

# 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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Thursday Morning, February 1, 1883.

**LIEUTENANT FLIPPER**, the colored graduate of West Point, who embezzled himself out of the American army, is now a brigadier General in the Mexican Army.

**HOAR** of Massachusetts has been re-elected to the Senate, and a cry of fraud similar to that which secured the Republican nomination for Governor of New York, greets him from members of his own party.

**THE Baltimore American** gives its Republican friends good advice, when it says: "Don't rely for success in 1884 on Democratic blunders. The opposition are doing tolerably well just now. They haven't put their foot into it for some time."

**THE rumor** is again revived that Secretary Folger is about to resign the Treasury Department to be appointed an associate Justice of the Supreme Court. This time rumor makes a very satisfactory change, when it arranges for *Alvande Bradley* to step down and out in order to make the vacancy.

**EX-GOV. HOYT** in the closing days of his term was pretty roundly abused by his former political associates, and why? Simply because he learned at a late date it is true, that he was Governor, answerable for his own reputation as such, and not the Camerons. His experience however, of the selfishness of bosses, will no doubt be of great value to him in the future.

**SENATOR HARRISON** of Indiana, who in two or three years service in the Senate, has been able to secure soft places for seventeen or eighteen relations in the public employ, besides an indefinite number of adherents, is now said to have a brother for the office of Marshal of the middle district of Tennessee. The Senator is a candidate for President, of course.

**JUDGE JERE S. BLACK** fell a short time ago and fractured his right arm in several places. The physicians believe he will never recover the use of it. But the brave and grand old statesman, always equal to emergencies, it is said, has learned to write with facility and rapidity with his left hand, and conducts his business and correspondence himself as formerly.

**ANOTHER COMMISSION WANTED.** It is proposed in Congress that a commission of seven be appointed at a salary of \$10 a day each to consider the subject of inter-state transportation, and to report at the next session. The country will soon begin to think that there is a little too much commission for the money involved and the advantages derived from these outside organizations.

**THE great reform papers** of Philadelphia are so entirely disconcerted over the appointment of a competent Attorney General, that they show an unwillingness to accept reform from the Governor. They have nothing but cold water for his attempt to reform the Recorder's office, of which their complaints have been incessant for several years. *The Times* particularly cannot imagine that anything good can "come out of Nazareth."

**THE Governor's appointment** of Mr. Page as Recorder of Philadelphia in place of Recorder Lane and Boss Quay, is furiously opposed by the Republicans in the Senate. Mr. Lane was Quay's chief deputy and succeeded him to the title of Recorder, when the latter was reappointed Secretary of State, on an arrangement, it is asserted, to divide the profits of the office with the boss. Of course the stalwart Senate will resist any change in this nice arrangement of their favorite bosses.

Congress is devoting this week to the consideration of the Tariff bills and expects to make such progress as will secure the passage of a bill before the close of the session. Doubtful things are altogether uncertain, and unless Mr. Kelley and the other extremists do not show a greater spirit of compromise and liberality, the whole thing may break down, or be worthless as a stable settlement of the vexed questions if passed. The country has made a loud call for the revision and reduction of our revenues, and it will not be good for the health of any party to close its eyes to this demand. What is needed in a tariff more than any thing else, is fairness to all interests as far as practicable and stability. If this is not had now, the subject will continue as an interminable struggle until such a result is attained. The extremists on either side need bridling. At present the question is considerably mixed, each House working upon a separate bill with evident conviction that each has the only bill that should pass. The *Harrisburg Patriot*, speaking of the mixed condition of affairs says: "Amendments will undoubtedly be made to both measures and when the two bills meet then will come the tug of war. Amendments which coincide can be parliamentary methods be united, but the difficulty will arise in constituting a single bill."

The only way to accomplish this will be by a conference committee between the house and the senate. Upon this committee will therefore devolve the settlement of the whole question.

The formation of this conference committee will of course rest with the presiding officers of the two houses of congress so that it seems probable the question of high or low tariff rates will depend entirely upon the weight of influence the advocates of the respective rates will be able to bring to bear upon those officers in the formation of the committees.

All this will consume time in the latter part of the session and when these facts are taken into consideration it becomes evident that the plan of the republicans to place upon the democrats the responsibility for the failure of tariff legislation will sadly miscarry. It is not likely that the democrats will ask for an average reduction greater than ten per cent. of the schedule prepared by the ways and means committee and no effort will be made to obstruct the passage of the bill now before the house. The muddle into which tariff legislation has settled is entirely the result of republican delay and anxiety to make party capital out of a subject which the people in most decisive terms have asked shall be treated thoroughly and fairly.

