

# The Centre Democrat.



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## The Centre Democrat.

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FRANK E. BIBLE, Editor.

HIGBEE WON'T.

GREECE is endeavoring to cook Turkey, but the great powers refuse to furnish either fire or a frying pan.

Gov. CURTIN said that he was sorry that the powers of his committee were not large enough to permit the investigation of railroad building and the watering of stock. He wants to go for the railroads in The sweet bye and bye.

The letter in the *Watchman* of last week signed "Knights of Labor," reads not unlike the letter of two years ago, asking Democrats to trade their county ticket off for votes for congressmen and which was signed, W. H. BLAIR.

It has been rumored for some time that the Senatorial conferees of Centre county are to be handed over to S. W. Caldwell of Clinton, in exchange for the Congressional conferees of that county for Mr. Curtin. Wonder if the General can deliver the Centre county goods?

HON. S. W. CALDWELL and the Clinton Conferees deny the charges of the *Clearfield Democrat* that, the Clinton Conferees in the senatorial conference tried to corrupt those from Clearfield county. Perhaps the least said about the conference of 1882 would be best.

CHAIRMAN RYNDER, of the National Greenback Labor party is in Washington urging that the powers of Mr. Curtin's committee be enlarged so that the condition of affairs out in Clearfield may be investigated. If the relations between the Berwind White Coal Company and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company were known, some body might get hurt. We predict that the committee will not make its appearance in that region and for reasons well known to many.

GEN. JOHN PATTON is being pushed for the Republican congressional nomination in this District. Mr. Patton will not have a split up democracy to run against the next time, as the day of bolts has gone by. But the General is wealthy and can afford to be knocked down about as well as any Republican in the district. Besides he is a nice courteous old gentleman and makes a very respectable candidate.

THE Democratic party(?) across the bridge, is considerably befuddled because the DEMOCRAT said that Senator Wallace was out of politics. Now the best evidence in the world of the truth of our assertion is that for the past four years the party has been defeated in the state by majorities ranging from forty to eighty thousand. Such things never occurred when Wallace was at the helm. Surely the party over the bridge will not try to unload the disasters of the last two campaigns on the broad shoulders of Senator Wallace!

Mr. Gould (good humoredly). "I shall be very glad to read the opinion of the committee when a formal report is arrived at, and I will keep any investments I may have to make in abeyance until then."

The Chairman. "I hardly think you will do that if you get a fair opportunity to have a shy at Wall street, and I would like to be in partnership with you."

This closed Gould's examination.

The above is taken from the examination of Gould by the committee investigating the cause of the strike on roads and shows with what zeal the matter is being pushed. No doubt the chairman would like to be "in partnership" with the great stock waterer. Like Col. Sellers' schemes, "there's millions in it."

THE examination of W. O. McDowell a prominent Knight of Labor before the Committee investigating the causes of the strike on the South Western railroads developed the fact that one of the grievances complained of, was the watering of railroad stocks. This is an old complaint but it was a rich lead for the committee to have followed out in the examination of Jay Gould, but they dropped it like a hot potato. Mr. Curtin the chairman of the committee made the remarkable statement that it costs \$17,000 to build a mile of railroad in Pennsylvania, and yet there is not a road in the state that is not bonded and stocked to three times that amount in some of which our member is a very large stock holder. The following questions of Mr. Curtin contains valuable information.

The chairman. "It is settled that the construction of a railroad costs about \$17,000 a mile. It costs that in Pennsylvania over our mountains. Is not the great evil in all this the fact that railroad stock is watered?"

Witness. "That is the great evil of the whole thing."

Chairman. "And your theory is that the exactions made upon the men employed on the road are caused by the attempts to enable the railroad companies to pay dividends on watered stock?"

Witness. "That is the theory and there is a great irritation about it all over the country."

We quite agree with our honorable member that "the great evil in all this" is "the fact that railroad stocks is watered." But why drop such a rich mine of information? Jay Gould could have thrown further light on the vexed question of "watered stocks" and the grinding of labor to produce dividends on millions of dollars never invested. Mr. Curtin himself is a large stock holder in the Bald Eagle Valley Railroad whose stock is so dropical as to run water at the prick of a pin. The great trouble with congress is that too many of the members hold water rights in railroads.

