

The Centre Democrat.

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EDITORIAL

THE Prosperity Band Wagon has not yet come this way.

THE Senate is still struggling with the tariff bill. It will have excessive duties which will bear hard on many a man's purse.

THE republican papers are now busily engaged in explaining why prosperity has not arrived. It is in order for them to do much of that kind of work.

BE sure and read Dr. Swallow's article on the first page of this issue. It will give the reader a fair idea of how things are done at Harrisburg, by the present administration.

ASK some of the workmen at the furnace how they like McKinley prosperity by this time. They don't like reductions in wages—when they were promised something different last fall.

THE first republican in Centre county to receive an appointment from the new administration was Frank Clemson, as postmaster, at Benore, on Monday. The work of decapitating democratic postmasters will soon begin.

IT now looks as though the war between Greece and Turkey was drawing to a close. The Turks have made great gains and are better equipped in every manner. Greece has been sufficiently humiliated and the other nations are likely to interfere at any time.

IN Cuba the greatest distress now prevails due to Weyler's decree compelling all non-combatants to leave the country districts and remain in the larger cities while hostilities continue. Disease and famine is causing a great havoc among the people which will grow worse and worse under existing conditions. Such a course is inhuman.

IN another part of this issue we give an article from the "Pennsylvania Methodist," of Harrisburg, edited by the fighting Methodist preacher, Dr. Swallow. It will speak for itself and shows clearly how public monies are expended at the State Capitol. The figures given are taken from vouchers and must be correct. Here is sufficient evidence of thieving and robbery that is a disgrace to the state. Public sentiment alone can check this, by putting a new set of men charge of the state's affairs.

THE gold Democracy is impotent to bring any real relief to the country; it is long on platitudes and short on performance, it reaches its maximum at a banquet and its minimum at the polls. It is the toy of those financiers who prate about national honor while they fatten on the nation's extremity, and is powerless to protect the people from the extortion of trusts and the greed of unrestrained corporations. Those Democrats who believe in equality before the law will naturally gravitate toward the regular Democracy and those Democrats who believe in a government by syndicates and for syndicates will naturally drift into the Republican party, because it offers them the best prospect of success.—William J. Bryan in New York Journal.

SUPPOSE William Jennings Bryan had been elected president of the United States. Suppose that the trade conditions following his election had been exactly as they are reported from day to day by Dun and Bradstreet's. Suppose the same bank failures had occurred in Chicago, St. Paul and elsewhere. Suppose wages had been reduced on the same number of railroad systems. Suppose the cut in wages had occurred in Lynn and other manufacturing centres. Suppose everything had happened exactly as it has since McKinley's election, would not these unhappy events be attributed to Bryan's election? Would not a grand howl and seditious "we told you" be going up all over the country? Would not the country be convinced that it had made a mistake in choosing the Democratic candidate?

MORE GOOD WORK.

DURING the past few weeks the distinguished divine, Dr. Swallow, has been pumping more hot shot into the administration leaders at Harrisburg. His last effort to cause comment is a setting forth of the extravagant expenditures in refurbishing the Executive Mansion that simply is astounding. It looks as though double and triple prices were paid for articles of furniture. In repairs made about the Capitol buildings the same thing occurs. There is no doubt but a gang of political heifers hang about every department looting the treasury by exorbitant bills for supplies. Dr. Swallow's recent investigation makes it quite clear.

Economy is needed and if we only had a few more fearless men like this Methodist divine, public expenditures would be more consistent.

DEM. COM. MEET.

On Tuesday the Democratic County Committee held a brief session in their rooms, in Temple Court. There was a good attendance and many active democrats were present. The principal work done was the apportionment of delegates to each district, based upon the vote of last fall for president. One delegate is allowed in the county convention for every fifty democratic votes cast and the excess delegates are awarded to those who have the largest excess in votes.

According to this rule of the party, the following apportionment was approved by the committee:

Table with columns: ELECTION DISTRICT, VOTE FOR PRESIDENT, No. DELEGES. Lists districts like Bellefonte, Centre Hall, etc., with corresponding vote and delegate counts.

