

The Centre Democrat.

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EDITORIAL.

MORE GOLD.

Of late an impetus has been given to gold mining. The reason for this is that the single gold standard has been universally adopted. That causes a larger demand for the yellow metal which is used as the basis for all commercial transactions. The increased demand for a rare and precious metal naturally increases its value, and it follows that our unit of measure becomes more valuable, when compared with other commodities. That is exactly the thing desired by all money lenders. Their stock in trade is ready cash, or its representative, based on gold. They want money to increase in value continually, in addition to reaping a rich harvest in the form of interest from money loaned. It is the man with riches in his hand that benefits by a scarce primary money. The poor devil, who must borrow and pay large interests and then return a higher priced or more valuable dollar, is the one who suffers and that is the whole argument of the money question—the rich against the poor—the lender against the borrower.

At this point, it seems that a kind Providence has intervened to thwart the schemes of the avaricious money lenders. To mankind there appears to have been revealed untold stores of gold in the gravel beds and streams of the Alaska territory. Millions of the precious metal have suddenly been brought to light. From all parts of the globe miners are flocking to this new country where fortunes have been dug from the earth in a day, and the quantity is declared to be almost inexhaustible. Should these conditions prove correct more gold will be mined in Alaska in a few years, than the silver product ever reached. The result of this will be to bring about exactly what the bimetalists contended for—a larger quantity of primary money. The dollar, instead of increasing in value as has been the case since 1873, would be more likely to go the other way. Money would become plentier, hence easier to get and cheaper. Debts would not become more burdensome as in the past, and an era of prosperity would most certainly come to our people. If Providence does occasionally give a guiding hand to the poor and oppressed, then we truly believe the revelation of the rich gold fields in Alaska was from that source.

Should an abundance of gold come from that country in the future there will be no occasion for the use of silver as primary money. We prefer a single standard—if sufficient can be secured to supply the increasing demands of trade. There is more hope of prosperity coming from the Klondike gold fields than all the protective tariffs that were ever inaugurated and fastened on the people. Yes, it looks as though Providence has interceded and thwarted the schemes of the avaricious, hungry money lenders, and the plea of the free silverites for more money, to relieve the debtor class, will be answered in another form, by an abundance of gold.

UNFAIR TO LABOR.

On the day President McKinley signed the new tariff law Governor Pingree, of Michigan, telegraphed a message to him in which he said: I regard the duty on lumber, hides and sugar as unrepugnant, unpatriotic and unfair. The lumber now used goes largely into small homes and farm houses and to a class already greatly overtaxed. The laborer wears twice as many shoes as the millionaire and must contribute twice as much for the tax on hides. He must use as much sugar and pay as much toward the duty on sugar. It is grossly unfair to make the poor pay as much per capita as the rich towards the support of the government. Property and not human stomachs should be reached. Property is protected by our laws and should pay for its protection.

PROVIDENCE SENDS IT.

P. D. Armour, the Chicago millionaire, is quoted as saying that wheat will advance to \$1.00 before Thanksgiving and \$1.50 inside of six months. There is more prosperity in such a state of affairs than all the McKinley tariffs enacted. We can thank Providence for such a blessing, should it arrive; but the republicans will try to claim all the credit.

The Advance Agent of Prosperity should see that wages go up and men have steady employment. Tariffs never help farmers but politicians claim it protects the laboring men. Hope it will.

Gov. HASTINGS flatly denies the report sent out that he is a candidate for congressional honors. The report is without any foundation. It is only a bit of sensational newspaper work.

THE EFFECT OF HIGHER PRICES.

A pound of fact is worth ten of theory, in estimating the effect of the new Tariff law. The World is giving the facts as to the advance in prices which some days ago it said would be the one certain result of the Dingley bill.

The grocers have already advanced the price of sugar six-tenths of a cent a pound merely a preliminary increase. The consumers of the country will pay to the Treasury at least \$25,000,000 and probably \$30,000,000 more for their sugar under the new law than they did under the one which it displaced. The exaction of the Sugar Trust will add millions more to the cost as pure robbery.

