

The Centre Democrat.



F. E. & G. P. BIBLE, Proprietors.

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

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FRANK E. BIBLE, Editor.

It is said our School Board has invited Higbee, the apologist of the infamous Orphan School Syndicate to deliver an address at the High School commencement. If such is the case we advise the board to withdraw the invitation.

THE Washington Star propounds the following mathematical puzzle for the Foreign Relations Committees of the two Houses to wrestle with: If the Congress of one American nation takes all Winter and part of the Spring to do nothing, how much time will a Congress of seventeen American nations consume on an equal amount of work?

THE latest developments in the Soldier's Orphan Schools, show a condition of immorality little better than that of a house of prostitution, and yet there are men so blinded in their partisan zeal as to defend the conduct of these schools. The plain truth about some of these institutions, is that they have been nurseries of prostitution, and hot beds of crime. If the state had sent orphan girls to be instructed in lewdness and gross immorality, the result would have been satisfactory. The ruin of young girls at these houses passes belief and calls for the vengeance of an outraged people. Shame on the lecherous villains who have masqueraded as superintendents and instructors. Abolish these nurseries of crime and misery, put the orphans in the normal schools and punish the infamous men who have ruined innocent young girls. And Higbee, Oh Higbee, kick him out.

Canal and Railroad Laws.

A committee of twelve gentlemen, selected from both political parties has been appointed by members of the Constitutional Convention of 1873 for the purpose of compelling the next Legislature to enforce the provisions of the state Constitution relating to canals and railroads. The Republicans on the committee are Ex-Archbishop Henry W. Palmer, Ex-Judge John M. Broomall, George N. Carson, Norriston; D. N. White, Sewickville; Levi Rooke, Winfield, and J. W. M. Newlin. The Democratic members are Ex-Senator C. R. Buckalew, President F. B. Gowen, of the Reading Railroad Company; Ex-Gov. Curtin, Attorney General Cassidy, Mortimer F. Elliott and James P. Barr of the Pittsburg Post.

These gentlemen will form no party nor endorse any individual candidates but will effect organizations in each county of the State and issue an address, calling on the voters to support those candidates who will pledge themselves to remain in session until the necessary legislation is perfected.

The object of the above committee is very good but to pledge members of the Pennsylvania legislature to remain in session until the necessary legislation is perfected is asking too much. Better pledge them to take no railroad passes and to live up to their oaths of office. Of the Democratic members of this committee two, Ex-Gov. Curtin and Franklin B. Gowen are large stock-holders in the two great railroad companies of the state which have never accepted the provisions of the new constitution, although Mr. Gowen is known to be in favor of competing lines of railway, and is engaged in a fight for the independence of the Reading Company. The Democratic members are brilliant and able men and their position with reference to the railroads of the state is well known. We hope some good may come of the work of this committee.

The Race for the Labor Vote.

It is amusing to see with what entire recklessness and utter disregard of self, the average congressman tries to catch on to the labor train as it glides out of the station. There is a desperation about the men who are now trying to solve the question of labor and capital, that has not been witnessed in a generation. It is certainly gratifying to know that among the most disinterested and unselfish champions of labor in congress are to be found bankers, railroad stock-holders, iron men and capitalists of all kinds. These men have only recently tumbled to the importance of doing something for the oppressed labor of the country. The question is an old one but its importance only strikes the congressman on the eve of an election. We may expect to see the speaker's desk groaning and shaking under the weight of disjointed crude and fragmentary bills in the interests of labor. This thing will keep up until congress adjourns or labor becomes more settled. In the campaign of this fall from every stump will ring praises of the man who was "the friend of labor." Of course the speakers will point with "proud satisfaction to the noble record" of the distinguished member from the monopoly District. Nay he will even read some of the sections of the "bill for the protection of labor;" he will tell his hearers that the gentlemen who introduced that bill was always the friend of the laboring man. Then he will ask the suffrages of the "horny handed sons of toil" for his friend. In the congressional race to catch the labor vote there will be some shins broken no doubt. But is labor to be gulled by the frantic efforts of congressional demagogues to introduce ridiculous bills which they know cannot pass, and which would afford no relief if passed? We say not. The American laborer is too intelligent to be caught by that kind of taffy. He will ask his congressman to point out a single measure in his two, four, six, or eight years of service that he has had passed in the interest of labor. They will carefully review his record and he will stand or fall by it.

There will be many seats warmed by new men next winter despite the efforts of these few found friends of labor to re-elect themselves. The next move will be for these congressmen to join the Knights of Labor. Go in gentlemen, if you bust your suspender buttons we will see 'em on again.

