

# The Centre Democrat.



SHUGERT & FORSTER, Editors.

"EQUAL AND EXACT JUSTICE TO ALL MEN, OF WHATEVER STATE OR PERSUASION, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL."—Jefferson.

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S. T. SHUGERT and R. H. FORSTER, Editors.

Thursday Morning, January 30, 1879.

ST. MARTIN may be a less adroit, but certainly he is not a less reckless liar than the Jenks. This is clearly evident from the published reports of his testimony before the Potter investigating committee. Such farrago of contradictions, inconsistencies and perjuries is seldom read.

In Reading the Democrats and Nationals have united in the choice of candidates for municipal officers. Reading is a republican city, and the fusion of the minority parties, may result in the defeat of the republican candidates—provided the amalgamations stick, which is not often the case, when democrats enter into such arrangements. They are generally cheated.

THE *Republican* of this week says "the President will sign the new pension bill providing it does not require more than \$2,000,000 per month, which amount will be paid out in silver." You are somewhat late, neighbor, and also slightly wrong. Mr. Hayes signed the pension bill on last Saturday, and without a condition as to the amount of money it would require per month or the kind of money to be paid.

JOHN SHERMAN'S new witness, St. Martin, has taken back his slander against the Hon. W. S. Stenger, just as it was expected he would be obliged to when brought face to face with the Potter committee. The lying affidavit of the blundering rogue should not have deceived even Sherman, anxious as he may be to shirk responsibility for his own share in the Louisiana rascality by trying to damage the characters of other and better men. It bore evidence of perjury in its make up that was plain to every other person who read it.

PRESIDENT HAYES signed the Pension Arrearages bill last Saturday. He said at the time that the bill passed that he looked upon it as doing substantial justice to the soldier, but he regretted extremely that it appeared upon the stage at just this time, in view of the enormous expenditure it entailed. This expenditure can not begin until an appropriation has been made, as it has been officially announced that no payment will be made under or on account of the bill until Congress makes a specific appropriation. The appropriation of \$29,000,000 already made for pensions was devoted to the payment of claims recognized by previous legislation. It begins to look as though the work of raising money to meet this increase to the war debt would fall on the new democratic congress which meets next December, though the present congress may yet vote the money.

It is now said that the cost to the Commonwealth of the inauguration of Gov. Hoyt will exceed \$20,000. This, at a time of great depression to the people all over the State, when they are well nigh driven to desperation for the means of living and to pay the taxes assessed upon them to keep the Government moving—and when the Treasury of the State is declared, by its officers, to be bankrupt and unable to meet the appropriations, shows a reckless expenditure not to be condoned without crime. Propositions made by Mr. Ermentrout in the Senate, and Mr. Sherwood in the House, to limit these expenditures to \$1,000 were promptly and unanimously voted down by the Republican majority. This reckless waste has marked the rule of the Republican party for many years, and yet the people of Pennsylvania return the same gang to the Legislature as each year returns to afford them opportunity.

## The Cipher Telegrams.

The determination of the democrats in the house of representatives at Washington to thoroughly investigate what are known, in the highly flavored literature of the day, as Cipher Despatches, meets with the unqualified approbation and has the thorough sympathy of the masses of the democratic party in all sections of the country. If there has been an attempt to introduce the peculiar tactics of our republican friends into democratic councils, the sooner the men who were engaged in such an effort are put in the public pillory the better. For them there will only be the hissing scorn and withering condemnation of all honest men as their reward for forgetting the teachings of the incorruptible fathers of the great party they dishonor by their allegiance. So far as these things concern Mr. Tilden it is imperative that he should be heard, not in a personal vindication, but he should speak as the man who was trusted and honored by the votes of a large majority of his fellow-citizens. Especially is it due the democratic party, whose standard bearer he was in the mighty struggle of 1876, that he should meet his traducers in the broad glare of day and stamp upon their infamous charges the stigma of unhallowed falsehood. The pleadings of friendship, and the prayers of kinsmen should be alike unheard in the presence of the other and weightier considerations that bid him speak. No man has withstood more terrific assaults than he. Beset from within and without, he has always come forth from the fiery furnace of calumny unharmed because the people believed in him and trusted him.

