

The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT is published every Thursday morning, at Bellefonte, Centre county, Pa.

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Exorbitant Estimates.

WASHINGTON, January 4.—The Democrats have found that the department for the public service for the next fiscal year are largely beyond what seems necessary for the efficient transaction of business. This appears even upon a cursory examination of the estimates, and is particularly noticeable in the Treasury estimates. A year or more ago Secretary Folger informed Congress that he was convinced that there were more employes in the Treasury Department than were requisite for the public service, but that he did not know exactly where to begin the pruning. It was reasonably supposed that by this time he would have sufficiently familiarized himself with the business of the overgrown establishment under his charge to inform Congress exactly where the curtailment of the clerical force ought to be made, but instead of doing that he had allowed the subordinate chiefs to inflate their estimates at will, and even to ask for an increase in the number of clerks, which would add over \$120,000 to the gross expenses of the department. Of course the chiefs of divisions did not expect that their requests would be granted by Congress, but they have been in the habit of asking more than the public service really needs for the same reason that merchants sometimes put exorbitant prices upon their goods. Congress may be made to believe that it is getting the work cheaply at a large discount upon the official estimate of cost. In the departments, this fixing up of things to hoodwink Congress is a subject of merriment. The present Postmaster General has countenanced less of this exaggeration of estimates than any of the other heads of departments although his is the growing branch of the service.

ANOTHER ALPINE TUNNEL.—The completion a few weeks ago of the boring of the Arburg tunnel gives interest to a few statistics of the great Alpine undertakings of this kind now in existence. In length the Arburg is 10,270 meters, the Mont Cenis is 12,323 meters and the St. Gothard is 14,900 meters. For time necessary to make excavations the figures are the reverse of what the figures for length would indicate them to be. The excavation of the Mont Cenis required fourteen and one-half years; that of the St. Gothard required about eight years, but that of the Arburg, when the vaulting, the road bed, and the rails are completed and in their proper place will require no more than four years.

The Iron and Steel Trade.

SECRETARY SWANK'S REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS OF 1883.

Secretary Swank, of the American Iron and Steel Association, is preparing his annual report of the iron and steel trade of the United States for 1883. He says that he is able now to estimate closely the year's production of pig-iron, which he puts down as equal to that of 1882, 4,623,232 tons.

The consumption of pig-iron has been about 4,948,323 tons. The year was commenced with 385,655 gross tons of domestic pig-iron unsold. There were imported during the year 325,000 gross tons, all of which has gone into consumption. Adding the estimated production of 4,623,232 gross tons to the estimated importation, and taking no account of the balanced stock at the beginning and end of the year, the total, 4,948,323—the year's consumption—is found to be the result.

The production of steel rails in 1883 has fallen off below that of 1882. There were also made, probably, 100,000 to 200,000 tons less iron rails than in 1882. The total rail tonnage of 1882 was 1,501,881 gross tons, of which 203,459 tons were iron rails and 1,304,392 tons steel rails. The total rail production for 1883 has been probably 1,300,000 gross tons, of which 1,200,000 tons were steel rails. Our imports of steel rails for 1883 have been about 100,000 gross tons, as against 200,000 tons in 1882. In round numbers our consumption of rails in 1883 has been 300,000 tons less than in 1882.

Prices have been far from satisfactory. Indeed, the decline has been very serious. No. 1 anthracite foundry pig-iron at tidewater has fallen from \$25 in January to \$21 in December; gray forge pig-iron at tidewater from \$21 to \$18; Bessemer pig-iron at Pittsburgh from \$24.50 to \$21; gray forge pig-iron, all lake ore, at Pittsburgh, from \$22 to \$19; steel rails in Pennsylvania from \$40 to \$35 (iron rails were virtually forced out of the market during the whole year by the low prices of steel rails); bar iron at Pittsburgh fell from 2.25 cents per pound in January to 1.85 cents in December; nails in the same market fell from \$3.40 to \$2.40.

