

The Centre Democrat.



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In the language of the immortal George. "Trotter" in on the first round. United States senate did it.

VICTORIA, the old lady who is the political head of the greatest Empire on earth, is going to jubilate this year. Vicky, old gal, just "paint the town red."

THE Philadelphia Record says, "Let us have free ships." All right, William, you can have free ships, but the cry of the country editor is for "Free passes."

THE strike of the freight brakemen and conductors on the Pittsburgh division of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad still continues, with no hope of a compromise.

THE death roll of the congress just closed, was an extraordinary one, comprising the unprecedented number of thirteen names in the house and senate. They are those of Vice President Hendricks, president of the Senate; Senators Miller, of California, and Pike, of New Hampshire; Logan, of Illinois, and Representatives Hahn, of Louisiana; Arnot, Beach and Dawley, of New York; Price, of Wisconsin; Cole of Maryland; Elwood, of Illinois; Duncan, of Pennsylvania, and Randall of Wisconsin.

MISS KATE FIELD is strongly in favor of dress reform for the ladies. In this matter we agree with Kate, and would begin the reform at the top. We would insist on that décolleté garment, the dress, being pulled up at the neck if it should leave the legs exposed from the knees down. The legs, and that's the real old English of the article, can stand exposure and cold much better than the neck and bust. Consumption never came from bare legs, but bare necks and busts are prolific breeders of that disease. The maid Mullers of the country are greatly to be preferred as mothers to the fashionable butterflies of society. And it ladies must expose any part of their anatomy to the gaze of their male admirers let it be that part that can stand the shock of indecency and cold equally well. But there is no reason for the exposure of either legs, arms, neck or busts, dress goods of all kinds are cheap and seem-stresses are plenty. However, it is only the ultra-fashionable who expose themselves. Those ladies will cut their dresses so low that the imagination of man is utterly useless, yet they would faint at the appearance of a bare-footed girl in a ball-room, of the two, the girl with her "ankles bare and brown" is the more modest, and by far the most sensible. Let us have dress reform that will save the health of those in "good society." Pull up your dress at the neck, young lady.

The 49th Congress.

At high noon on Friday the 49th Congress gave up the ghost, and became a matter of history. In many respects it has been an eventful Congress and accomplished much good. If the inter state commerce law shall prove what its friends hope for, that alone would be enough to make the 49th Congress memorable. The bills providing for coast defences and a new navy are measures whose necessity could not be questioned and have met the general approval of the Country.

The retaliatory measures against Canada were forced upon Congress by the unreasonable and unjust action of the Dominion Government but it is to be hoped that the differences between us and our northern neighbors will be adjusted amicably. The pledges made to the people by the Democratic and Republican parties to revise the tariff, correct its inequalities and relieve them of its great and unnecessary burdens, have been violated, and the responsibility for that violation on the part of the Democratic party lies with Mr. Randall and his followers. The Republican pledge to do the same thing with reference to the tariff was not made in good faith and was intended to be broken. The surplus in the treasury will still pile up, though perhaps less rapidly than heretofore because of the construction of a new navy and our coast defences. Much bad legislation was passed in the shape of private pension bills but was vetoed by the President.

The dependent pension bill which met its defeat at the hands of Mr. Cleveland was the most glaring piece of congressional robbery ever attempted. A quietus has been put on that kind of legislation at least during his term of office. On the whole it has been an eventful and profitable session and the people are glad it has died a natural death. It might have done better.

The Tenant Farmer.

The condition of the tenant farmer of our State is beginning to excite the greatest concern of those who have given the matter any consideration at all, and when we look at the number of sales that are advertised all over our own county this spring it is a question of considerable moment. To the question, "Why are you selling out?" we have received the invariable reply, "I can't make a living at farming here," and many add "the landlord wants it all." Many of our tenant farmers are going south and west. Perhaps not less than a hundred of this sturdy, industrious, law-abiding class with their families will leave the county after April 1st. The landlord comes in with his complaint also, and says his farm does not pay him. There are several causes for the complaints of landlord and tenant in our county. It is evident to even the most casual observer, that Pennsylvania cannot successfully compete with the west as a wheat growing region, even though she were not discriminated against in the matter of freight to the eastern markets. We pay as much for one acre of land here as the farmer pays for three or four in the west, and every acre of western land will produce more grain with less labor than an acre of Pennsylvania land. Farcy prices are asked for farms, often double and treble what they are worth as grain producers. And on this fictitious price the landlord expects to realize his six per cent, although he never does. The tenant farmer is given as little chance as possible and the result is that he sells out after trying for several years to make a living for himself and family, and moves west or south. The only mistake he has made is in not having moved in either of those directions before trying what the experience of the past fifteen or eighteen years has proved to be an impossibility viz: To make more than a living as a tenant farmer. There is nothing wrong with