It is announced that the Prince of Wales contemplates making a visit to this country in the early spring. Well, let the Prince come. He might bring his widowed mother with him. Our President, Arthur, is a widower, and knows how it is himself. He will treat them well, and no doubt give them a champagne supper at the White House with a free ride to Mount Vernon. Mr. Washington, however, owing to his great age, and the tendency to sleep even when distinguished visitors call, may not be able to show any personal attention to the representatives of England's sovereignty. But they will not lack attention.

**SENATOR MITCHELL** did not vote on the bill to restore Gen. Fitz John Porter, and compares very unfavorably with Senator Cameron, who had the manliness to vote, even against his friends on the side of justice, while Mitchell dodged and claimed a pair with Senator Johnson, a friend of Porter, on political questions, leaving word with Logan that he considered the Porter case political. On this Logan demands that Johnson should not vote in the absence of Mitchell. This was just such action as might be expected from a coward and sneak.

### Another Railroad.

A charter was issued on Thursday last at the state department to the "Harrisburg and Western railroad company," the capital stock of which is \$18,000,000. It runs to a connection with the Pittsburg, McKeesport Youghiogheny railroad, to a point in the county of Allegheny, nearly opposite the mouth of the Sewickley Creek railroad. The principal office is in Harrisburg. It will run through the counties of Dauphin, Cumberland, Franklin, Huntingdon, Fulton, Bedford, Somerset, Westmoreland, Fayette, Allegheny and Washington. The capital of the company is \$18,000,000, being at least \$10,000, for every mile of road proposed to be constructed, and shall consist of 360,000 shares of the par value of \$50 for each share. The officers of the company are a president and a board of six directors, and the following are the names and places of residence of those who shall manage its affairs for the first year until others are chosen in their places: President, Richard K. Sheldon, Philadelphia; William T. Sanger, Harrisburg; G. M. Watson, Allegheny; George O. Morgan, Allegheny; P. T. McNamara, Pittsburg; Geo. P. Grover, Allegheny; Frederick P. Grotevent, Harrisburg; H. C. Judson, Allegheny; C. R. McCullough, Pittsburg; Edwin W. Smith, Charles I. Crawford and John M. Wiley Pittsburg.

**MR. REAGAN**, says the *Washington Post*, stated in the House last Saturday that a number of Senators had informed him that the President had said, he would call an extra session of the Forty-eighth Congress if this Congress failed to pass a tariff bill. It may become the duty of the President to call such a session, but the possibility or probability of such a contingency should not induce the friends of revenue reform to permit any tariff bill to be crammed down their throats without using all proper means to mitigate abuses. When the Forty-seventh Congress expires it will have been in session eleven months—eight in the long and three in the short session. Ten of these months are gone. But thirty working days remain, and most of this brief residue must be expended on the appropriation bills. Under these circumstances the majority, whose members cannot agree among themselves on any bill, proposed to hold the minority responsible for an extra session, should the President decide to call one. There has been scarcely a day of either session, since the first one began in December, 1881, in which the duty of framing and passing revenue bills has not been urged on the majority by the minority. That duty has been systematically shirked. The Forty-seventh Congress cannot escape this condemnation due to those who trifle with great public obligations. The Forty-eighth Congress can and will reform the tariff and internal revenue if this Congress goes off the stage with a confession of disgraceful incapacity.

### A Marked Man.

*The Head of the Washington Citizen's Committee Shadowed by Enemies.*

WASHINGTON, January 29.—Mr. J. W. Thompson, a banker of this city, has been at the head of a committee of citizens who have been the means of disclosing the rascality of the detectives here who, by a conspiracy with thieves and burglars, have been engaged in a system of compounding felonies for some years past. He is evidently marked for vengeance, as it has been discovered that he is constantly shadowed wherever he moves by some one of these detectives. Whenever he leaves the house in the evening he is followed and upon his return the same mysterious individual may be seen dogging his footsteps near or at a distance, according as his movements are observed. Who is following Mr. Thompson cannot up to this time, be discovered, but his friends have become anxious about his personal safety, and means are being taken to probe the mystery.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "If the present legislature is a reform legislature and acting in good faith up to the pledge of the party last fall, why do they hold no session from Friday noon until 7 o'clock Monday evening? This was a prominent complaint against the Republican legislature that they only held sessions three days in the week, and how can we excuse in a Democratic legislature a dereliction of duty which we condemned as little less than a fraud in a Republican legislature?"

