THE CENTRE REPORTER.

FRED. KURTZ, Editor and Prop'r

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Centre Hall, Pa., Thurs, Sept. 13, 1888

THE KEYSTONE STATE.

NEWS TOPICS OF LOCAL INTEREST TO PENNSYLVANIANS.

Facts and Fancies Gleaned from Many Sources and Boiled Down to Brief Paragraphs for the Benefit of Busy Readers.

New York, Sept. 8.—A special dispatch from Philadelphia to The Telegram says:

A sensation has been sprung in official circles by the arrest of Assistant Highway Commissioner Daniel Ahern and Street Contractors Oliver Wilson and Edwin H. Vare, on the charge of conspiring to cheat the city treasury.

Agent Addis, of the Citizens' Municipal association, prefers the charge and obtained the warrants. Agent Addis says that the committee have the "dead wood" on the accused and adds:

"This is only a starter. We've got evidence enough to put a lot of people in prison. The exposure of this thing will turn the town up, and there will be more than one man that will tremble in his boots when he hears that Ahern, Wilson and Vare have been arrested. This is not the outcome of the Moyamensing avenue job alone. There are other things behind it. The association has not done this thing without careful consideration. It has moved slowly and cautiously, and you may depend upon it that they had things pretty pat before they went to such extreme measures.

"As to the exact evidence that has been gathered, that will be developed at the hearing. Unless there is some great hedging done this will be one of the biggest sensations that has occurred in the municipal government of Philadelphia in a good many years. Why, we have collected evidence that is more criminating than the evidence that put Tweed in prison and broke up the Tweed ring."

An Officer Murdered.

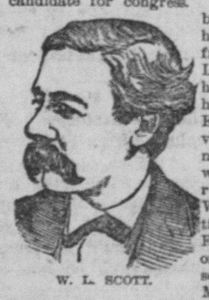
Pittsburg, Sept. 5.—William Miller, a private officer of Allegheny City, was shot and almost instantly killed by John Demmey, a negro, shortly after 1 o'clock in the morning.

A Fossilized Human Head.

Carlisle, Pa., Sept. 8.—W. F. Horn, of this place, has in his posesssion a fossilized head of a being very much like the human being of today. The formation of the face is almost perfect. It was found a few days ago in Perry county, near Gibson's Rock, embedded in sandstone. Mr. Horn has taken a plaster cast of it and forwarded it to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia to obtain an opinion about it.

Mr. Scott Renominated.

Erie, Sept. 5.—The Democratic congressional conferees of the Erie-Crawford district met today in Union City to nominate a candidate for congress. The chairmen of both committees handed in letters from Hon. William L. Scott, in which he reiterated what he had said in the Erie county convention, that under no circumstances would he accept a renomination. When the nominations were opened Frank B. Guthrie, of Titusville, presented the name of Mr. Scott, and T. S. Alberstadt seconded the nomination. As there were no other names presented the nomination was made by acclamation, and a committee was appointed to notify Mr. Scott. Prior to adjourning resolutions indorsing the administration, Mr. Scott's career in congress and his Chinese bill were passed. The Democrats are determined to force Mr. Scott into the field if it can be done, notwithstanding his repeated refusals to be a candidate for renomination.



W. L. SCOTT.

A Missing Deputy Collector.

Oil City, Pa., Sept. 8.—Collector Bigler, of Pittsburg, chief of this internal revenue district, has been in the city to institute search for R. G. Beveridge, deputy collector, who has been missing since Aug. 6.

The Evangelical Synod.

Pittsburg, Sept. 8.—At the Evangelical Lutheran synod an amendment to the constitution was adopted providing that "the young people must be made acquainted with the prevailing false doctrines, and that they be instructed in God's word before and after confirmation."

Fatal Somnambulism.

