

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, -- EDITOR & PROP.

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EDITORIAL.

IS SILVER DEAD?

It is a common remark, often found in the Keystone Gazette and other republican papers, that free silver is dead, that its death knell was rung at the last election, that Bryan is a "back number" and his theories and arguments have been completely exploded. Why? Simply because McKinley received a small per cent more of the popular vote last fall. It is natural that such comments and conclusions should emanate from the average republican editor, who lives within his own prejudices, confines his reading to party organs and as a result his observations are one-sided, his political sphere limited and conclusions ridiculous.

The man who says free silver is dead and Bryanism a "back number," can't be aware of what is going on about him. To-day, wherever Wm. J. Bryan is announced to speak, thousands flock to hear him, and pay large admissions too, to hear him talk on the silver question. The recent article on "Wheat and Prosperity" by this champion of bimetalism has been eagerly published from one end of the country to the other. Everywhere it has attracted attention, caused much favorable comment, and criticism. It was a strong defense of silver, and called forth, for rebuttal, some of the ablest men in the republican party. None less than speaker Reed rushed into the arena to cross swords with the "back number." Secretary Gage, of the United States Treasury, was the next to jump into the "Boy Orator" to annihilate him and his "dead issue." That did not seem to be sufficient, along came the author of the tariff bill, Congressman Dingley, and he had his poke at the champion of free silver. Bryan's one letter seems to have stirred up the monkey cage; the republican bosses are alarmed by their action. Does this indicate that Bryan is a "back number" and the silver question a "dead issue"?

Another remarkable thing. All the democratic state conventions this year have reaffirmed the Chicago platform and endorsed free silver and have not shown a sign of wavering. There seems to be a determination, founded on conviction, that presses this issue forward. Democrats have not been dismayed in any instance by a temporary defeat.

The last sensation in the field of finance is that the Bank of England has announced its intention to keep one-fifth of its reserve in silver. This is a concession to silver that has aroused the bitterest comment from the goldites in all quarters of the world. Next comes the report that India is seriously contemplating the re-opening of her mints to silver coinage. This along with the rumors that France and other European countries are inclining towards bimetalism, is spreading consternation among the gold standard forces. That is what has transpired in the past month in the financial world--anyone who says free silver is settled forever, "a dead issue," does not realize what is transpiring about him. His prejudice has warped his intellect and he becomes ridiculous before the reading, thinking and intelligent people about him.

Bryan and the free silver cause is exceedingly alive, stirring and annoying. Its vitality they can't understand. Republican leaders like Sec. Gage, Dingley, Tom Reed, Editor Dana and others recognize Bryan and silver as a dangerous foe for the future. Such things are never perceived, though, by the small fry, which accounts for their misguided utterances and gleeful content in the face of danger.

Is Bryan a "back number" and silver a "dead issue"? Don't look so.

This year Centre county people are having a delightful rest from political excitement that truly can be relished after the bitter campaign of last fall. We have a very small local ticket about which very little attention is paid on either side. National politics concerns very few, while the present factional fights in the republican party only amuse the public. It is an off year and it is a pity that we don't have more of them. Too much politics is an injury to business and tends to lower the moral standard of the people.

NURSING THE TRUSTS.

If any man believes that the Dingley tariff bill is not the handwork of the combined trusts of America, let him study the schedules of that measure in connection with a list of trusts that are now flourishing despite the Sherman anti-trust law. Every trust mentioned in the list below secures an increase from the Dingley law, the increase running from 10 to 75 per cent. From the sugar trust to the writing paper trust, all the combined hordes of corporate greed have secured what they asked for, and because they are enabled to declare larger dividends by reason of increased price without increased cost, every protection paper in the land is declaring that prosperity has come to all the people. Look at the array of trusts:

- Oilcloth trust. Marble trust. Sandstone trust. Match trust. Carpet trust. Paper bag trust. Clothes wringer trust. Plate glass trust. Dental tool trust. Pulp trust. Lager beer trust. Rubber gossamer trust. Lead pencil trust. Rubber trust. Patent leather trust. Safe trust. Watch case trust. Stationary ware trust. White lead trust. Trunk trust. Barbed wire trust. Sash, door and blind trust. Boiler trust. School furniture trust. Borax trust. Shot and lead trust. Broom trust. Soap trust. Brush trust. Soda trust. Button trust. Sand paper trust. Casket trust. Water machinery trust. Rubber trust. Celluloid trust. Trunk trust. Coal trust. Type trust. Smelter's trust. Writing paper trust. Cotton trust. Cotton thread trust. Duck trust. Electric supplies trust. Pocket cutlery trust.