In reply to our friend, we can only say that we give it up! Conundrums are senseless things after all, and it would be no answer to our correspondent to say that *seeking office and juggling office* are two very different things. The case to which he refers is inexcusable so far as we know, and we have nothing to offer to justify it. Perhaps the members can see through a mill stone more clearly than we can. But, it is due to candor and justice even from a growler to acknowledge that the democratic house has done well thus far in the interest of reform, when compared with the legislature preceding it. It is true, it has not passed many bills, but it has only been in session since the first of January, and in that brief time considerable preliminary work has been accomplished, in which it was discovered that useless officials could be dispensed both sufficient to save \$10,000 or 12,000 to the tax payers of the commonwealth, besides the inauguration of a Democratic Governor at a saving of an additional \$10,000, as compared with the cost of inaugurating a Republican Governor. Added to this, the Speaker had to appoint and arrange the Committee which were completed and announced several days sooner than the same work was accomplished two years ago when there was no such interferences to be encountered. Then the Republican House did not report a single bill before the 28th of January, whereas on the 19th of January, this year, the Democratic house had reported twenty five bills. From these facts it is apparent that very little reason is given to excite unduly the chronic growler, thus far.

A St. Louis special of the twenty-seventh instant and a Cincinnati telegram of the same date mention an instance of such magnanimity as is very rarely paralleled. It appears that Father McCarthy, a "Lazarus Father" and superior of a well known religious school called "The Sarrons," in Perry county, Mo., has fallen heir, to a fortune of \$1,000,000, all of which he will apply to the payment of the debts of Archbishop Purcell. Should this report be fully corroborated, as we trust it will, the creditors of the Archbishop will receive a handsome dividend, and as most of them are poor, the money will do a vast deal of good. It gives one a hopeful idea of the possibilities of human nature to see a man who has been poor all his life making such use of a great fortune which he has inherited.

**MINNESOTA** farmers are cultivating sugar cane with great assiduity. Those who have raised crops say they make more money in that way than any other kind of farming, and it is believed by many experimenters that the industry will prove even more lucrative than in the South. The seed grown from Northern cane is also valuable. For feeding animals it is esteemed as good as corn, and it is better adapted for the manufacture of glucose. It is stated that there is no such compensating returns from the production of Southern cane. Steps are being taken toward the erection of large sugar factories in several of the Western States, with some of which will be connected works for the manufacture of glucose. Some enthusiastic Northern cane-growers predict that we will soon be able to produce enough sugar to supply our people, who now pay \$100,000,000 a year for that staple to foreign nations.

**DICKINSON**, the foreman of the late Star-route jury, has been indicted by the Grand jury for corruptly endeavoring to influence the votes of his fellow jurors.

### Democratic Truthfulness.

A discussion in the House at Harrisburg, Monday evening, provoked by a resolution on the tariff, offered by Potts, of Chester, demonstrated several facts that are not without interest. The most important of these, perhaps, are first—that the Republicans have not forgotten that their tariff demagoguery has been a matter of considerable partisan profit to them in the past, and second—that the Democrats are, after the lapse of many years, at last becoming shrewd enough not to be caught in any traps by it. The resolution attacked Congress for being hasty in its action on the tariff, and for not being sufficiently protective in their notions, and instructed the Senators and requested the members to vote against any revision of the tariff at this session, urging that the reduction of taxes necessarily is a reduction of the internal revenue taxes. A number of speeches were made, and those of the Democrats were as heartily for protection as those of the Republicans, the difference being that the latter were talking mainly for buncombe and partisan advantage, while the former were uttering their honest convictions on the subject. Practically everybody in Pennsylvania, as the *Union Leader* has repeatedly asserted, is for protection, because protection helps Pennsylvania. If they lived in a purely agricultural State, they would be for Free Trade, because Free Trade is for the best interests of the people of agricultural states, as they understand it. This may not be a particularly patriotic view to take of the subject, but patriotism has as little to do with influencing men's opinions of tariff as with their notions of the transit of Venus or the source of the Nile. The difference is that the Republican protectionist makes or tries to make, it appear, that he is for high duties because his heart goes gushing out to the down trodden laboring man, and because that it is Republican, that he understands the subject in all its details, and that he and he alone is faithful to the doctrine, while the Democratic protectionist admits that he is for high duties from selfish considerations while partisan friends in other states are for free trade for the same reasons, that as to details he is not thoroughly posted, and that the dividing line on the subject of the tariff is a territorial and not a partisan line. It is no confession of ignorance of which they need be ashamed to admit their lack of thorough understanding of the details of the tariff, for it is doubtful if a majority of the national House, after all the time they have consumed in listening to discussions upon it, have acquired anything approaching such thorough knowledge. The other day the House voted to levy a duty of twenty five cents a gallon on cotton seed oil, of which, in 1881, the country exported 3,444,084 gallons, and excepting during two years none was ever imported. It is only of late, however, that Democrats have gathered the courage to acknowledge the truths on this subject they now freely admit. And it profits them to be honest at last. It enabled them to vote to refer the Pott's resolution to a committee, without fear that such action could be made to appear as an act of Democratic antagonism to the tariff, while in refusing to vote for it they escaped putting themselves upon record as supporting one of the most arrant pieces of demagoguery recently attempted.—*Union Leader*.

