

The Centre Democrat.



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

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The Centre Democrat.

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Thursday Morning, December 13, 1883.

THE deputy commissioner of internal revenue gives the internal taxes already collected for the present fiscal year at the rate of \$123,000,000, and estimates the amount to be collected for the entire year at \$130,000,000.

THE Democratic National committee are to meet in Washington on the 22d of February, to agree upon the time and place of the meeting of the National convention to nominate the next President of the United States.

THE difficulty of obtaining a jury in Fayette county, to try young Nutt for the murder of Dukes, has necessitated a postponement and a change of venue. The case has been certified to the courts of Allegheny county for trial, but the time of trial is not yet announced.

THE caucus of Democratic representatives at Washington on motion of Gen. Slocum, of New York, seconded by Gen. Rosecrans, of California, resolved unanimously that the fourteen crippled soldiers now on the roll of employes under the doorkeeper of the house, shall remain undisturbed in their positions.

A PARTY of American capitalists have purchased a Mexican volcano with a view of mining sulphur from the crater, and have made arrangements for the transportation of 50,000 tons a year. What next? Will Yankee enterprise rest here, or invade another sulphurous region we read of to extract wealth and fame as a tribute to Yankee grit.

WE publish on our fourth page the Governor's message vetoing the salary grab bill. Although both houses passed the bill over the veto, the reasons of the Governor remains, and will commend themselves to the people to the confusion of the grabbers when they present themselves for re-election.

SENATOR BUTLER has introduced a bill in the senate to abolish the internal revenue system. It provides that "all laws and parts of laws and all rules and regulations of the departments now in force for the collection of the internal revenue tax be and the same are hereby repealed." The act not to take effect until twelve months after its passage.

ALL efforts of the Republicans to create distrust and division in the Democratic ranks in the organization of congress, proved an entire failure. The highest satisfaction is expressed everywhere with the election of Mr. Carlisle, and by none more sincerely than by those who desired the election of Mr. Randall and Mr. Coxe, who were the prominent competitors. The rumors now sent out that these distinguished representatives are deeply chagrined and bent upon giving trouble, is all bosh. They are not that kind of statesmen. It will not pay the Republicans to build large hopes upon Democratic dissensions this year.

SENATORS GORDON, COXE and Emery each turned over \$1,800, their entire pay for the extra session to the Treasury. Lee, of Venango, refused to take \$970 of his total, Kennedy, of Philadelphia, covered in \$510, King of Schuylkill, \$350, Longenecker, of Bedford, \$310, Vandegrift, of Bucks, \$160, Biddis, of Pike, \$130, and Aull, of Allegheny, Cooper, of Delaware, Davies, of Bradford, Greer, of Butler, Grady, Hughes, Smith, Reyburn and MacFarlane, of Philadelphia, and Hess, Humes, Hart, Harlan, Keefer, Lantz, Mylin, Shearer and Wagner turned in \$110 each. Watres covered in \$125. Crawford of the house turned in his entire pay, \$1,870.

The Last Proposition of the P. R. R.

After coquetting with the Pennsylvania committee, making appointments and postponing the meeting week after week, President Roberts finally invited our Centre county gentlemen to meet the board. They went to be overcome by the generosity (?) of that great and peculiar institution of our state. Our people were led to believe that, this time, the railroad was honest, that its officers felt hurt because our people expressed a slight distrust in their fairness and good intention. Yes, our people are easily gulled. As well expect a hungry wolf to change his nature, as this robbing, tyrannical and rapacious monopoly to do one honest act of reparation to our community. The committee was met by the insulting proposition to raise \$25,000 to complete the road. If we did give them the money they would not finish the road, the officers have too often deceived our people for us to believe that. It is only another attempt to bleed us again. There is not one man in the whole county of Centre that will give this blood sucking vampire a cent. Welcome the time when we may be free from the chains of a monopoly.

PORTER, the Republican Governor of Indiana, does not take kindly to the proposition of Mr. Blaine to divide among the states the revenues collected from whisky and tobacco. He says of this amendment of Blaine to the Barker-Pennsylvania scheme of raising revenue for distribution among the states, that if it should be adopted the state governments would soon practically cease to exist. Local self-government would soon disappear and centralization would have limitless sway. All taxes, in whatever form, are a tax on the people. Let them be customs taxes or any other form of taxes that the people will long tolerate they are taxes that come from the people. When they are not felt by the people, but are taken from them seditively and secretly, the government runs inevitably into extravagance and corrupt expenditure. When the people feel the taxes they enforce economical and pure administration. I should look upon the adoption of the scheme of supporting the state governments by indirect taxes collected by the general government as the first step towards the downfall of the republic. The best government is a simple government, frugally administered, and the further you remove that government from the people the less there is of simplicity and frugality.

