

The Centre Democrat.



SHUGERT & VAN ORMER, Editors.

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

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S. T. SHUGERT & J. R. VAN ORMER, Editors.

Thursday Morning, January 11, 1883.

If Senator Lee, of Venango, is a free Independent Republican as it is claimed he is, what is the fellow that chained him?

THE Czar of Russia has caught it from the Republicans of Pennsylvania. He proposes to submit to the agony and dangers of a coronation "next year."

THE Independent doctors of the State Senate, having extracted Don Cameron's aching tooth, the boss is restored to his usual vigor and good humor. All is lovely again.

So prosperous is the State of Florida under Democratic rule, that the Governor recommends a reduction of the taxes of the State, to relieve the Treasury, now full, of a prospective surplus.

QUININE was placed by the Tariff Commission among the free articles upon which no duties should be levied. But Judge Kelley will not have it so, and on his motion, it was placed in the dutiable list at 10 per cent.

THE Republicans of the Senate, Stalwarts and Independents perhaps, did themselves great honor by endorsing the unsavory record of Delany, the Librarian. He is no doubt useful where dirty work is required.

THE Republicans of Connecticut, after the wholesome rebuff given them by their candidate for Governor, concluded to validate the "black ballot" and invite no further comparison with those carrying the "black border."

EX-MARSHAL HENRY, who was recently bounced by the President, attributes the act to his friendship for General Garfield. Attorney General Brewster on the contrary attributes it to the ex-marshal's friendship to certain government thieves. Which?

A FEW weeks ago all the papers proclaimed that Don Cameron was squelched—that the Republican boss of Pennsylvania was dead as a mackerel. How is it now? He has proved himself a pretty lively corpse and manages at least one branch of the Legislature pretty well for a dead man.

THE fight in the Senate against the restoration of General Porter to his just rank in the army, has been bitter and partisan under the lead of Logan—only three of the Republican Senators being capable of rising to the dignity of candid consideration of the facts developed in his favor. With the aid of these, to day at 2 o'clock has been agreed upon to come to a direct vote on the question, as it also indicates the passage of the bill.

ELISHA W. DAVIS, formerly a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature from Crawford county, and subsequently from Philadelphia, is now a member of the Colorado Legislature and speaker of the House of Representatives. What 'Lish don't know about managing legislatures and the crowd surrounding them, had better not be known, if it is desirable that such bodies should be conservators of public morality. He has large experience and possesses very fair ability.

It is said that about eight hundred of the clerks recently taken into the Pension office on trial are to be discharged for inefficiency. This is a large number of inefficients, but if a general weeding of the departments takes place and civil service reform is carried out in good faith, the number will, no doubt, be largely reinforced. The practice of rushing into the departments political dependents in the train of members of Congress, without qualifications, has stocked a large field that needs pruning.

Civil Service Bill Passed.

Pendleton's Civil Service Bill as it passed the Senate on Wednesday of last week, was railroaded through the House under a high pressure of steam, Kasson assuming position as chief engineer. So far as it goes, this is a great achievement in the right direction and a fair concession to the lessons of the last election. This bill authorizes the President to appoint three commissioners, not more than two of whom shall be of the same political party, each to receive an annual salary of \$3,500, and travelling and other expenses. These Commissioners, at the request of the President are to aid him in preparing rules for carrying the act into effect, and these shall provide for open competitive examinations for testing the fitness of applicants for public service. The commission is to designate examining committees after consulting with the cabinet officers, collectors of customs or postmasters in whose offices positions are sought and examinations are to be made. Examinations are to be competitive and in the line of the particular duties of the place to be competed for. Promotions are also to be made in the same manner and decided on the basis. All appointments, removals and transfers are to be reported to the commission. Persons appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate are not to be subject to examination. Appointments are to be apportioned among the States and territories according to population, and applicants must be bona fide residents of the States in which they claim their homes. The bill also provides that not more than two persons of a single family shall be employed in the same grade in any public office. This prescription of families, only to allow two of a grade in office, is perhaps too cruel upon cabinet officers and members of Congress, but perhaps the prohibition does not take in the "uncles, the cousins and the aunts." Besides this, the recommendations of members of Congress are to have no weight with any examining board, all of which is probably well intended, but of little effect, as the members will press their dependents upon the departments and have them employed all the same. Assessments for political purposes by officers is prohibited under penalty, and no clerk or office-holder is to be removed from office or otherwise injured for failure to participate in political work of any kind. Promotions are to be made from the lower to the higher grades of service on merit. The commission is authorized to employ a Chief Examiner to preside over examining boards in Washington or elsewhere in the States where examinations are to be made, with a stenographer, the examiner at a salary of \$3,000, and the stenographer at \$1,000.