The Wilson bill gave the sugar trust a 29.3 differential. The Dingley bill gives 78 3/4. The glass trust gets an increase of 30 per cent. The meat trust gets from 20 to 48 per cent. on beef, 25 per cent. on preserved meats and from 10 to 31 per cent. on lard. From the top to the bottom every trust has received remuneration for the help it gave in once more boosting the tariff taxers into power. Every laborer and farmer should preserve this list of trusts and study it in the light shed upon it by the schedules of the Dingley bill.

THE Keystone Gazette is still arguing that dollar wheat has killed the silver question. It is amusing.

YELLOW fever has broken out in the Southern states and extreme measures have been adopted to keep it from spreading.

TIMES are better in certain sections of this country than they were a year ago, and by the time the crops are marketed there should be a decided change. To say that prosperity has arrived, is stretching the meaning of that word. Too many men are hunting work, while others receive only starvation wages.

THE killing of miners at Lattimer, recently, when they defied a Sheriff's posse, is a wholesome lesson to mobs and rioters. Workmen have a perfect right to strike, but they should not attempt to interfere with others who do not join with them. Further, the authority of our courts must be respected, even if it is at the cost of human life. Law and order should prevail at any cost.

THE two interesting elections this year will be in Ohio, where Mark Hanna is anxious to be returned to the U. S. Senate, and the selection of the first mayor of Greater New York. The result in Ohio will have a significant political lesson, while that in New York will be confined more to local conditions. In both places the assistance of McKinley and his administration have been solicited.

THERE are all sorts of vague rumors of a complication with Spain over Cuban affairs. Our coast defenses have been materially strengthened of late and our navy is being put in trim for service at the shortest notice possible. The conditions of the rebellion in Cuba have gone so far as to warrant interference, but it is a question whether Spain would elect to engage more trouble when she has enough of her own at home.

An Atlanta Enterprise of Great Merit. It affords us pleasure to call especial attention to the advertisement of the "Mother's Friend," appearing in this issue.

The Bradfield Regulator Co., of Atlanta, Ga., have at great expense issued a most attractive and meritorious book, which they mail free, containing information of the greatest value and importance to all ladies expecting to become mothers.

That the "Mother's Friend" is a remedy wonderful in its effects, and relieves the expectant mother of incredible suffering and robs the final hour of confinement of its dread, pain and terror, is fully attested by the experience of happy mothers all over this continent. A perusal of the book will convince any lady, and the use of "Mother's Friend" cause her to become its enthusiastic friend, blessing the wien first she heard of it and was induced to use it.

Send your name and address to The Bradfield Regulator Co., Atlanta, Ga., and receive in return, free, this excellent book, "To Expectant Mothers," containing information of value to all ladies. Sep. 23-2t.

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Senator Penrose's Success in Securing Federal Appointments.

SECRETARY MARTIN IN NO HURRY

The New Premier Has Not Yet Decided Upon the Changes to Be Made in His Official Family--Chris Magee's Senatorial Boom.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, Sept. 21.--There is much gossip in political circles regarding the success of Senator Penrose in securing federal appointments for Pennsylvanians. The principal plum secured by the junior senator is the Philadelphia postmaster, which has been awarded to Thomas L. Hicks. Mr. Hicks has served in the Philadelphia water department, and for several years has been an active member of councils in that city. He is now chief of the Philadelphia bureau of highways. Mr. Hicks had a remarkable indorsement for the position of postmaster. Besides having the support of the two United States senators, the Philadelphia members of congress, the Republican city committee, the Ward Leaders' League and other political organizations, thousands of personal letters were sent to Washington in his behalf.

