THE INTELLIGENCER

PUBLISHED EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR (Sunday Excepted.)

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The Weekly Intelligencer

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING.

$2.00 A YEAR, $1.00 FOR SIX MONTHS. CLUBS OF TEN, $15.00, AND A COPY FREE TO PERSONS GETTING UP CLUBS.

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THE INTELLIGENCER,

Intelligencer Building, Lancaster, Pa.

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LANCASTER, OCTOBER 26, 1886.

The Six to Three Decision.

The supreme court of the United States has made a very important decision upon the question of the right of state legislatures to control railroad freight rates from points within to points without the state, which denies this right to them, though most reasonably exercised. The law of Illinois prohibits its railroads from charging a greater rate for transporting goods of like character from a nearer than a farther point to the same destination; and Pennsylvania makes a like prohibition. In the case at issue the charge for transportation from Gilman, Illinois, to New York, was made larger, upon the same day, upon the same class of goods and by the same railroad, than was charged from Peoria, eighty-six miles further from New York, to the latter point.

It does not seem that a more unjust case of discrimination could be stated; nor one which it is more clearly within the power of a state to correct. Yet the majority of the supreme court of the United States denies this power to the state, upon the ground that "this species of regulation is of a general and national character, and cannot be safely and wisely remitted to local rules and local regulations"; and this majority declare that "the regulation can only appropriately be by general rules and principles which demand that it should be done by the Congress of the United States."

The supreme court has not met the case in this decision. We think that it was not in the case for it to decide whether the law of the state was "safe and wise," but only whether it was within its power to enact it. It is true as stated by the court that national legislation is needed to adequately control railroad rates through the several states; but surely it is not the province of the supreme court to say whether the effort of a state in the same direction is wise or otherwise. If a state has power to control the railroads within its limits that it has chartered, so as to forbid them from discriminating in their charges between its citizens, it does not affect this power that its citizens would be more adequately protected by a law of Congress. It seems to be a gross outrage upon common sense to declare that a state may not prohibit the railroads of its creation and within its borders from charging different rates for the same service to different citizens. The common law has from time immemorial prohibited such conduct to carriers. The law of the state but redeclared this fundamental law of our civilization.

The supreme court of the United States in nullifying it has but increased the widespread popular distrust of its wisdom. It has undertaken to make the law instead of construing it, apparently unable to distinguish between these legislative and judicial functions. It might be all right for the Congress of the United States to assume the regulation of inter-state freight rates and to withdraw such power of regulation from the states; and it would be within the province of the supreme court to declare whether such assumption was within the power of Congress under the constitution; but surely it is not the province of the supreme court to act as the Congress, and not only to decide what Congress may do, but to declare that a state has lost a natural power of its sovereignty to the federal government, before the federal government has claimed it to the states exclusion from it.

We are glad to note that the Chief Justice and Justices Bradley and Grey dissented from this decision. It is one which the states should not permit to stand without protest, depriving them as it does of every appearance of their sovereignty. It is not for a Republican supreme court of the United States to change the character of this federation of states, in order to free the railroads from state control, however laudable that object may be in the estimation of such men as Gould's man Mathews.

What Should Have Been Done.

The executive committee of the state committee seems to have considered the object of its assembly at Greensburg to have been the decision as to the regularity of Rafferty's nomination for Congress. We have considered the issue to have been not as to this, which there was no good reason to dispute, but rather as to whether the people of the district had reasonable cause to rebel against the imposition upon them in a regular way of a candidate for Congress not living in the district. It does not greatly matter how regular a nomination is, if it so offends the sense of the voters in the district as to endanger the election of the candidate selected for them. The Democratic party at large has a reasonable right to demand that the nominations for Congress shall be such as to command at least the Democratic vote of the district; and it was very proper for the state committee to intervene in this district where a nomination had been made by the conferrees that was very reasonably objectionable to the voters, and that would not command their support. The conferrees had a right to choose a man outside of the district; but the voters have a right to refuse to vote for him. With these rights standing in the way of the return of a Democrat to Congress in a Democratic district, it seems to us that the state committee had a right to recommend the substitution of a candidate who would have a better chance of election; and this, we think, should have been its action, if any such man was to be found.