And now, May 3rd, 1897, the above apportionment is adopted and ratified by the Democratic County Committee.

BOYD A. MESSER, Secretary. HUGH S. TAYLOR, Chairman.

Harris township being on a tie in excess votes with the South Ward, for the last delegate, each was accorded one-half vote in convention. Chairman Taylor addressed the committee and called upon them for earnest and active work so as to have a thorough and effective organization. Encouraging reports were received from all parts of the county. A number of brief addresses were made by active party workers that elicited applause and enthusiasm. If this meeting is properly understood it indicates a decided change in sentiment and predicates a democratic victory in Centre county this year.

BANKRUPTS AT WAR.

The war between Turkey and Greece has made both nations call out their reserves, and the demand upon the fighting population of the two countries is greater than that made by any government during the last half century.

Both Turkey and Greece are absolutely bankrupt. The national debt of Greece amounts to \$66 per capita, as against \$12 per capita in the United States, and her securities are quoted in London at from 19 to 20 cents on the dollar. The revenues of the kingdom do not exceed \$20,000,000 annually, and the expenditures are always equal, and usually exceed, that sum in time of peace. How is Greece to conduct a war of any duration when her securities are not worth 20 cents on the dollar?

The financial condition of Turkey is quite as bad as that of Greece. Between 1851 and 1873 Turkey contracted debt to the amount of \$1,100,000,000, and the holders of the bonds have been kicked and cuffed and finally the debt has been scaled to \$900,000,000. The last loan was made by Turkey last year for \$30,000,000, and special security of customs duties was given for it or it could not have been floated at all. In 1890 the expenditures of Turkey were about \$18,000,000 in excess of the revenues, and since 1890 there has been a yearly deficit of some \$5,000,000.

One of the reasons why the great powers of Europe are likely to terminate the war between Greece and Turkey is in the fact that Europe holds the major part of the \$1,200,000,000 of national indebtedness of those nations. When neither Greece nor Turkey can maintain their credit in time of peace, it cannot be expected to improve in time of war, when the expenditures are doubled or quadrupled.

Their credit is entirely exhausted, and the chances are that peace will be coerced in the interest of European creditors, so that they may save something out of the general wreck of Turkish and Grecian securities. It is a strange spectacle of two utterly and hopelessly bankrupt nations attempting to maintain a war that now has assumed a most gigantic scale, considering the population of the countries.—Times.

Want the Railroad Extended.

The people of Sugar Valley want the railroad which it is proposed to build from Lewisburg to the Kulp lumbering operations, extended to Loganton. As the proposed terminus of the road, will be but a few miles from Loganton, the citizens of the valley will likely offer the company liberal inducements to make Loganton the terminus.

To Cure Constipation Forever. Take Cascarets Candy Cathartic. 10c or 25c. If C. C. fail to cure, druggists refund money.

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Legislature Will Probably Adjourn the Middle of June.

OPPOSING CIVIL SERVICE BILL.

Probabilities That the Measure Will Be So Changed as to Make It Ineffective—The Defeat of the Pool Selling Bill—Prison Reform Measures.

(Special Correspondence.) Harrisburg, May 4.—Notwithstanding the frequent recesses and junkets of the legislature, an effort will be made to force final adjournment about the middle of June. It is understood that a resolution fixing June 1 as the date of final adjournment will be introduced this week in the house, and that the senate will amend this resolution extending the time until June 20. It is probable that a compromise date will be agreed upon, as the disposition of prison suffers in proportion to the rise of temperature. Heretofore the members during the long spring days have sought the shelter of the trees in Capitol park during prosy debates, but the destruction of the capitol and the removal to Grace church will make it necessary for the members to stick to their seats, notwithstanding the heat and discomforts that they are sure to suffer. The experience of other years seems to have no effect in pushing the work of the legislature during the winter months.