Senator Penrose visited the president at Washington on Saturday, and succeeded in having John B. Shaw, of Clearfield county, appointed consul at Varranquilla, Colombia. Mr. Shaw is the chairman of the Republican county committee for his county, and is a nephew of Representative W. C. Arnold, of that district. The salary attached to his consulate is \$2,500. Senator Penrose also secured the appointment of A. G. Seyfert, of Lancaster county, as consul to Stratford, Canada. Mr. Seyfert was a member of the last legislature. The salary is \$2,000. This appointment was originally offered to Charles J. Hendon, of Philadelphia, formerly shipping commissioner at Boston under President Harrison.

Senator Penrose was then going ahead to name a number of other gentlemen whom he wished appointed, when the president called a halt, and laughingly told him that even the great state of Pennsylvania ought to be satisfied with two good consular appointments in one day during such dull times as the present. The junior senator, however, would not retire until he had presented the names of a number of other Pennsylvanians who ought to be given office. The president again referred him to Assistant Secretary Day, and the two gentlemen retired to the state department, and spent half an hour picking out some of the best places left and sizing them up for the requirements of the Pennsylvanians named. Senator Penrose was interviewed in Philadelphia Monday, and said regarding his visit to the capital:

Senator Penrose Gratified. "I am very much pleased with the result of my visit this time. I have been able to secure the nomination of Mr. Hicks as postmaster and that of two good Republicans as consuls. I am going back to Washington this week if the president does not go away again. I expect to round up a few more consular appointments before I am through. That is what will take me over there this week. I have the president's promise, and I hope to secure several good places."

Charles Mullen, of Cumberland county, an ardent supporter of Senator Quay, also visited Washington on Saturday, and at once began to arrange for the distribution of the federal patronage in his county. He was able to secure the appointment of Frank Holler as postmaster at Shippensburg at a salary of \$1,800 per year. There are several other interesting places he hopes to have filled soon.

The breaking out of yellow fever in the south may prevent the contemplated trip of the governor and party to the Nashville exposition. On his return from Bellefonte the governor issued a proclamation fixing Oct. 11 as Pennsylvania day at the exposition. Preparations for the trip are going on as if it was certain to take place, notwithstanding the likelihood of its abandonment. Among those who have been invited to accompany the governor are the judges of the superior court.

Adjutant General Stewart has purchased from the United States government 1,000 pairs of shoes and shipped them to Hazleton for use of the Third brigade. General Weeks, quartermaster general of the United States army, has given authority to the depot quartermaster at Philadelphia to sell to General Stewart at regulation prices such articles of clothing and equipment as he may need for the troops now on duty. This arrangement, together with the stock at the arsenal, will enable the adjutant general to care promptly and fully for all the needs of the troops. When the troops were ordered to Hazleton many of the soldiers reported for duty with light shoes, wholly unfit for the hard marches over rough country. The furnishing of shoes is not an indication that the guard will remain on duty any length of time, but it is in line with the policy of Governor Hastings and Adjutant General Stewart to have the troops properly equipped when on duty.

Secretary Martin Moving Slowly. It was generally supposed that the shakeup on the "hill" that resulted in the resignation of Secretary Reeder and Deputy Attorney Eikin would also include a change in the office of deputy secretary of the commonwealth. This, however, it was intimated, would be dependent upon the will of the new secretary.

In a recent interview at Philadelphia the new secretary stated that there is absolutely nothing to be said bearing on the matter at the present time.

"I have had little chance to even converse with the governor during my brief stay at Harrisburg," he said. "The trouble at Hazleton has kept him so closely engaged with the military details and like affairs that we have had no conference on any possible changes in the office. I have given the matter little thought, and nothing will be done until I thoroughly familiarize myself with the duties of my new position. In the meantime, should the occasion offer, I shall probably confer with the governor on any possible changes."

While Mr. Martin said nothing to give rise to such a belief, it is the general opinion that the deputy secretary, Captain Barnett, will be the first to go, and that he will be followed by several others.

Secretary Martin and Deputy Barnett were together Saturday in the former's private room several hours talking over and looking into business affairs of the office. Mr. Martin was asked whether he intended following the precedent of passing about two days a week on an average at the state department. Mr. Martin replied that he should like to be in Philadelphia on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, but the rest of each week he proposed to devote to the performance of the duties of his office.

