

Philadelphia's Lexicon investigating committee is unani- mously Republican, it is reasonable to infer that there will be a demand for whiskey in the city of brotherly love in the near future.

The New York Herald prints reports from the mills and factories showing that during the month of April the wages of 300,000 American workmen were increased in iron, steel, cotton and woolen mills and in mines. And all this under the Wilson tariff.

The President has appointed as civil service commissioners, William G. Rice, Democrat, of Albany, N. Y., to succeed Theodore Roosevelt, and John B. Harlow, Republican, of St. Louis, to succeed Mr. Lyman. Mr. Proctor of Kentucky is the holdover Democrat.

JAMES NUTT, who shot Dukes in Venezuela county, this state 11 years ago, and who has been on trial at Atchison, K., on a charge of attempting to take the life of Leonard Colman, was found guilty on Wednesday night. The defense was insanity, as it was in the Dukes case. At the time Nutt assaulted Colman, he also assaulted Mrs. Jesse Payton, and will be arraigned to answer the other charge.

The well-known anthracite coal operator Eckley B. Cox died at his home at Drifton, Pa., Monday, of pneumonia. Deceased was aged 56 years. He leaves a wife, but no children. His estate is estimated at millions. In politics Mr. Cox was a Democrat. He served one term in the state senate, and could have had the nomination of his party for governor on several occasions had he consented to the use of his name.

GOVERNOR HASTINGS has vetoed the senate bill enlarging the capacity of the wife to sell her real property without the joinder of her husband. The governor says: "Undoubtedly there are many individual cases of extreme hardship that would be relieved if this bill were to become a law, but, considering the best interests of all the people, I am constrained to believe that it would be productive of evil rather than good."

The condition of Secretary Gresham while "much improved," according to official report, is still the source of great anxiety to his wife and family.

The secretary is very ill. Even under the most favorable circumstances it will be weeks, and perhaps months, before he recovers sufficiently to resume his duties at the state department. There is a strong impression that Mr. Gresham will give up his portfolio and seek rest.

GERMANY has instituted the preliminary measures with the other members of the international postal union relative to the issuance of an international postage stamp. Nearly all the members of the Union have assented to the project, and a convention will no doubt soon be called to discuss the basis of the proposed measure. It is thought one great advantage such a stamp would possess would be the facility it would offer for the payment of small bills and accounts in foreign countries.

THE P. R. R. will soon place in its new Broad street station, Philadelphia, within a few days, one of the largest maps in the world. It will be 105 feet long and 15 feet high, giving a birds eye view of the United States between the 37th and 47th parallels, north latitude, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The company's lines will be prominently traced, and the lines of all other principal railroads of the Union will also be shown. It will be painted on canvas and will cost, when completed, about \$2,000. The work will be done by the American Bank Note company, of New York.

BIMETALLIC free coinage is possible, says the New York Herald, only on a ratio which equalizes the bullion value and coined value of both metals. When ever the legal tender value of a coin is less than its bullion value it goes to the melting pot, ceases to be coin or money and becomes a commodity.

When our ratio required for the silver dollar, metal worth a cent or two more than the metal required for the gold dollar the coining of the silver dollar ceased. It disappeared from circulation, and in order to acquire the necessary fractional coin we had to set aside the legal ratio and coin halves, quarters, etc., with less than the amount of silver required by the ratio.

In like manner our gold coin must disappear from circulation and become a commodity whenever our laws permit metal of far less value to be coined freely into legal tender dollars. Such a coining of debits and taxes would not only revolutionize prices but cause a sudden and violent contraction of currency to the amount of \$600,000,000, endangering the whole fabric of business.

This is why honest bimetallics oppose free coinage at a ratio of 16 to 1, in disregard of the bullion values of the two metals, as a violent and ruinous inauguration of silver monometallism. A ratio which would permit both gold and silver to be coined freely into legal tender dollars and to circulate freely side by side, neither driving the other out of circulation or out of the mint, is the sine qua non of bimetallic free coinage, and can be attained by either decreasing the gold in the gold dollar or increasing the silver in the silver dollar.

As to the 16 to 1 people reject both of these alternatives, it is because they want a more ruthless scaling of debts, or because they want silver monometallism down, with the strongest possible space of repudiation in it?

The recent investigation of Dr. Merriam, chief of the division of ornithology of the agricultural department at Washington, should convince the most obstinate farmer that he is in the wrong concerning certain birds injuring the crops.

According to Dr. Merriam who has been for several years engaged in examining and analyzing the contents of the stomachs of hawks, owls, crows, blackbirds, meadow larks, and other birds of North America, which are supposed to be strikingly beneficial or injurious to farmers, the stomachs of over 7,000 birds, taken at different seasons of the year, have already been analyzed and the contents determined, while some 12,000 are still unexamined. The results in some cases have been remarkable, showing in several notable instances that popular ideas regarding the injurious effects of certain birds were wholly mistaken, and that they have been the victims of an unjust persecution. This has been found to be especially the case with hawks and owls, for the slaughter of which many states give bounties. Pennsylvania in two years gave over \$100,000 in hawk and owl bounties. Examinations of the stomachs of these birds proved conclusively that ninety-five per cent. of their food was field mice, grasshoppers, crickets, etc., which were infinitely more injurious to crops than they.