Again the shafts of envy, hate and malice are aimed at him, and through him at the great party he led to victory. Already his specific denial has suspended judgment, and all eyes are now fixed upon Samuel J. Tilden, and the question upon every tongue is, "Did you bargain with the carpet bag plunderers of the South for the title to that high office which the people had crowned you with at the polls?" The answer is awaited calmly and trustfully.

In the meantime it might be well not to overlook the fact that the electoral votes of Louisiana, Florida and South Carolina were notoriously in the market, and that all that was needed to insure Samuel J. Tilden's success was for him to buy his own. It was simply a question of money, and the votes of the three mentioned States would have been cast in the electoral college as the people of those states directed they should be cast. That the money was not forthcoming argues strongly that there was no disposition to barter. Rutherford B. Hayes occupies a position to which he was never elected. The most shameful crimes were committed in his name, and the stain of perjury, bribery and fraud hangs like a cloud over his official acts. It is to his purpose and that of the party he represents to withdraw the scrutiny of impartial history by wholesale charges against others of the same crimes of which he and his party are guilty.

THE republican members of the Potter committee are not anxious to let the public know how the cipher telegrams that have appeared in the *New York Tribune* came into the possession of that journal. They fear to have the crookedness of their own partisans shown and therefore throw every obstacle they possibly can in the way of an honest investigation. The Western Union Telegraph company furnished a trunk full of political despatches, that had passed over its wires in the campaign of 1876, to the Senate committee on privileges and elections, of which Senator Morton, then living and the leader of the republican party, was chairman, and it was from that receptacle of political secrets that the alleged democratic despatches were

stolen by some one after the republican despatches had been carefully secured and destroyed. Prominent republican senators were in the secret of the dishonorable trick, and it does not suit republican investigators to have the meanness of the transaction exposed to public execration. If the truth were known, a few honorable statesmen of the radical persuasion, who have heretofore managed to maintain a reasonably fair standing in the estimation of the people they represent in the counsels of the nation, might suffer a downfall for which they are not prepared. An article from the *Washington Post*, that tells a strange story in relation to this trunk full of telegrams, will be found elsewhere in our columns, and it is worth reading.

## The Indian Question.

The members of the joint committee of the two houses of Congress appointed to consider the advisability of abolishing the present Indian bureau and transferring the management of the Indians to the war department seem to be as far apart in their conclusions as are General Sheridan and Secretary Schurz, on the same question. The committee has given a patient and impartial hearing to those in favor of the change and also to those who oppose it, but it is found impossible to reach a conclusion in favor of either side. The committee consists of eight members, four of whom are Democrats and the other four Republicans. They recently voted on a resolution declaring that it was expedient to make the transfer, and that the transfer should be made, and seen to have divided politically—the four Democrats voting in favor and the four Republicans against the resolution. They all say their minds are made up, and two reports on the subject may therefore be expected. The Democrats have already prepared a report in which they handle the Indian Bureau without gloves. The Republicans will oppose any change except, it is stated, to recommend the passage of a law giving the President discretionary power to place certain tribes under the control of the army during stated periods or for specified purposes. A proposition of this kind was rejected by the Democrats who believe that nothing short of an entire and radical change can ever correct the enormous evils that for years have prevailed in our present worm-eaten and corrupt system of dealing with these wild tribes of the far west. That a change of some kind is an absolute necessity is evident in this proposition of those who would rather see no change at all; and the Democrats of the committee show their good sense in standing out against anything short of the complete uprooting of the costly, rotten and inefficient Bureau that for so long a period has been a standing disgrace to the country. There may be two sides to the Indian question, either of which honest men can take, but it is difficult to understand how any one, in the face of well-known and firmly established facts, will hesitate about the propriety of breaking up an institution that can deal neither honestly by the government or justly to the Indians. That it never has, is abundantly proved by the expensive and grievous experience of several decades of time, and that it ever will, judging by the past, can scarcely be believed.

It is stated that Justice Hunt of Supreme Court of the United States, who was thought to be at death's door for many days, has so far recovered that he is now able to have the newspapers read to him. His kind readers in tender sympathy with his condition, no doubt omit the newspaper comments upon the intrigue that commenced at Washington over a prospective successor to his seat on the bench the moment the news of his alarming illness reached that city.