Lie After Lie.

The Philadelphia *Press* has again come to grief in its lying. It has come to be so habitual in this journal to declare what is false that it can hardly be the expectation of its readers to read what is true in its columns of men whom it exposes. One would have thought that the severe lesson it had in the result of its treatment of Postmaster Harrity would have led it to be reasonably cautious in fabricating false tales of its Democratic foes. But lessons are equally lost on the natural rascal and the born fool. The conductor of the *Press* may be both or either just according to the charity with which we regard his demonstrated inclination to print what is false of his political opponents. That he only realizes these gives sound color to the belief that he is a scamp, and the inefficacy of his slanders affords good reason for considering him to be a very weak-headed one.

To-day two of its most startling announcements are found to be entirely baseless. A letter from Revenue Collector Schofield proved a forgery, and a statement of the views of Henry Freysinger, of the Chester *Democrat*, who says that he "never uttered a single sentence contained in the entire paragraph" published in the *Press* of yesterday as having been expressed by him. He was quoted verbatim in a paragraph of over twenty lines as complaining of the management of the Chester postoffice, and even the details of delay of letters and the placing of them in wrong boxes minutely described.

The *Press* published a lithographed copy of a deputy collector's alleged demand upon the clerks in Collector Gerker's office for three per cent. of their salaries. Collector Gherker says he never authorized it. Deputy Collector Schofield says he never wrote it, and the handwriting shows no resemblance to his.

No clerk is found who received the letter, and no evidence that it exists in existence save the *Press* publication, which it declares it made on good authority, which it fails to produce. It apparently was a bald and silly lie. The *Press* gives its silliness as the chief title it has to credit, since it wants to know why it would have lied so long before the election and have given so much time to prove its falsehood. Why indeed? But who can fathom the folly of a journal that has so established its character for silly and malignant mendacity?

THURSDAY night's meeting in Maennerchor hall should be packed with enthusiastic Democrats.

THE Chester county fight is getting pretty hot when ex State Treasurer Samuel Butler comes out in a card to say that Everhart when a senator offered Butler whisky in the former's room at Harrisburg. This is the naive way the story is told: "While he (Everhart) was a member of the Senate I called at his room quite late one morning on business. He was still in bed and did not get up. After talking a little while he said he had some first rate whisky and told me where to find it and asked me to help myself. I did not see it, because I had no use for it, and, of course, refused."

IN spite of denial there seems to be no doubt that the czar killed one of his officers in a fit of terror.

This incident has many points of similarity to one that occurred in Paris in the reign of Napoleon Third.

The Prince Napoleon, popularly known as Plon-Plon and now the head of the Bonapartist party, was called upon by a popular young lawyer, Victor Noir, who handed him a letter from the Republican leader Rochefort.

The prince asserted that this letter was a challenge, and that while reading it he detected the lawyer reaching for a weapon and instantly shot him in self-defense, but the friends of Victor Noir claimed that he carried no weapon and that it was his habit to stand with his right hand in the breast of his coat. It was shown that the prince had turned around and calmly taken a pistol from a table drawer so that the whole thing had the appearance of deliberate murder, but the facts were so distorted and suppressed in the one-sided investigation that the truth was never certainly known. So it will be in the case of the czar, whose power is so absolute and character so domineering that he may even be able to make it doubtful whether the officer died a violent death.

MR. GEORGE PLUMER SMITH, of Philadelphia, has placed us under obligations in sending to our editorial table *The Magazine of Western History*, which is brim full of the best historical pabulum of the boundless West, written in the most entertaining style.