### Inter-State Commerce Bill.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—The bill introduced by Representative Warner of Ohio, to day, to establish a board of inter-state commerce and to arbitrate the labor difficulties provides that a board shall be created to consist of five members, at the annual salary of \$6,000 each. The board shall have power on application to issue licenses to railroads or transportation companies to engage in business as common carriers; it shall be unlawful and punishable by fine for any company to carry on business between the states without such license; it shall be unlawful for a licensed corporation to discriminate in any manner in the performance of its duties, or to charge more for short than long hauls. To obstruct the business of licensed carriers, to prevent by force, threats or intimidation, any person from serving as a licensed carrier is made punishable by fine and imprisonment. Aggrieved employees may make complaint to the inter-state commerce board, and the board has the power to investigate and order an arbitration and enforce the award.

### Hoxie Offers A Reward.

NEW YORK, April 26.—The following telegram was received at the office of the Missouri Pacific railroad company this morning:

St. Louis, Mo., April 26, 1886.

Three hundred and four freight trains containing 5,000 loaded cars, run over the system Saturday, an increase of 89 trains and 1,883 loads over same day last year; 283 freight trains, consisting of 5,548 loaded cars, run over the system yesterday, an increase of 81 trains and 1,288 cars over same day last year. At 3:30 o'clock this morning freight train No. 38 was dived east of Wiantotte, Kansas, by spikes being pulled out of the ties, and fish plates taken off the rails. Fireman Ben Horton and brakeman George Carlisle were instantly killed and Engineer J. H. Fowler seriously injured. Have offered \$2,500 reward for the parties who caused the wreck.

[Signed.]  
H. M. HOXIE.

If there is anybody else who wants to be Jay Gould's partner, let him speak out.

### The Labor Inquiry.

Fresh interest has been given to the Congressional labor investigation by the President's special message on the subject, and it has made men more practical in their ideas of the labor dispute. Some criticize the President's suggestion of national tribunal of arbitration, but when they are asked to suggest something less objectionable with any promise of practical results, they are unequal to the task. All recognize the necessity of action by the government, but when they are called upon to define the proper action to be taken, they are generally silenced. The labor question has so long been the plaything of Congressional demagogues that they are appalled when they must meet the issue in sober earnest. They have delivered buncombe speeches eulogizing the horny handed sons of toil, passed loose eight hour laws which were not intended to be enforced, and then legislated in the most effectual manner to foster monopoly and make it omnipotent over labor. Now mere oratory about the toiling millions won't meet the case; Congress is face to face with the issue and something practical must be done or Congress will confess its deceit and invite the contempt of both labor and capital. The investigation now in progress will be potential for good or evil as it shall be searching and honest or superficial and dishonest. There is no room for clap-trap in the business. The emergency is too grave; the issue too momentous; the interests too vast, and the bottom truth must be ascertained and told on both sides. The committee will be compelled to report that the strikes on the Texas and Missouri Pacific railroads were causeless and in violation of the faith of the men who ordered them, and that they were maintained in violence and the lawless refusal to allow peaceable citizens to work when they wished to do so. It must be reported as a fact, also, that no demand for conference or arbitration in any formal way preceded the strikes, and that the commerce of a continent was thus wantonly interrupted, not by the strikes, but by the violent hindrance of free labor attempting to fulfill its own contracts. These are the primary questions which the committee must consider, and when they shall have been disposed of, it will be legitimate and proper to consider any of the grievances of labor which have been presented since the strike was ordered. Congress, the law-making power of a government of law, must speak in no uncertain tone in vindication of absolute right of every citizen to work or not to work, without command or hindrance from any others, and when this inherent and inalienable right shall be declared, the disputes between employers and employed should be considered and their solution presented on the highest plane of statesmanship. Any other line of action by the committee of the House or by Congress, would be only heartless mockery of the widespread distress that is now felt by both labor and capital. The Senate may amend the O'Neil bill that has already passed the House, and that is admitted to be a mere tub to the whale, by incorporating the national arbitration tribunal proposed by the President; and, considering the great need of some conserving power, and the limited authority of the general government over such disturbances, it is not likely that any better solution of the issue in Congress should be reached.

A. K. M.

—Fourteen horses and carts belonging to Thomas and Philip Collins, passed through this place last Wednesday en route for Centre county where the Messrs. Collins have a contract on a branch railroad. The appearance of the horses and carts in town caused a rumor to be put in circulation that they were to be used in the construction of the Seaboard and Western railroad, but there were few, if any, people gulled by the rumor.—Holidaysburg Standard.