## THE INDIAN MANAGEMENT.

REASONS OFFERED FOR TRANSFERRING IT TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

REPORT OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE WHO ARE IN FAVOR OF THE CHANGE.

WASHINGTON, January 26.—The report of the four members—Senator McCree and Representatives Boone, Seales and Hooker—of the joint committee who favor transferring the management of Indian affairs from the Interior to the War Department, has just been completed by Representative Boone of Kentucky and will be submitted to the House at the first opportunity. The report says the truth is that the past history of our dealings with the Indians is one not creditable to us, nor one which is calculated to impress them with the belief that their welfare, either spiritual or temporal, has entered into our minds, but rather to impress them with the idea that our object is and has been to get from them all we could and to keep all we get. Our treatment of them is one of shame and mortification to all right-thinking and all liberal-minded men. A proper solution of what is called the Indian problem is pressing itself more strongly upon the public attention every year, and to-day it is one of the important practical questions which the intelligent representatives of a great people are called upon to grapple with and from which there is no escape. With impatient energy and unflinching courage our people have pressed their way far beyond the Mississippi, and step by step the red man has been driven back and still further westward until the reflux tide pressing him from the west, and between the upper and the nether millstones he must soon be crushed to death unless our Government shall throw its arms of protection around him. Our wrongful treatment of him is co-equal with our existence, though not to the same extent in the earlier and purer days as at present. Indeed, the system of management of Indian affairs which we have pursued (if we have had a system at all) has been unequal to the demands of our duty. To such extent have frauds and speculation crept into the management of Indian affairs, and so glaring and shameful have these frauds become, that an indignant public opinion will no longer look on with indifference and unconcern. That these wrongs and abuses do now exist, and to a fearful extent, the signers of the report think no one at all acquainted with the facts will deny. The defect lies in the system adopted in the management of our Indian affairs, connected with the inefficiency or dishonesty, or both, of those who are charged with the carrying out of the details of this system.

It is well known that in 1848 the Department of the Interior was created by law, and the whole and sole management of Indian affairs was at once turned over to that department. But to go back a little further, it will be found that our system of Indian management has always been virtually the system now in vogue, even while it was nominally under the War Department prior to 1849. While it is true that superintendents and agents (being few in number) made their reports to the War Office, it is also true that neither the Secretary of War nor any officer in the War Department had anything to do with the appointment of these officers, nor was the War Office charged with the duty of supervising them or controlling them in any number up to 1834. Our relations with the Indians began at an early period of the Revolutionary war. What was necessary to be done either for defense or conciliation was done, and being necessary, no inquiry seems to have been made as to the authority under which it was done. While it is true that by the act of 1834 the Secretary of War was given a sort of general superintendence over the conduct of agents and sub-agents (appointed by the President), and while it is also true that by that the President was authorized to select military men to discharge the duties of Indian agents, it is further true that a large majority of the agents selected were from civil life, and much the same machinery employed in the conduct of Indian affairs as now.

Year after year large amounts of money have been expended with a view to civilizing these people, and yet we are compelled to admit that failure is written on every page of the past history of our efforts in this direction. The inauguration of the "peace policy in 1868" by President Grant in the opinion of the undersigned was a virtual admission that the Indian Bureau was incapable of the proper conduct of Indian affairs and was therefore compelled to delegate much of its authority to other hands. It would seem that there is no room to doubt that we should try some method of dealing with this question different from that now in vogue. It seems hardly necessary to adduce proof to establish the fact that shameful irregularities and gross frauds have crept into every branch of the service. The opinion entertained by the signers of this report is that these frauds will forever exist, even with the most vigilant and scrupulous honesty which can be brought into the management of the Indian Bureau, because the method or system of that department are inadequate to prevent fraud, however honest the head of the office may be, and for the reason that the system of accountability in the department is not close enough to detect corruption. As the matter now stands there must of necessity be too much entrusted to the hands of agents for