SOCIALIST Gorsuch and his friends caught a tartar in Philadelphia. They had called a meeting to consider whether the conviction of the Chicago Anarchists was justifiable or constitutional. They had evidently expected to have the agreement all on their own side, and secure a triumphant endorsement of socialism.

In a long speech Mr. Gorsuch inveighed against "the present system," his principal point being that as the constitution admits of free speech the Anarchists cannot be hanged for advocating force.

Then a vigorous looking man, with snow white hair, arose and proceeded to demolish the reasoning of Gorsuch, reminding him that we are governed by a written constitution, and not by the unwritten laws of British Socialists, that the men who stand convicted in Chicago had broken this constitution and should swing for it. Justice should be done, if only for the sake of the brave officers who died in the performance of their duty; the laws of the land are made by the people through their representatives. "Free men framed the constitution, which these contemptible and blood-thirsty wretches would seek to shield themselves with."

The old man fearlessly denounced the Anarchists, and in spite of hissing, and cries of "put him out" and "sit down," he finished his speech and gave them a dose of common sense that was needed. He was George Streer, a veteran of the late war; his father fought in the Revolution. It is not often that men are found who care to trouble themselves to meet the Anarchists on their own ground and show them their folly.

He was followed by Professor Jackson, whose address was so weak as to make one wonder how he won his title. He claimed to have been a Christian, once upon a time, but gave it up because he found most Christians full of hollow pretensions; and he thought it would be wrong to hang the Chicago Anarchists, because if Washington and Jefferson had been unsuccessful, they would have suffered a like fate.

"Then Captain Lester, of the Friendship Liberal League, made a sensible address closing with the remark "Reform may be needed but it must come through legitimate channels." Altogether this meeting proved that there need be small fear of the progress of Socialism in Philadelphia, whatever may happen in New York.

IN TOBACCO CIRCLES.

THE FARMERS UNEASY BECAUSE OF THE EXTENDED DROUGHT.

They Fear the Dry Weather May Affect the Color of Their Crops—Dealers Not Now in the Local Market—700 Cases Pennsylvania Sold in New York

It sometimes happens that we have too much of a good thing—even too much good weather, and that's what the farmers are complaining of just now. The summer was delightfully cool, and the autumn has been delightfully dry and warm. There have been very few days in which it was necessary to build a fire. But this delightful weather and absence of rain for the past two months, is beginning to make the tobacco farmers feel uneasy. They got their tobacco harvested and hung on the poles all right, and it continued to cure all right, and it may be all right yet, but the unbroken dry weather it is feared will affect its color and possibly its quality, and the growers are wishing for a good long spell of wet weather that will moisten the leaf so that they can get into their stools and give it a good looking over, and ascertain its true condition, not only in the lower tanks, but way up near the roof tree. The general opinion is that the dry weather has not yet damaged it, but there is some anxiety felt, and a lower barometer, followed by cooler weather would be hailed with delight by the whole farming community, and especially by tobacco farmers.

The local trade, sympathizing with the New York market, has fallen off, and the only reported sales [illegible] are Skiles & Frey [illegible] cases Havana seed.

Wilson's Hybrid Tobacco

In an editorial commending the growth of Havana seed tobacco in Baldwinsville, N. Y., [illegible] says:

[illegible] growers received the Wilson hybrid seed from this source two or three years ago, and now please witness the area in the state devoted to its culture. The sales of it are already large there as they are elsewhere. It seems indeed to be a most commendable variety of tobacco, and if the seed shall be kept pure and free from mixture with other varieties, we see no reason why we shall not continue to produce it for years to come in its original purity. We have been very much pleased this season to note, more than in any former year, how it holds its own and seems to carry with it all its original characteristics, and on the whole is really more pure Havana to all appearances than any other raised in Central New York. We all rejoice at this and hope most certainly to see it keep where it now is, the very pattern of Havana seed leaf, pleasing to the eye, and [illegible] and fine in colors.

New York Market.