### A Special Message.

THE PRESIDENT WRITES ONE CONCERNING THE LABOR TROUBLES.

WASHINGTON, April, 22.—The President to-day sent a message to congress on the subject of labor troubles. The message in full is as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: The constitution imposes on the president the duty of recommending to the consideration of Congress from time to time such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient. I am so deeply impressed with the importance of immediately and thoughtfully meeting the problems which recent events and the present condition have thrust upon us, involving the settlement of disputes arising between our laboring men and their employers, that I am constrained to recommend to congress legislation upon this serious and pressing subject.

Under our form of government the value of labor as an element of national prosperity should be distinctly recognized and the welfare of the laboring man should be regarded as especially entitled to legislative care. In a country which offers to all its citizens the highest attainment of social and political distinction, its workingmen cannot justly or safely be considered as irrevocably consigned to the limits of a class, and entitled to no attention and allowed no protest against neglect. The laboring man, bearing in his hand an indispensable contribution to our growth and progress, may well insist, with manly courage and as a right, upon the same recognition from those who make our laws as is accorded to any other citizen having valuable interest in charge, and his reasonable demand should be met in such a spirit of appreciation of fairness as to induce a contented and patriotic co-operation in the achievement of our grand national destiny.

While the real interests of labor are not promoted by a resort to threats and violent manifestations, and while those who, under the pretext of an advocacy of the claims of labor, want only to attack the rights of capital and for a selfish purpose, or love of disorder, sow seeds of violence and discontent, should neither be encouraged or conciliated, all legislation on the subject should be calmly and deliberately undertaken, with no purpose of satisfying unreasonable demands or gaining partisan advantage. The present condition of the relations between labor and capital are far from satisfactory. The discontent of the employed is due in a large degree to the grasping and needless action of employers and alleged discriminations in favor of capital as an object of governmental attention. It must also be conceded that the laboring men are not always careful to avoid causeless and unjustifiable disturbance.

Though the importance of better accord between these interests is apparent it must be borne in mind that any effort in that direction by the federal government must be greatly limited by constitutional restrictions. There are many grievances which legislation by congress cannot redress and many conditions which cannot by such means be reformed. I am satisfied, however, that something may be done under federal authority to prevent the disturbances which so often arise from disputes between employers and employed, and which at times seriously threaten the business interests of the country, and in my opinion the proper theory upon which to proceed is that of voluntary arbitration as a means of settling these difficulties. But I suggest that instead of arbitrators, chosen in the heat of conflicting claims and after each dispute shall arise, there be created a commission of labor, consisting of three members who shall be regular officers of the government, charged, among other

duties, with the consideration and settlement, when possible, of all controversies between labor and capital.

A commission thus organized would have the advantage of being a stable body and its members, as they gained experience, would constantly improve in their ability to deal intelligently and usefully with any questions that might be submitted to them. If arbitrators are chosen for temporary service as each case of dispute arises experience and familiarity with much that is involved in the question, will be lacking. Extreme partisanship and bias will be the qualifications sought on either side, and frequent complaints of unfairness and partiality will be inevitable. The imposition upon the federal court of a duty foreign to the judicial functions, as the selection of an arbitrator in such cases is at least of doubtful propriety. The establishment by the Federal authority of such a bureau would be a just and sensible recognition of the value of labor and of its right to be represented in the departments of the government.

So far as its conciliatory offices may have relation to the disturbances which interfered with the transit and commerce between states, its existence would be justified under the provisions of the constitutions which gives to congress the power, "to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several states," and in the frequent disputes between the laboring men and their employers of less extent, and the consequences of which are confined within the state limits and threaten domestic violence, the interposition of such a commission might be tendered, upon the application of the legislature or executive of the state under the constitutional provision which requires the general government to protect each of the states against domestic violence.

If such commission were fairly organized, the risk of loss of popular support and sympathy resulting from a refusal to submit to so peaceful an instrumentality, would constrain both parties to such disputes, to invoke its interference and abide by its decisions. There would also be good reason to hope that the very existence of such an agency would invite application to it for advice and counsel, frequently resulting in the avoidance of contention and misunderstanding. If the usefulness of such a commission is doubted because it might lack the power to enforce its decisions, much encouragement is derived from the conceded good accomplished by the railroad commissions which have been organized in many of the states, which having but little more than advisory power have exerted a most salutary influence in the settlement of disputes between conflicting interests.