There has been a good deal of political backing and filling over the reform bills, to which the Republican party is pledged. At the opening of the session it was announced that these bills would be hurried to final passage, but three months had passed away before any serious consideration was given to them. The bill was lined up as opponents of Senator Quay charged that he was responsible for the failure to redeem the party's pledges. He came to Harrisburg to confer with his lieutenants in the senate and house, and it was then given out, with more or less show of authority, that certain of these bills would be abandoned because it was impossible to induce the Quay men in the legislature to vote for them. Just when the anti-Quayites were about to take advantage of the situation and force the bills through a conference of all the Quay leaders was called to consider what was best to be done under the circumstances, and it has been decided to push the bills to final passage as rapidly as possible, and while concessions will be necessary to meet the views of the opponents of the radical reforms proposed it is believed that the more important measures will pass in practically their original form.

Opposing the Civil Service Bill.

There is much hostility among the practical politicians towards the civil service bill, and the prospect now is that this measure will be so changed as to be civil service in name only. The political assessment bill will be modified so as to not affect the giving of contributions for legitimate campaign expenses, but will make arbitrary levying and collection of assessments a misdemeanor. As to the poll tax bill, there is no opposition, because it will relieve party organizations of the great burden of paying taxes during important campaigns.

Since his return from the Grant monument ceremonies at New York Governor Hastings has heartily endorsed the proposition to furnish the National Guard with a dress uniform. During recent years the soldiers of Pennsylvania have won applause over and over again on account of their fine discipline and practical efficiency in all that concern the good soldier. There has been a disposition to compel on all occasions the wearing of a service uniform, and the result has been dissatisfaction among the guardsmen. They feel that they suffer by comparison with troops of other states on dress parade. During the Beaver administration the present governor was adjudant general, and he was instrumental in having passed a bill appropriating \$75,000 for a dress uniform. Owing to the failure of the revenue bill that year it was necessary for Governor Beaver to veto the bill, and nothing has since been done officially in the way of supplying a uniform for ceremonial occasions.

The question of revenue for the state is one that is giving the financiers in the legislature much serious concern. Up to this time the only bill that has been agreed upon, and which is being pushed along, is the Elkin bill, taxing direct inheritances over \$5,000 at the rate of 2 per cent. It is estimated by the friends of this measure that it will bring into the treasury about \$2,000,000, but Representative Ward Biles, of Delaware county, contends that it will not produce more than \$500,000. He is the author of several revenue bills, among them one to tax beer, and insists that the legislature will have to do something more in the way of raising revenue before adjournment. There is pronounced opposition to any suggestion that beer be taxed, and there are those who say that the objection is the result of campaign deals with the liquor element. Whether that be true or not, it is very evident that no liquor legislation of any importance will get through this session. Under present conditions at the state treasury the deficiency of revenue is at least \$2,000,000, and many worthy charities in the state will have to be cut off without a shilling unless more revenue is provided for this purpose.

A resolution has passed the legislature calling upon the governor to designate May 15 as a legal holiday, and he has agreed to do so. This is the day on which the Washington monument in Philadelphia will be unveiled with imposing ceremonies.

More attention has been given to politics and to factional differences at this session of the legislature than at any previous sitting for many years. Starting with a bitter contest over the election of a United States senator, the bitterness of factions has increased rather than diminished, and unless the pending harmony schemes are successful the outlook for Republican disruption during the approaching state campaign is first class. There are hints that Senator Quay is more than willing to make terms with the Pittsburg and Philadelphia leaders of the opposition. It is intimated that

even now negotiations are pending looking to a new deal in state politics.

Defeat of the Pool Selling Bill.

Among the bills which went down during the last week was one legalizing the sale of pools upon race tracks of agricultural societies. It was strongly supported by prominent turfmen of the state, and at one time its passage looked promising, but Governor Hastings threw out a hint that the bill would fall under the veto ax if it ever reached him. This settled its fate.