THE latest novelty is the attempt of the Philadelphia Press to hold Senator Wallace responsible for the failure of the apportionment bills, out of revenge for some fancied grievance against the Governor. Senator Wallace's official course is always open and manly, and is never prompted by unworthy motives, like his riveters, in performance of duty to his constituents or the state. His speeches and acts during the session give the lie direct and emphatic to the Press' insinuation. He had no motive for antagonism with the administration, and we venture to assert that none existed—certainly none that would influence him in the manner charged.

This attempt on the part of the Press to cover up the revolutionary and dastardly conduct of its party representatives in the senate, is unworthy as it is mean, will prove a failure. The people of the state are thoroughly posted on this subject, and can have no difficulty in fixing the responsibility where it belongs.

A PERTINENT INQUIRY. Not less, says the Washington Post, than a billion dollars have been expended on the army and navy since the war, and yet we have not a fort, a ship or a gun that would be better than toys in case of actual need. Where has all the money gone?

A Short Session of Congress.

There is a popular belief, says the Harrisburg Patriot as well as a uniform hope that the present session of Congress will be brief. Ex-Speaker Randall, in an interview before the meeting, gave voice to this idea, and Speaker Carlisle, about the same time, indicate that his judgment was running in the same direction. As these two distinguished gentlemen fairly represent the majority party it is not unlikely that a policy of which they agree will become the prevailing sentiment. In the matter of legislation there is really nothing of importance to protract the session. There are certain incongruities and inequalities in the tariff bill passed at the last session which might and probably will be corrected, but any legislation of this character attempted at all will be so uniformly supported that little delay or difficulty will be experienced in disposing of it. There is, however, plenty of work to do in one direction, and that is in the matter of inquiring into abuses and irregularities in the public service. It is intimated that the manner of Stanley Matthews' appointment to the supreme court bench will be made the subject of inquiry. The manner in which "Brewster, attorney general, has been conducting the affairs of his department likewise invites a searching inquiry, while the allegation that George Bliss has been indulging in crooked practices while a special attorney of the United States is also put down for investigation. It is not only proper but important that these several investigations should be made, but it does not follow that the session should be protracted on account of them.

THE Pennsylvania Senators and Representatives on Thursday last pocketed the salary grab to the last shilling possible to drag out of the Treasury, including the ten days' recess and mileage. There were a few honorable exceptions, and these only will compose the roll of honor of a legislature famous for inefficiency and disloyalty to their oaths and the rights of the people of the Commonwealth. It is but just, however, to say that the majority of the members of the House endeavored to perform their duties, and made all the sacrifices that could be expected of them to affect the object for which they were called, but they spoiled a fair record by their parsimony, when they accepted the ten days' grab and mileage. With the Senate, there is no extenuating circumstance in the case. The conduct of that body, controlled by a radical machine majority, acting under the instruction of the absent boss, from the inception to the close, was lawless and revolutionary, exhibiting a disregard of their sworn obligations to the supreme law of the State. Besides abdicating its legislative functions and refusing to act with the House four or five days of each week, these Senators with an unparalleled meanness, now come forward to claim ten dollars a day for the whole time they were absent from their post of duty, at home, attending to their private affairs. It is nothing but a downright dastardly steal from the Treasury of the State, and no guilding or explanation can shake anything else of it. The end is not yet, whether as to the larger or lesser steal.

COL. QUAY, Boss Cameron's sub, having run the machine in Harrisburg satisfactorily and defeated the apportionment bill, has now been transferred to Washington to represent his superior in the Federal patronage mill. It is said he has opened stately quarters at Willards, which are constantly thronged by the party scavengers of Pennsylvania in pursuit of plunder and place.

RUMOR is again rife that Secretary Folger is to retire from the Treasury department, to be succeeded by J. C. New.

Taking Whisky for State Revenue or for Federal Revenue.

