



CAPITOL GOSSIP

THE TARIFF BILL STILL BEING AMENDED.

Radical Features Added and Dropped Every Day.—The Senate Does Some Lively Work.

WASHINGTON, July 16.—Now that the strike excitement is happily over, public attention is centered upon the daily meetings of the Democratic conference on the tariff bill. There is some disappointment among Democrats that after an entire week's work no agreement has been reached. However, considerable progress has been made, and it is hoped that a partial, if not a complete report can be made to the House and Senate this week. Democrats are more worried over the failure to reach an agreement than over the bluff made by Senator Hale in introducing a resolution calling for information as to why the Republican conferees neglected to follow the usual course and invite the Republican conferees to the first formal meeting, but it was merely a form that was overlooked. It is a Democratic disagreement and it must and will be settled among Democrats without Republican interference. It is not to aid in settling the disagreements that the Republicans wish to attend the conference, but to try to prevent their being settled.

Just as soon as an agreement can be reached that will be ratified by the House and Senate Congress can adjourn, as the Senate, by an unusual spur, has passed nine of the appropriation bills and has the other five in good shape to be passed this week. That will leave the decks clear for action on the conference report on the tariff bill, and everything now points to adjournment by the first of August. The only thing that can upset these calculations is the failure of the conference to reach an agreement that will be accepted by both Senate and House, and that is not expected.

A strong effort is being made to get the Nicaragua canal bill passed at this session of Congress, but it may be crowded out. The House Commerce committee is trying to get the committee on Rules to set aside two or three days for the discussion of the canal bill, which Chairman Wise, of the first named committee considers one of the most important bills that have been before Congress for years. There are a number of Democrats in the House, who are on principle opposed to the government's engaging in any such business as proposed by this bill, and while they are not probably numerous enough to defeat the bill on a vote they are numerous enough to prevent a vote being taken unless a special rule is reported limiting debate.

So many requests come to Sergeant-at-Arms Snow, of the House, from editors and politicians, asking whether certain members have drawn mileage for both the extra and regular sessions of Congress and whether this or that member has drawn full pay since the law to dock members for absence was revived, that he has had a circular letter prepared which politely declines to furnish the information asked for unless instructed to do so by the House. A considerable number of members of the House have reason to feel grateful to Col. Snow for not opening the books of his office to the men who are trying to find reasons for leaving them at home.

It seems to come natural to some people to misunderstand things. A case in point was the unanimity of certain labor leaders in announcing after a recent interview with the President that Mr. Cleveland had agreed to appoint a commission to arbitrate the dispute which brought about the late disastrous and costly—to all concerned—and to many not directly concerned—railroad strike. It is not flattering to the intellect of the before mentioned labor leaders if this misunderstanding was not intentional. The law under which President Cleveland agreed to appoint two commissioners to act with the U. S. Commissioner of Labor in making an investigation, does not give him authority to appoint arbitrators, except under conditions not existing in this case, and the commission to be appointed will only have authority to investigate the strike which occurred upon inter-state railways. It cannot investigate the strike at the Pullman car works any more than it could investigate a strike of the farm hands of John Smith. President Cleveland will appoint this commission because he wishes to secure authentic information to be used as a basis for recommendations he intends to make on the subject in his next annual message to Congress. He recognizes it as a subject that needs national legislation, not in the interest of the corporations, nor of the labor organizations, but of the whole country, which is incommenced and in the end has to pay the bills for the periodical strikes.

Although there are reports to the contrary there is no reason to doubt that President Cleveland will sign the bill for the admission of Utah to statehood, which is now in his hands.

Senator Allen of Nebraska, told the Senate on Saturday that it was untrue as stated in the newspapers that he had been downed in a wrestling match with John Barleycorn.

A Karthaus Mystery.

On Friday of last week two men who were sawing shingle boths in the woods near Karthaus, while sawing up a tree that had fallen in a laurel thicket, found the skeleton of a man lying in a boggy hole in the ground in the laurel about fifty feet from a stream called Cold run. A coroner's jury examined the remains as well as they could and found it to be the body of a man about 45 or 50 years old. He had worn heavy, No. 9 long drivers' shoes, one of which was missing. He had worn a brown coat, and in the pocket a red cotton handkerchief. The pants drawers and shirt were so decayed that it was impossible to tell what their colors had been. A wide-rimmed felt hat lay nearby. One half the skull was missing and the lower jaw was gone. There was a large hole in the left side of the skull, apparently made with a blunt instrument. There were only two teeth in upper jaw and they were badly decayed. The man had long black and gray mixed hair and beard. The bones of the arms and legs, indicated that he had been a large strong man. It was impossible to tell whether the body had lain there two years or ten, but it was evident that he had been murdered. Years ago hundreds of men worked in the lumber woods in that locality for Ardell & Blackwell and it is probable that the man drew his pay and was murdered by a comrade, who took his money, dragged the body into the laurel thicket and then left.