POSSIBLY the most ridiculous tax now borne by the people of the United States is the \$25,000,000 yearly paid out of the Treasury for the purpose of buying silver bars, and out of them coining *Blind dollars* to be stored up unused in vaults built to contain them. The number of these dollars now in store is over ninety four million, and we go on piling them up at the rate of two million per month after the most positive demonstration that there is no demand for them in this country or elsewhere, because of their over valuation.—*Phila. Record*.

### Three Senatorial Tangles.

The Republicans have three tangled Senatorial skeins to unravel yet. These are in Michigan, Minnesota, and Nebraska—an unusual number to occur in one winter. They are, perhaps, the last evidences of the dissatisfaction which was so marked a feature of the canvass of 1882. The only result to be deplored is the probability that some of the ablest Republican Senators will probably be displaced by weak compromise candidates.—*New York Tribune*.

THE Senate on Friday last passed the bill abolishing the office of Delinquent Tax Collector of Philadelphia and empowering the Receiver of Taxes to discharge the duties of that office. This is one of the Reform bills prepared by the committee of One Hundred.

A NOVEL bill has been presented in the Connecticut legislature which requires the voter at the polls, when casting his ballot to remove his hat. This kind of legislation might do in a state were they burnt witches by statute and made it unlawful for a man to kiss his wife on Sunday.

It is given out that Senator Cameron will voluntarily retire to private life at the close of his present term in the Senate. He may retire, but it will be altogether safe to leave out the "voluntary" part of the programme. Don is the boss, and late events indicate that he is abundantly capable of maintaining his position as such in his party.

**MR. HULINGS** of Venango, has introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to enforce the provisions of the Constitution against unjust discriminations in freight charges of railroads. The bill affixes penalties for violation of the Constitution in the matter of freights and leaves it to the courts and juries to decide what constitutes unjust discrimination. If the bill passes, it will doubtless have a corrective influence upon an evil much complained of.

THE Committee of the Senate did not take kindly to Senator Cooper's bill to compel every man to vote or forfeit two dollars and fifty cents for failure to qualify himself to exercise the right of suffrage. The committee did not approve the bill. This is bad for Cooper. By compelling the indifferent Republicans to pay their own taxes, he might in a great measure dispense with the assessments which bothered him so much last fall. The forfeiture clause was certainly a very brilliant idea that would have immortalized his statesmanship if incorporated in a law, and spread upon the statute books.

**THE** character of Bowen, the new Senator from Colorado, is very well shown in one of his railroad adventures. He was attorney for a road which was to receive a certificate for its lands upon the completion of each ten miles. This provision was complied with by building the first ten miles of road, whereby so much land was secured. The rails were then taken up and moved ahead ten miles and re-laid and another land certificate applied for. This was continued until the three hundred miles of line were finished and the lands secured. When it was all done Bowen made the speech of congratulation at the jubilee. This was a very smart performance, but such performances were not formerly looked upon as giving men great claims to positions in the United States Senate.—*Phila. Times*.

If the above represents correctly the character of the new Senator from Colorado he is certainly a man of very low grade, discredit to the body he enters, if not to the legislature who send him and the people of the State, he will presume to represent.

**COLORIED MEN** as land owners are looming up in the south. It is said by Alabama papers that the price of land has advanced in many parts of that state, and that this advance is mainly in consequence of the colored men who have saved money investing in farms. To own land, says one paper, has a good effect upon the colored man, he feels that he has a stake in the country, ceases to be an active politician, and almost invariably votes the democratic ticket. The situation of the colored man is different in the north, few of them acquire property or obtain positions of trust and responsibility as they do in the south. This may be accounted for in the fact that there the colored man is not subjected to the same degree of race prejudice that greets him here, is more independent as a citizen, commands respect for industry and enterprise, and repudiates the idea that he is a chattel of a political party who claim their allegiance on a false pretense.