

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.

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The Message.

In another column of the DEMOCRAT will be found a full and accurate synopsis of the fourth and, thank Providence, the last annual message which the present fraudulent occupant of the Presidential chair will ever present to Congress. This message will not disappoint the anticipations of the public. It will be found to be no better, and probably but little worse, than any one expected from the source from which it springs. It is a long, dreary document, and on only a few of the many topics with which it deals will it receive much consideration. Mr. Hayes is not at all satisfied with the attitude of the Southern states towards the fifteenth amendment. He declares that in several of them there is still "continued opposition to the full and free enjoyment of the right of citizenship conferred upon the colored people by the recent amendments to the Constitution."

Mr. Hayes does not refer to a scintilla of evidence upon which to justify this charge; on the contrary, he even is forced to admit that at the recent election the South was free from open acts of violence and intimidation. Can he say as much of the North? Can he truthfully assert that coercion of voters for the advantage of the Republican party was not rigorously and systematically practiced throughout a large portion of the North by wealthy and unscrupulous corporations and by many large manufacturing establishments? But in the North it was the white laboring man who was obliged through fear of his selfish and imperious master to vote against his honest convictions, and of course the baleful evil of intimidation amounts to little or nothing in the opinions of Republican statesmen when only a person of that class happens to be the victim of it. It is the plantation negro alone whose unhappy lot has power to excite stalwart sympathy and demand the protection of the law. Abandoning the charge of intimidation, however, as untenable, Mr. Hayes now says that it is by "fraudulent practices" in the manner of conducting elections that the South "has been successful in defeating the exercise of the right preservative of all rights, the right of suffrage," and among these fraudulent practices he specifies the "counting, returning and canvassing of the votes." This new charge is decidedly refreshing. The public has not forgotten, nor will it ever do so, that it was solely through the false and fraudulent "counting, returning and canvassing of the vote" in 1876 that the right of suffrage was then defeated, and that it is by virtue of the successful frauds of the villains who composed the returning boards of that year that Mr. Hayes occupies his present position.

Upon the question of civil service reform Mr. Hayes plays the hypocrite just as plainly as he does in his treatment of the people of the South. Considering the ridiculous figure the administration has cut upon this subject it would have been well to permit it now to slumber in silence. As the Washington Post aptly remarks, "Mr. Hayes might have avoided the ridicule of his own party and escaped augmenting the contempt of his political opponents, if he had seen fit to ignore his civil service policy. During the campaign of this year the country has seen the civil service prostituted to the level of the Grant era. For more than two years the people have seen Mr. Hayes' alleged policy turned into a shameful farce. They have seen his Order No. 1 trodden into the dirt, while he has stood by, consenting. For him now to come forward and hold up that abandoned and condemned reform, boasting of what has been achieved, is too absurd a per-

formance for serious treatment." But it is never too late to mend, and let us have civil service reform by all means. Let Congress at once pass a bill that will prevent members of their branch of the Government from interfering with appointments to civil office and also protect the holder of an office from political assessments. Had Mr. Hayes been in earnest upon this matter in the first years of his administration the probabilities are that the Republican corruption fund at the last election would have been short a million or a million and a half of dollars, and bribery would not have been a controlling element in the contest.

There are a few good recommendations in the message that deserve the attention of Congress, but it is probable that an endorsement of them by this administration will not go far to make them popular. The work of Congress will not, therefore, be greatly influenced by anything Mr. Hayes has said in his last annual communication.

The Democratic Party of the Future.