In July, 1884, by a law of congress a bureau of labor was established and placed in charge of a commissioner of labor, who is required to "collect information upon the subject of labor, its relations to capital, the hours of labor and the earnings of laboring men and women and the means of promoting their material, social, intellectual and moral prosperity." The commission, which is now suggested, could easily be engrafted upon the bureau, thus already organized, by the addition of two more commissioners and supplementing the duties now imposed upon it, by such powers and functions as would permit the commissioners to act as arbitrators, when necessary, between the labor and capital under such limitations and upon such occasions as would be deemed proper and useful. Power should also be distinctly conferred upon this bureau to investigate the cause of all disputes as they occur, whether submitted for arbitration or not, so that information may always be at hand to aid legislation on the subject when necessary and desirable.

[Signed.] GROVER CLEVELAND,  
EXECUTIVE MESSIAH, April 22 '86.

### Interesting News.

MADRID, April 23.—An attempt was made this morning to destroy the church of San Lurie by placing an explosive in one of the enormous hollow candlesticks on the side of the altar. The edifice was badly wrecked, and two sextons who were in the building were badly burned.

TROY, N. Y., April 23.—The Saratoga special ran into a freight train on the Green Island road this afternoon. Engineer Bradshaw was probably fatally injured. The fireman jumped and escaped injury. The passengers were badly shaken up but no person was injured.

CLEVELAND, April 23.—Four little girls at Lindenville were badly mangled yesterday by three bulldogs supposed to be rabid. Physicians have been summoned to the village from adjacent cities, and there is much excitement among the people there over the sad event.

HARRISBURG, April 23.—Charters were issued at the state department to-day as follows: Excelsior building and loan association, of Altoona; capital, 1,000,000. Jefferson loan and building association, of Altoona; capital, \$1,000,000.

A little 10-year-old son of David F. Smith, a widely known lumberman of Cherrytree, Indiana county, fell into a well forty-two feet deep Wednesday evening. The frantic mother flew to rescue, sliding down the rope into sixteen feet of water, caught the child's clothes with her teeth, and was ascending the rope when help came. Though the child was badly bruised and had its skull fractured, it revived, and the attending physician thinks it may recover.

RICHMOND, VA., April 21.—One of the three tenements composing the building known as Libby Prison, used during the late war for keeping Federal prisoners, collapsed this evening from overburdened floors. The building is occupied by the Southern Fertilizing Company, and the collapsed tenement was used for the storage of fertilizers. The damage to stock and building is likely to reach \$10,000.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., April 21.—Reese Alford, eleven years old, while fishing on Baldwin's dam to-night, at 7 o'clock, lost his balance and was swept over the dam. The little fellow struggled bravely with the rapid current, but had to finally succumb, and was drowned. Two hours later the body was found near where he went under.

The loss by the Lee, Mass., flood Tuesday last, foot up \$157,000.

—Edward Schaum was instantly killed on Monday at Pittsburg by an electric shock from an iron awning post, with which an electric wire had come in contact.

Four persons were drowned in the Mohawk river, near Hadley, N. Y., by the capsizing of their boat.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce has adopted resolutions highly laudatory of Collector Hager.

A little girl named Webb was burned to death in the woods near Pottsville, this State, Friday while gathering leaves.

The town hall at Cornwall, Ont., was destroyed by fire recently, and two prisoners confined in the basement were burned to death.

Two men were killed and two severely injured by the premature explosion of a blast in the Wiggins colliery at Shenandoah, this State, Tuesday.

The remains of three children, who mysteriously disappeared from Quincy, Ill., last September, have just been dug out of a sand bank in which it is supposed they were entombed alive.

NEW YORK, April 26.—Eighty stone cutters from Aberdeen, Scotland, were landed here to-day. They are said to have been imported under a contract, and thus against the law, by one Gus Wilke, who has a contract to build the new capital at Austin, Tex. Suit will be brought against Wilke by the stone cutters' national organization.

McCONNELLSBURG, Pa., April 24.—At a meeting of the Fulton county Democratic committee to-day Captain George W. Skinner, of Big Cove Tannery, was chosen delegate to the State Convention. He was uninstructed, but the sentiment of the convention was in favor of Hon. Chauncey F. Black for Governor. The Congressional conferees were appointed, and will support Hon. W. S. Steger. The primaries will be held on June 12 and the Convention on the Tuesday following.