Wise Counsel.

Grand Master Powderly's circular has been given to the public and has met with the warmest approval. No man more thoroughly understands the wants of labor than Mr. Powderly, and no one has a keener appreciation of the danger which threatens the well being of the K. of L. organization. Local strikes and boycotts, lawlessness, the ambition of hot-headed would-be leaders and the intrigues of scheming political demagogues, are the hidden rocks on which that now powerful organization will be wrecked, unless the counsels of men like Powderly prevail. Mr. Irons may be earnest in the interests of labor but Powderly is both earnest and wise.

He deprecates strikes and declares for arbitration, he opposes the organization of new assemblies and is opposed to taking up the quarrels of individuals. He is opposed to boycotts, cautions his fellow Knights against the election of injudicious and hot-headed men to office, and warns them against the machinations of politicians. The address is wise and conservative, full of good advice, but it remains to be seen whether the wise counsels of Powderly will prevail.

GRAND MASTER Workman Powderly is now at his home in Scranton, suffering from the effects of two broken ribs, the result of a fall at Bloomington Station, Ills.

Soldiers Orphans.

GOVERNOR PATTISON TAKES FURTHER TESTIMONY.

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 27.—Governor Pattison reached Harrisburg last night after his trip through the State visiting the Soldiers Orphan Schools, and this morning two witnesses were examined at the Executive Department, David W. Denlinger, formerly a teacher at Mount Joy School, and B. W. Crawford, an old soldier for four years the shoemaker at McAllisterville School.

Mr. Denlinger was first sworn. He resides in Lancaster, and was employed at Mount Joy from November 1883 to March, 1884, as a teacher. George W. Wright was sole manager of everything, and used to come every quarter to settle up. The food was very poor. At one time four weeks elapsed before any meat was served. The doctor said it wasn't good to eat. When meat was served each scholar got a piece about as big as an old 50 cent note. There was a good bit of it and frozen feet in winter. Witness counted twenty-four cases of frozen feet and thirty cases of it. For the itchy boys themselves applied the salve, which they had in a big box. As a rule the sick rooms were very filthy, and one of them was always very cold. A great many of the boys who had the itch went to school. The boys feet were frozen because there was no heat and because they were not given good shoes. One man named Smith from Harrisburg, found his boy's shoes and stockings worn out and the boy walking with bare feet on the snow. The clothing given them was bad, and witness detailed instances (naming boys) of ragged and worn out clothing worn by boys for months. Seven sick boys used to sleep in two beds. There was no professional nurse in the institution. Witness saw a boy named Rhoads in the sick room whose feet were so badly frozen that they bled, and the raw flesh could be seen. He was a mere infant. On January 5, 1884, witness gathered the boys about the school room stove and was censured for doing so. That winter he saw four boys in a bed together to keep warm, and they had their clothing on, including caps and shoes. The children's food was poor. During witness's time they had butter once, in February, 1884, just before the Grand Army met at Lancaster. Witness said a sixteen year old boy told him how Wright through Sherbin, had urged the boy's to attack Principal Hipple, whom Wright wished to get rid of. Wright had told the sixteen year old boy \$5000 out of his own pocket for clothing. The boys did not bathe every week. The bedclothing was filthy. The chaff in the tick in the sickroom was not often changed. One boy in the sick room was all over sores as big as walnuts. The building is not fit for a school. It is not large enough, is not heated, and even the walls stink.

B. W. Crawford of No. 1825 North Seventh street, Harrisburg, was next sworn. He is a Grand Army veteran and was employed at McAllisterville school from September, 1880, to September, 1884, as shoemaker. His children went to the school. Witness produced his books showing that while the State paid a certain sum for mending he got only about \$50 or only a part of the State allowance. When Wright took hold he wanted witness to work for even less, and he left the school. Before witness left \$90 was paid him and others by Wright for making 200 pairs of shoes. Witness' children came home the winter after he left the school, and their shoes were worn out and they were compelled to wade through snow. He took them to Higbee, but nothing was done. McFarland always gave the children good clothing, but Wright did not. Sometimes the food was very bad; previous to McFarland