The coroner's jury decided that the man came to his death at the hands of some person or persons unknown, and the skeleton was buried where it was found.

MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION.

Proves to Have Been an Attempt to Blow up a Railroad Bridge.

The explosion or very loud report heard by so many persons in this neighborhood at an early hour on Friday morning, and which could not be accounted for, proves to have been an unsuccessful attempt to blow up the railroad bridge a short distance south of Steiner's station. Several large stones were loosened and blown into the creek, but the damage was such as not to endanger traffic. The guilty parties are not known nor the object for doing the dastardly work. Had the plan been successful the early train Friday morning might have been wrecked at this point and many lives sacrificed. The discovery of this heinous attempt to blow up the bridge was made by some boys while in swimming Saturday evening.—Phillipsburg Journal.

Debs Gets Left.

The Switchmen's Brotherhood and Federation of Labor formally declined to join the striking Debsites in Chicago. The engineers, firemen, conductors and trainmen had already virtually taken the same position.

Even General Master Workman Sovereign, of the Knights of Labor, who was so anxious to call out every knight and sympathizer, and tie up the country, now wants a big strike at Chicago only.

Debs and associates must go to Tennessee next month, under summons for contempt of the Federal Court. Leader Harry Knox, of the California A. R. U. strikers, has been arrested as one of the murderous wreckers who derailed a train and killed several men near Sacramento.

Shoes that Squeak.

"Just hear that fellow's shoes," ejaculated Steve Burnham, the manufacturer of army brogans, who was in the lobby. "I hate to hear shoes raise such a rumpus when they can be cured of their agony so easily. How? Just take a platter of some sort—a big plate will do—and pour a little linseed oil in it. Let the soles of creaking shoes rest in this over night and in the morning you will find that they not only do not make any more noise, but that the oil has made the soles impervious to dampness as well. If you don't want to go to so much trouble in order to cure creaking shoes, though, just go to a shoemaker's shop and have him drive a couple of wooden pegs in the sole of each shoe. The result will be the same—the shoes won't creak any more.

—Lewins, Bellefonte, has the most experienced cutter in these parts and at his establishment you can be suited in a manner befitting a prince, and at a reasonable price.

EVERY STRIKE FAILED.

During 1893 There Were in Pennsylvania 53 Fruitless Struggles.

The forthcoming report of Albert S. Bolles, chief of the Bureau of Industrial statistics, which is part of the report of the Department of Internal Affairs, contains complete statistics of the strikes that occurred in the state during 1893. There were 53 strikes, or twice as many as occurred in 1892. Thirty-four of these were by the coal miners in the bituminous coal regions; 9 among iron and steel workers; 4 among carpet weavers; 2 among cotton weavers; 1 among chinaware manufacturers' employes; 1 among cloak-makers, and one among the journey-men plasterers. This last-mentioned strike occurred in Philadelphia, and was the most important one in that city during the year. It is a singular fact that not one of these strikes succeeded. The number engaged in them was 950, the number of persons involved was 17,308, and the estimated loss in wages was \$1,304,423. The causes of the strikes were as follows: For an increase in wages, 6; against a reduction of wages, 34; for recognition of labor associations, 3; for semi-monthly pay, 1, and miscellaneous causes, 8.

The most important strike during the year was that by the Lehigh Valley Railroad employes, which began on November 8 and continued until December 6.

Foster's Prediction.

Foster, the St. Joseph, Mo., weather prophet, in his forecast for July says my last bulletin gave forecasts of the storm wave to cross the continent from the 12th to the 16th, and the next storm will reach the Pacific coast about the 17th, cross the western mountains by the close of the 18th, the great central states about the 22nd.

The principal feature of the disturbance will be the extensive rain it will cause, but it will be still leave many places short on rainfall and poorly prepared to meet the August drouth.

The warm wave will cross the western mountains about the 17th, the grate central valleys about the 19th, and the eastern states about the 21st. The cool wave will cross the western mountains about the 20th, the great central valleys about the 22d and the eastern states about the 24th.

