

The Centre Democrat.

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EDITORIAL

PROSPERITY pudding is wanted all along the line.

THE Rev. Swallow, although convicted of libel, continues to pour hot shot into the state administration.

THE Consul generalship at Mexico City is said to be the position that Dr. G. W. Atherton would accept.

THIS community would give the "Advance Agent of Prosperity" a warm reception, but he don't seem to be drifting this way.

THE comptroller of the currency has declared a dividend of 45 per cent. in favor of the creditors of the insolvent First National bank of Clearfield. That is much better than was expected.

AFTER the Dingley tariff bill passes, should the proposed rates prevail, the people will appreciate the value of cheaper commodities. Dear clothing and food mean much to the laboring man.

THE widow of the late George B. Roberts has made a donation of \$5,000 to the Altoona hospital, the interest of which will be used to sustain a bed in that institution. That will be appreciated.

WE hear that a number of track hands on the Pennsylvania railroad were laid off recently. The lack of business causes them to economize in this manner. This is another sample of McKinley prosperity.

DIVINE healer Schrader has been to Tyrone and gone. Whatever merit or demerit may be in his profession, he impresses one very seriously. Tyrone is in need of such a physician. It is a pity that he did not stay there.

THE prisoners in the Clearfield county jail chewed \$126 worth of tobacco last year. Each inmate in Elk county jail is allowed ten cents' worth of tobacco a week. On the same ground commissioners would be allowed to furnish rum also.

WAGES were reduced about three times at the Mill Hill axe factory since McKinley's election. The men were urged to vote for McKinley and thus save their jobs. They did so and now their jobs are not worth having. Where is the advance agent?

THE bicyclists are stirred up over the Spatz and Tipton bill, levying a tax of one dollar a year on all bicycles in use for road purposes. This is a plausible measure and we hope it will pass. Wheelmen are continually harping about good roads, and no one enjoys them more than they, to which they contribute comparatively nothing. The writer is a wheelman and an advocate of good roads and intelligent road making, but believes that bicyclists should contribute to the maintenance and preservation of highways. Good road advocates, as a rule, want some one else keep up the roads for their benefit. We believe that not one-fifth of the persons who ride bicycles ever contributed one penny for road improvement. Let the wheelmen be consistent, willing to do something in the direction of getting good roads and talk less.

THE science of killing is keeping pace with the progress in all other branches of endeavor. The English war office is testing this week a machine gun capable of discharging 1,000 shots in 123 seconds. On a recent trial it fired 11 shots a second. The man in charge of firing wears asbestos gloves. This kind of progress is welcome, as in making wars more costly and destructive it makes nations consider well before they engage in them. It also puts greater power on an equality with the greater. Killing by machinery at the rate of a dozen shots a second from a single weapon does away with the need of great armies, for with such armament great numbers of men are at a disadvantage.

THE earning of American railroads for January shows a decrease of 8 per cent., as compared to January last year. The Mexican railroads show increased earnings of more than 18 per cent. over January, 1896. These figures collated by Bradstreet's. They indicate a growth of trade in Mexico, a falling off of trade in the United States. And a growth of trade means prosperity, and the falling off in trade depression. So these figures mean just this: Mexico, under the silver standard, is prosperous; the United States under the gold standard, is depressed. Here is another Mexican money lesson for our gold standardites to chew over and digest if possible.

THE general committee of the Matters family organization will meet in Herdard building, Tyrone, at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon, April 8, next. It is desired that the full committee be present at this meeting, so that the arrangements may be completed as far as possible for the outing or reunion this year.

HELD TO ACCOUNT.

The following appears in the Bellefonte Republican, this week:

"For the silliest, sniveling twaddle, we commend the Democratic papers of to-day, which are slopping over with it. McKinley has been president just 22 days, yet these papers denounce him for the times not being better, while at the same time their friends in congress are opposing the enactment of laws that will produce revenue sufficient for the expenses of the government and the restoration of prosperity."

The above admits that McKinley has been president for 22 days, and that he was elected about five months ago, and that the "times not being better." The republicans generally censure the democrats for complaining. They say McKinley has not had an opportunity to affect any legislation.