Norristown, Pa., Sept. 5.—Frank Baker, the 19-year-old son of Hotel Proprietor Cyrus Baker, of this city, while walking in his sleep during the night, fell from the fourth story window of the hotel to the stone pavement and was instantly killed. His father heard the fall and rushed out to see Frank stretched on the ground covered with blood and with his skull battered in. The young man was clever and very popular. He had been previously known to walk in his sleep.

Murdered by Thieves.

Johnstown, Pa., Sept. 8.—Ida Troxell, aged 22, living near Glasgow, a village in the northern part of this county, returned from a berrying trip to find two men ransacking the house. She sent her little sister for help and stayed to watch. When her sister returned with neighbors Ida was found shot through the heart. The thieves killed her with her own revolver.

Very Malicious Mischief.

Delaware Water Gap, Pa., Sept. 10.—Some miscreants broke into the library of the Water Gap house and stole or demolished the valuable collection of Indian relics belonging to the proprietor, Luke W. Brodhead. Mr. Brodhead has been working on his collection for fifty years and had undoubtedly the most valuable collection of the kind in the world. It included specimens of all Indian implements of warfare, pipes, wampum, cooking vessels, etc., and was valued very highly by the owner. Many of the articles were stolen and the others destroyed. A reward has been offered for the return of the relics.

A Bottled Confession of Murder.

Carlisle, Pa., Aug. 10.—While removing the debris of the flood from a field near Eckaras Bridge, John Gill found a bottle corked and sealed and containing a piece of paper, upon which this was written in lead pencil: "You will find the body of a dead man in the woods near McLoy's. I killed him and expected to drown myself. (Signed) J. Ataak." There was no date, and the latter part of the signature is not plainly written.

THE LETTER IS OUT.

President Cleveland Formally Accepts a Renomination.

HIS VIEW OF THE CAMPAIGN

Tariff Reform the Burden of His Theme.

PROTECTION, TAXATION, TRUSTS.

The Mills Bill and the Democratic National Platform Heartily Approved. Commendation for the Course of the Democratic Party on Important Questions of the Day and Unstinted Criticism of the Republican Party—Methods of Relief from Existing Evils Suggested—He Touches Upon Monopolies as Opposed to the Interests of the Workingman, the Restriction of Pauper Immigration, the Maintenance of American Rights, Etc.

Washington, Sept. 10.—Following is the full text of President Cleveland's letter of acceptance:

Washington, Sept. 8, 1888.

Hon. Patrick A. Collins and others, committee, etc.:

Gentlemen—In addressing to you my formal acceptance of the nomination to the presidency of the United States, my thoughts persistently dwell upon the impressive relation of such action to the American people, whose confidence is thus invited, and to the political party to which I belong, just entering upon a contest for continued supremacy.

The world does not afford a spectacle more sublime than is furnished when millions of free and intelligent Americans select their chief magistrate, and bid one of their number to find the highest earthly honor and the full measure of duty in the ready submission to their will.

It follows that a candidate for this high office can never forget that when the turmoil and the strife which attend the selection of its incumbent shall be heard no more, there must be in the quiet calm which follows a complete and solemn self consecration by the people's chosen president of every faculty and endeavor to the service of a confiding and generous nation of freemen.

These thoughts are intensified by the light of my experience in the presidential office, which has soberly impressed me with the severe responsibilities which it imposes, while it has quickened my love for American institutions and taught me the priceless value of the trust of my countrymen.

It is of the highest importance that those who administer our government should jealously protect and maintain the rights of American citizens at home and abroad, and should strive to achieve for our country her proper place among the nations of the earth; but there is no people whose home interests are so great, and whose numerous objects of domestic concern deserve so much watchfulness and care.

