

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. F. SHUGERT & J. R. VAN ORM, Editors.

Thursday Morning, January 25, 1883.

THE Philadelphia Press believes that the Schuylkill waters should be carefully washed and bleached before being used.

THE Washington Post thinks that Republican editors ought to be grateful to the New York Herald for its editorial headed "Don't Shoot the Liars."

THE present Governor of Pennsylvania was a small boy when the last of his Democratic predecessor, which was Gov. Wm. F. Packer, retired from the office twenty-two years ago.

MURCIA, Spain, was favored with twenty-two shocks of earthquakes one day last week. This would be a charming retri for people of nervous temperament in which to cultivate muscle.

THE wheat in this county is now under a comfortable covering of snow, and we may have good hope that the protection thus given will result in a good yield to gladden the hearts of the farmers in the summer.

THE President having approved the civil service bill, it is now a law. The first act under the law will be the appointment of the commission and the adoption of rules to govern in carrying out its provisions.

THE Rev. George A. Gordon, of Greenwich, Connecticut, is certainly a hero of rare merit, as he is doubtless an instructor of rare excellence. He declines to leave his parish in a country town to accept an \$8,000 position in a city.

THE Princess Louisa, who is a daughter of Queen Victoria, and her husband, the Marquis of Lorne, travelling in the South, are now in Charleston, South Carolina. It is said that the party are to be entertained by President Arthur on their return trip to Canada.

THE Greenback Congressmen want a picnic. They held a conference a few days ago and agreed that the principles and organization of the party should be maintained, in view of an anticipated picnic to come off in the near future, when the principles they advocate will be appreciated. They are to issue an address at an early day.

STARROUTE DORSEY has retired from the secretaryship of the Republican National Committee. His resignation was received and accepted at their meeting last week, but no vote of thanks for the work he performed in defeating Gen. Hancock and electing the Republican President, with the funds abstracted from the National Treasury, appear in the published proceedings.

THE New York Times is a Republican organ of recognized ability and influence, but it does not take kindly to the Republican project of securing two additional Senators by the admission of the rotten borough of Dakota to the family of States. It says: "A community so corrupted and debased is not fit to be a member of the family of States. It is not likely that an honest Congress will grant an organic act to the repudiating territory of Dakota." "An honest Congress" certainly would not, but whether the Congress that accepts leadership from the repudiators of Virginia, and makes up its majority by the fraudulent admission of frauds to its membership, possesses a sufficiency of honesty to forego the advantages to be derived by "the grand old party" in the admission of the rotten territory is somewhat doubtful.

An Important Bill.

The Hon. W. A. Wallace, Senator from this district, last week introduced and will urge upon the attention of the Senate a bill the necessity of which seems to be very apparent, and the results of which if it shall become a law, cannot now be estimated. We give the preamble to the bill which sets forth the cause that has led to the introduction of such a measure.

WHEREAS, differences frequently arise between persons engaged in the iron, steel and coal trades in this State and strikes and lock-outs result therefrom which paralyze these important industries, and great loss upon both employer and employed and seem to find their only solution in starvation or in force, which does not accord with the teachings of humanity and the true policy of our law;

And whereas, voluntary tribunals, mutually chosen, with equality of representation and of rights therein and a frank discussion there, by the persons interested, of the business questions involved are the plain paths to mutual concessions and cessation of strike; and the choice of an umpire by the parties themselves to whose arbitration matters in dispute are to be submitted for final decision if they shall fail to agree is in accord with the practice and policy of this Commonwealth;

The introduction of this measure is we believe the first effort made to organize tribunals under authority of law to settle the long and often disgraceful, as well as disastrous disputes between the laborer and his employer. It is well that the task of framing a law for this purpose has been undertaken by one so able and competent as Mr. Wallace. Coming from him and receiving the full impress of his long and ripe experience as a legislator and a lawyer, it will be as perfect as it is possible to make a human law. The provisions of the bill are voluntary. There is no compulsion or litigation in it. Twenty-five workmen, citizens of the United States, who have been in the trade two years, and one year in the district, and five employers, each employing ten workmen can petition the judge to issue a license for a tribunal composed of an equal number of employers and workmen, two, five, or seven, and an umpire, all of whom are to be named in the petition. The tribunal thus licensed shall exist one year. There may be one in each district in each trade. The umpire cannot act until the discussion is exhausted by the tribunal after three meetings. He may then be called upon and his decision is to be final except as to the rate of wages. Witnesses can be called and evidence submitted. No attorneys are permitted to go before the tribunal. The members of the tribunal are to serve without salary, and fuel, light and room are to be provided by the county. If agreement in the petition for a tribunal cannot be had, either side may petition and obtain a tribunal license and thus place on the other side the burden of refusal to discuss the question at issue. Not having the bill before us, we have given its substance as we understand it. In further explanation, we give the remarks of Senator Wallace, made at the time he introduced the bill, when he said:

