drowned.

Hayward Gresham chopped his wife to bits with an axe at his home near Lucy, Tenn., Saturday. The murderer fled, but was captured and lodged in the Memphis jail.

Unknown men Saturday night rode up to the door of H. N. Voss, near Camden, Ark., and ordered Voss to throw up his hands. Mrs. Voss and her son, who were standing in the doorway, were riddled with shot.

D. & B.

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