Among these are the regulation of a sound financial system suited to our needs, thus securing an efficient agency of national wealth and general prosperity; the construction and equipment of means of defense, to insure our national safety and maintain the honor beneath which such national safety reposes; the protection of our national domain, still stretching beyond the needs of a century's expansion, and its preservation for the settler and the pioneer of our marvelous growth; a sensible and sincere recognition of the value of American labor, leading to the scrupulous care and just appreciation of the interests of our workingmen; the limitation and checking of such monopolistic tendencies and schemes as interfere with the advantages and benefits which the people may rightly claim; a generous regard and care for our surviving soldiers and sailors and for the widows and orphans of such as have died, to the end that while the appreciation of their services and sacrifices is quicked, the application of their pension fund to improper cases may be prevented; protection against a servile immigration which injuriously competes with our laboring men in the field of toil, and adds to our population an element ignorant of our institutions and laws, impossible of assimilation with our people and dangerous to our peace and welfare; a strict and steadfast adherence to the principles of civil service reform and a thorough execution of the laws passed for their enforcement, thus permitting to our people the advantages of business methods in the operation of their government; the guaranty to our colored citizens of all their rights of citizenship and their just recognition and encouragement in all things pertaining to that relation; a firm, patient and humane Indian policy, so that in peaceful relations with the government the civilization of the Indian may be promoted with resulting quiet and safety to the settlers on our frontier; and the curtailment of public expense by the introduction of economical methods in every department of the government.

The pledges contained in the platform adopted by the late convention of the national Democracy lead to the advancement of these objects and insure good government—the aspiration of every true American citizen and the motive for every patriotic action and effort. In the consciousness that much has been done in the direction of good government by the present administration, and submitting its record to the fair inspection of my countrymen, I indorse the platform thus presented, with the determination that if I am again called to the chief magistracy there shall be a continuance of devoted endeavor to advance the interests of the entire country.

Our scale of Federal taxation and its consequences largely engross at this time the attention of our citizens, and the people are soberly considering the necessity of measures of relief.

Our government is the creation of the people, established to carry out their designs and accomplish their good. It was founded on justice and was made for a free, intelligent and virtuous people. It is only useful when within their control, and only serves them well when regulated and guided by their constant touch. It is a free government, because it guarantees to every American citizen the unrestricted personal use and enjoyment of all the reward of his toil, and of all his income, except what may be his fair contribution to necessary public expense. Therefore it is not only the right, but the duty of a free people, in the enforcement of this guaranty, to insist that such expense should be strictly limited to the actual public needs.

It seems perfectly clear that when the government, this instrumentality created and maintained by the people to do their bidding, turns upon them and through an utter perversion of its powers extorts from their labor and capital tribute largely in excess of public necessities, the creature has rebelled against the creator and the masters are robbed by their servants.

The cost of the government must continue to be met by tariff duties collected at our custom house upon imported goods, and by internal revenue taxes assessed upon spirituous and malt liquors, tobacco and oleomargarine.

I suppose it is needless to explain that all these duties and assessments are added to the price of the articles upon which they are levied, and thus become a tax upon all those who buy these articles for use and consumption. I suppose, too, it is well understood that the effect of this tariff taxation is not limited to the consumers of imported articles, but that the duties imposed upon such articles permit a corresponding increase in price to be laid upon domestic productions of the same kind, which increase, paid by all our people and consumers of home productions and entering every American home, constitutes a form of taxation as certain and as inevitable as though the amount was annually paid into the hand of the tax gatherer.

These results are inseparable from the plan we have adopted for the collection of our revenue by tariff duties. They are not mentioned to discredit the system, but by way of preface to the statement that every million of dollars collected at our custom houses for duties upon imported articles and paid into the public treasury represent many millions more which, though never reaching the national treasury, are paid by our citizens as the increased cost of domestic productions resulting from our tariff laws. In these circumstances, and in view of this necessary effect of the operation of our plan for raising revenue, the absolute duty of limiting the rate of tariff charges to the necessities of a frugal and economical administration of the government seems to be perfectly plain. The continuance, upon a pretext of meeting public expenditures, of such a scale of tariff taxation as draws from the substance of the people a sum largely in excess of public needs is surely something which under a government based upon justice, and which finds its strength and usefulness in the faith and trust of the people, ought not to be tolerated.