Iron Manufacturers Growing Hopeful

Pittsburg, Pa., January 4.—The number of idle men in this city at present is unusually large, owing to the glass strike and the depression in the iron and coal trades. An advertisement in a labor paper on Wednesday for twenty coal miners elicited 300 responses within twenty-four hours. A prominent labor leader commenting upon the situation said: "The reports, however, from the various iron mills in this city show a better condition of things than had been anticipated last month. Nearly all the iron and steel mills are now running with fair prospects of an increase in business during the present month. The Republic Iron Works, on the Southside, which have been shut down for some time on account of a break, will start up on Monday next with plenty of business to keep them going steadily. The Black Diamond Steel Works are about to lay a train for the largest roll in the world; while several other mills are now working on double turns. There seems to be a growing demand for iron, and the manufacturers are daily becoming more hopeful. Business is increasing and the outlook is more encouraging."

A gentleman from Cleveland, who is in this city, says that the Lake Superior ore trade is in a worse condition than it has been for twelve or fifteen years past. Seven out of every twelve mines in the region are idle, and those that are running are owned by the largest and wealthiest corporations which are restricting the output. At least one-half of the ore is of the best quality, and is selling at Cleveland for 68¢ per ton which is lower than for many years past. At this price there is only a profit of fifty cents per ton.

Freezing Weather.

CHARLESTON, January 6.—The thermometer at 4 o'clock this morning registered 13 degrees above zero, the coldest weather here in 135 years.

PETERSBURG, Va., January 6.—The weather here last night was extremely cold, the thermometer in exposed places registering 5 degrees below zero. Many hydrants were frozen up. To-night the Appomattox River at this point is frozen over and navigation impeded.

CINCINNATI, January 6.—The Signal Service thermometer marked zero at 10.30 o'clock to-night, which was two degrees warmer than at the same hour last night. Navigation has practically suspended on the Ohio River.

VERGENNES, Vt., January 6.—The weather to-day has been the coldest experienced in ten years, the thermometer registering 36 degrees below zero. The snow is fifteen inches deep, and the ice on Otter Creek from twelve to fourteen inches thick.

Lake Champlain is reported closed from Whitehall to Essex Lighthouse.

The following temperatures are reported to-day: West Randolph, 38 degrees below; Brattleboro, 20 degrees to 25 degrees below; White River Junction, 25 degrees below; St. Johnsbury 40 below; Barrer, 42 degrees below; Woodstock, N. H., 36 below; Hanover, N. H., 28 degrees to 35 degrees below.

Miss Kate Kane, attorney at law, has besought the Chicago papers not to permit their court reporters to call her a "female" lawyer. "My mother," she writes, "finished the business at the christening service, when she called me Kate, instead of John, and if your reporter had any supplement to add he should have been there at the time."

An international trades union of men employed in window-glass manufacture is said to have been organized, with headquarters at Pittsburgh, and a membership of 25,000.

Some of the doctors are actually thinking of doing their writing in English. Doctors, having so much to do with the dead, may as well stick to the dead languages.

The Issue.

There is a great deal of common sense in the following propositions as put by the N. Y. World:

No honest man questions the necessity of revenue reform.

Our ordinary revenues for the fiscal year ending last June amounted, in round numbers, to \$399,500,000. Our expenditures were \$255,500,000, leaving \$144,000,000 over and above our ordinary expenditures.

To get rid of this surplus we made a forced payment of the public debt. This was unnecessary and unjust. The money was taken needlessly out of the people's pockets.

The revenue reform we want is a reduction of expenditure and taxation. The people ought not to be pinched and beggared to support a prodigal administration, to pile up a corruption fund in the Treasury, and to make an anomalous payment of the public debt calculated to disturb investments and to cripple banking facilities.

With the House of Representatives in our possession we can do much towards reducing expenditures by cutting down appropriations. The Republican Senate and President cannot prevent this, because the Government must have money.

With the Senate and President in opposition we can do absolutely nothing towards reducing taxation. They stand in the path, impassable barriers. The Senate will reject any House bill changing the Republican tariff. The President has avowed himself against reducing the revenue or the Treasury surplus.

Yet many earnest, faithful and honest Democrats insist on agitating tariff revision, and talk about the "want of courage" on the part of those who recognize the absurdity and impolicy of wasting time over an impossibility.

It is not a "want of courage" to refuse to dash out your brains against a stone wall. It is a want of common sense to try the experiment.

The party now in power stole the Presidency in 1876 and bought it in 1880. After a successful robbery and a successful bribery it will seek some means of defeating the public will in 1884.

The tariff on iron may be too high. But if the will of the people no longer prevails in the choice of a President, what does it matter how high or how low the duty may be?