"I ask for the reference of this bill to the committee on the judiciary general. I shall urge it upon the attention of the Senate. The necessity for some lawful tribunal to adjust, or to try to adjust the difficulties now so prevalent in the trades must be apparent to all. This bill proceeds upon the theory that in business matters men are equal; that a frank discussion by themselves of their grievances is the road to their settlement, and that purely voluntary methods are better than compulsion or litigation. The bill is purely tentative. I have no pride of opinion as to any of its details, and seek criticism and advice from all interested. In a government of law, such as we boast, it is a disgrace to all of us that the ultimate remedies for strikes and lock-outs are force and starvation. This bill is but an honest effort to avert this disgrace, and to arouse and agitate the public sentiment of the State to the necessity for action in this field."

We hope this bill shall become a law. That it is greatly needed, no one will question, that it is wise in its provisions and broad in its concep-

tions no one will doubt, and that there has not heretofore been some tribunal, outside of force and starvation, organized, to which the laborers in our mines and manufactories could go for relief is a disgrace to our civilization. If this bill shall become a law, a tribunal can be organized in which the laborer shall stand on a level with his wealthy and more powerful employer. There he will not need to fear to go—discussion shall be full and free. In that tribunal he can take all his grievances, produce all his proofs with the full consciousness that when he is heard, justice will be done him. That is all he can and will ask. A strike or lockout, only works starvation. It settles nothing but produces great distress. In most cases, the employer, by reason of his abundance, is able to wear out the scanty means of the laborer, and he returns to his work impoverished with his grievances unsettled. If this bill shall become a law and be wisely adhered to, we believe the day is not far distant when strikes and the disastrous results which they bring alike to the employer and the employed, as well as to the business of the country, will be a thing of the past. For this bill and the beneficent results we believe it will bring, the great body of laboring men will ever be indebted to Mr. Wallace.

It is not amiss here to assume or express the gratification we feel in the ability and fitness of our Senatorial representation. Who but the thought full and ever vigilant Wallace could have wrought out a measure fraught with so much interest to the thousands of men who toil in our mines, mills and furnaces, and their employers? To be represented thus by a man of mature experience and statesmanship, is certainly a gratulation that may be indulged by any constituency, for in addition to the advantages to accrue to the public interests from intelligent and competent representation, whether in the Senate or in the House, a self-respect attaches to the constituent in which he may be justified in taking an honest pride. We are proud of our Senator.

THE New York World pertinently observes, "It might be as well for our esteemed contemporaries of the Republican persuasion who have been pronouncing Governor Pattison's administration of Pennsylvania's affairs a failure before it was begun, to suspend passing sentence and inflicting capital punishment until he has been tried and found guilty. If he should prove an Edson and Mr. Cassidy turn out a Kelly and a Haskin rolled into one, the Democrats will not be behind the Republicans in censuring and correcting him. But for the present let the Governor and the Attorney-General have fair play. It will certainly strike the impartial observer as curious that, Mr. Cassidy being altogether corrupt and unscrupulous and Mr. Pattison his unquestioning and servile tool, the business of the Comptroller's office in Philadelphia should have been discharged during Mr. Pattison's two terms with such brilliant efficiency and unswerving fidelity to the principles of economy and reform. If Mr. Cassidy really is Mr. Pattison's leader and is anxious to use him for corrupt purposes, why didn't he begin where the pickings were most plentiful?"

SOME Republican and Independent papers seem to be greatly disgruntled by the appointment of Lewis C. Cassidy as Attorney General. They will do well "to possess their souls in patience" for a season. Cassidy will probably neither make a fool of himself, or disappoint the people in the performance of just such duty as they desire to have intelligently transacted in Pennsylvania. When he fails, it will be time enough to cry him down or find fault with the Governor for his appointment.