While the heaviest burdens incident to the necessities of the government are uncomplainingly borne, light burdens become grievous and intolerable when not justified by such necessities.

Unnecessary taxation is unjust taxation.

And yet this is our condition. We are annually collecting at our custom houses and by means of our internal revenue taxation many millions in excess of all legitimate public needs. As a consequence there now remains in the national treasury a surplus of more than $130,000,000.

No better evidence could be furnished that the people are exorbitantly taxed. The extent of the superfluous burden indicated by this surplus will be better appreciated when it is suggested that such surplus alone represents taxation aggregating more than $108,000 in in a county containing 50,000 inhabitants.

Taxation has always been the feature of organized government the hardest to reconcile with the people's ideas of freedom and happiness. When presented in a direct form nothing will arouse popular discontent more quickly and profoundly than unjust and unnecessary taxation. Our farmers, mechanics, laborers and all our citizens closely scan the slightest increase in the taxes assessed upon their lands and other property, and demand good reasons for such increase. And yet they seem to be expected in some quarters to regard the unnecessary volume of insidious and indirect taxation visited upon them by our present rate of tariff duties with indifference, if not with favor.

The surplus revenue now remaining in the treasury not only furnishes conclusive proof of unjust taxation, but its existence constitutes a separate and independent menace to the prosperity of the people.

This vast accumulation of idle funds represents that much money drawn from the circulating medium of the country, which is needed in the channels of trade and business.

It is a great mistake to suppose that the consequences which follow the continual withdrawal and hoarding by the government of the currency of the people are not of immediate importance to the mass of our citizens, and only concerns those engaged in large financial transactions.

In the restless enterprise and activity which free and ready money among the people produces is found that opportunity for labor and employment and that impetus to business and production which bring in their train prosperity to our citizens in every station and vocation. New ventures, new investments in business and manufacture, the construction of new and important works, and the enlargement of enterprises already established depend largely upon obtaining money upon easy terms with fair security; and all these things are stimulated by an abundant volume of circulating medium. Even the harvested grain of the farmer remains without a market unless money is forthcoming for its movement and transportation to the seaboard.

The first results of a scarcity of money among the people is the exaction of severe terms for its use. Increasing distrust and timidity is followed by a refusal to loan or advance on any terms. Investors refuse all risks and decline all securities, and in a general fright the money still in the hands of the people is persistently hoarded. It is quite apparent that when this perfectly natural, if not inevitable, stage is reached depression in all business and enterprise will, as a necessary consequence, lessen the opportunity for work and employment, and reduce salaries and the wages of labor.

Instead, then, of being exempt from the influence and effect of an immense surplus lying idle in the national treasury, our wage earners and others who rely upon their labor for support are most of all directly concerned in the situation. Others, seeing the approach of danger, may provide against it, but it will find those depending upon their daily toil for bread unprepared, helpless and defenseless. Such a state of affairs does not present a case of idleness resulting from disputes between the laboring man and his employer, but it produces an absolute and enforced stoppage of employment and wages.

In reviewing the bad effects of this accumulated surplus, and the scale of tariff rates by which it is produced, we must not overlook the tendency towards gross and scandalous public extravagance which a congested treasury induces, nor the fact that we are maintaining, without excuse, in a time of profound peace, substantially the rate of tariff duties imposed in time of war, when the necessities of the government justified the imposition of the weightiest burdens upon the people.

Divers plans have been suggested for the return of this accumulated surplus to the people and the channels of trade. Some of these devices are at variance with all rules of good finance; some are delusive, some are absurd, and some betray by their reckless extravagance the demoralizing influence of a great surplus of public money upon the judgments of individuals.

While such efforts should be made as are consistent with public duty and sanctioned by sound judgment, to avoid danger by the useful disposition of the surplus now remaining in the treasury it is evident that if its distribution was accomplished another accumulation would soon take its place if the constant flow of redundant income was not checked at its source by a reform in our present tariff law.

We do not propose to deal with these con-

continued on opposite page.

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