taking the school the meat was wormy. When he came in the food got better. Witness made his children shoes and Wright promised to pay him, but he never did. Witness was shown one of his own bills, and identified it as one he made out at the instance of the management. Witness then gave in detail an account of certain immoral acts he had witnessed at the school which is unfit for publication. He gave his testimony very reluctantly, saying that he was afraid, and it was only when assured that no harm would come to him that he spoke freely. There was a great deal of complaint about bedclothing. The itch was awful. One boy was spotted like a coach dog. Once a month the scholars bathed. The boys bathed in pickle barrels and the girls in buckets. A great many of the children were lousy and the beds were full of bugs. The boys were whipped with an oak strip three feet long, two inches wide and very thick. Witness' son had been whipped until black bruises and three large blisters were on his back. He had seen boys taken into the bathroom and when their shirts were removed the flannel had to be pulled from the sores. Clark Allen's back looked like a raw beefsteak pounded. One man named Smiley was a perfect brute. He taught the children, and called them scapegrallows, jail birds, and other names. Another attendant named Graybill was the worst of all. He made the boys bathe in ice-cold water in midwinter, and some of them got pneumonia. One boy, a sort of idiot, was made to clean out the privy vaults. E. O. Kreider professed to be a Christian, but witness had heard him whip the class with a big strap until he could not raise his arm any more, and then sit down and rest. Then he would whip them again. Many a time he walked into the school-room from his shop and told him to stop, that the thing had gone too far. The boys were given very poor shoes—made by convict labor or of split leather. The highest price paid for shoes at any time was \$2.60, except some favorite girls, who got \$4 shoes. Witness knew of men who got from \$16 to \$18 for each scholar they secured for the school.

Ex-Senator John Stewart, of Chambersburg, was in Harrisburg this week, and a representative of the Evening Telegraph interviewed him in regard to the abuses charged in connection with the Soldiers' Orphans' School. The Senator thought Department Commander Gobin and the other Grand Army men were bound to push matters even to Higbee's impeachment, as the Governor cannot remove him, and he doesn't seem to want to resign. Upon being asked if he was not somewhat responsible for Higbee's appointment as Superintendent of Public Instruction the ex-Senator from Franklin said: "Well, yes; I am responsible for Higbee's first appointment by Hoyt, but not for his appointment by Pattison. He came very near not being confirmed the second time. Senators Kennedy, King and a few others made an onslaught on him and, counting noses, found they had enough to defeat his confirmation. I heard of it, and went to them to ascertain the cause, and they said it was Paul—James L. Paul. They didn't think it was right for him to hold a position in the soldiers' Orphans' Department and at the same time be pecuniarily interested in the management of the schools. I went to Higbee and told him Paul must go if he wanted to be confirmed. He promised me that Paul should go, and I telegraphed to Kennedy, King and the others that it was all right. The next day Higbee was confirmed without opposition. I was astonished to find, some months afterwards, that Paul was still holding on to the place."

JUDOS Krebs of Clearfield county, fined a druggist \$300 for selling liquor without license.

Where Will it End?

The great railroad strike on the western roads is not much nearer the end now than it was a week ago. All the switchmen and yardmen at East St. Louis, including the Wiggins Ferry employees struck at three o'clock on last Thursday afternoon, which effectually blockaded all freight traffic in that city. Governor Marmaduke, of Missouri, has issued a proclamation, which after defining the respective duties of the railroad company and their employes continues:

WHEREFORE, I, John S. Marmaduke, Governor of the State of Missouri, by virtue of the authority in me vested, do hereby call upon the Missouri Pacific Railway Company, and upon its officers and agents and its employees of every grade, each in their several capacities, to assist in resuming traffic of all kinds, in the usual way, on all the railroad lines operated by said company in Missouri; and I warn all persons, whether they be employees or not, against interfering with said resumption, and with a firm reliance upon the courage, good sense and law-abiding spirit of the public, I hereby call upon all good citizens to assist in carrying out the purposes of this proclamation; and I also hereby pledge the whole power of the State, so far as it may be lawfully wielded by its chief executive officer, to sustain said company and its servants in said resumption, and to restrain and punish all who may oppose it.

During the afternoon a freight train was made up and sent out under a guard of one hundred and fifty police. No attempt was made to stop it. The strikers with but few exceptions are quiet and good natured. The Knights of Labor have issued a circular, replying to Jay Gould's statement saying that they had presented no grievances to the management in which they say: "We have wearied the press and worn out the types of the world in stating our grievances and demanding an opportunity to present them to Gould and his lieutenants. We have offered through the highest channels that represent us in the nation to meet him up on any field. We have sought, we have pleaded, we have demanded that we be heard. To all this Gould has turned a deaf ear, and now before the world we challenge him to hear our complaint. Before the world we impeach his veracity when he says we have not presented them. Before the world let the trial go on." Referring to the decision of Gould to sue the organization of the Knights of Labor, the address says: "Gould and his council well know that such silly emanations are an insult to the intelligence of our school boys and a challenge to the courage of our grandmothers."