The testimony of merchants in The World recently showed that there has already been an advance of "from 10 to 25 per cent. on all wooled goods." It will cost much more to keep warm next winter. Hides have advanced by reason of the new tax, and an increase in the cost of boots and shoes, from 30 to 50 cents a pair, is expected. An advance of prices all along the line is inevitable. As an offset to this one of the merchants asks: "But isn't the consumer better off if he gets more money?"

There is much virtue in an IF. Will the consumer get more money? This also will be a question of fact rather than of theory. The consumers will know—the politicians and the protected class need make no mistake about that! They knew in 1890 and 1892. "It was the shopping women who did it," said Speaker Reed, in explaining the republican overthrow in those years. In certain lines of production it is not unlikely that wages will advance somewhat as the result of reviving industry. But there is small probability that the increase in wages will equal the increase in the cost of living. For the large class of salaried persons there is even less prospect of a compensating advance in pay.

As the proof of the pudding is in the eating, so the proof of law is in its working. The World intends to present an accurate and impartial record of the operation of the new tariff.—The World.

PRESENT TO THE TRUST.

When congress assembled last March Sugar Trust Stock was worth about 116. Yesterday it sold within a small fraction of 150.

On its fictitious capitalization of \$85,000,000 this gives the Sugar Trust a profit of more than \$28,000,000.

This is the present made by Congress to the Sugar Trust. Every dollar of it will come out of the earnings of the people.

In the presidential campaign last year the president of the amalgamated association made a number of speeches for McKinley, telling in each of them how much better off the iron workers would be under a republican president, and a tariff law similar to the McKinley act. Well, McKinley was elected, and a law similar to the McKinley act has been passed and now this gentleman in his official capacity as president of the amalgamated association of iron and steel workers, has placed his hand and seal to a wage scale for the ensuing year which reduces the wages of the men in his association in nearly every item from what they received under the Wilson tariff law, and a democratic president. Oh, how a protective tariff raises wages!

In a speech at Milwaukee, Debs, the labor leader, asserted that the present suffering was the result of ignorance, and urged the audience to read good books, help their neighbors, and help them up. "Organize the trades unions," he said, "with a library; have a debate and teach them how to help themselves. This is the only way that emancipation can come. Don't rely on leaders; they are all unreliable; learn to rely upon yourself." Does this sound like anarchy?

DEMOCRATS are beginning to stir for the coming State Convention, at Reading, Pa., August 31st. The chief point of interest is as to the platform to be adopted. From all sides there is a strong sentiment for a clear and distinct declaration for bimetalism, the use of both gold and silver for primary money, as outlined by the Chicago Platform. That, and nothing else, will be satisfactory to the democracy of this county. In this respect there should be no straddle or compromise.

THE republicans must depend on a constant famine abroad, and an immense wheat crop at home, to keep up the present difference in the prices of wheat and silver. Should normal conditions, and the usual good crop abroad, exist next year there will be a different song from the gold camp. Their traps will be closed as tight as clams.

THAT Centre county must soon have repairs made upon the present court house is a settled matter. The present building is in a dilapidated condition.

—WANTED: A good home for a twelve-year-old boy, who is good and industrious. Apply to Mrs. H. T. KURTZ, President of the Childrens Aid Society, Bellefonte, Pa.

Aikens Store.

Children's all-wool spring coats, selling at \$2. Earlier in the season, these goods sold at \$5. Aug. 15.

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Important Decision Regarding the Labor of Convicts.

THE NEW CAPITOL COMMISSION

Having Considerable Trouble in Fixing Upon a Plan For the Structure. A Cheering Statement From the Department of State.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, Aug. 17.—T. B. Patton, the superintendent of the Huntingdon reformatory, recently asked the attorney general's department for a proper construction of the act of assembly passed at the recent session of the legislature limiting the number of inmates of penal institutions who can be employed in the manufacture of wares and merchandise in such institutions. This act provides that only 5 per cent of the number of inmates in penitentiaries and other penal institutions can be employed in the manufacture of articles such as are manufactured elsewhere in the state. Some of these institutions took the ground that they can employ in each institution 5 per cent of the number of inmates confined in all of the institutions. Deputy Attorney General Elkin holds that this is not a proper construction of the law. He says that each institution must be treated separately, and that the percentage mentioned in the act must be held to mean 5 per cent of the number of inmates confined in each institution. He also holds that the third section of the act prohibits the use of power driven machinery in the manufacture of any kind of goods, wares and merchandise manufactured elsewhere in the state. The labor organizations of the state were back of this law, which is intended to prevent competition between convict and other labor.