It was found that only five kinds of hawks and owls ever touched poultry, and then only to a very limited extent. A bulletin now about going to press on the crow now shows that bird is not so black as he has been painted by the farmers. The charges against the crow were that he ate corn and destroyed the eggs and poultry and wild birds. Examinations of their stomachs showed that they ate obnoxious insects and other animals, and that although twenty five per cent. of their food is corn it is almost waste corn picked up in the fall and winter. Another plea for the hawks and owls is that they are useful in destroying the sparrows, which become a pest where they are numerous. It is better to let these birds kill the sparrows, than to teach boys cruelty by permitting them to shoot and maim them.

Not in the history of Pennsylvania, says the Washington Democrat, can be found a legislature that is making a more disgraceful record than the present one, so overwhelmingly Republican that the minority makes no figure in the count. One thing stamps the infamy of the present session. With revenues declining and the necessity apparent of making great reductions in the appropriations for the public schools or the benevolent institutions of the state, instead of economizing, the legislature from the start entered on a career of extravagant and useless appropriations.

It adopted a system of throwing away money not countenanced in this state even with the treasury overflowing. We mean by the increase of salaries and the creation of new and useless offices. The new offices created carry with them salaries amounting to nearly \$300,000.

Among the great curiosities in this line was the bill pensioning 13 judges who are ready to retire on full salaries for life to make room for 13 ambitious-Republican lawyers. The whole pension scheme, vicious in principle and corrupt in practice, was for no other purpose than to make places for partisans. We challenge the production of anything like it in any state of the Union. New York did try a judicial pension for a few years, but the abuses inseparable from any pension system induced the late constitutional convention in that state to stamp it out root and branch.

One of the great evils of the present session will not be disclosed for some time after the adjournment, now fixed for the first week in June. This is the immense amount of special legislation of a jobbing character due under the guise of general laws. Governor Pattison was always a vigilant in this respect, but Governor Hastings is in with "the boys" and sanctions what they propose. Pattison had a happy knack of getting at the intent of vicious legislation, unmasking it and disproving it. Hastings is a different sort of a governor.

An official dispatch from Tokio received at the Japanese legation, at Washington, states that the ratifications of the treaty of peace between Japan and China were exchanged at Chifu on Wednesday. No change was made in the text of the treaty as originally concluded. Taking into account the recommendation made by Russia, Germany and France, the Japanese government agreed to renounce permanent possession of the Liaun Tong peninsula on condition that the arrangements regarding the terms and form of renunciation shall be reserved for adjustment between itself and the government of China.

This latter stipulation is construed to mean that Japan will not surrender the peninsula until a suitable indemnity shall have been paid, and that it may even be agreed between Japan and China that the possession of Port Arthur itself will be retained by the Japanese for a term of years extending beyond the date when the indemnity has been paid in full, thus assuring to Japan not alone the payment of the indemnity itself, but also sufficient time to safeguard herself against anything like a war of reprisal.

INVESTIGATION has resulted in showing that California is being flooded with cheap Japanese labor, every steamer from the Orient, Honolulu, and Victoria bringing laborers in large numbers in violation of the Alien Contract Labor law. Within the last year about 10,000 Japanese have found employment on farms and in vineyards, and white farm hands are idle by thousands.

It took 17 days to impanel a jury in New York for the trial of a police commissioner.

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

Washington, D. C., May 11, 1895.— Secretary Carlisle has long since ceased to notice published misrepresentations concerning himself or the treasury department, but he has just learned that the Populists were making campaign material out of the alleged alarm of treasury officials at the purchase of gold bullion from western miners by the treasury.

At about 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon an enormous side of rock and earth on the middle division of the Pennsylvania railroad, a short distance east of Mapleton. Thousands of tons of the mineral came down from the hillside and for the space of half a mile the two tracks were practically covered. A heavy rain had been falling which loosened the earth, and to make matters worse there was a cloud burst. This torrent of water dislodged the rocks and earth. The support being gone the earth followed them. It caused a complete blockade of travel. An east bound freight train arrived on the scene just in time to be caught. So great was the force of the falling mass that the engine and seventeen of the cars were lifted over from the east to the west bound track. Fortunately none of the crew were injured, although the earth was piled far up the sides of the cars.

Word was quickly sent out and wrecking crews dispatched from Harrisburg, Spruce creek, Huntingdon, Millin and Altoona. In addition to this all the section men between Huntingdon and Millin and a part from the Pennsylvania railroad company were pressed into service. The work of clearing the mass of material from the track consumed twenty-four hours. The first track was opened about four o'clock on Monday morning and the other was opened the next day. A considerable amount of the work was done during a heavy rain. The material was put over the bank into the disused bed of the old canal along its base.

During Saturday night several passes that with more prospective times there will come a radical change in the sentiments of a majority of those who now advocate the free coinage of silver because they believe any change must be for the better. For instance, the extremely widely separated states—Judge Montgomery, of Michigan, and Judge Jerry, of Georgia—who happened to be in Washington this week, thus diagnosed the silver case in their respective states. Judge Montgomery said: "I think the Republicans of Michigan are fully as much divided on the silver question as the Democrats. Some of the most influential men in the Republican party out there are strongly in favor of the free silver coinage. My own belief is that we have seen the maximum agitation on that subject. I do not think it will be a factor in the presidential election next year, and do not expect either of the great parties to make it a question of campaign. 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