The address closes with an appeal to strikers to stand firm until their organization is recognized and their demand granted.

A committee of the District Assemblies 78 and 101, Knights of Labor, covering all the territory from Hannibal, Mo., to Laredo, Texas, furnish the Associated Press a long statement of the causes which led to the strike on the Missouri Pacific road in answer to the statements of Mr. Hoxie and the Governors of Missouri and Kansas that there were no grievances. The essential points made are as follows:

The chief provisions of the contract of March, 1885, between the roads and the Knights of Labor were:

First—That the wages of September, 1884, were to be the basis, with one and one-half time for Sundays and over time over ten hours.

Second—No wages to be reduced without thirty days' notice; that the contract was to be observed on all roads under the Missouri Pacific management but leaving the Texas and Pacific railway out of the present consideration, the contract has been broken, violated and ignored time after time, to wit: In many cases the September wages never were restored as the agreement provided; section foreman were reduced \$5 per month without any notice; boiler-makers were sent out on the road from Denison and allowed only one-half time while traveling; engine wipers in round houses were reduced from \$1.25 to \$1.15 per day, the car foreman at Fort Worth was reduced \$10 per month and he then had to do the work of two men, for which the company had previously paid double what they paid him; the foreman in the mill at De Soto, Mo., was reduced \$10 per month without notice; carmen at Parsons were reduced \$10 per month without notice; many men were worked over the entire system fifteen hours per day without extra

compensation; men were discharged on no other grounds than that they had taken part in the strike of 1885, and new men were employed in their places at less wages. A systematic method of discharging in detail and replacing with cheaper men was being carried out, which, if allowed to go on, would have resulted in bringing the men back to the reduction basis against which they struck in 1885.

The committee also assert that they stand ready to prove all their assertions that they bore with their wrongs as long as they could; that they repeatedly sought redress in vain, having put about from officer to officer to no purpose, and that, finally, in sheer desperation, they struck.

The effects of this strike, in connection with that of the coal miners, is being felt all over the country, and unless an amicable settlement is soon made business will be at a stand still. The question now is, will organized labor in its just demand for fair wages, or increased capital, win.

The Great Labor Riots in Belgium Yesterday.

BRUSSELS, March 27.—The damage done to property by the strikers at Charleroi alone already amounts to \$2,500,000. The strikers have threatened to destroy the gas works which supply the city with light. Strong reinforcements of troops have been sent to help protect the city. Lieutenant General Vander Smissen has been sent to Charleroi to take command of the troops being assembled there to quell the rioting.

Property of immense value has been destroyed by the strikers in and around Charleroi. Country estates are being pillaged and burned. At Junet, three miles from Charleroi, the Sadin, Dedorlead, Devilles, Jonet and Mondron glassworks have been looted and destroyed, involving a loss of \$1,000,000 and throwing thousands of persons out of employment. At Roux two miles from Charleroi, in a conflict between the troops and rioters, five of the latter were shot dead. The strikers are armed with bludgeons and axes, where they cannot obtain firearms, and stubbornly resist the troops.

The Chateau Gultremont at Presles has been destroyed by fire by the strikers. The glass works at Marchiennes-au-Pont, two miles from Charleroi, were burned by rioters to-day.

The coal mine proprietors at Herstal three miles from Liege, have refused to accede to the demand for a twenty five per cent increase in the wages of their men, and the miners will undoubtedly quit work and become disorderly.

The rolling mills at Montceau have been sacked by strikers. Gangs of strikers are everywhere in the mining countries forcing men to stop work, and are going about pillaging the factories. The local authorities are absolutely powerless before the daily increasing strength of the rioters. It will now require very large reinforcements of troops to quell the riots. Many of the rioters engaged in this incendiary attempt were taken prisoners.

BRUSSELS, March 28.—Dispatches from Charleroi says that there has been further rioting in that town, resulting in the killing of several persons and the wounding of many others. The rioters at Junet, upon the approach of troops sent to disperse them placed 200 women in the front ranks. Troops opened fire and many women were wounded.

This is a year of Fridays. It came in on Friday, will go out on Friday, and will have 53 Fridays. There are four months in the year that have five Fridays each; chases of the moon occur five times on a Friday and the longest and shortest day of the year each falls on a Friday.

CONGRESSMAN Wm. L. Scott contributes \$500 to the Hancock Memorial Fund.

The miners employed by the Rock Hill Coal and Iron Company, resumed work on Monday last at the price demanded.