Capitol Commission Moving Slowly. The commission charged by the legislature with the erection of a new capitol is finding its task a much more difficult one than was anticipated by the members when they invited the architects of the country to submit designs two or three months ago. Governor Hastings returned from Bellefonte last Wednesday night and on Thursday met the commissioners at the executive department. Those present were State Treasurer Haywood, Auditor General Mylin, Senator McCarrill, the president pro tem. of the senate, and Speaker Boyer, of the house. Professor Warren P. Laird, of Philadelphia, the architectural advisor of the commission, was also present and gave all the assistance in his power during the consideration of the plans. A few days ago the three experts went over the 30 plans on file and made a selection of eight in the order of merit for recommendation to the commission. At the meeting on Thursday Professor Laird read the report of the board of experts, in which they gave their reasons for selecting those plans which have been referred to the commission. As each plan bears a number, instead of the name of the designer, no one will know whose plans have been recommended until Judge Simonon opens the numbered envelopes in his possession, which contain the names of the competing architects.

Having been unable to reach a conclusion on Thursday the commission met again the following day and spent several hours inspecting the plans and considering in every detail the important subject. It was finally decided to postpone a decision on the matter until next Thursday. A decision was to have been announced on Saturday last, but the commissioners found it impossible to make up their minds within the time limit, and in order to fully consider all the points involved they extended the time. It having been reported that the plans involve more money than the legislature had appropriated Governor Hastings was asked whether this was true. He said: "There were eight plans submitted to us by the experts, and of seven of these the highest cost was \$18,000. The eighth plan, that selected as No. 1 by the experts, was estimated to cost \$25,000, but the architect explains that he can modify it so as to bring the cost within the sum appropriated—\$150,000." The governor says the building will be of the colonial renaissance style of architecture, and the west front, facing the river, will be exceedingly handsome. It is probable that the contract will not be given out before the middle of September.

Cheering Industrial Statistics. An important showing of the reviving industrial and business interests of the state is contained in a statement prepared by W. C. Farnsworth, the corporation clerk of the state department, who has entire charge of the charter business of the department. It is through this department that all corporations receive their charters and are authorized to increase their capital stock, and to extend their corporate privileges, so that the business of the department increases or decreases as the state at large is prosperous or depressed. During March, April, May, June and July of 1896 the manufacturing and miscellaneous charters represented a capital of \$17,812,000, the building and loan associations \$16,650,000 and railroads and street railways \$1,418,000. Corporations increased their capital stock and indebtedness for the purpose of extensions and improvements to the amount of \$36,751,000, making an aggregate amount of capital represented by the transactions for the period of \$35,720,000. For the corresponding period of 1897 the manufacturing and miscellaneous corporations chartered represented a capital of \$20,805,000, building and loan associations \$19,390,000, railroads and street railways \$2,757,000 and increases of capital stock and indebtedness \$119,472,000, making an aggregate amount of capital represented by the business for the first five months of the present national administration of \$163,424,000, showing an increase in favor of the same period this year as compared with 1896 of \$90,733,000, or more than 125 per cent.

Much interest is manifested by the state political leaders, who meet in Harrisburg frequently for conference, in the Democratic and Republican state conventions, which are to be held in Reading and Harrisburg respectively. It is expected that these conventions will in some measure indicate the

line of battle for next year. A few weeks ago it was believed that Beacom and McCauley, for state treasurer and auditor general, respectively, would have no serious opposition in the Republican state convention. But the recent declaration of the Business Men's League in Philadelphia in favor of McCauley, and inferentially against Beacom, makes it almost certain that there will be a large element of the Republican party against Beacom's nomination. State Chairman Elkin and other party leaders, however, believe that the convention will nominate both Beacom and McCauley without serious friction. In the Democratic convention the fight will be over the silver plank in the platform and the question of ousting William F. Harry from his seat in the national committee as a representative of the Pennsylvania Democracy. The story that ex-Governor Pattison would again lead the Democratic hosts as their candidate for governor has been spied by the ex-governor himself announcing that he had never heard of such a proposition.