NEITHER House of the Legislature have yet got to active work—the committees not having been announced. We trust at least that Speaker Faunce will make up his committees from the very best material at hand, with special reference to the character of business to come under their supervision, without regard to favor or location. The present legislature from whom perhaps intelligent and discreet action in all its workings is more than ever desirable and expected, must depend largely upon the intelligence of these committees in maturing that work and placing it properly upon the calendar. In framing them a grave responsibility rests upon the Speaker. The appointment of good committees will secure good results in the general business and this fact should not be lost sight of by Speaker or members in the first stages of the season.

FREDERICK JOSEPH of Washington, and John Brennan, of Baltimore, were attacked Saturday night at Baltimore by two negroes, and Joseph was probably fatally injured. His skull was fractured. Brennan was cut in the back with a razor, but only slightly hurt. The negroes escaped.

IN a recent letter to Chauncey F. Black, president of the Jefferson Democratic Association of York, Pa., the venerable Horatio Seymour writes as follows: "I am gratified with my election as a member of your association. While I am no longer able to take an active part in politics I feel a deep interest in public questions and a strong desire for the success of Democratic doctrines. I think we are on the eve of a great and lasting political revolution. Centralization has made so many scandals and abuses that the more thoughtful Republicans see that these are the results of a concentration of power which the founders of our constitution meant to avoid. While the Republican leaders in so many States in which they have been defeated try to show there were so many different causes for their disasters in different sections, it is clear there is a common cause, 'a ground swell,' of which those alleged causes were effects. There is a general feeling in the Republican ranks that they are wrong in their theories of government. For this reason they are unable to heal their dissensions or to call out their voters. The country means to go back to the principles of Jefferson. I have written a short article on this subject which will appear in the *North American Review* for January next.

THE proposed amendment to the Constitution presented by Mr. Flower giving the President power to veto separate items of appropriation bills now being discussed, is as follows:

"Every bill, resolution or vote containing several items of appropriation of money to which the concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary, shall be presented to the President of the United States, who may object to one or more of such items while approving of other parts of the bill, resolution or vote. In such case he shall append to the bill, resolution or vote, a statement of the items to which he objects, and if on such reconsideration one or more of them shall be approved by two-thirds of each house, the same shall become part of the law, notwithstanding the objections of the president."

A similar provision has been incorporated in the constitutions of many of the States, and if the amendment is added to the constitution of the United States, will serve as a wholesome check to the log rolling system by which river and harbor and other thieving jobs are made up.

GEN. LILLEY, of Carbon county, is credited with the statement to the effect that not one cent of the \$3,000,000 collected from the National Government as war claims, has ever been covered into the State Treasury and that he knows the men that received the money. This is certainly a remarkable statement, if not a remarkable "mare's nest." About the time of the collection of these claims, considerable discussion took place as to the amount of compensation to which the State agent would be entitled on paying over the money collected into the State Treasury. That difficulty, we believe, was adjusted at the time, and there is no doubt that the money realized was accounted for; but it will do no harm to direct inquiry to the subject by our State authorities.

THE Republicans of the Illinois Legislature are squabbling over the spoils. Sixteen Senators, it appears got together and fixed up a slate dividing all the positions among their special friends, leaving the balance of Senators unprovided for. These have bolted from the caucus and promise to make things lively in the election. It is a noble exhibition and is additional proof of the noble aspirations of the "grand old party" which seems to be in Illinois, as elsewhere, only held together by the "cohesive power of public plunder."

Let the Change be Made.

The *Washington Post*, speaking of the propositions of Congressman Browne, of Indiana, looking to the gradual abolition of the pay department of the army, says: "It can work no injustice in any quarter, for it does not aim to deprive any officer of his commission, rank or emoluments. It will simply put a stop to appointments to the pay corps, permitting present members to hold on until death, retirement, resignation or other causes of removal shall have expurgated that corps of the army."