The Republican administration is dry-rotted with corruption and not a single public robber has been brought to justice. We want to drive out a dishonest administration and send the thieves to jail.

Ohio is dissatisfied with the duty on wool. But of what value will be a charge of two or three cents a pound if official rascality is to be condoned and to remain the rule of the administration for want of exposure and honest prosecution?

Is it more important that sugar shall be cheapened than that the Supreme Court shall be purified by driving from the bench any Judge whose seat may have been purchased?

To make Free Trade the issue in the next Presidential campaign would not be "courage." It would be insanity.

The Republicans could afford to pay the Democracy the Treasury surplus for the next four years, if the latter would give them a tariff issue for the Presidential contest, instead of the issue whether the people still have the power to elect the President the majority desires.

Let us first find out whether we still live under a free Government. A republic may be a republic in name, and not in fact. If a party can perpetuate itself in power by the use of a vast patronage and an unlimited command of money despite the will of the people, we are no more living under a republic than are the subjects of the Czar of Russia.

What fatuity to talk of a tariff issue while this vital question is undecided! What stupidity to shoot in the air over a precluded and impossible tariff, when the Democratic aim ought to be direct at the heart of incipient treason and ripe corruption!

The report of public schools has been made public. There are 2,227 school districts in the State; 19,542 schools; 7,897 graded schools; 15,771 school directors; 105 superintendents; 8,600 male teachers, and 13,414 female teachers. The average salary of male teachers per month is \$37.03; female teachers, \$30.50. The average attendance of pupils was 937,680; cost of tuition, \$193,691.74; cost of building, tuition, fuel and contingencies, \$9,306,336.65; estimated value of school property, \$30,199,636; school tax levied for all purposes, \$5,676,541.57; estimated value of State, and incorporated educational institutions, \$8,747,389.76.

"Yes," said the high-school girl, "I removed the letter surreptitiously." "No, you didn't," replied her brother Jim; "you sneaked up to the parlor table and jabbed it into your gripsock."

Irish Affairs.

THE POPE SAID TO HAVE BEEN THREATENED.

—London, January 4.—The Rome correspondent of the Post says that the Pope's Secretary, Monsignor Boccali, opened a letter from America addressed to Leo XIII containing Fenian threats against the Pope should he continue to support England against the National cause in Ireland. The letter also states that the protection which the Italian Government gives the Pope, who is safe from dynamite, will be of no avail against the operation of the Fenians. The Pope is warned that there are priests whom he is bound to receive, who will obtain access to his presence, and who will sustain the cause of the Irish against oppression.

The Rome correspondent of the Standard says that the Propaganda will commence on Tuesday next to examine certain of Mr. Errington's proposals in regard to the line of conduct to be pursued by the Irish clergy, with a view to the better severance of their connection with the agitators of Ireland. Especially does the attitude of the American Fenians require further action. The Propaganda has promised to examine the matter from a moral point of view, and will act accordingly.

Fitz-John Porter's Case.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—General Rosecrans is very busy studying the Fitz-John Porter case. As a preliminary to this work, he went over the field some weeks since in company with a number of Union officers who were in the second battle of Bull Run. General Longstreet was also of the party. General Rosecrans formerly shared the opinion almost universal at the West during the war, that Porter was guilty as charged, and had been leniently treated by the court. His studies have brought him to opposite conclusions. He has provided himself with accurate maps of the field and with full files of all official orders bearing on the case. His prominence as an army commander and his recognized ability as a military student are already exciting interest here in his forthcoming speech.

One of General Porter's disadvantages in the last Congress was that there was no one on his side in the Senate or in the House who was well equipped with knowledge of military affairs, and with personal experience in command of large bodies of troops in battle. General Rosecrans will change this situation, and on this account, as well as the general respect for his military ability, his advocacy of the bill from his committee will attract much attention. He is understood to be bold, in common with some of the Republicans of the Military Committee, that if Porter was wrongfully condemned, the present bill does not go far enough; in fact, that there is scarcely any reparation that the Government has it in its power to make that can compensate for the wrong done Porter.