Decision Regarding Brewers' Licenses. Deputy Attorney General Elkin has given an important opinion on the new law relating to the granting of licenses to brewers by the state treasurer for \$1,000. He says no license can be issued by the state treasurer for less than \$1,000, but where the production of a brewery during the year preceding would require a larger amount to be paid if application were made to the court the state treasurer is required to collect the same amount from applicants.

During the last few days several Alaskan gold mining companies which have been chartered by other states have registered at the state department as foreign corporations for the purpose of doing business in Pennsylvania.

State Treasurer Haywood began payments under the general appropriation bill last week. Most of those who have been anxiously waiting for a distribution of the state's cash have been taken care of, and the regular appropriations to schools and state institutions will now be paid out. The state treasurer has been moving with extreme caution, so as not to be the subject of criticism by reason of undue haste.

Statistics received at the department of public instruction show that the increase of the annual appropriation for the past ten years from \$1,000,000, the minimum fixed by the constitution, to \$5,500,000 has done very little to increase the salaries of teachers or to increase the terms of the schools, but it has been taken advantage of to reduce local taxation for school purposes, until now there are 537 of the 2,471 districts which pay less school tax than they receive out of the state appropriation. Delaware, Allegheny, Forest and McKean are the only counties in which there are no districts showing such a record. State Treasurer Haywood has begun the distribution of the last half of the school appropriation made by the legislature of 1896, and he expects to pay out the entire \$5,500,000 due the school districts by next February. The next distribution to the schools will be made under the new law, which changes the basis of distribution so as to give the country districts a much larger share of the appropriation than formerly.

W. A. Keale, of Pittsburgh, has been appointed a clerk in the department of internal affairs to succeed the late Mr. Johnston, of Bellefonte, who had charge of the street railway reports for many years.

Mine Chief Not Yet Named. Governor Hastings has not yet made announcement of his selection for chief of the new bureau of mines and mining in the department of internal affairs. It is understood, however, that Robert Brownlee, of Easton, Lycoming county, will be the man. There are many applicants for the position of assistant superintendent of this bureau, who will be appointed by the secretary of internal affairs. This was the only department created by the last legislature, and it is expected in some measure to bring order out of chaos in the regulation of the mine inspectors.

His old friends in Bellefonte have not been forgotten by the governor. His latest favor has been bestowed upon Mrs. Martha D. Keller, a widow, who will succeed Miss Mary J. O'Reilly, a deputy factory inspector in Philadelphia, who will retire Sept. 1 to become a bride. Miss O'Reilly has been a very efficient inspector, and her reports to the department have always been regarded as reliable and intelligent.

Insurance Commissioner Lambert has given expression to some very decided views respecting the attitude of some of the insurance commissioners of the far western states toward the big insurance companies of the country. Colonel Lambert was asked what he thought of the proposition of these western commissioners to examine the eastern insurance companies. He said that the suggestion comes from some of the Populist states where they have diseased views of every sort of corporation and of the employment of capital in any legitimate enterprise. The examinations, he added, would be a mere farce in most instances, since they could not have any thoroughness, and the result would add nothing to the character of a company, no matter how good its standing. He says there is no need of examination of eastern companies by other than their own department.

James Campbell, the state factory inspector, says the new law to regulate the manufacture of flour and meal food products, better known as the bake shop law, which went into effect July 1, is being satisfactorily enforced. The equestrian monument of the late Major General John F. Hartranft will be erected on the west front of the new capitol, facing the river. The late legislature made an appropriation for the unveiling ceremonies at this monument, which will be the occasion of a great military demonstration in Harrisburg. It is understood that the monument will be placed in position next year.

There is considerable interest among state officials the decision of the United States circuit court at Pittsburgh on the constitutionality of the alien tax law. The probabilities are that there will be many other contests in the courts before the status of some of the legislation of the last legislature is fully determined.

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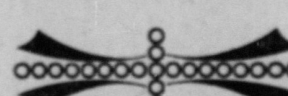
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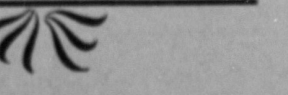


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