The *Tobacco Leaf* says: "There is little of interest to speak of about the market this week. The [illegible] appears to have fallen out of it. Most all the Western buyers have been there and made their purchases, and are not expected to return for more stock until after New Year's; so that the market is now wholly dependent upon local [illegible] and manufacturers. The latter are not doing as much business as could be desired and therefore they are in no hurry to invest; and when they do, their purchases are limited. Buying in the Big Flats district goes merrily on, and reports have it that most of the tobacco there is already bought up. The unseemly haste in purchasing and the high prices paid, are severely condemned. A gentleman speaking on the subject sums the matter up by saying, 'All people learn by experience, except tobacco men.'

Sumatra Tobacco—Fine marks are in good demand, with sales of 1?0 bales at from $1.?? to $1.??.

Sumatra wrappers, $1.?? to $1.??.

Spanish Tobacco—Havana fillers are in fair demand. Sales, 500 bales at from 60 to $1.??.

Four Million Cigars at Auction.

R. Monne & Bro. will sell at Draper's auction rooms, New York, on Friday next, 4,000,000 cigars, the largest number ever thrown upon the market in this way. On being asked by a reporter the reason for the sale, Mr. Monne said: "The reason is this. Our customers commenced some time ago to want Sumatra wrapped goods. We had been working Wisconsin and Pennsylvania wrappers right along, and carried a pretty large stock of cigars upon which they were used. For a year we have been using nothing but Sumatra, and we have had no trouble. The ac[illegible] stock, however, because of the wrappers used, was not acceptable to our trade, and, as we did not care to force it, it has remained on our hands. The best way, we concluded, was to dispose of it at auction. About three millions of the cigars that are to be sold are Spanish made goods; the balance are domestic cigars. They are regular goods and the average selling price is about $?? only one quarter of the whole lot is ?? the remainder being [illegible]. This unloading of stock means no change in our style of doing business, except in so far as it is necessary to meet the requirements of our trade."

Philadelphia Market.

The volume of business in the handling of cigar leaf tobacco the past week shows a decrease from the previous weekly reports, but upon reference to sales one year ago it is seen that the present demand for raw material is much greater and more general than at that time. All grades are salable but at prices too low for profit. Sumatra and Havana tobacco have steady sale. Cigars, snuff and smoking tobacco are good freely. Handlers of [illegible] and fine cuts are doing a good trade, and nothing except an open rupture between labor and capital can prevent a general improvement in business.

A meeting of the most prominent cigar manufacturers of Philadelphia will be held Wednesday evening, November 3, for the purpose of thoroughly organizing a Cigar Manufacturers' association. The officers *pro tem* are: Albert Gumpert, president; H. A. Jonas, treasurer, and James J. Byrnes, secretary. An elegant repast will be served to those manufacturers who attend the meeting.

Gans' Weekly Report.

Sales of seed leaf tobacco reported by J. S. Gans' Son & Co., tobacco brokers, No. 131 Water street, New York, for the week ending October 25, 1886.

[illegible] cases 1885, Pennsylvania, 12@13c.; 100 cases 1885, Pennsylvania 10@12c.; 150 cases, 1885, Pennsylvania, 8@10c.; 250 cases, 1885, Pennsylvania Havana, 9@17c.; 200 cases, 1885, Wisconsin Havana, 8@10c.; 300 cases, 1884, state Havana, 13@20c.; 150 cases 1884, state Havana, p.t.; 100 cases 1884, Little Dutch, 12; 200 cases 1885, Little Dutch, p.t.; 250 cases 1885, New England, 17@28c. Total, [illegible] cases.

Baltimore Market.

Receipts of Maryland tobacco are small and the demand for the better grades active, owing to the fact that very little of such is offering. Sales for the past week have been light. Purchases continue to be made for export to France. The market for Ohio tobacco is dull, sales of about 200 hhds being reported since our last report, some of which was for home consumption.

The Connecticut Valley.