Since the result of the election of last November has been fully appreciated in all its bearings, the Republican press has entered upon its quadrennial task of consigning the Democratic party to oblivion deep, dark and inaccessible. We are told by the superserviceable organs of power that the Democratic party has ceased to exist as a great National political organization, and that its disintegration and dissolution will be fully accomplished before another important contest engages the attention of the American people. This assumption is a most violent one, and if based upon the result of the late election has no foundation in fact. Ignoring entirely the proud historic record of the grandest political party that ever existed in the tide of time; a party that holds the loyal allegiance of its followers as well through the darkness of disaster as in the noontide splendor of success, we pass on to look over the field and see wherein the Democratic party in the late election showed such conspicuous weakness as to warrant the oft repeated assertion that it will soon cease to exist as an important factor in the affairs of the Nation. General Hancock representing the ideas and principles of the Democratic party polled on the 2d of last November almost four million five hundred thousand votes, an increase in four years of five hundred thousand votes. This surely does not look like decay or give evidence of political mortality. Of the thirty-eight States in the Union nineteen cast their electoral votes for the candidate of this party which is so soon to sink into an unmarked grave. The popular vote cast for General Garfield is only one thousand in excess of that given to General Hancock, while Garfield on the total poll is a minority president by two hundred and fifty thousand votes. This is a bad showing by the triumphant party which now seeks to convince the country that it has settled the pretensions of its great opponent forever. The real cause of the defeat which overtook the Democratic party on the threshold of success can be found in New York. Here treachery and incompetence frittered away the fruits of a victory which had been gathered from the plains of New Jersey and the golden slopes of the Pacific. New York is essentially a Democratic State and is only lost to its faith through internal dissensions, the quarrels of faction and the clash of local ambition. In that State in a total poll of nearly nine hundred thousand votes Garfield's majority over Hancock is only twenty thousand. A change of eleven thousand votes would have reversed the result and saved our Republican friends from the trouble of trying to convince themselves that the great Democratic party is dead. Shortly after the presidential election a few men whose po-

litical convictions have always been open to suspicion, and whose principles are understood to be in the market place, indulged in a great deal of silly talk about the 'disbandment of the Democratic party. These men are mostly confined to the South and are a species of Southern politician whose services the Democratic party would gladly dispense with. But when Stephens, Hill and Lochrane talk about disbanding the Democratic party, they should understand that they can as easily pluck the stars from the firmament of Heaven as tear from the hearts and consciences of four million five hundred thousand freemen the undying principles implanted there by the teachings of the patriotic founders of the Democratic party. And now of all other times in the history of the country is the existence of the great party of constitutional liberty an imperative necessity. The advocates of a strong government have gained a temporary advantage, and it will require the tireless vigilance of the Democratic party to prevent the subversion of our form of government. After eighty years the old struggle which ceased upon the elevation of Jefferson to the presidency is to be renewed. A disciple of Hamilton and a firm believer in his aristocratic ideas of power, is the president-elect of the United States. He comes but as the forerunner of the Empire, and it will be the aim as well as the duty of the Democratic party to see that the plots of the conspirators are overthrown. Should they succeed there will be no further necessity for its existence. But so long as the Republic lives the Democratic party will live to protect and defend it.

When it falls, it is over the dead body of the party that sprang into existence at the birth of freedom as exemplified by our government of law and liberty. The Democratic party stands between the constitution and the bold ambitious men who would pervert its meaning and override its guaranties. The battle will rage with desperation during the forthcoming administration of Garfield, who will use all his power in the interest of centralization, but he will find constantly in his front an aggressive and unflinching opposition that will contest the encroachments of the Federal government step by step. The Democratic party is not dead, gentlemen, neither does it sleep.

The proposition to create a lifetime in the Senate for ex-Presidents has for the present been abandoned. As the empire is only in abeyance, the movement was found to be rather previous, but the endowment, or pensioning of the expectant Emperor with immense wealth still progresses with decided success, and so far the flunkies are happy. An additional \$100,000 has been subscribed in Philadelphia.

CONKLING has undoubtedly captured Grant, for it is now authoritatively announced that Gov. Hoyt is the cameron candidate selected to defeat Grow for senator from Pennsylvania. The Governor will at least make as creditable a Senator as the State deserves at present, and his election will serve as a proper rebuke to the traveling solicitor who can serve upon any side that may probably be in position to contribute to his aspirations.