A FLOATING THEATRE is the latest innovation in the histrionic world proposed by some enterprising New Yorkers. A company has been incorporated, the capital being placed at \$1,000,000, to be divided into 100,000 shares. The first boat, which is to be called the Gladiator, is to be built on the catamaran principle, and the structure will be supported on two steel cylinders of 20 feet each. The dimensions will be 276 feet in length by 66 feet in width. The motive power will be a compound engine of 2,500-horse power, while the draught will be 7 1/2 feet. State-room accommodation for a company of 100 will be provided, while the seating capacity of the theatre itself, including parquet and two balconies, will be for 1,500 people. The parquet is to be on the front of the vessel, taking up little more than one-third its length, and the stage will be in the middle. The engine-room, state-room and dining-rooms and kitchen will occupy the after part. The boat is to be built by contract and will cost \$250,000. The idea is to visit such towns as Newport, Albany, Newark, Paterson, Stonington and Fall River, anchor alongside the dock and give them a first-rate performance. It is proposed to have a regular stock company, who will live on the boat all the year round. The cost of running it will not be nearly so much as that of managing a theatre on land, and there will be no land taxes. Later on the projectors propose to have boats to take in the Delaware and Chesapeake bays.

Mr. Henry H. Gavott, of Bridgeport, Conn., has a dog without fore-legs. There are no shoulders or joints where the legs should be. Little projecting tufts of hair are all that is noticeable. The dog manages to get around in a pretty lively manner, sometimes balancing itself on the two hind legs, which are perfectly formed, and at other times propelling itself by hops like a kangaroo.

A Highway Robber Captured.

George B. Saylor alias Henry Schmidt, was arrested in Baltimore on a charge of having with two others robbed the Wells Fargo express near Sacramento, California, on August 9th last of a quantity of gold dust. Until this evening Saylor denied his identity, but now confesses the robbery. He says that after the express was robbed himself and his companions went to Denver where the gold dust was sold and he received \$1,600 as his share of the proceeds. They then came east, his companions going to New York, and he to his father's house in York county, Pa. His presence there was discovered and a requisition was made for him by the Governor of California, upon which Governor Pattison issued a warrant for his arrest, which was placed in the hands of the Sheriff of York county. The Sheriff went to the house of Saylor's father and made known his business to the accused and his brother. While the Sheriff was reading the requisition George disappeared and all efforts to find him failed. He came to this city a few days since in a wagon, and his conduct on the road led the police here to believe that he might be the man, and search was begun. To-day he was found at the wharf of the steamer Hermann, on which he was about to sail. He is held to await requisition. His companions in the robbery returned to California and attempted another robbery near the same place, but were captured and are each now serving a sentence of fifteen years.—Ec.

A Twenty-Four Hour Watch.

The Lancaster watch company have gotten out a twenty-four hour watch. The New Era says: At first sight it looks a little perplexing to tell the time of day, but really this is not so. The 24 is at the top of the dial and the 12 at the bottom. The former represents midday; bearing this fact in mind the time of a day or night can be as readily told as on the ordinary watch. The minute hand makes a revolution of the dial once an hour as in ordinary watches. Immediately beneath the dark figures on the dial are minute ones in red, representing the minutes. The only mechanical difference between the new and the old watch is the change of figures from 1 to 12 around the dial to form 1 to 24 and interiorly of a single wheel. This does away with our a. m., and gives us a twenty-four hour watch. It may be the watch of the future.

TO PHYSICIANS.—We do not find fault, reproach or condemn the practice of any regular physician—this is not our mission—but we do claim it to be well to add Percuss to his prescriptions as directed in our book on the "Ills of Life" (and furnished gratuitously by all druggists), he would cure all his patients.

OSWEGO, Potter county, Pa. DR. HARTMAN—Dear Sir: The small ulcers are all healed, and the large ones are not more than half as large as they were. I am feeling quite well. The people say your Percuss is doing a miracle. I do not take nearly so much opium as I did before. 48-21. Mrs. E. MAYNARD

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- 3 " Lima " 25
- 3 " Corn 25
- 3 " Tomatoes 25
- 3 " Peas 25
- 1 " Good Table Peaches 20
- 3 Bottles Catsup 25
- 3 " Pickles 25
- 1 lb. Baking Powder 30
- 1 lb. Pure Pepper 25
- 5 lbs. Granulated Sugar 47
- 1 gal. Best Table Syrup (all sugar) 70
- 1 " Glucose Syrup 45

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—1—

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