whose faithful discharge of duty we have no security save their individual fidelity and honor, which, alas, has too often failed when put into the balance with an opportunity to make gain for themselves. Whatever else may be said of our army officers, they are as a class men of high honor and strict integrity. Their training has impressed these high qualities upon them and their association requires their constant observance. Every officer in the army is a check upon every other officer, and such is the system of accountability in the army that it is nearly if not quite impossible for an officer to act dishonestly without being detected and upon being detected, punishment follows swiftly and surely. An army officer holds his commission for life or during good behaviour; upon this he depends for his living. The civil agents, on the other hand, are appointed generally as partisans and for a limited time, subject at any time to removal and are paid small salaries. We are decidedly of the opinion that a large amount of money can and will be saved if this transfer is made, although the evidence is conflicting and somewhat unsatisfactory with regard to the purchase and transportation of goods and supplies. The failure to honestly distribute supplies has cost the country many millions of dollars and very many valuable lives. If it be true that army officers can perform the duties of Indian agents as faithfully, diligently and honestly as the civil agents have and are doing, and if the War Department can purchase as cheaply as the Indian Bureau, and if the means of transportation in the War Department are so much superior, and if the systems of inspection are equal, and if army officers are not so apt to become the victims of temptation, and if we can secure a more faithful and honest administration through army officers and avoid some if not all the Indian wars, who can say that we shall not save millions of dollars in our Indian management if the transfer is made, and at the same time secure that justice to the Indians, the lack of which has caused so much trouble. It is said by some that if the transfer is made it means the practical annihilation of the Indians. The proposition is an absurdity upon its face, as everybody knows that in case of war with the Indians the soldiers do the fighting, and it is but reasonable that all men the soldiers would be the last to provoke it. We believe that under the proposed system the Indians will receive quite as much encouragement in all industrial pursuits as now, and that under the exactitudes of army regulations in furnishing supplies and food, they will enter upon a career of activity and prosperity which has not characterized them under the present management.

Another serious objection to the present system is the divided or "two-headed" responsibility which exists. This mixed or double accountability often produces conflict between the agent and officer in command, and that concert of action is not secured which is necessary. We believe the present Secretary of the Interior and Indian Commissioner are making an honest effort to purify and elevate our Indian management, but with the present methods of keeping accounts with agents to whom large amounts of money and large quantities of goods are entrusted, we do not see how it is possible to free the service from fraud and speculation as long as dishonest men may creep into these positions. With the army officer we could at least have the security of the knowledge upon his part that the price of his treachery would be his official head and his future and everlasting disgrace. We believe that the interest of the Government and the good of the Indian will be best promoted by transferring the management of Indian affairs to the War Department, leaving it discretionary with the Secretary of War to appoint civil agents to those agencies where, in his judgment, the interest of all concerned would be best secured by such an agent, and officers of the army where the interests of the service require it.

## Senatorial Elections.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., January 22.—The General Assembly, in joint session this afternoon, declared General John A. Logan elected United States Senator.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., January 22.—The joint convention of the Senate and Assembly at Madison to-day elected Matt. H. Carpenter United States Senator to succeed T. O. Howe, the vote standing: Carpenter, 84; Regan, 28; Bouck, 13.

ALBANY, January 22.—At 12 o'clock to-day the Senate in a body entered the Assembly Chamber to compare the nominations for United States Senator, which having been done, the President of the Senate announced that the two houses had agreed on their choice, and, therefore, declared Roscoe Conkling elected United States Senator for six years from the 4th day of March next. The election of Charles E. Smith, of the University, was also announced.

HARTFORD, Conn., January 22.—Both houses of the General Assembly met in convention at noon to-day and ratified the election of Orville J. Platt as United States Senator.

LITTLE ROCK, January 22.—Three ballots were taken to-day for United States Senator. The following is the last ballot: Walker, 44; Johnson, 31; Bell, 24; Baxter, 14; scattering, 7. Necessary to a choice, 61.

TALLAHASSEE, January 22.—In joint session of the Legislature to-day Wilkinson Call, the Democratic nominee, was declared elected United States Senator.

## GENERAL NEWS.

The repair shops of the Empire Line in Erie fix up about one hundred cars a day.

The Ebensburg Branch Railroad, which has been snowed up for over a month, has finally been opened.