MR. HAYES, in his invitation to the dinner given to the President-elect at the White House, failed to invite Senators Blaine and Edmunds. They were both in the city, and their friends express indignation at the neglect. Ignoring the presence of two such prominent Republican senators could scarcely be the result of accident.

It is announced that Senator Wallace will be called to the presidency of a railroad company when he retires from the Senate. The location of the road is not indicated, but if it needs brilliant ability, untiring energy and industry in its management, Wallace is the man to make it boom.

WHAT HAYES SUGGESTS.

His Last Annual Budget of Recommendations to Congress.

AN UNUSUALLY LONG-WINDED MESSAGE—GOOD ADVICE AND BAD—ALL ITS POINTS CONDENSED INTO SMALL SPACE AND READABLE SHAPE.

The last annual message of Mr. Hayes which was read before the two Houses of Congress, yesterday, opens with the usual congratulations upon the prosperity of the country. It then refers at some length to the late election and the popular acceptance of the results as a significant example of the peaceful and safe transmission of power from one Administration to another, yet takes occasion to remark that in the late slaveholding States there is still more or less opposition to the full and free enjoyment of the rights of citizenship. Happily, however, "the history of the late election shows that in many parts of the country where opposition to the Fifteenth amendment has heretofore prevailed, it is diminishing and is likely to cease altogether, if firm and well considered action is taken by Congress." Mr. Hayes trusts, therefore, "that the House of Representatives and the Senate, which have the right to judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of their own members, will see to it that every case of violation of the letter or spirit of the Fifteenth amendment is thoroughly investigated, and that no benefit from such violation shall accrue to any person or party."

He further recommends, in this connection, "that Congress, by suitable legislation, and with proper safeguards, supplement the local educational funds in the several States, where the grave duties and responsibility of citizenship have been devolved on uneducated people, by devoting to the purpose grants of the public lands, and, if necessary, by appropriations from the Treasury of the United States."

Proceeding to consider the subject of civil service reform, and alluding to his former appeals for the reformation of the present system, he says:

"My views concerning the dangers of patronage, or appointments for personal or partisan considerations, have been strengthened by my observation and experience in the Executive office, and I believe these dangers threaten the stability of the Government. Abuses so serious in their nature cannot be permanently tolerated. They tend to become more alarming with the enlargement of Administrative service, as the growth of the country increases the number of officers and places employed. The reasons are imperative for the adoption of fixed rules for the regulation of appointments, promotions, and removals, establishing a uniform method having exclusively in view, in every instance, the attainment of the best qualifications for the position in question. Such a method alone is consistent with the equal right of all citizens and the most economical and efficient administration of the public business."

The importance of competitive examinations is thereupon considered and an annual appropriation of \$25,000 recommended "to meet the expenses of a commission to be appointed by the President in accordance with the terms of this section, whose duty it shall be to devise a just, uniform and efficient system of competitive examinations, and to supervise the application of the same throughout the entire civil service of the Government." Further, while every officer should be left as free as any other citizen to express his political opinions and to use his means for their advancement, there should be some legislation enabling him "to feel as safe as any private citizen in refusing all demands upon his salary for political purposes. The first step, however, in the reform of the civil service must be a complete divorce between Congress and the Executive in the matter of appointments."

"It is therefore recommended that an act be passed defining the relations of members of Congress with respect to appointments to office by the President, and I also recommend that the provisions of section 1767, and of the sections following, of the Revised Statutes, comprising the tenure of office act, of March 2, 1867, be repealed."

As to polygamy in Utah or elsewhere, he says that the system will never be abolished as long as the enforcement of the law depends on those who practice and uphold the crime. He therefore recommends "that Congress provide for the government of Utah by a Governor and judges, or commissioners appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate—a government analogous to the provisional government established for the territory northwest of the Ohio, by the ordinance of 1878. If, however, it is deemed best to continue the existing form of local government, I recommend that the right to vote, hold office and sit on juries in the Territory of Utah, be confined to those who neither practice or uphold polygamy."

