

Lancaster Intelligencer.

FRIDAY EVENING, JAN. 25, 1884.

Time Enough Yet.

It is now asserted that Mr. Hewitt will offer one tariff bill and Mr. Morrison another. It will be well for Democrats to wait and see. Thus far there has been nothing done and nothing is immediately threatened at Washington to justify the apprehensions so freely indulged in a few weeks ago that the country and the Democracy were to be ruined by the action or the differences of their representatives in Congress. While the one extreme wing of the party, represented by Mr. Watterson, has been wildly and very indistinctly clamoring for revenue reform, without indicating exactly what it is to consist in, and another has been as vigorously deprecating any tariff reform, the great conservative mass of the party, East and West, North and South, is patiently waiting to see what kind of a bill is to be proposed, what reforms are to be secured and what industries are to be affected by it, before they give adherence to or take issue with the measure. The work of elaborating a tariff bill is one of vast detail and difficulty; and once it is completed it challenges such a variety and complication of interests that its adoption is apt to be slow.

Meantime, however, preparations must go on for the national convention of the party; states will meet, adopt platforms and elect delegates; and they will, no doubt, act with such wisdom that nothing done or omitted in Congress, and nothing in their differences of sentiment on single questions will prevent such action by the general convention as will commend its work to the country at large. In 1876, by this time, there were far hotter rivalries over candidates and more intense differences of opinion upon the financial question than agitate the Democracy now; and yet that convention made choice between them and came to an agreement which resulted in a brilliant campaign and the triumphant election of its candidates.

The same thing may easily happen again. Pennsylvania will be one of the states to lead off. It has the second largest Democratic vote and delegation in the national convention. Its representatives are not to be silent nor powerless there. Their views on the tariff and other matters are well known; they have not changed; they are constitutional and unchangeable. They carried Indiana in 1882; they were adopted and vindicated in Ohio, New Jersey and Virginia in 1883; the Democracy of this state did not lose a vote on account of them in 1882 or in 1883. They are moderate and conservative; Mr. Carlisle, we believe, has said that he is reconciled to them. It is significant that there is no decided expression of dissent from them in New York; and no Southern state will separate from the Democracy on account of them.

It is said that the Democracy of Kentucky and Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Michigan, desire something more radical. But it is sure, it is not expected that the Democrats are to frame a policy with regard to the fear of losing Kentucky or the hope of gaining Kansas, without reference to Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New Jersey and New York. These states will be the battle ground of the next contest, not the Northwest. The time for that has not yet come.

Abuse of Justice.

The alderman and justice of the peace has outlived his usefulness. It is an office that needs to be abolished, because its privileges are grossly abused by so many of those who hold it. They use it solely to make fees for themselves. In civil cases their judgments are unreliable, being generally given for their employer, the plaintiff. In criminal cases in their judgment they commit the prisoner because the commitment is fruitful of fees. The outrageous filling of the Lancaster county jail with vagrants committed for a few days, to be recommitted as soon as they get out, is practised by a certain set of justices in the most shameless way. Columbia magistrates are particularly active in this work. Since December first there have been about a hundred and fifty vagrants sent from Columbia to the jail on commitments from three to five days, besides the number sent up for longer terms.

The jail is not intended for the custody of vagrants, and is not adapted to the work. They should be provided for in a workhouse where they could be made to earn their livelihood. There is urgent need for reform in the administration of justice in this regard. The state should provide efficiently for the support of the poor who cannot support themselves, and for the compulsory labor of those who can earn their livelihood, but will not. Tramps should be taken charge of, but they should not be provided for in jails, which are intended for criminals. The law provides that vagrants shall be committed to the workhouse, if there be one, and to the jail only if there is no workhouse. Our understanding is that Lancaster county provides a workhouse; and we know that when Major Cox superintended the almshouse he managed admirably the vagrants who sought its hospitality, requiring them to work in the morning for the lodging and food that had been given them. His method is the only one adapted to the vagrant evil, and met the case fully.

We presume that it is under the authority given, to summarily convict and imprison drunken and disorderly persons that the justices fill the prison with vagrants; but it is notorious that it is vagrancy and not drunkenness and disorder that is often, if not generally, the real cause of commitment. The court should look into this abuse of justice, and lay its hand upon those justices who flagrantly practice it. And the Legislature should abolish the justices and aldermen and establish in their stead courts of limited jurisdiction in convenient places, to take cognizance of petty civil and criminal actions.