The remains of a lady buried in 1855, near Oil City, were taken up a few days since and found to have turned to stone.

Eli Green, a well-known fat man of Altoona, measures sixty-two inches around the chest and nearly seventy around the waist.

The correspondent of the *Derrick*, writing from Bradford, warns labor against coming there, because the place is already overrun with persons unemployed.

The *Pittsburg Chronicle* is responsible for the following: Benjamin Whitman, Esq., of Erie, is in Harrisburg, negotiating for the purchase of the *Patriot*.

A cracker manufactory has been started in Oil City, which the *Derrick* says, will attract a large trade that has hitherto gone to Cleveland and Pittsburg.

Mrs. Captain Daniel Dobbins, of Erie, who died at that place last week in her ninety-ninth year, went there from Carlisle, the place of her birth, in 1800, on horseback.

Jacob Ziegler, or as he is more generally known, "Uncle Jake," of Butler, is wasting no opportunities to press his claims for Sergeant-at-arms of the United States Senate.

A young man of Easton has been restrained several months from marrying a widow who is fair, fat and forty. Recently the widow fell heir to \$5,000, and now the parents have no objection to their son's marriage to her.

Wilson Houch, a juror in Cambria county, when his name was called, on Friday, could not be found. A constable was dispatched to hunt him up, and came across him very much intoxicated. He was fined \$300 and told to clear out.

The boys of Allegheny anywhere without having a fight. The last one occurred on Sunday on the ice, when several hundred on each side engaged in throwing stones. Pistols were also used, and several lads were wounded. The police finally quelled the disturbance.

F. W. Conrad, D. D., an eminent Lutheran divine, and also editor of the *Lancaster Observer*, has been placed in the Kirkbride Asylum, owing to excessive mental prostration. It is to be hoped that he may soon be restored to mental and his usual field of labor.

A rare incident in the history of this State occurred Tuesday. Owing to the inauguration being delayed until 1:20 p.m., the State was without a Governor one hour and twenty minutes, Harrison's term having expired at noon.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hancock, mother of Major General W. S. Hancock, of the army, died in Norristown on Saturday morning. She was seventy-nine years old. She and her late husband, Benjamin Franklin Hancock, were born in Montgomery county, and their distinguished son was born in 1824, while they lived on a farm. They removed into the borough of Norristown in 1828.

Two clergymen of Mount Vernon, Ohio, the Rev. Mr. Burrows, Congregationalist, and the Rev. Mr. Lams, Baptist, are disputing angrily as to the percentage of alcohol contained in the wine which Christ miraculously produced at the feast on the plains of Galilee. Mr. Burrows alleges that the wine was intoxicating; Mr. Lams denies the allegation. Both preached about it on Sunday evening.

Steps have been taken for the division of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. At the last regular meeting of the convocation Rev. Dr. Hovkins, rector of Christ's (Episcopal) Church, at Williamsport, presented a memorial asking the constitutional consent of the Bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania to the formation of a new diocese. It was adopted and immediately signed by a majority of those present. The new diocese will include the counties of Lycoming, Clinton, Centre, Tioga, Potter, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Union and Snyder, containing a population of over a quarter of a million. The present diocese, which was organized in 1871, includes 37 counties, with one and a half millions of people. It extends from Pike county to Bedford, inclusive. It is considered entirely too large for one bishop to manage. It is believed Bishop Howe will consent to the division.

The information of the New York *Tribune*, derived from the most direct sources, warrants it in stating in the most positive terms that the body of the late A. T. Stewart has not been recovered by Mrs. Stewart or Judge Elliott or any of their agents. Late publications to the contrary grew out of exaggerated repetitions of hopes expressed by Mrs. Stewart to her friends in December last that negotiations then pending would result in the return of the body before the end of the year. These hopes were disappointed. Then then pending negotiations have been described in the *Tribune*. The only one now being followed is the search for "Ball" Kelley, whom Chief DeLoane, of Hoboken, and Chief of Detectives Captain Kealy, of this city, believe to have been the driver of the wagon in which it is suspected the body was conveyed across the Hoboken Ferry to New Jersey. Kelley has never been seen here since the night of the robbery.