Right here we want the reader to turn back the "wheel of time" about six months; that will not be very difficult. It is not beyond the reach of the average man's memory to recall the prominent incidents and leading issues of the last campaign. For some time previous we had an affliction of unrest, disturbances in financial centers, manufacturing industries became silent, the industrial world became alarmed, and unrest, stringency, bankruptcy, distress and want stalked over our fair land. What was wrong? McKinley and his followers told the people that it was due to the agitation of the money question; capital had withdrawn from the natural channels of trade, commerce, and the industrial pursuits, and had gone into hiding until calm again prevailed. Capitalists were alarmed at the possible passage of the silver bill, the threatened destruction of one half of their property. This and other things were told the people. They must banish this uncertainty, unrest, commercial hesitancy, industrial inactivity by a "restoration of confidence." They told us that as soon as the country "maintained its honor" by declaring for the "gold standard" that soon confidence would be restored. Confidence was to be the great panacea for our national ailment, a cure for the panic.

Any person who read the leading republican papers or heard their prominent speakers on the stump during the campaign well know that these fulsome promises were made to the people. Prosperity and confidence were to dawn upon us immediately after the election of McKinley. The endorsement of the gold standard was sufficient to restore confidence.

We got the gold standard, we may have confidence in future, but we are mighty sure that prosperity has not arrived—now over five months due. The republican campaign pledges are still fresh in memory, and many a poor laboring man with gaunt face and half starved family, clinging and begging for food, knows that he has been fooled again.

Yes, we are long on confidence, but short on prosperity. The people have a right to complain when they suffer. They know they were deceived. The time will soon be at hand for an accounting.

MORE ABOUT MEXICO.

It is discouraging nowadays to read the news from Mexico, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. That silver standard country is in the enjoyment of a high degree of prosperity. Millions of dollars are being invested in her mines, railroads and manufactories. Her cities and larger towns are growing at a rapid rate. The supply of skilled labor is not equal to the demand, and such labor commands high wages.

English capital, which we were told during the late campaign was being withheld from this country until we had killed the "silver craze" is going into Mexico for investment in many lines. The Englishmen, having forced us to pay in gold the annual interest on their investments in this country, are turning the gold thus secured into Mexican silver for investments in highly profitable enterprises in that country.

But worse follows. The great moneyed interests of New York, Boston and Philadelphia are making large investments in Mexico. They are turning their American gold into silver at a premium and putting it where it will yield the largest results.

The gold organs contend that the fact that investors can command a premium on their gold in Mexico is assurance enough that we are at last on "sound money" basis. We commend this reflection to such of our business interests as can extract comfort from it. We shall be glad to hear from such of them as are able to do so.

Reduced Rates to New York. For the dedication of the Grant Monumental Tomb, April 27, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell tickets from all points on its line to New York, April 26 (and from points within one hundred and fifty miles of New York, April 26 and 27), good to return until April 29 inclusive, at rate of a fare and a third for the round trip. Tickets for military companies in uniform, numbering fifty or more, traveling in a body on one ticket, will be sold at rate of single fare per capita for the round trip.

The parade on this occasion will be the grandest military demonstration since the war. Thousands of veterans, United States regulars, and State militiamen will be in line.

To cure a cough or cold, in one day, take Krumrine's Compound Syrup of Tar. If it fails to cure, money refunded.

HARRISBURG LETTER.

The Changes in the Legislative Districts of the State.

AGREEMENT ON THE NEW CAPITOL.

Danger of a Clash Between the Governor and the Legislature Now Removed. House Opposition to the Reform Measures—Dr. Swallow's Belligerent Attitude (Special Correspondence).

Harrisburg, March 30.—The governor has thus far received 12 bills, four of which he has approved. The last one he signed was an act in reference to prison officials, visitors, etc. He still has in his hands seven to which he has not attached his signature, viz: To pay mileage of coroners viewing dead bodies; creation and regulation of municipal liens and the proceedings in the collection thereof in the several boroughs of the state; making constables of townships ex-officio fire wardens in the extinguishment of forest fires and reporting to the courts violations of laws protecting forests, etc.; regulating standard weight of a bushel of oats; establishment of public libraries in the several school districts, excepting in cities, and the purchase of unseated lands by the commonwealth for non-payment of taxes for the purpose of establishing a state forest reservation.