The New England *Homestead* says: "The exceptionally fine crop that went into the sheds has had as perfect a season for curing as it had for growing, making a rare combination of favorable circumstances, the result of which is the finest crop that has been seen in many years. Not a single bad feature can as yet be detected in it, and an ordinary or poor crop (if there is any) will be an exception. It went into the sheds the earliest, largest, soundest, most perfect crops seen in many years, and with no pole burn, white veins or other imperfections brought out in curing, the natural result is one of the finest crops that the soil and climate of the Connecticut Valley can produce."

The Ohio Situation.

The Miamisburg *Bulletin* says: "The week has been a dull one, few sales being reported, and these at nominal figures. The views of buyers and planters are not in accord. This is a short way to state the situation. For some reason buyers are unwilling to speculate. Prices must afford a big and a positive margin or the planter keeps his goods. On the other hand, the cigar market is lively, and wherever genuine Ohio leaf is used there will be found encouragement for Miami Valley planters. The new crop is curing well, and samples daily coming to this office exhibit excellent qualities in all respects."

Wisconsin Looking Up.

The '86 Wisconsin crop was terribly damaged by drouth and then by hail, and not more than half a crop was harvested, but the Edgerton *Index* takes a rather hopeful view of the situation. It says: "The early cut tobacco is ready for stripping and has cured out very nicely. There is no pole sweat or white vein, and if the growers do not get a remunerative price this year they will feel discouraged. The weather the past few days is very rainy, and farmers will soon be ready to commence stripping their tobacco. Those whom we have talked with the past week [illegible] elated over the way their crop [illegible] and all express about the same [illegible] in regard to the '86 crop. "It is as good as we ever raised." It seems to be [illegible] opinion among the tobacco buyers [illegible] new crop will not begin to move [illegible] and farmers will be obliged [illegible] the bulk of this crop. [illegible] risk will then be taken [illegible] producer, and the [illegible] more satisfactory to [illegible]"

PERSONAL.

W. C. McCAULEY, a [illegible] saved the life of a [illegible] New York two years [illegible] day and left the young [illegible]

HORACE GREELEY'S [illegible] young men appears [illegible] are fifteen men under [illegible] in Portland, Oregon, [illegible] $1,000,000 each.

THOMAS BAILEY A[illegible] the name Dollar street, [illegible] located in Cankapsg[illegible] "at least 1?? acounts [illegible] named Dollar and a ha[illegible]

MISS MILLIE SEVE[illegible] Mrs. William Walton [illegible] met recently at the M[illegible] ding at Mr. George W[illegible] dence, and were so [illegible] friends could only dis[illegible] other by their dress.

LORD SAVERNAKE, [illegible] Aylesbury, is a noted [illegible] graceful spills and ma[illegible] would have made him [illegible] English metropolis. [illegible] friends remarked: [illegible] placed in the midst of [illegible] boys, and six Whitechap[illegible] would be difficult for [illegible] identify the peer."

EUGENE TYLER, of [illegible] quite as full of electric[illegible] who sets things on fire [illegible] felt he is pretty well [illegible] after rubbing his hands [illegible] can place them on a [illegible] controls him completely [illegible] yet been found who [illegible] thus exerted. He can [illegible] an electric spark send [illegible] away from the burner.

P. E. DYE has sued [illegible] railway company for [illegible] purchased a ticket to A[illegible] the Chesapeake & O[illegible] carried beyond Char[illegible] agents of the company [illegible] re-changed cars and [illegible] train, the conductor [illegible] and walk back, asser[illegible] his instructions. Re[illegible] he walked back and [illegible] juring his leg.

GEORGE STROSSON'S [illegible] in Dayton, Minn., says [illegible] years old they lived [illegible] George passed a tobac[illegible] school, but it was too [illegible] pass it, but went in and [illegible] The proprietor encoura[illegible] boxes around a large s[illegible] stand on them and rea[illegible] the next thing that [illegible] was that this 8-year-old [illegible] man in Ogdensburgh p[illegible]