Economy demands this change. We have officers enough—indeed many more than enough—without going into the ranks of civil life to bring into the army a source of discord and irritation. If the banks and other disbursing institutions of the country were to employ as many cashiers and clerks in proportion to the amount disbursed as we employ in the army, they would be ruined by their salary lists, and a bank in business hours would look like a mass meeting. If it had not been for the fact that a change of the kind contemplated is always resisted by influences so numerous and strong that its accomplishment is next to impossible, this corps would have ceased to exist years ago. No congressman of average intelligence and a fair range of information which we are happy to believe most congressmen possess, can have failed to know that the maintenance of the corps was not only a waste of public funds, but a positive injury to the service.

It is the custom for political bosses to give the army paymasterships to their henchmen. Such an appointment has always been regarded as a choice piece of political patronage for the office lasts until the incumbent draws his last breath, and that event seldom happens early to gentlemen who are so very agreeably situated as are the officers on the retired list of the United States Army.

There have been great abuses in the disposal of this portion of the Federal spoils. Old men have been shoved into the pay corps to do nominal duty for a few years, and then go on the retired list, to be supported in a rest that they have not earned. Politicians of low degree have been made army pay-masters in return for political services of an unworthy character. More than one man of bad repute in this city has suddenly bloomed out as a major in the pay corps, having been able to secure the prize from a statesman who deemed it politic to conciliate him or shut his mouth.

We do not mean to charge or hint that such appointments have been the rule, or that there are no honorable men in that branch of the service, but it is a notorious fact, and will be frankly admitted by the gentlemanly element of the pay corps, that appointments of an astonishing and disgraceful character have been secured by the worst influences, and that such things are likely to happen until the system is changed.

OUR venerable friends of the *Millheim Journal* and *Centre Reporter* claim great antiquity for their respective journals. If our friends are accurate in computing time, they are certainly entitled to be considered patriarchs in the journalistic world. The *Journal* celebrates its fifty-seventh birthday, and the *Reporter* its fifty fifth, and according to our recollections of the venerable editors when they entered upon editorial life, we conclude the former is one hundred and seventeen years of age, and the latter eighty. The *Democrat*, being a mere youth, only having survived its fourth year, takes great pleasure in offering congratulations and the courtesies of the season to our venerable brethren, and hopes that many years of prosperity and happiness may yet be added to the long years of triumph and usefulness of the past.

SENATOR FERRY, of Michigan, has received the caucus nomination for re-election to the Senate. But sixteen Republican Senators have bolted the nomination and threatened his election. Caucus nominations appear to be growing less sacred every year and the fellow receiving it is not now always the fellow to be elected.

RED CLOUD is in Washington demanding pay for a number of horses alleged to have been taken from him by Gen. Crook ten or fifteen years ago. The Old Indian is making considerable progress in civilization, and has chosen the time judiciously to make his raid upon the Treasury, when he can secure the services of the lobby to put his bill through. After the present session that convenient aid to legislation, will again be retired from active work.

A NUMBER of cotton mills in the neighborhood of Philadelphia have closed and hundreds of the employes are thrown out of employment. This, at this season of the year, will be attended by much distress and suffering. The cause for the suspension is said to be over production, and the competition of the South. Formerly the South were the customers of our Northern manufacturers. It seems to be different now.

It seems the Cameron Senate cannot spare Delaney! He has again been put up as the Librarian and the dispenser of its stationery and knick-knacks. His unsavory record is no objection to him, now that Independents and Stalwarts are all one again. Honest men like their late candidate for Governor who got mixed up in the "grand old party" may be sacrificed without regret, but the Delaney's and such—they are indispensable!

It is announced that a syndicate of capitalists in Chicago are negotiating with the Secretary of Interior for the lease of a tract of land thirty miles square embracing 2,400,000 acres in the Indian Territory, belonging to the Cherokee and Cheyenne Indians. The negotiation it is said, is made with the approbation of the Indians. The lessees propose fencing the tract and using the land for grazing cattle and will pay a yearly rental of \$50,000.