Both houses have succeeded in the dispatch of very considerable business, but the senate is much ahead of the house in their work, and in consequence of this have adjourned over until April.

The New Legislative Districts.

A bill was offered in the house a few days ago which makes a decided change in the legislative districts of the state. By the provisions of this bill the Third and Fourth wards of Philadelphia are made one district, and with 1 member, and the Fifth and Sixth wards comprise one district, with 1 member. It entitles the Seventh ward to 2 members, and the Eighth and Ninth wards are consolidated, with 1 member. The Tenth gets 1 member. The Eleventh and Twentieth are united, with 1 member. The Sixteenth and Seventeenth together are entitled to 1 member, while 4 members are given to the Nineteenth and Thirty-first wards. The Twenty-second ward gets 2 members. The Twenty-fourth and Thirty-fourth are consolidated, and get 3 members, instead of 2. The Twenty-sixth and Thirty-seventh are given 2 members. The Thirty-second ward, which was formerly in that district, is made a separate district, with 1 member. These constitute the changes in Philadelphia.

Adams county gets 1 member. Allegheny county will have 29 members. Bedford county gets 1 member, while Blair is entitled to 3 members. Cambria county is given 3, Chester 3, Clarion 1, Crawford 2, Clearfield 3, Columbia 1, Huntingdon 1, Jefferson 2, Lancaster 5, Lawrence 1, Luzerne 7, Lackawanna 5, Mercer 2, Schuylkill 5, Somerset 1 and Wayne 1, while Westmoreland gets 4. All other counties will be the same as under the present apportionment.

Among the bills that met with defeat recently, and which are not likely to be resurrected again during this session, were the anti-treating bill and the pool racing bill, both of which met their death on final passage. The latter bill, it was understood, was going to be knocked into smithereens by the house any way, and it was thought best to not give them the opportunity. The libel bill drafted by the Pennsylvania Editorial association was also practically killed in the house when it came up for second reading.

Agreement on the New Capitol Assured.

There is no doubt that an agreement will be reached in a short time between the governor and the legislature on a plan for a new capitol, and the structure will be on about the same economic lines as recommended by the executive in his message. This is about what was agreed upon by the committees on public buildings and grounds of the house and senate, who had a conference with the governor of about two hours' duration, and the plans were received as to the grouping of the various buildings in architectural effect, of which there will be four in all. This will include the executive building. The style adopted will in all probability be the renaissance, which will include a slight touch of the colonial, the object being to improve on the old state house.

The governor, in his statement before the committee, remarked that the contract should be let Aug. 1, the building completed by Nov. 1, 1898, and if the work is not done in that time he would take all the blame. He also stated that his estimate of the expense for the erection of the new building at the cost of \$500,000 was based on the fact that the lighting, heating and sewerage were provided for, and that about 2,500,000 brick were in the old building that could be used. He also stated that the amount he named is not intended to cover the interior decorations, and that the walls would not be in a condition to ornament when the next legislature meets, and this cost would be extra, and must be provided for by appropriation. This estimate also does not include the furnishings, so that by the time the building was completed the total cost would aggregate about \$1,000,000. There seemed to be a very satisfactory feeling among the members composing the committee, and it is now certain that any danger of a clash between the governor and legislature has been removed.

Opposition to the Reform Measures.

The house does not seem to take kindly to the reform measures, as was evidenced by the way they cut and slashed until they could be scarcely recognized, and eventually passed the Stewart bill, which is one of the reform bills for Philadelphia, after adding several amendments, which greatly changes its character. The bill requiring state depositories to pay interest on state funds passed second reading, but not until after a dozen amendments were offered and defeated. Two amendments, however, prevailed in the end. They were a clause providing that the bond to be furnished by banks having state deposits shall have ap-

proved securities, with warrant of attorney to confess judgment in favor of the commonwealth, and a clause which states that banks known as active depositories shall pay 1 1/2 per cent interest per annum on the daily balances. By this latter amendment the state will derive, should it become a law, interest on \$1,500,000 at 1 1/2 per cent. The Quay county bill, which was vetoed by the governor two years ago, has again been offered in the house, and has been so amended that its friend now believe it will meet with executive approval. It creates a new county out of portions of Luzerne and Schuylkill, with Hazleton as the county seat.

