

Lancaster Intelligencer.

MONDAY EVENING, JAN. 7, 1884.

The Work in Washington.

A dispatch from Washington to the Boston Post, credits Mr. Randall with the intention of disrupting the Democratic party by agitating a course on the tariff question in opposition to that of the ways and means committee, and in the certain event of his failing to accomplish his purpose, he is to leave the organization of which he has so long been a faithful member and trusted leader. Of course, an announcement of such intrinsic impossibility as this would attract no more notice than it deserves except from the fact that it is credited to the regular Washington correspondent of the Post, Mr. Henry L. Nelson, who happens just now to be Mr. Carlisle's private secretary. In this view of the case his announcement of Mr. Randall's purposes—which can at most be only speculation on his part—must be regarded as in the worst of possible bad taste and much more likely to injure the speaker than Mr. Randall.

As a matter of fact, we presume, that Mr. Randall and every other conservative Democrat in the House, who might be likely to differ from Mr. Morrison and his associates, will be present for the present to attend to the faithful discharge of the duties allotted to them in the committee assignments. Meantime no tariff measure will likely get before the House before the committee of ways and means has considered and agreed upon one; and this may be a matter of serious difficulty; for while Mr. Morrison, Mr. Hurd and Mr. Hewitt, leading members of the committee, are all classed as revenue reformers, it is by no means sure that they will agree upon the thing to be reformed nor the way to reform it. It is notable that revenue reformers from Louisiana rally as solidly to the protection of sugar, as the free trade representative from Virginia stands up for the industry of gathering sumac. Until the committee itself agrees upon a bill, there is no occasion, obviously, for indulging in gloomy vaticinations of Democratic disruption in Washington, nor any decent pretext for ascribing such purposes to trusted and patriotic Democrats.

An indication of other issues than the tariff revision that should engage the attention of the Democratic House and an earnest that Mr. Randall in the position in which he won his best distinction will be able to shape those issues for the good of the country and to the advantage of his party are furnished by the action of the appropriations committee upon the estimates of Pension Commissioner Dudley. It seems that this functionary last year asked for his party in Congress the grant of a hundred million dollars, and reported an unexpended balance of fourteen millions, upon which representation he was given eight six millions. It turned out that his estimates were so lavishly and loosely made that on the one hand his unexpended balance was thirty nine instead of fifteen millions—increasing the total grant at his service to one hundred and twenty five millions—while his expenditures for the year are only sixty or sixty-five millions, leaving him an unexpended balance of sixty millions at the least. In the face of this he asked Congress for forty millions more, and the appropriation committee cut him down to fifteen, which, with his balance brought over, will be ample to meet the largest estimated necessities of his department for the coming year. A few more such sweeps of the pruning knife and a remorseless cutting down of the extravagant grants asked by reckless Republican departments will be the best work upon which the Democrats of the House can engage and it is entrusted to hands that will not be likely to neglect it.

An election for gas trustees is coming on in Philadelphia. Consensus among the men who desire reelection to this responsible post are David H. Lane and William B. Leeds, both prominent and active Republican politicians. Lane being the late recorder and Leeds chairman of the Republican city committee. The course of these men as members of the trust has been obnoxious to those who entertain reform ideas of municipal government; they are antagonized by the Committee of One Hundred and by pretty nearly every respectable political element in the city; their zeal to retain themselves in positions with no salary attached, but of great influence and patronage, coupled with their well known character as practical politicians, subjects them to all the more suspicion. Neither, we have reason to believe, can be elected if he has to depend solely on Republican votes in councils, and each expects to supply this deficiency by obtaining for some consideration the support of Democrats. Such a prospect is highly discredit to the so-called Democratic members of Philadelphia councils who are content on to do this. It is neither the right thing for public interests nor expedient in a point of party view, for Democrats to help to put men like Leeds and Lane into positions of such influence. The spectacle is calculated to create disgust and demoralization in the party organization in the city and work irreparable evil through-out the state. There can be no excuse nor apology to justify it, and the honest Democrats of Philadelphia, constituting the great bulk of the party there, should make themselves heard in vigorous denunciation of this contemplated act of treachery.

An idea of the tremendous odds against which the Democracy struggle in the effort to oust the Republican party from the places of trust which its members have abused may be had from the statement of the Atlanta Constitution that the civil list of federal officeholders now numbers an army of 83,000, exclusive of postmasters and railway mail employes. All told the government has an active force of probably as many as 10,000 in New York and 7,500 in Pennsylvania, enough to balance the result

In these great contested and controlling states. If these government stipendiaries would at one election keep their hands off there would be no doubt of the result in either state. Pretending to advocate an improved civil service the Republican party employs all of these agencies to retain itself in power, everywhere; as in this city it illustrates the exclusion of federal officeholders from active participation in partisan politics by making the postmaster chairman of its city committee.