Mr. Blaine has found a defender for his plan of distributing the Federal whisky tax among the States in Professor James, of the Pennsylvania University. He discusses the financial aspect of Mr. Blaine's project in a spirit of ingenious amplification which merits more attention than the project itself. As a means of raising money for carrying on the State Government the suggested plan of distribution is already practically laid aside. It has been received and discussed in a spirit nearly akin to derision. But there is an incidental value in the suggestions of Professor James that ought not to fall lifeless with the corpse he seeks to vivify. It sometimes happens that a correct conclusion is reached from mistaken premises. Professor James sustains a whisky tax because indirect taxation is preferable to direct taxation; because it is better to tax luxuries than necessities; because such a tax falls on the consumer, with no possibility of shifting it to other shoulders; and because the redundant revenue which might in this way be obtained would enable us to increase both the number of public functions and the efficiency of the public service through enlarged means of expenditure.

Here is a rare jumble of right reasons and wrong reasons for retaining the whisky tax! It should nevertheless be retained, not because it is better to pick the pockets of taxpayers than to make them stand and deliver openly, but because a whisky tax may be so cheaply collected that money is saved to the taxpayer and his interest subserved. Not because the whisky drinker would pay the whisky tax, or any more than his share of it, for taxes diffuse themselves by the operation of well defined economic laws, and hence the injustice of taxing single objects, while others go free, is mitigated. Not because we are not governed enough, and need to expend more money for more government. To whatever extent the whisky tax would contribute in multiplying public functions or functionaries it would, indeed, be an injury.

The reasons, above alluded to, which Professor James gives for retaining the whisky tax are largely delusive and unsatisfactory. Nevertheless the whisky tax should be retained. It only costs about 3 1/2 per cent. for collection. Customs revenue, laid for revenue only, is collected at a cost of about 3 per cent.; laid for protection the cost attains such huge proportions as to defy accurate statement. To whatever extent, therefore, the tax on whisky may be made to stand instead of our present method of tariff exaction, it is a positive gain and blessing. We welcome Professor James' argument, much of which is unanswerable, as a shot aimed in the right direction, though intended to support an indefensible misuse of the taxing power of the Federal Government.—*Phila. Record.*

Protecting Pennsylvania Labor.

Among the 1,002 immigrants who were landed at Castle Garden last week, says the *New York Telegram*, "were 300 miners, who will find employment in the coal fields of Pennsylvania. They came in the steamship Lessing from Hamburg, their passage tickets in most cases being purchased on the orders of mining companies and superintendents who required their services. Many of the miners came originally from Austro-Hungary. They left here via the Pennsylvania railroad this afternoon for Philadelphia. When they arrive at the latter city they will be assigned to different mines in the Lehigh and Lackawanna regions."

At a time when the coal markets are declared to be overstocked, and work in consequence is limited to three days each week, it would seem that the importation of foreign labor is not as protecting as it might be to Pennsylvania labor.

Among Our Exchanges.

The warning from Ohio that fifty thousand Republicans would stay away from the polls if Arthur should be nominated as the party candidate next year has chilled the movement for him in these parts, says a letter from Washington.—*Gettysburg Compiler.*

Now we shall get at the true inwardness of the Dana boom for Holman. If the dodge was to kill off McDonald to make room for an eastern man that fact will soon appear, now that Carlisle has been chosen speaker, thus defeating the eastern combination.—*Hartford Telegram.*

It will be time enough to criticise the Democracy in congress after they have placed on record their votes and speeches. So anxious, however, are the Republicans to weaken the action of the majority that they anticipate results, and condemn before a hearing. Is such a course patriotic, honest and becoming men claiming to be representatives of a great party?—*Sun and Bonner.*

Governor Pattison will not be well advised to call a new session of the Legislature.—*Milton Economist.*

In common with the majority of Pennsylvania's Democrats, we hoped for the election of Randall for Speaker, but since the choice has fallen upon Mr. Carlisle, we are ready to accept the result without any forebodings as to the future. Mr. Carlisle is talented and conservative enough to encourage nothing tending to create business disturbances, and all his speeches on the much-abused question of revenue reform have indicated as much.—*Lewis town Sentinel.*

No matter by what hair-splitting devices and legal grips the members of the legislature may seek to bolster up their salary grab, the people of the state who will look mainly to the equities, will heartily indorse Governor Pattison's ringing veto message.—*Post.*

President Arthur has discovered, by this time, how much easier it is to write a message without expressing a definite opinion, than to harvest favorable opinions by sowing this negative seed.—*Phila. Press.*

Cox notices that "sunset" comes earlier every day as congress nears the opening session.—*Weekly Call.*