THE APPOINTMENT OF WM. N. HIRST BY THE GOVERNOR TO BE CONTROLLER OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT GOES BY THE NAME OF CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Mr. Hirst was originally a Republican, appointed by Mr. Pattison and retained by Mr. Page as chief clerk in the office under their respective administrations. Whatever qualification for the head of the office long experience and an entirely satisfactory discharge of the duties of his chief clerkship endow him with, Mr. Hirst has. The appointment is not a partisan one in any sense; for, although classed as a Republican, Mr. Hirst's name was voted for in the last Democratic state convention, and his letter withdrawing it indicated that he would support the nominees of the party.

It is seldom that so complete and altogether deserving a municipal ticket is presented for the voters of a city as that which the Democrats of Philadelphia have put up. It has been assumed that the withdrawal of Perie and the Republican nomination of Hunter will make it more difficult to elect King and Sheppard than it would have been otherwise. This is discreditable to the Independent Republicans. They would never have had Hunter as a Republican nominee but for the unselfish and unpartisan conduct of the Democrats in taking him up; besides, Perie was the most deserving of the three Republican candidates, as he was less objectionable than either Smith or Warwick, and his sacrifice will not save them.

More truth than wit is discoverable in the punster's view of the verdict in the Uniontown tragedy, "Nutt guilty." If it be true as stated that there were 115 cases of lynching last year and only 93 legal hangings, Americans cannot lay claim to being a law loving people.

An interview is reported from Harrisburg in which Senator Gordon plainly intimates that the Legislature will be recalled before the present term expires, to make another effort to pass appointment bills. The state assessors of New York recommended a tax on incomes which exceed \$10,000 a year. As by no possibility could a legal provision of this kind effect the newspaper fraternity, the press will doubtless heartily endorse the proposition.

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PERSONAL.

JOHN C. NEW, assistant secretary of the treasury, has resigned. ROBT. PACKER'S remains were on Thursday transferred from Bayre to the family vault at Mount Auburn.

FRANK S. HEATH, of Cory, ex-chairman of the state freebank committee, has been arrested upon a charge of sending through the United States mail pamphlets containing instructions and instruments of an unlawful character.

FRANK DOUGLASS, the well-known colored leader, was married in Washington Thursday evening to Miss Helen M. Pitts, a white woman, thirty-eight years of age, employed as a copyist in the office. The groom is in his seventy-third year.

REV. DR. ROBERT J. NEVILL, rector of the St. Paul's Episcopal church in Rome, was going to India; but he is taking a roundabout road, if he has not changed his mind. He is now on his way to Antwerp, to deliver to the advanced class a series of lectures on "The Claims of Rome."

BENJON J. LOSSING, the historian, suggests that the fourth centennial of the discovery of America, October 12, 1892, be celebrated by a gathering of ships of all nations in New York harbor. The proposed gathering is the proposition of Emilio Castelar, that such a naval affair should occur in the harbor of Pales.

KEPNER, according to the New York Times, previous to his nomination for the speakership, had been regarded as a backwoodsman from Ohio, whose small voice and stammer were in no way commensurate with each other that his appearance in the forum of debate was a signal for indistinguishable laughter.

D. MCN. STAFFER, the well-known engineer, son of the late J. Stauffer, of this city, was elected a "Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers" in London, on Dec. 15, 1883. He is a member of engineering societies in the world, and Mr. Stauffer was among the 49 members elected last year to the highest grade in the institution, as against the 348 men elected to the second grade of "Associate member."

THE STATE. News from Adjutant General. At the state department, in Harrisburg, yesterday charters were issued to five companies. The Norristown Register reports that a number of detectives are in that section ferreting out the cause of a fire in selling butterine and oleomargarine.

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KILLED IN A MINE.

APPELLING FIRE DAMP EXPLOSION. Fifty-seven Workmen in a Colorado Coal Mine Lost Their Lives Searching for Fire. At 8 o'clock Thursday morning a terrible explosion occurred at Crested Butte, Col., in the coal mine of the Colorado coal and iron company. There were 67 men in the mine at the time of the explosion. Of these 11, who were just entering, got thrown back by the force of the explosion and reasoned. Of this number one has since died and all the others are badly injured. There are 56 men yet in the mine and as the entrance to the mine is blocked up they cannot be reached. They are all supposed to be dead. The explosion was of such force as to wreck the engine house, which stood fully 100 feet from the entrance to the mine.