An exhibit is published of the highest and lowest prices of securities listed by the New York stock exchange at the beginning of July, 1881, and the last day of 1883, the result of which is a showing of \$124,024,226 apparent shrinkage of values in this period and various comments are made upon this tremendous "loss to the country," which "would be sufficient to bankrupt the financial community of nearly any European country, but has been born by the people of the United States without serious effect upon the general prosperity." This view of the figures is of course fictitious. The facts are given a balloon value on the list by the manipulation of the stock gamblers for their own purpose; thoughtful persons knew very well that there was no sound basis for such prices; the money that one set of dealers has lost on their depreciation, another party has made; there has been no real loss of value to the country except the demoralization inflicted upon regular trade by the pernicious influence of these gambler operations in fictitious values, and if the general shearing of the lambs has resulted in lessening the number of foolish adventurers into Wall street, their experience will have been useful to the country, its morals and its business.

The county commissioners have levied a 2 1/2 mill county tax. Two mills would have been sufficient to meet all expenses and with proper economy to have paid as much of the county debt as was necessary, after the payment of \$100,000 in three years. At the present rate of expenditures the city tax next year will have to be increased. The county tax should have been cut down as much as possible; last year the INTELLIGENCER demonstrated that the receipts of the county upon a three mill tax would be \$100,000 more than its necessary expenditures; this has been found to be true, but the promised reduction to a two mill tax rate is not made. The commissioners should reconsider their action and take off another half mill. The policy of levying heavy taxes to raise big balances to lie idle in favored depositories of public officials is one that "must go" in Federal, state and local governments.

FILLING THE POOR MAN'S COAL BIN IS NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE TARIFF ISSUE.

CONGRESS ASSEMBLED TO-DAY, AND THE PROFOUND PEACE WHICH THE NATION ENJOYED THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAY SEASON WILL SOON BE A NO MORE.

ANOTHER literary honor that will involve an inaugural address has been offered Minister Lowell. The wisdom of sending "literary fellers" to foreign posts where expense and duty are more necessary than executive ability, is being accurately illustrated.

THERE ARE SOME persons who are never happy except when smothering other people's joys. Tenneyson's exquisite poem, "The Princess," has been successfully burlesqued in the comic opera "Princess Ida" by Gilbert and Sullivan, the champion telecastles of the century.

IS THE famous Higbie-Vaughan case of mock marriage between a boy and girl in Flatbush, L. I., the justice has decided that no real marriage occurred. Promissory kissing, hugging in a hammock and a wedding journey in a wheelbarrow are thus declared insufficient to legalize the solemn rite of blessed nuptials under New York law.

FRANCE and Germany will find ere long that two can play at the game of prohibition. The determination of these two countries to exclude the American hog has led to the preparation of a joint resolution to be submitted to Congress for the restriction of the importation of French and German wines into the United States. The American porker has been avenged.

THE terrible holocaust at a convent in Belleville, Illinois, by which twenty-seven helpless females perished, should teach the lesson to those in authority at like institutions of the necessity of having some trusted man servants sleeping within the convent building. Absolute prohibition of the male sex may be correct enough spiritually, but a few courageous men on the first floor of the Belleville convent building might have saved lives of priceless value.

TRIPLE tongued rumor is still busy with Mary Anderson's name, now supplementing her sub of the Rothschilds and the denial of her engagement to the duke of Portland with the story that she will soon retire from the stage to a convent. The genius of her advertising agent always hits upon a story that will call for an early contradiction and thus the transatlantic press merry go round of cheap puffing for our esteemed countrywoman.

IT has been disclosed to the great credit of Col. John E. Arthur, for eleven years Democratic treasurer of the city of Reading, that when the Bushong banks failed in 1875 he had \$7,800 of the city funds deposited in one of the ruined concerns. Although many officials caught in the same way obtained exoneration he quietly made good the losses though they made him a poor man. Now that his manly conduct has been accidentally disclosed an ordinance to reimburse him is likely to pass the town council.

EX ATTORNEY GENERAL PALMER has been making a speech in Wilkesbarre on the cost of whisky drinking and the necessity for its suppression. He predicted the quick coming of the prohibition issue. Whisky drinking certainly costs about as much in Gen. Palmer's town as in any place in the state.

DEATH BY FIRE.

MANY LIVES LOST IN A CONVENT.

A terrible conflagration in Belleville, Illinois, on Saturday night, destroyed twenty-seven sisters and a priest. The cause of the fire was a gas lamp in the kitchen.

At 11 o'clock Saturday night fire was discovered in the convent of the Immaculate Conception, at Belleville, Ill., the capital of St. Clair county, fourteen miles from St. Louis, Mo. The alarm was first given by the watchmen at Harrison's machine works, and Mr. James Stout, of the city fondly, was the first man to reach the scene. When he reached the convent, the windows of the third floor presented a blood chilling spectacle. There, in their night clothes, suddenly aroused from their slumber, stood in despair a large number of the terrified inmates. The windows were the only alternative being the dreadful leap of death to the flames. Soon afterwards volumes of smoke were seen to spread throughout the building, followed by loud explosions, and in a few of the sleeping women were killed themselves through the windows. 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