Mr. Carlisle could take the iron-clad oath that he had not been engaged in rebellion against the government, while Mahone's contingent to the Republican party had to content itself with the modified swear, confessing its participation in that little fracas.—*Altoona Times.*

Governor Pattison vetoed the appropriation bill, but the senate and house passed it over his veto. It rings like a cathedral bell.—*Clarion Democrat.*

The selection of Mr. Carlisle for their political leader is the most respectable thing the opposition to the government have done in a quarter of a century.—*Chicago Times.*

The Republican members of the house have not the slightest reason to complain because Mr. Keifer thrusts himself forward as the leader of the minority. Mr. Keifer would be a fool if he did not look upon the nearly unanimous vote cast for him by the Republicans on Monday as evidence of continued and great esteem, respect, admiration and confidence.—*New York Times.*

Senators Coxe, Emory and Gordon, refused to take any salary whatever, on the ground that it had not been earned. It's a pity the state did not have more senators after this pattern.—*Doylstown Democrat.*

The cheek that impels to denunciation of Carlisle and the extolling of Keifer would shame a rhinoceros.—*Union Leader.*

Governor Pattison will feel lonely now that his rebellious and idle school has been dismissed.—*Altoona Tribune.*

Proceedings of Meeting of Board of Trade.

BELLEFONTE, PA., Dec. 6, 1883. A meeting of the Bellefonte Board of Trade held in the office of Messrs. Beaver & Gebhart at 7.30, P. M.

Gen. Beaver being absent, John Irwin, Jr., was elected President pro tem. The committee appointed to help secure the right of way for the proposed railroad from Beech Creek to Bellefonte reported that the engineer had not completed his survey yet and asked to be continued. On motion of D. G. Bush, the following preamble and resolution was offered and unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, A report has been circulated that the Bellefonte Board of Trade was antagonistic to the proposed new railroad in this vicinity, to be constructed in the interest and under the auspices of the Pennsylvania railroad company, growing out of the fact that said organization passed a resolution and appointed a committee to aid in procuring right of way for the proposed new railroad from Bellefonte to Beech Creek; and

WHEREAS, Said report is without foundation, and the only reason why said resolution was passed was because a written proposition came before our Board of Trade in reference to said Beech Creek road, with a request for action thereon, whilst no request whatever had been made for similar action by the Bellefonte, Nittany & Lemont railroad; and

WHEREAS, We are desirous of correcting such erroneous report and manifesting our hearty sympathy with every enterprise tending to develop the resources of our county; therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting to do anything in their power to aid the Bald Eagle Valley railroad to acquire right of way, sites for depots or anything the said railroad company may require to further their interests in the building of said branch.

Resolved, That the President appoint a committee of six, with whom the officers of the Bald Eagle Valley railroad company may confer to make known their wishes in the matter; and it is further

Resolved, That the Secretary shall furnish the Hon. L. A. Mackey, President of the Bald Eagle Valley railroad company, and the Hon. J. N. Dularry a copy of these resolutions, including the names of said committee.

The President appointed the following committee: D. G. Bush, Robert Valentine, Frank McCoy, A. C. Curtin, Jr., W. P. Jenkins, Jr., James A. Beaver.

Adjourned. J. H. LISGOLD, Secretary.

—Daily News.

MONSIGNOR CAPEL says: "There are a good many Catholics in this country—8,000,000, somebody says. Your public school system is inadequate for them, and they are going to leave it. Suppose that the Church sends out an authoritative command to the Catholics to start schools in every parish, and support them, and send all Catholic children to them. It can be done by the utterance of a word, sharp as the click of a trigger. That command will be obeyed. New schools will spring up everywhere. What will be the result of that? A fight! Do you suppose some millions of people are going to pay taxes twice over—once for their own schools, and again for Protestant schools, from which they get no benefit? If it isn't a downright fight, it will be at least the warlike condition—a million or two of voting, tax-paying citizens hostile to the Government."

If Monsignor Capel's mission to America is simply one of stirring up the fanaticism of his sect, he had better go home at once. If he can't comprehend that our government is based on civil rights and knows no Protestant, no Catholic, his religious brethren had better shut his mouth at once. Such unwise utterances, fortunately will do no harm. American Catholics are American citizens as well, and hold as dear as any of us the great principles of free government, and would fight for the bulwarks that defend them. No one objects to any one building schools for themselves, but the people will sternly trample down any interference with the public school. Monsignor, perhaps, has forgotten the example of Italy, France and Belgium.

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