The explosion was one of the most appalling in its consequences that ever occurred in the mines in this country. Crested Butte, north of the mine is located, is a coal town about thirty miles north of Gunnison, on the Denver and Rio Grande railroad. The cause of the explosion is not known, but is supposed to have been a fire damp. It occurred in the chamber 1 or 2 just half an hour after the day force of 67 men had gone to work. Ten were at work in the chamber. All of these escaped unhurt, except one man, John Angus, who in the passage way just outside the chamber. He is badly burnt but will recover.

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Many of the dead are married men and leave families. A number of the families reside in Denver. At present everything is in such confusion that it is difficult to get details. A special train left Gunnison at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon with surgeons and a number of citizens to render all the aid possible. The town of Crested Butte is in mourning. Crowds of people are flocking to the mine, wringing their hands and crying piteously, presenting a most heartrending scene. It is said that at the time of the explosion there were ten kegs of black powder in chambers 1 and 2, where the men were working and where the explosion is supposed to have taken place.

WHY GERMERS DISAPPOINTED. Baby's Group Causes the Great Disappointment. When the audience arrived at the Grand Opera House, on Thursday night they were greeted with the announcement in the vestibule that on account of her nonarrival in Baltimore Mrs. Germer would not appear in "Elair d'Amore." The crowd, which was very large and composed of members of the best of Baltimore society, became indignant when it leaked out that Madame Germer had been in the city and had left before the audience arrived for New York. The lower room was used for lodging, and as several of them banked there Wednesday night, it is supposed through their carelessness it was set on fire. One of them has been arrested and will be held for trial.

THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. Thursday's session of the state board of agriculture in Harrisburg, the following essays were read and discussed: "Winters and the farmer's stock," by A. D. Sutton; "How can the farmer most economically dispose of his surplus products?" by C. C. Musselman; "The proper time for cutting timber," by M. W. Oliver; "The ornamentation and improvement of farms around farm buildings," by Prof. E. W. Weidner; "Best breed of horses for farm and road work," by I. Garretson; "Value and care of poultry manure," by J. D. Hicks, member from Blair; "Can the production of sugar be made profitable in Pennsylvania?" by N. P. Underhill, member from Wayne; "Creameries—co-operative and private—their cost and value as a market for milk," by John I. Carter, of Chester county; and "Farmers' gardens and truck patches," by Rev. J. Collier, of Harrisburg.

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QUARTER SESSIONS.

THE STRASBURG HOMICIDE CASE. The Story of How Henry Esleman Met His Death. Thursday afternoon, when court reconvened at 3 o'clock the sheriff returned a special panel of 38 jurymen on a venire issued before the morning adjournment, and the work of securing a jury was renewed. John H. Landis, John M. Bachman and Jas. H. Marshall had each formed an opinion; W. E. Kreider had conscientious scruples against capital punishment; they were all challenged for cause.

Henry Esleman, defendant, was peremptorily challenged by the commonwealth; J. C. Martin had formed an opinion; Samuel Evans, esq., of Columbia, was sworn. A. H. Shoek was challenged peremptorily by the defense; Clement Baldwin, Peter Amos and C. E. Paschall had all formed opinions, and were challenged for cause; Jno. A. Charles was sworn.

Jerome Vandermere was challenged by defendant; Jno. S. Nolte for cause; Henry Wise by defendant; Jno. S. Lichter was challenged by the defense; J. S. Lewis, S. Hartman and Adam Shreiner were challenged by defendant, and John S. Givler was sworn, and completed the jury, who were then all sworn, as follows: The opening.

The case for the commonwealth was opened by ex-District Attorney Davis; he stated briefly what they intend to prove, the substance of which is as follows: On the 15th of September last, Henry Esleman, a good natured man who resided near Strasburg, was killed in the saloon at Brua's saloon, where Hildebrand had a dog with him which Hildebrand said he dogged by him. They spoke a few words together and Esleman being in a good humor, Hildebrand pulled the dog out from under the table and Hildebrand then took Esleman's hat from his head and struck him with it several times; he followed this up with blows of his hat; the bartender finally told Hildebrand that he had struck Esleman and that he did not stand fighting. In a few moments Hildebrand took hold of Esleman and first pushed him against the door jam; he finally threw him out of the door and down about two steps to the ground; while Esleman was down Hildebrand jumped upon him with his feet and beat him with his fists, at which time a gasping noise was coming from Esleman. Hildebrand, with blood upon him, came into the bar-room and said "I have settled the man and he died that night."

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