The fifth principal storm wave of July will reach the Pacific coast about the 23d, cross the western mountains by close of 24th, the great central valleys from 25th to 27th and the eastern states about 28th. This disturbance will inaugurate a heated term that will become very oppressive during the last part of August.

The warm wave will cross the western mountains about the 23d, the great central valleys about the 25th, and the eastern states about the 27th. The cool wave will cross the western mountains about the 29th, the great central valleys about the 28th and the eastern states about the 29.

Paper Telegraph Poles.

Paper telegraph poles are the latest development of the art of making paper useful. These poles are made of paper pulp, in which borax, tallow, etc., are mixed in small quantities. The pulp is cast in a mold, with a core in the centre, forming a hollow rod of the desired length, the cross pieces being held by key-shaped wooden pieces driven in on either side of the pole. The paper poles are said to be lighter and stronger than those of wood, and to be unaffected by sun, rain, dampness, or any of the other causes which shorten the life of a wooden pole.

Dr. Wyeth on Rattles.

Dr. Wyeth, of New York, who in a recent interview with a *Sun* reporter said: "The rattle snake is as fearless a fighter among snakes as he is with his natural enemies, men and dogs. I have never seen him whipped by any other kind of snake. He is too proud and brave to run, is a fighter every inch of him, although never first antagonist that he is there before delivering his blow. He is in truth a noble animal."

The Reporter editor has tramped the mountains every summer for forty years, and met few rattlers, and in every instance the reptile tried to get away, but stopped to fight when attacked. Every time there was one rattler less.

A Rattler.

A rattler along the pike, about half way up the top of the mountain, has been serenading passers by, and scaring some of the picnickers camped there from town, especially the young ladies. We think some of the chivalry of the town who are doing so much for the beauty of the town, and who saw the varmint, should have made up their minds that there shall be one rattler less instead of letting the dangerous thing crawl away.

SWEPT BY FIRE

MILL HALL DEVASTATED BY THE FLAMES.

Over Twenty Dwellings Destroyed on Friday Afternoon.—Blaze Originated in a Stable.—Loss Great.

Fire broke out at Mill Hall last Friday afternoon in a stable and before the flames were subdued near one half the town was in ashes.

The flames were first seen issuing from the stable of Frank Welsh on the alley back of Main street, and fanned by the strong wind that prevailed, spread with alarming rapidity. The alarm was given at 42.10 o'clock, and no serious alarm was felt for the safety of the town. The flames however, soon spread to houses adjoining, and the strong wind carried sparks to houses a short distance away, and the citizens suddenly realized that a disastrous conflagration was imminent.

The town is without any protection whatever against fire and Lock Haven and Bellefonte were appealed to for assistance, and three steamers were sent to the borough. The steamers rendered valuable assistance, and the flames were soon under control.

The flames communicated from Welsh's stable to that gentleman's house, destroying them and burning the following buildings: A. A. Witt's grocery, George Hickoff's residence, five buildings and hall of Freeman Brady, W. H. Mann's residence, Dr. McCloskey's residence and drug store, Wesley Brady's residence and store, Joseph Bartholomew's residence and barber shop, Wilt House, Mackey House, George Bressler's residence, new Disciple church, D. H. Stoner's residence and tin store, Smith Marshall's grocery, Roff's residence, Mrs. Erie Castetter's tenement house, W. H. Mann's residence, and about twenty stables, with numerous outbuildings.

The fire covered the district from the alley between Main and Water streets over to the Central railroad and from the post office building to Dr. McCloskey's drug store. Never did a conflagration with its fiery tongue clean up a burned district better. The buildings, poles, trees, boardwalks and gardens are all gone. Only a small portion of the brick walls of the Disciple church and of W. H. Mann's residence remained standing, and these have been pulled down by the firemen. On the upper limit of the burned districts stand the partly burned residence of Dr. McCloskey on the one side of Main street and the building of D. H. Stoner on the other side.

Nearly all the occupants of the burned out houses succeeded in getting all their goods out safely, but unfortunately the flames spread so rapidly that many of the goods were burned in the yards and on the street. The *Valley* Chief office was one of the unfortunates, being located in Brady's hall. The Patriotic Order Sons of America in the same hall lost its furniture.

The aggregate insurance on the burned property amounts to \$16,245. The estimated loss is placed at between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

He Shot the Tramp.