THE *Washington correspondent* of the *Philadelphia Press*, referring to the second day of Senator Logan's speech against General Porter, says that "two or three times, when he spoke of a great military chieftain," referring, of course, to Grant, there was an evident effort on his part to be sarcastic in his application of the term, the peculiar inflection of voice and the emphasis with which he dwelt on the words being marked. Once he intimated, broadly, that the fact of Porter's having been a West Point graduate had a great deal to do with General Grant's change of opinion in regard to his guilt." There could be no plainer confession of the weakness of the case than an imputation of unworthy motives to General Grant and the generals who constituted the board of inquiry.

Tariff Revision Endangered.

There begin to be grave doubts in the minds of thoughtful observers whether any tariff legislation will be enacted during the present session of Congress. Not that there isn't great need of a thorough revision of the present tariff or that the senators and members do not realize such need. There has been much promise that such revision should be made. A Tariff-Commission was appointed last summer for this express purpose and, contrary to general expectation, it has made a report of no inconsiderable merit on this subject.

The difficulty seems to lie in the fact that the really sincere men in either House who desire to conform to the popular demand are in a woful minority. The majority of the men of both parties who occupy positions on the floor do not desire the settlement of the tariff question at all. They want it

left open till 1884, to become the great bone of contention in the next Presidential campaign. Business may be unsettled, gross injustice done to vast numbers of people and a general spirit of uncertainty and doubt made to pervade every department affected by the levying of customs duties, but as long as the politicians can use this question as a political football to help keep themselves before the public they are satisfied.

The methods of these insincere tariff tinkers are becoming more and more apparent. Between two or three tariff stools the tariff revision is to fall to the ground. The report of the Tariff-Commission wasn't high tariff enough to satisfy one class. So the House committee of ways and means falstoo work to revise the revision, on the principal that if a tariff is good at all the higher it is the better. The Senate finance committee, not willing to trust the House on this subject, have just prepared a bill with an entirely different schedule of rates, somewhat more moderate.

The free traders propose to fight for no tariff and, with the ostensible tariff men split up on three or more measures, it is not hard to see where it will all end. It is time for the people, regardless of party, to give these jugglers who are contriving how not to do it, to understand that something practical had better be done.—*Phila. Times*.

Punishing Guilty Officials.

WILLIAMSPORT, January 7.—Ex-County Commissioners Corson and Ebner appeared in court here yesterday and were sentenced by Judge Cummin. Corson's sentence being a fine of \$350 and one year and nine months imprisonment in the eastern penitentiary, and Ebner's being the same fine, with one year and three months imprisonment in the eastern penitentiary. Judge Cummin in pronouncing sentence said:

"As county officers you were members of the old board of county commissioners and the members of that board began to steal as soon as they were in office, every one of them, and if your cases had come on and been regularly tried it would have been a great pleasure for me to send every one of that board to the penitentiary for a long term of years."

The prisoners received their sentence without any visible signs of emotion. The court was crowded while the sentence was being pronounced. Immediately after the last words fell from the judge's lip the sheriff took them both into custody and removed them to the county jail, where they will remain until taken to the penitentiary, which will be some day during the week. McKinney Smith, the ringleader of the board, is still a fugitive from justice no clue to his whereabouts having as yet been discovered.

The advantages of a surplus in the United States Treasury are apparently without number. Not only does every owner of a pea nut stand send in his little bill for damages sustained in the deadly conflict with his neighbor who deals in roasted chestnuts, the stockholders of the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition also, whose big show was intended to put money in their purse but did not, are now crying behind Mr. Curtin that they are short in their accounts the trifle of \$1,700,000, which they modestly pray congress to allow them out of the national superfluities just as the little street boys in Berlin ask the Herr Baron from foreign parts for cash, with the chorus: "You are so rich and I am so poor." The tranquility of mind which is the birthright of every Philadelphian is pleasingly illustrated by this appeal to the breeches-pocket of the nation and there is every prospect that it will have its reward. It was not without significance that a long-headed citizen of the Quaker city regretted that his people had not thought in time of having a semi-centennial exhibition. *N. Y. World*.

GENERAL TOOMBS, of Georgia, says: The November defeats prove that the Republican party must purify itself or go down. The people have become weary of political chicanery and demand fair dealing.

A DEFAULTING TREASURER. Marshal C. Polk, Treasurer of the State of Tennessee, is a defaulter to the amount of half a million. He absconded but has been overhauled and arrested in Texas.