Magee's Senatorial Boom. The indication that comes from Pittsburgh that C. L. Magee would be a candidate for United States senator against Colonel Quay indicates that the proposed combination against the Beaver man will be formed on different lines than was originally intended. It is taken to mean that Governor Hastings meant precisely what he said when he announced his intention of retiring from politics at the close of his present term of office. Reduced to a nutshell the politicians reason out that the governor feels that he can utilize the power of the last days of his administration to name his own successor as governor and to help elect some one other than Colonel Quay as United States senator. The belief that that "some one" is Chris Magee grows stronger as the days go by. The fact that Mr. Magee was specially invited to be present at the recent interview between the governor, the attorney general and Mr. Martin at the Union League in Philadelphia only helps to strengthen this theory.

Another interesting fact in connection with the whole situation is the possibility that the new anti-Quay combination may turn to P. A. B. Widener, of Philadelphia, for their candidate for governor. It is true that the stamp of executive approval has been placed upon the McCormick boom, but it is also true that the McCormick boom, like all other booms, is subject to the mutations of politics. It will be recalled that the first man Mr. Martin consulted after he had received the offer of the state portfolio was David H. Lane, of the Twentieth ward of Philadelphia. Mr. Lane's close personal relations to Mr. Widener are known to all observers of current events.

It will also be recalled that when Mr. Widener visited Harrisburg at the time of the last republican state convention for the purpose of getting a proxy in order to get into the convention the delicate task of getting this proxy devolved upon Messrs. Martin and Lane. They failed in this undertaking, but the incident shows that Mr. Martin's sympathies are with Mr. Widener.

The events of the coming 12 months may or may not place Mr. Martin in an embarrassing position. Mr. Martin's official connection with Governor Hastings would naturally place him in the position of having to show his loyalty to Mr. McCormick, the administration candidate for governor. Whether he will do this remains to be seen. Mr. Martin's statement to General Reeder that he would be a spectator instead of a participant in any future Quay and anti-Quay fights is not without its significance.

No Clemency For Election Crooks. Governor Hastings has refused to concur in the recommendation of the pardon board in the cases of Richard Hughes, James Cahill and Charles McConnell, of Philadelphia. The applicants pleaded guilty, Nov. 11, 1896, to an indictment charging them with making false returns as election officers, and were sentenced to six months each in prison and deprived of the right of suffrage for four years. The recommendation for absolute pardon was made June 30 last, but the reasons did not reach the executive until last Friday. The applicants served the full term of imprisonment, and were discharged some time ago. The application was to relieve them from the sentence "that they be deprived of the right of suffrage for the term of four years."

The reasons assigned for recommending the pardon were: That the applicants served their term of imprisonment and have since abstained from taking part in political matters; that in their endeavors to lead honest and law abiding lives they are greatly embarrassed by their disfranchisement; that their punishment is greater and heavier than they can bear; that the sentence imposed was a severe one, especially the disfranchising clause; that the offense to which they pleaded guilty was committed under extraordinary circumstances. After quoting the reasons given the governor says:

"In my judgment these reasons are unsatisfactory. The offense to which the applicants entered the plea of guilty was a glaring and deliberate attempt by Hughes as judge of the election, and Cahill and McConnell as inspectors, to corrupt the ballot in the district where they had sworn to honestly and faithfully execute the law. I know of no higher duty of the citizen than to see to it that suffrage shall always be guarded, protected and secured against venality and fraud. The election officer who receives the ballots of his fellow citizens entitled to vote and places them in the ballot box only to await the opportunity when he may deliberately destroy their effect, instead of sending forward the honest return so that each citizen may exercise his part of sovereignty in common with his fellow citizens, renders null and void a sacred right, and is the common enemy of state and country. He who, either as election officer or briber, contributes to the spoilation of the American ballot should be accused of men, and the stain which discolors him should be reflected upon every person, high or low, who profits by his crime. I refuse to concur in the recommendation of the board of pardons, and I decline to exercise executive clemency."

General J. P. S. Gobin issued general orders Saturday from the headquarters of the Grand Army of the Republic assuming the duties of commander-in-chief, and announcing the appointments of General Thomas J. Stewart, of Pennsylvania, to be adjutant general, and Charles Burrows, of New Jersey, to be quartermaster general. The commander-in-chief states that the appointees will serve without salary. Headquarters have been established at Independence Hall, Fifth and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia.

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