our system of farming, though the labors of the farmer may have to be turned in another direction. We cannot compete with the wheat growing west. We might make our farms pay by turning them into stock raising and grass growing farms. In a few years the tenant farmer of Centre county will be the exception where in many sections he is now the rule. The place for him is in the west or south where he can secure better terms as a tenant, or can purchase for himself a house and lot in one of our country villages. Every Spring finds the tenant farmer going west and the cause assigned is always the same. It is the best thing he can do.

A Compromise.

THE miners and operators of the Clearfield region have reached an amicable solution of the question of wages and there will be no strike. That is by far the most sensible way of solving such questions, miners and their employers can enter into an agreement and keep it as well as any other set of people. There is a spirit of fairness running through all classes of people which makes the adjustment of the most difficult question possible. In this spirit of fairness the miners and operators met and agreed to harmonize their differences. The miners are to receive 50c. per gross ton of 2240 lbs. for mining, to have a check weighman on each tippie whose wages are to be paid through the office as heretofore.

Payday on the third Saturday of every month, and the men free to purchase goods where they please without interference or restraint from "operators or organized labor." All miners and mine laborers to be paid in full in money, deducting for powder oil, squibs, cotton, rent, fuel and smithing. The miners have got about all they asked and the operators have simply accorded them justice. Harmony prevails and if the agreement is not violated, both parties, and indeed the entire mining community will be benefited. If the "walking delegate" and professional striker is kept out of that section its business will boom. It is a matter of congratulation that wise counsel has prevailed.

A Railroad Senator.

EX-GOV. ABBETT, of New Jersey, falls the victim of Corporate Vengeance as did Thurman of Ohio. True it is that the man in public life who runs counter to the wishes of the great corporations, sooner or later is politically decapitated. Gov. Abnett is the latest victim and his case but serves to show the American people that in the great corporations founded under their laws but amenable to none, lies the greatest danger to their political liberties. Blodgett who was elected Senator by the Republicans with the aid of purchasable and disreputable Democrats is Superintendent of the New York and Long Branch railroad company, a millionaire and perhaps a Democrat, though the latter is very doubtful. He may make a Senator, but there would have been no doubt about Abnett. The Democratic Sentiment of the state was unquestionably for Abnett, but personal grievances real or imaginary, "kickers" and rogues have overridden the wishes of the people of that state and another has been selected who represents the corporations instead of the people. Still another argument in favor of electing United States Senators by popular vote.

Pennsylvania Has a Murderer.

LANCASTER, Pa., March 4.—Levi Brooks, living in Elizabeth township, was shot this morning by Mary Foshert, a relative, and instantly killed. The woman claims that she saw Brooks coming up the steps with a knife in his hand, and fearing that he was going to kill her she got a shot gun and fired a shot through the door, killing Brooks instantly. The cause of the latter's visit is not known. The victim, who was a widower, leaves five children. The murderer has not yet been arrested.

Henry Ward Beecher.

The death of Henry Ward Beecher removes one of the intellectual giants from the world. Brilliant beyond the most brilliant of pulpit orators his usefulness as a teacher was greatly impaired by his erratic course as a theologian. Indeed Mr. Beecher's mind was always in a formative condition on this important question and he really had no fixed religious belief. He seemed to be trusting to evolution to furnish for him something on which he could stand firmly. Outside his lack of fixed principles as to theology he was a man of strong convictions and positive force on other questions. As a lecturer he had no equal. In history he will rank with Bossuet and Massillon. As a writer he was most forcible and convincing, as a man he filled a large space in the world's eye and will be greatly missed by a large circle of friends. He was undoubtedly a man of great personal magnetism and in all his troubles never lost the confidence of his followers. He comes of one of the most intellectual and brainy families of America and was the brightest star in the whole lot. It will be hard to fill the position made vacant by the death of Mr. Beecher, and his church will likely tumble to pieces because of his very teachings. All the cohesive force of the congregation was in the magnetism of its pastor. They are to-day as uncertain of their religious convictions as he was. There was something lacking in the dead man that will leave a cloud of uncertainty hang over his memory although the wonderful sun of his great mind may shine through the rifts.