Many other bills were introduced in both the senate and house during the past week, and there is now so many to dispose of that a resolution has passed both houses that no more bills shall be introduced after April 5 except by permission of either house. It will be practically an impossibility for the house to dispose of what they have now on hand, as a resolution has been adopted that a holiday be taken during a portion of the week in which the monument to General Grant is dedicated in New York city. This means that little work will be accomplished during that week.

The School Supply Scheme.

One of the most systematic and well planned schemes, which is attributed to an organization of school supply houses, that has been devised in years has developed recently, and if not frustrated will permit of the lavish and useless purchase of materials for ungraded schools by conscienceless directors and supply committees. The plan is to send out thousands of circulars, worked off in imitation of typewriting, to secure signatures, and when signed are to be sent to the members of the house and senate. The way in which they are being scattered and their uniform character leave little doubt as to their origin. These are so worded as to effect, if possible, a spirit of prejudice in the minds of those into whose hands they come, as they assail house bill No. 136, introduced by Mr. Weiss, of Northampton county, which is a most valuable measure and intended to curb school extravagance. It places restrictions on the school boards in the rural sections, and does not affect school boards in cities or boroughs.

The circulars contain a specious plea, the city against the country, and are very well calculated to secure signatures. The bill which they are trying to have killed provides that the sum to be expended hereafter by school directors in rural districts in providing maps, charts and such apparatus shall not exceed \$15 of the amount appropriated by the state. This bill seeks to remedy one great evil, and that is the reckless expenditure of money in school apparatus which prevails, and the organized interests which supply these equipments in a fertile field in the country districts. This is a very important measure, and should be allowed to become a law. The scheme has been so thoroughly investigated that the result will be that the bill will pass by a very large majority.

Dr. Swallow's Belligerency.

Although Dr. Swallow met with defeat in his last trial, and was convicted of libel, yet he persists in keeping up the fight. His letter addressed to Governor Hastings indicates that he is defiant and determined to continue the fight. His next experience will be before the bar of the senate, before which body he has been cited to appear when they convene again to give information, if he has any, as to the origin of the capitol fire. There is some curiosity manifested as to the outcome of this trial, and if he has evidence of any importance it will then be brought out. The senate has shown a disposition to treat him with every respect, but if he has evidence that is valuable to their committee in their work of investigation he is in duty bound to give it. Strange to say, while he is not popular here, he has many followers in his movement. He is determined to have a new trial, and if he falls in this will take his case to the superior court, and if the result is not satisfactory there will then go to the supreme court. A circular letter which is being introduced setting forth that he is not alone in this contest, and soliciting funds to assist in the fight, would indicate that he has assistance. The judge has taken ten days in which to give an answer as to whether a new trial will be granted.

The report of the committee appointed to investigate the auditor general's and state treasurer's offices was presented recently. They find that both offices have been properly conducted, and some recommendations are made as to the auditor general's office, and it is that an additional force be added to assist in the work of this department, which is growing in keeping with the growth and development of the state. They report that during a period of 56 years, in which time \$410,974,961.73 was received by the state, it has only suffered a loss of \$9,422.61 out of \$467,131,131.68, making the percentage of loss the small fractional sum of .0023 of 1 per cent, a remarkable showing indeed.

The Philadelphia Capitol Bill.

The bill to make Philadelphia the state capital was re-committed, and no doubt a special occasion will be made to perform the obsequies and carry its little body out to the tomb. Representative Voorhees, a member of the house committee on law and order, explains why he and his fellow members have reported out for a place on the calendar Mr. Seyfert's bill against pugilistic contests. "It goes to extremes," says Mr. Voorhees, "as it would render liable to the penalty for murder such persons as those whose fists recently caused the death of two sparrows in Philadelphia. Admitting that there should be increased restrictions upon such contests, we think this bill should be ventilated in the house, there to meet the fate to which such foolish legislation as the bills against the theater hat, football and cigarettes have been doomed."

A duplicate of the retaliatory insurance bill introduced by Representative Voorhees in the house was presented by Mr. Durham in the senate, and is on second reading there. Agents of foreign insurance companies are watching its progress, presumably with adverse purpose, as it would require the insurance commissioner to retaliate against states whose representatives refuse to license Pennsylvania companies.

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