The Spatz bill to discontinue the publication of The Legislative Record has passed second reading, and seems to have a chance of getting through. For years The Record has been a standing joke in the legislature. Properly published it would be a useful public document, but as the proceeding are never placed upon the desks of the legislators until they are stale The Record might just as well be published at the close of the session, or not at all.

Mr. Woodruff, of Philadelphia, has introduced a bill allowing judges of the District Court to commit juvenile criminals to reformatories. It is understood to have the sanction of Attorney General McKenna and Judge Butler, of the United States District court at Philadelphia. There is considerable prison legislation on the calendars of both houses, and an effort will be made to pass certain bills which have for their purpose the relieving of the overcrowded penal institutions of the state through a system of parole.

Some important changes to the pharmacy law are proposed in bills which are now pending in the house. The most important change is the elimination of a proviso authorizing physicians registered under the act of 1881 to carry on the drug business and practice pharmacy, though they may compound and sell their own prescriptions and patent medicines.

Prison For Female Convicts.

One of the prison reform bills, prepared by Francis J. Torrence, of Allegheny, a member of the state board of charities, provides that female convicts from all the counties in the state, sentenced to entire punishment by imprisonment in the penitentiary, shall hereafter be imprisoned in the Western penitentiary.

Owing to the illness of Speaker Boyer, who has been threatened with pneumonia, at his home in Philadelphia, the committee to investigate the \$50,000 insurance scandal has not yet been appointed. It is suspected that this investigation will be allowed to fade from memory, but the charges are so specific that it is difficult to see how they can be ignored. The main charge is that \$50,000 was demanded by a coteries of persons to clear from the calendars of the legislature bills objectionable to big insurance companies.

Governor Hastings has reappointed Insurance Commissioner Lambert and the senate has confirmed that popular official for three years more, dating from May 1. When Colonel Lambert was appointed in 1895 he was commissioned for the unexpired term of George B. Luper, so that he will have served at the end of his new commission over five years.

This week the program prepared by Professor Warren Powers Laird, the architectural adviser of the capitol building commission, will be in the hands of all architects who desire to enter the open competition for plans for the new capitol. This competition will be conducted with the greatest care, so that there shall be no favoritism when the award of the prize is made. Six distinguished architects have been invited to enter the competition. In order that the very best talent in the country shall be represented. These six architects will be paid from \$500 to \$1,000 each for expenses.

Senator Grady, a member of the senate committee which has been investigating the municipal affairs of Philadelphia, has declined to sign the report of the committee. This report has been revised and revised again, and is still unsatisfactory to one or two of the members. Senator Grady says the report is too voluminous.

Mr. Hosack's charges of bribery against oleomargarine dealers in Pittsburg have not been sustained by the investigation, and the report will probably exonerate Frank M. Moore, the special agent at Pittsburg of the dairy and food commissioner.

Opposition to Trolley Extension. No session of the house was held on Friday, and the reason given was that owing to the number of special committees traveling through the state there might not be a quorum. It leaked out that the real reason was a scheme to prevent the introduction of a resolution to give the Young bill to enable trolley companies to branch out into the country a special order. The courts have decided that the objection of a single owner of abutting property could stop a trolley company from laying its tracks on a rural highway, this bill is intended to enable the companies to go ahead and let those opposed appeal to the courts for appointment of viewers to fix damages.

Up to this week the number of bills introduced in the house was 978; house bills reported from house committees, 442; senate bills reported from house committees, 117; total bills reported in the house, 669; house bills passed and sent to the senate for concurrence, 121; house bills passed finally, 22; senate bills passed finally by the house, 14; senate bills remaining in the house, 176.

Representative Jafferis, of Chester county, has introduced a bill in the house to do away with hanging. It provides that in all cases where a person is found guilty of murder in the first degree the jury may qualify the verdict by adding thereto "without capital punishment," and whenever the jury shall return a verdict as aforesaid, the person shall be sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor for life.

A bill has passed finally making Feb. 13 (Lincoln's birthday) a legal holiday. It has been practically decided that the Republican state convention will be held in Harrisburg during the week of August 15.

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