Nittany Valley Railroad

A charter was granted at the State Department last week to a company to be known as the "Nittany and Southern Railroad Company," and the Hon. W. A. Wallace, S. R. Peale, Frank McLaughlin, John Hickey, R. R. Peale, W. H. Brown, Thomas Yardley, J. J. Pie and W. W. Morrison are named as directors. It is the purpose of the company, we are informed, to build a road connecting with the Susquehanna and Southwestern road, of which Mr. Wallace is President, at Mill Hall, and passing through Nittany valley to Bellefonte. This, we believe, is one of the links in what is familiarly called the "Vanderbilt chain."

CONGRESS MAN COX, of North Carolina, has presented a bill in the House providing that in cases of contested elections, the contestants shall be paid nothing unless the House shall ascertain and declare that there was reasonable grounds for the contest, and that the pay shall then be such only as to cover the necessary expenses and not to exceed \$2,000. The passage of this or some stringent measure to put a stop to the profitable business of contesting seats, seems to be a necessity to protect the country from a political speculation which is yearly increasing and has already become a formidable abuse. Every year contests without any merit are taken to Congress for the mere purpose of drawing the pay usually allowed to contestants, and some provision of law should be made to arrest the increasing evil by making it less profitable.

THE New York Sun says: "At least 100,000,000 acres of land, worth from \$300,000,000 to \$400,000,000, have been forfeited by land grant railroad companies through failure to earn the grants. Grave questions are involved in the action of Congress, and they are not to be determined in the hurly burly of the lobby. It is impossible for this Congress to act in the matter in the short time left at its disposal. It will be the duty of the Forty-eighth Congress to see that not an acre of the public land is illegally conferred to any corporation, and it will be equally the duty of the next Congress to see that no corporation is wronged because it is a corporation. It is proper, however, for the Forty-seventh Congress to take steps to prevent the issuing of patents from the Land Office while the final settlement of the question is pending. The sympathy with the plans of the land grabbers exhibited by certain officers in the interior department and the department of justice needs to be restrained from taking practical shape."

DISASTERS by flood and fire and rail, has made the opening month of this year memorable for its list of horrors. To the terrible fire disaster at Milwaukee, the frightful collision on the Pacific railroad, resulting in such destruction of human life, and many others of less horror, is now added the sinking of the Hamburg-American line's steamer Cambria in the German ocean last Friday, which went down with its living freight of over four hundred souls. This was the result of a collision with a British steamer in a dense fog. The doomed vessel carried four hundred passengers and a crew of ninety-two, about eight of whom are reported to be saved.

OUR Republican friends are quite hilarious over the economical determination of Governor Pattison to assume the duties of his office without cost to the Commonwealth, for the parade and show so lavishly indulged heretofore on such occasions. Well, let them be merry. The people who pay the taxes will not object. Governors and officials who decline to spend the public money, except for legitimate purposes, are the men the county need and expect to favor in the future.

SLIGHTLY cold. The thermometer registered 26° below zero in Colorado on Friday last.

PROVIDING escapes from fires in hotels and manufactories and places of amusements, is agitating the public now about as much as the tariff question, with about equal chances of a satisfactory solution.

A BRITISH statistician estimates that in one hundred years the population of North America, including the United States, Canada and Mexico, will reach eighteen hundred millions. The estimate is probably not strained. We shall not wait to count them, however.

THERE are some who believe that Gen. Grant is in training for the Presidency, but there is no good reason to suppose that such is the fact, although there are many who would use him for that purpose if permitted. Grant, however, it may be safely assumed, has abandoned the idea of a third time as one of the unattainable things in Republican government.

THE Stalwart journals who sneer at the economy of Gov. Pattison for declining to be inducted into office at the expense of the State, would have seen found in denunciation had he encouraged the expenditure of the public money for that purpose. If the Stalwarts can make themselves happy over it, Pattison can stand their jibes.

THE people of the French Republic, it appears, begin to think they have had about all the "Imperial" nonsense they need, and by the imprisonment of Prince Napoleon are giving notice to the "Napoleonic Dynasty" that it is time for the Imperialists to emigrate or become satisfied and faithful citizens of the Republic. The late manifesto of the Prince did not result in the kind of insurrection expected.

THE reform spirit which struck the Republicans of the State Senate ten days ago, when they declined, on motion of Mr. Lee, to elect all the army of subordinates in that body, has disappeared. Senator Davies' resolution kills all the vacancies in the Senate left open at the organization. Now, when Delaney is whitewashed, things in the Senate will be lovely again, and move on in the old rone.