At noon Saturday a tramp knocked at the back door of the residence of Cornelius, South Front street, Milton. The knock was answered by Warren Cornelius, aged about twelve years. The tramp asked for his dinner and the boy said there was no one at home. At this the tramp became bold and walked into the kitchen and espied the lunch Mrs. Cornelius had prepared for her son, Mrs. Cornelius having gone to Lewisburg on a visit.

An old horse pistol loaded for frogs lay on a chair and Warren picked it up and told the tramp that if he moved he would shoot him. The tramp must have taken it for a joke for he sat down and prepared to feast. He had hardly started on his meal before the boy aimed the pistol and pulled the trigger.

The shot took effect in the fleshy part of the tramp's heel. With a shriek he ran out the door and down the street leaving a trail of blood at every step. When asked what he had done, young Cornelius answered, "the bum wanted to take my dinner and I just let'er fly."

I. O. O. F. Picnic.

The Odd Fellows picnic at Hecla, on the line of the new railroad, on Saturday promises to be one of the largest gatherings held in Centre county for some time. It is being gotten up by the Lodge at Hubersburg, and all of the Odd Fellows in Nittany Valley, Bald Eagle Valley, Bellefonte and Lock Haven have been invited and will likely attend. In addition there will be several Sunday schools and various other organizations present and it is fully expected that anywhere from one to two thousand people will be in attendance during the day.

—Subscribe for the REPORTER.

MIFFLIN COUNTY.

Incidents from our Neighboring County Across the Mountain.

John L. Brower, a well-known citizen of Mifflin county, died at his home, Locke's Mills, on Sunday night last, July 8th, after a very short illness. He was about fifty-five years of age.

Mrs. Maria Aikens, who lived near Siglerville, was stricken by paralysis while driving to that place one day last week. She was taken to her home where she died a few hours later.

James N. Brown, of Milroy, was engaged in hauling bark out of the mountain, when the load upset, throwing him some distance against a stump the bark falling upon him and almost crushing him to death. He was pretty badly hurt, but will recover.

In the vicinity of Allensville, Mifflin county, the early potato crop promises to be very light. The apple crop is very light. The grape crop does not promise over a yield of 50 per cent of a full crop. The outlook is not very favorable for pears or quinces owing to the blight having injured the crop.

The house of Mrs. Joseph Sigler, at Painterville, Mifflin county, was struck by lightning one night last week and pretty badly demoralized. The room in which Mrs. Sigler and two grandchildren slept was badly shattered. Plastering was thrown all over their beds and the bolt struck not over two feet from the bed. Fortunately no one was hurt beyond a bad shock.

Thursday noon David Maben, an employee of the Lewistown division, was almost instantly killed at Milroy while the M. and C. passenger crew were shifting cars. He was braking on a freight car while the engine was pushing in on a siding. At the end of this siding was an old market car used as a bumper. This car had an over-shot protection running over the platform, and while in the act of braking, Maben's head was caught between the edge of the overshot and his car, the concussion being so severe as to cause death at once. He leaves a wife and four children.

AARONSBURG.

A Breezy Letter of Happenings from Down the Valley.

Ira Gramley, in drawing up a steer with a windlass at the slaughter house in Millheim, slipped on the floor, causing him to let go his hold, when the crank flew around, striking him on the arm and head, injuring him so seriously that he is unable to work.

Part of a load of hay on which Geo. Fehl was riding, slipped off throwing George to the ground. He has a badly sprained ankle and his leg is very much swollen, making it very painful.

The fifteen-year-old daughter of Wilson Haines died very suddenly on last Saturday. She had just recovered from a spell of measles and took typhoid fever. She was buried at Wolf's Chapel on Tuesday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, of Philadelphia, who had been making their annual visit to D. H. Rote's, went back to the city on Saturday morning.

A number of visitors are in town. Mr. Coburn is entertaining Dr. and Martwick, of Clearfield. Mr. and Mrs. Sanders are at Rev. Wolf's. Mrs. Sanders is a sister of Mrs. Wolf. Henry Yearick and family, of Philad., are visiting at his parents. Mrs. Dr. Mingle, of Dakota, Ill., and three of her children are visiting Ed. Mingle's, and Mrs. Irey, of Wheeling, W. Va., is visiting her mother, Mrs. Mary Jane Musser. Rev. Brown's parents from Lewisburg are visiting at his place.

For the past week George Rupp has been quite sick, and unable to leave his bed. For more than a year George has failed very much in health. Being subject to epilepsy, in the many falls he has had, he has frequently injured his head seriously.