Our relations with foreign governments remain in a condition of undisturbed peace, and within a few weeks past Mr. Hayes has received a communication from the English government indicating a disposition towards a friendly adjustment of all differences concerning the rights of American fishermen under the Treaty of Washington and the subject of indemnity for the outrages experienced at Fortune Bay.

The message further informs us that the United States was honorably represented at the Australian exhibition, and very successfully so at the International exhibition of fish and fisheries, at Berlin; that a convention has been ratified

for the settlement of claims against, or in favor of the French republic; that the international commission on weights and measures still continues its work at Paris, and that an appropriation is needed to enable this Government to comply with its obligations under the metrical convention, and that the Spanish government is investigating the action of one of its armed cruisers in searching several vessels of our merchant marine in neutral waters, with a view to explanation and reparation.

Mr. Trescott, one of the commissioners to China from the United States, is now on his way home with the treaties that have been agreed upon, and will probably be able to lay them before the Senate early in January.

A convention has been negotiated with Japan for the reciprocal relief of shipwrecked seamen, and the Japanese government has made suitable provision for the accommodation of the American legation at its capital. The recommendations are renewed that whatever portions of the indemnity funds received some years ago from China and Japan are due to American citizens should be paid and the residue returned.

There is reason to believe that obstacles which have so long prevented rapid and convenient communication between the United States and Mexico by railroads are on the point of disappearing, and that several important enterprises of this character will soon be set on foot which cannot fail to contribute largely to the prosperity of both countries.

The views expressed in a special message to Congress, in March last, relating to the project of an inter-oceanic canal across the Isthmus of Panama, to be built by private capital under a concession from the Columbian government for that purpose, are reiterated to the effect "that it is the right and duty of the United States to assert and maintain such supervision and authority over any inter-oceanic canal across the isthmus that connects North and South America as will protect our National interest."

Mr. Hayes "regrets to announce that the measures which the ministers of the United States at Santiago and Lima were authorized to take, with the view to bringing about a peace, were not successful. In the course of the war some questions have arisen affecting neutral rights; in all of these the ministers of the United States have, under their instructions, acted with promptness and energy in the protection of American interests."

In pursuance of the act passed at the last session of Congress, invitations have been extended to foreign maritime States to join in a sanitary conference in Washington, beginning the 1st of January. The acceptance of this invitation by many prominent Powers gives promise of success in this important measure, designed to establish a system of international notification, by which the spread of infectious or epidemic diseases may be more effectively checked or prevented.

The efforts of the Department of State to enlarge the trade and commerce of the United States, through the active agency of consular officers and through the dissemination of information obtained from them, have been unrelaxed. "Especially important is it," says Mr. Hayes, "that our commercial relations with the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of South America, with the West Indies and the Gulf of Mexico should be direct, and not through the circuit of European systems, and should be carried on in our own bottoms. The full appreciation of the opportunities which our front on the Pacific ocean gives to commerce with Japan, China, and the East Indies, with Australia and the island groups which lie along these routes of navigation, should inspire equal efforts to appropriate to our own shipping, and to administer by our own capital, a due proportion of this trade."

As will be seen by the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, the condition of the financial affairs of the Government are satisfactory and the views of the Secretary as to prompt legislation enabling him to complete the refunding of the debt about to mature, are recommended. Mr. Hayes also repeats what was said in his message last year: "that the retirement from circulation of United States notes, there being \$346,681,016 of them still in existence, with the capacity of legal tender in private contracts, is a step to be taken in our progress towards a safe and stable currency, which should be accepted as the policy and duty of the Government and the interest and security of the people."