MR. JAMES McMANES, the Philadelphia "Boss," has been defeated for reelection, and the Gas Trust ring that has so long plundered the city, controlled its elections and defied the people under his chieftainship, has been broken up. It was a hard struggle, but the reform sentiment has become too powerful and exacting for these rings. They have to go. McManes was one of their ablest and perhaps most meritorious of their bosses.

THE last "Southern outrage" upon the "colored man and brother" seems to be working out in North Carolina. They have been driven into the business of railroad construction and are now making a road of their own, with their own capital, to be operated and conducted for their own benefit. If the Republicans do not interfere to stop these outrages upon the down-trodden negro, they may yet be driven to the erection of their own cotton factories.

A. J. NEUBERGER, the Steelton Stalwart postmaster near Harrisburg, has been arrested and imprisoned on a charge of misappropriating funds received on money orders. He was appointed in October last, on the recommendation of Congressman Barr. He states that the most of it was paid on Habbe's assessments and other advances in aid of the Republican candidates last fall, for which he has receipts in his possession.

THE Philadelphia Record very properly remarks: "The bill introduced in the Legislature to extend the time for keeping up separate schools for soldiers' orphans ought not to pass. The greater number of soldiers' orphans are now young men and women who have attained their majority. The youngest of them are 17 years old. The State has expended millions of dollars upon this praiseworthy charity, but the object of it has been fully attained. The money hereafter expended will not be for the orphans but for the proprietors of the schools. They have been paid for what they have done, and are not entitled to any further consideration."

QUEEN VICTORIA is said to be a large real estate owner in New York.

The Senatorial Elections.

EXCELLENT SELECTIONS ON THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE.

The elections to the United States Senate which have thus far been held have secured for that body some of its best members for another six years, particularly on the Democratic side of the House. Mr. Beck has received a renewal of his commission from Kentucky, and the State could not have done better. On the 4th of March he enters upon the fifteenth year of his service in Congress, having been eight years in the House and six in the Senate. He is a man of great uprightiness—and for that matter downrightiness also—of strong sense and strict honor. He is a diligent worker, and though a very earnest partisan, of generally broad views. He is one of the few Democrats who have intelligence and courage sufficient to hold fast to the traditions of his party with reference to the tariff, and it will not be his fault if the Democracy does not meet the issue of reform, which is steadily increasing in importance, boldly and clearly. Mr. Morgan, of Alabama, who has been selected for a second term, has won the respect of the Senate for his painstaking and candid manner of dealing with legislation, and particularly with questions of constitutional law. Mr. Lamar, of Missouri, though presented by ill health from taking so active a part as he is fitted to take, is a recognized leader of the Southern Democrats, and a much more liberal one than his antecedents had led the country to expect. Mr. Garland, of Arkansas, has just been re-elected by the unanimous vote of both Democrats and Republicans in the legislature, only three votes being refused him, and those by so-called Greenbackers, whose abstention rather augmented than decreased the force of the compliment. Mr. Garland is one of the most highly esteemed members of the Senate, and one of the most useful. He is a faithful and sometimes an extreme Democrat, but in matters of practical legislation, and particularly in those involving legal questions, his services have been extremely valuable. Senator Butler, of South Carolina, has shown unexpected aptitude for the work of a Senator, and is a growing man, with whom the South has every reason to be satisfied. His position in regard to the civil service reform bill was in striking contrast to that of some of his fellow-Democrats from the North.

Of the new men on the Democratic side, ex-Governor Colquitt, of Georgia, is best known throughout the country on account of the interest in his course as Governor. He is a man of original force and unquestioned talent, but inexperienced in Congressional service. Mr. Randall L. Gibson, of Louisiana, has been six years in the House, and was elected to the Senate without opposition. He is one of the most cultivated gentlemen that the South has sent to the national capital, and his liberal views, an independent character, and much personal influence. The Democrats have re-elected Messrs. Harris, of Tennessee; Ransom, of North Carolina; Saulsbury, of Delaware; and Coke, of Texas, so that it will be seen that of the fourteen Senators from that side whose terms expire in March, nine have been re-elected. Among them are the strongest, while by Mr. Gibson and by Mr. Kenns, of West Virginia, two more seats have been filled by men of Congressional experience and of tested ability.—New York Times (Rep.)

THE Princess Louisa smokes cigarettes.