He leaves to the world a legacy of doubt and uncertainty. He attempted to tear down the temple of christianity and rebuild it to please himself. He has made small progress in its demolition. Truth is mighty and will prevail. Many of his theories will be tested by himself, yet it is doubtful whether it is advisable for others to wander from the well-beaten paths of Divine Revelation to those of Evolution.

B. F. MEYERS, P. M.

NOTWITHSTANDING the opposition of Boss Randall, Hon. B. F. Meyers has been appointed Post-master of Harrisburg. This appointment would doubtless have been made long ago had it not been for Mr. Randall. The fight against Meyers has been long and bitter, his enemies having carried it into ward politics. At every point Mr. Myers has been victorious and his flag now floats over the City Post-office. Mr. Myers deserves this recognition at the hands of his party because of his eminent fitness and tireless work for democracy. His greatest fault in the eyes of Mr. Randall was his fidelity to Senator Wallace and his fearless opposition to the dictates of the political bosses who have dominated the Democratic party of the State until there is hardly anything left of it but the name. The appointment is number one in every way and will meet the approval of the citizens of Harrisburg.

The Inter-State Commerce Bill.

NEW YORK, March 4.—The passenger agents and railroad managers who have been discussing the provisions of the Inter-State Commerce bill, have arrived at an understanding. There will be practically no change in emigrant rates. Regarding mileage rates, there will be no discrimination, except as to ministers. As stated in the new bill, theatrical companies and shows of all kinds will be obliged to pay full rates. Excursion rates will remain about the same, except as to long journeys. The most important change will be as to second class rates, which will be made uniform throughout. This will result in a marked increase of the present rates over some routes.

Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 7. The past week has been a memorable one at the National Capital. Sedition indeed has the general public manifested so active an interest in the proceeding of Congress, and seldom, if ever, has Congress accomplished so much in a single week. Upon the opening of the session on Monday but two of the fourteen general appropriation bills had been finally disposed of and several of those awaiting action had not been reported from the committees, and the prospect of an extra session was looked upon as beyond the range of conjecture. Whatever may have been said against the 49th Congress as a legislative body and however deserving may have been the censures which it has received from press or public during the early days of the session, it must be admitted that the spirit of activity displayed by congress during the last four or five days of its existence, should be considered in mitigation of judgement, even by its most severe critic, as one after another of the appropriation bills, and other important measures which were looked upon as likely to necessitate the calling of an extra session vanished. It is true that the country may not be pleased with the way in which some of the important measures have been disposed of, but it is equally certain that the members of Congress many of whom have been re-elected, regard the escape from an extra session with great satisfaction. The night sessions were attended by great numbers of people, who crowded the galleries and blocked the corridors.

As under the provisions of the Inter-State Commerce bill, which goes into effect upon the first day of April railroad companies are prohibited from carrying passengers for less than their schedule rates, and hence the public will be deprived of the advantages and the railroad companies the profits heretofore enjoyed in the way of cheap excursions. The companies appear to have determined to make the most of the time afforded them and all, as of one mind, seem to have determined to give an excursion to the National Capital. Hence excursion parties have continued to arrive daily, until the city is filled with strangers, and the hotel accommodations have been taxed to their uttermost limit. It is estimated that there are at the present time upward of 2,000 excursionists from the State of New York in the city, while the State of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the New England States are well represented.

HON. B. F. MEYERS APPOINTED.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—The president to-day appointed B. F. Meyers post master at Harrisburg. It is but a few days since Mr. Randall voted against sustaining the dependent pension vote. The fight over the Harrisburg office has been a long one and has aroused much bitterness. It was a climax of the old fight between Meyers and Dull for control of the democracy of Dauphin county.