Referring to the question of silver coinage, it is stated that the Constitution, "in express terms, recognizes both gold and silver as the only true legal tender money. To banish either of these metals from our currency is to narrow and limit the circulating medium of exchange to the disparagement of important interests. The United States produces more silver than any other country, and is directly interested in maintaining it as one of the two precious metals which furnish the coinage of the world. It will, in my judgment, contribute to this result if Congress will repeal so much of existing legislation as requires the coinage of silver dollars containing only 412½ grains of silver, and in its stead will authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to coin silver dollars of equivalent value as bullion, with gold dollars."

Mr. Hayes concurs in the recommendation of the War department that the Army be increased to 30,000 enlisted men.

He somewhat tacitly suggests an improvement of our National defenses; recommends a comprehensive improvement of the Mississippi and its tributaries; urges certain measures for the

protection of commerce at the mouth of the Columbia and along the Pacific coast to San Francisco; especially favors the early completion of the War department building, and advises an appropriation of \$250,000 for Army medical museum purposes.

This is what Mr. Hayes has to say about Grant: "I commend the attention of Congress to the great services of the commander-in-chief of our armies during the war for the Union, whose wise, firm, and patriotic conduct did so much to bring that momentous conflict to a close. The legislation of the United States contains many precedents for the recognition of distinguished military merit, authorizing rank and emoluments to be conferred for eminent services to the country. An act of Congress authorizing the appointment of a Captain-General of the Army, with suitable provisions relating to compensation, retirement, and other details, would, in my judgment, be altogether fitting and proper, and would be warmly approved by the country."

The attention of Congress is invited to the suggestions of the Postmaster General in regard to postal savings, to what the Secretary of the Navy says about building up our commercial marine and to the recommendation of the Attorney General that an intermediate court of errors and appeals be established.

The hope is expressed that specific appropriations will be made for the maintenance of the Indian schools, and the views of the Secretary of the Interior favoring the allotment of reservation lands in severalty to the Indians are concurred in. Legislation is also asked for the codification of the land laws, for the protection of public timber lands, for extending the operations of the geological survey over the entire country and for creating an educational fund from the proceeds of the sales of public lands, for distribution among the States and Territories.

In conclusion Mr. Hayes recommends a number of good things for the District of Columbia.

MR. HAYES, having by fraud upon the ballot, enjoyed the office of President to which he was not elected, with an annual salary of \$50,000, to which he was not entitled, has now the modest assurance in his closing address to Congress to urge the propriety of providing for the purity of the ballot. Any act of Congress to give due weight to the vote of the people and protect them from the frauds of the villains who have served Mr. Hayes and his party so faithfully, will obtain the highest appreciation, but to be called to the performance of this duty by the creature of the stupendous fraud of 1876 is disquieting in the extreme, and is only equaled by its impudence.

CONGRESS met on last Monday, but has scarcely got down to work. The session will continue until the 4th of March next, when the time of the present Congress will expire. A great deal of needed legislation might be enacted in the intervening months, but whether much will be attempted, outside of the general appropriation bills and the apportionment of members to the different States under the census of 1880, is very doubtful. The Republicans are likely to shape their course so as to necessitate an extra session. Against this the Democrats should guard.

It is now believed that Secretary Sherman has the inside track in the race for the Ohio Senatorship, with Calico Foster. John's success will again bring him face to face with the man he turned out of the New York Custom House because he was too dishonest to be there. This prospective meeting of the Senator and the late discarded officer, now Vice President elect of the Republic, will no doubt be refreshing if not novel. Strange events do happen in politics and this is one of them.

SENATOR MAHONE, the elect of Virginia, it is said, will not go into caucus with either party in the organization of the Senate, but will form an independent party in himself to dictate such legislation as he may desire in the interest of his State. He may need company even for that, and find that isolation is not profitable or desirable.

ANOTHER Ohio man provided for! Gen. Hazen has been appointed by Mr. Hayes Chief Signal Officer in the army. It is said he possesses but little, if any, qualification for the position. He has not yet been confirmed by the Senate.