Mrs. J. G. Meyer is slowly recovering. She suffers at times very much from nervousness. Ill as she has been, few thought she would recover, but while there is life there is hope.

Elijah Burd purchased the pike from Millheim to Brush valley, from Conrad Long for \$6000.

High in Figures.

NOW THAT the railroads are getting their traffic in shape and business is assuming its normal condition some speculation as to the cost of the great strike to the railroads and others in Chicago alone may be interesting. All the general managers can say at present is that they have insufficient data to hazard an opinion that could be relied upon. Urged to make a guess one of them said the losses of the roads would reach at least \$5,000,000, and might go as high as \$8,000,000. Chicago and Cook county will have a big bill of damages to pay on account of the Debs business.

—Everything in the shoe line can be had at Mingles, Bellefonte. Large stock, and all panic prices, too.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

Incidents and Interesting Occurrences Way Back in Time.

Potter township, when erected in 1774, was part of Northumberland county, and "included Brush valley and Penns valley as far west as Lemont, and a portion of Hartley township, in Union county." That year the assessment showed 17 horses and 20 cattle, a grist mill, and one negro. It is a notable fact that Potter township, taking in the above territory, never had more than two or three colored persons at any time. The grist mill was erected by Joseph McGrew, on the site of the present Red mill, and had a saw mill connected with it. George M. Harter now owns the Red mill site.

Rev. Christian Newcomer, was the earliest traveling minister of the United Brethren in Christ, who came into this county. Preaching at a number of places in the vicinity of Bellefonte, he came to Mr. Kremer's in Penns valley. In his journal, May 31, 1803, he says, "Today I preached in Aaronsburg; the work of grace appeared to be a strange doctrine in this place. May God grant this people knowledge."

If the Gospel was a stranger to Aaronsburg's people in 1803, we hardly know how to account for the darkness; but light broke in surely afterwards, for the place has half a dozen fine churches now, and if brother, after wards Bishop Newcomer, could return he would find his prayer answered, and that God did grant this people knowledge.

Aaronsburg in 1803 had three applicants for license, namely, Obadiah Allen, Christian Ulrich and Philip Dewald. Now there is no licensed house in the town.

In 1833 Peter Homan reported raising 52 bushels and 1 peck of wheat off an acre of his farm in eastern Penns valley. Mr. Homan was a good farmer, whom many of the REPORTER readers will remember, but rarely can our best farmers do half as well at this day.

In 1842 an anti-swearing society was started at Julian Furnace, a large number signing the pledge to abstain from profane swearing. But there is still swearing up at Julian's.

In 1845, Centre county had a hot summer. In July the thermometer ranged from 98 to 100, and there was a great drouth.

The first ark launched successfully on Penns Creek was built by Thomas Treaster in 1807, at Spring Mills, everybody in the neighborhood was there to see it off.

The first road from the east into Centre county, was an individual enterprise, by Reuben Haines, who in 1771 cut a road from opposite Northumberland through the Penns valley narrow. Mr. Haines owned all the valley from Spring Mills to Woodward.

In 1791 viewers were appointed to lay out a road from Spring Mills through Georges valley to Potters Mills, thence to the Cedar Spring meeting house.

The road through Linden Hall, Centre Hall to Madisonburg was laid out in 1794. The Bellefonte, Aaronsburg and Youngmans town Turnpike Company was chartered in 1825—work on it began in 1826.

Last June Dick Crawford brought his twelve-months-old child, suffering from infantile diarrhoea, to me. It had been weaned at four months old and had always been sickly. I gave it the usual treatment in such cases but without benefit. The child kept growing thinner until it weighed but little more than when born, or perhaps ten pounds. I then started the father to giving Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. Before one bottle of the 25 cent size had been used a marked improvement was seen and its continued use cured the child. Its weakness and puny constitution disappeared and its father and myself believed the child's life was saved by this remedy. J. T. Marlow, M. D., Tamaros, Ill. For sale by Wm. Peeler, Spring Mills.

Camping on the Mountain.

A number of our young people are camping on top of the mountain above Centre Hall. They have four large tents up and are supplied with all necessary refreshments. The party numbers from twelve to twenty-five and is receiving additions daily.

Good Hay Crop.

Hiram Durst took fifty-six loads of hay off of thirty-five acres after leaving about eight loads of grass uncut. Each load had about one and one-fourth tons. From some of this ground he took his fifth successive crop of hay. Hiram is a good, practical farmer.

DEBS and his lieutenants are in jail, and can't get out on bail.