Dull who is Randall's admirer, persuaded him to support Professor Seiler, principal of the public school, for the postmastership. W. L. Scott openly supported Meyers because of his support of Henry McCormick in the last gubernatorial fight. Mr. Randall has done all he could to defeat Meyers. Wallace did not take any part in the fight on the surface, but of course backed Meyers. It is thought here that the appointment, coming so soon after the Randall vote on the pension bill, means war. Pennsylvania politicians here think this is the case and believe that other similar appointments will follow.

NEW YORK, March 8.—A fearful accident occurred this morning on Third Avenue elevated railroad, between 14th and 18th street stations, by which fourteen persons were thrown from the track a distance of twenty-five feet below. Four were killed outright and two badly injured. What caused the accident is not yet known.

—Subscribe for the CENTRE DEMOCRAT.

Condensed Telegrams.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—Mrs. Beck, wife of Senator Beck, died in this city evening. Robert G. Ingersoll is assured that he will completely recover from his throat trouble. The last distillery in Iowa—the International at Des Moines—will cease operations June 1. Samuel Bell McKee, ex-Justice of the Supreme Court of California, died Friday at Oakland. CONSTANTINOPLE, March 6.—G. Harris Heap, United States consul general here, died this morning. John Murphy, who boarded with Samuel Belt at Chicago, on Wednesday ran away with Mrs. Belt and her two children. PHILADELPHIA, March 6.—W. Cook, one of the seven men who organized the Knights of Labor, died to-day of heart failure. Michael Purcell, an Irish laborer working on the street-cleaning force of Louisville, Ky., has come into the possession of property amounting to \$115,000. Henry S. Hotchkiss, who murdered his wife last summer at Hartford, Conn., pleaded guilty of murder in the second degree and was sentenced to State Prison for life. WEST HAMPTON, L. I., March 6.—The Inman steamer City of Chicago ran ashore during to-night on the outer bar, but subsequently floated and proceeded to New York. Mrs. Ruth Harmon, 70 years old, the grandmother of President Cleveland's wife is seriously ill at her home in Jackson, Mich., and her daughter—Mrs. Folsom—has arrived there to care for her. Minnie Tricks, a domestic in Simon Wells' family at Laporte, Ind., yesterday gave birth to an illegitimate child which she immediately killed, mashing the infant's skull with one of her shoes. The girl was taken to jail, where she confessed her guilt, and is now dangerously ill. At St. Paul, Minn., Friday morning the big flour storehouse of Pillsbury & Co., situated in southeast Minneapolis, fell with a terrible crash. In it were stored between 100,000 and 125,000 barrels of flour in sacks and barrels. The damage is variously estimated at from \$10,000 to \$50,000. MONTREAL, March 3.—Tuesday last a large gang of men, together with two engines and a snow plough, was caught in a snow slide at Selkirk. Six of the men were smothered before they could be got out. EASTON, March 6.—The laborers for the Glendon iron company were surprised yesterday on opening their envelopes to find that their wages had been increased 10 cents a day, beginning with February 1. NEW YORK, March 3.—William Colgan and Thomas Derkin, firemen on the steamer Portner, from Para, have died, it is believed from yellow fever. Colgan, before the steamer reached the wharf and Derkin on the way to the hospital. OMAHA, March 3.—The remains of Edward Kuehl, found dead in bed were sent to Buffalo, yesterday, in accordance with his will, to be cremated. His ashes are to be placed in an urn and placed over the bar of a popular saloon in Omaha, in compliance with his will. NEWARK, March 3.—The order issued by the Knights of Labor compelling all cigarmakers belonging to that organization to withdraw from the international union, is to be rescinded. This fact was reported to the trades assembly by the committee appointed to wait on Mr. Powderly, although it was stated that the order for its recall would not reach the district assemblies for two weeks. ROCHESTER, March 3.—William P. Kemp, aged fifty-four, with a family consisting of a wife and five children made a mistake while at work in Cothout's malt house here yesterday, and fell down a hoisting well thirty-five feet, bumping against timbers in the descent. His skull was terribly crushed and he died in half an hour. He had worked at the same place twenty years. ROSE, March 6.—Prime Minister Depretis and his colleagues held a conference, which lasted two hours, yesterday. It was decided to obey King Humbert's command to resume their portfolios. The chambers have been summoned to meet on March 10. Sig. Crespi will interpellate the Government on the recent Ministerial crisis.