The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24, 1890.

THE CAR SHORTAGE.

The railroads of this region are unable to meet the demand for cars. Nearly all our industries are hampered and harassed by lack of adequate transportation facilities. For some time past this condition of affairs has prevailed, and it is becoming more acutely felt as the volume of trade increases. THE DISPATCH describes today the evil effects of the car famine upon one industry, the blast furnaces. Owing to the shortage of cars the furnacemen are unable to obtain proper supplies of coke, and in some cases banking up may be the costly result. What is true of the furnaces and their coke supplies applies measurably to all our industries. Pittsburg has always suffered more or less in this way. The railroads might find it wise to adopt the plan suggested by practical men to do away with the double-header system and make lighter trains. The rolling stock of the railroads ought to be increased. It has not kept pace with the growth of Pittsburg's trade. The manufacturers are not the only sufferers from the shortage of cars. Production in all lines is rendered irregular, and Pittsburg is injured in more ways than can be indicated.

ELECTED BY THE HOUSE.

The long deadlock on the Langston-Venable contested election was broken yesterday when the Republican leaders got a quorum from their own party. When the idea was impressed upon the majority that they, and not the Democrats, were responsible for keeping enough members in the House to do business, the call upon the Republicans to discharge their duties brought in enough to do the business, which the Hon. Joseph Cannon describes as "voting like wooden men." With that sort of action Mr. Venable was unseated and Mr. Langston was given his seat.

Of the partisan squabbles which have preceded that act of the House it is not necessary to say much. It may be doubted whether the Democrats would not have been wiser to have kept their seats, and placed the responsibility of turning out the man who was really elected on the majority. While public business has been blocked by the fight, it is not less a matter for public notice that the important feature of this contest is that the majority has unseated a member of whose claim to a seat there was no reasonable room for doubt. Full proof of that is furnished by the declaration of Mr. Cheadle, of whose straight-laced Republicanism there is no dispute, that the evidence in the case showed Venable to have been elected by a large majority, which has not been answered, and much less refuted.

When the party controlling the House undertakes to turn out members whose majority is counted by thousands, there is not much faith left in the stability and fairness of that body as a representative institution. The Constitution provides that the members of the House of Representatives shall be elected by the people; and by virtue of that provision it stands as the type and bulwark of popular government. But such cases as that decided yesterday locates the electing power in the hands of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and tends to make the House the type and bulwark of government by partisan oligarchy regardless of the rights of the people.

Every such act to maintain a party in power by denying the right of the people to fair representation, must weaken it. If the Republican party meets defeat this year, or in 1892, it will be due to just such acts of reckless partisanship as that committed yesterday.

THE ERRORS OF THE CENSUS.

An interesting debate is going on, in the New York papers, as to the effective cause of what is alleged to be inadequate enumeration of the population of that city by the census machinery. There is not much disposition on the part of Republican or Democratic editors to dispute that the disclosures of the vital statistics and the police census, so far as it has gone, show that the United States census was far from adequate. The exception is the undaunted *Press*, which remains faithful to the cause of its late editor, Mr. Porter, rather than to the work of magnifying its own city.

As to the reason why the census fell so far below the real population there is the widest diversity of theories. The ultra Democratic papers perceive in it a Republican plot to rob that Democratic city of its just representation, and indulge in partisan denunciations accordingly. The *Tribune* meets such charge with the not very complimentary explanation, to the local staff of census enumerators, of incompetence or negligence on their part. The civil service reform press naturally accepts this theory, and enlarges upon it, claiming the distribution of the positions as a political favor naturally put incompetent men at the work, while the award of the positions by an impartial examination would have selected competent ones. Lastly the *Sun*, with its usual disposition to agree with none of its cotemporaries, turns its scorching rays upon each of these theories, and finds none of them worth acceptance.

It is the case that none of these hypotheses to explain the shortage, in accordance with preconceived ideas, will stand full examination. The Democratic bugaboo of a partisan conspiracy has the superficial foundation of the inadequate count in New York, and the excessive count of Minneapolis and St. Paul, both Republican cities. But the latter vagary has been shown to have been due to the facilities with which the enumerators were willing victims to the local disposition for inflating the population of these cities; and the recount has promptly corrected the misplaced boom. If there were a conspiracy to diminish the population of Democratic districts and exaggerate the Republican population, would these remarkable ratios of growth shown by cities in the South have been given, while Pittsburg and Allegheny were reported so much below what they had reason to expect? The civil service reform theory, while it looks cogent on the surface, is shown to have a weak application in this respect by two considerations. First, that the necessary qualifications for a census enumerator—an unwearied pair of legs and education enough to set down the answers correctly—are possessed by nearly every man who can make himself strong among the politicians; second, that enumerators, being paid by the amount of work they did, were not subject to the political temptation to neglect it and rely on political influence to draw salaries. The position was not one that was in request among politicians, being just the opposite of a sinecure.

The real cause of the inadequacy of the census is stated by the *Sun*, as it was by THE DISPATCH during the progress of the work. It is in loading it down with the attempt to collect statistical information foreign to the proper scope of enumeration. The famous investigation into private diseases and indebtedness could not be properly made by those who were engaged in the task of counting the population, and only served to hamper and delay the work. The original and main purpose of the census is to obtain a correct enumeration of the population for the purposes of apportionment and taxation. If the Government wants information as to the health, vital condition, morals, or financial status of the people those can be obtained, like manufacturing and agricultural statistics, by separate inquiries. If the census had been confined simply to enumeration there is no doubt that the work could have been thoroughly done even by those in charge of it. But the long list of 30 distinct questions to be filled out in the case of each individual prejudiced a portion of the public against giving the information, delayed the work of enumerators, and made their task so unremunerative that it is little wonder they should have left some of it undone, which called for extra journeys over sparsely built districts, or repeated calls on people who could not readily be found at home.

The census of this year is not a glittering success; but its experience should be held in recollection long enough to guard against the repetition in 1900 of its error of loading the census with irrelevant and impertinent inquiries.

THE TARIFF CONFERENCE.

The agreement of the tariff bill conference committee, accepting the House schedule on steel and iron, with the exception of a compromise on steel plates and the Senate rate on steel billets, shows satisfactory progress in the work of giving final shape to the measure and winding up the long struggle. The cut thus made on steel billets is a severe one, but otherwise the agreement is very satisfactory to the iron and steel interests.

So far, the work of the conference committee on leading features of the bill has resulted in about equal concessions. The House conferees have accepted the Senate's reciprocity amendment, and the Senate has accepted the metal schedule passed by the House, with the above exceptions. These steps toward final agreement are such as will meet with approval from the majority of the nation. The reciprocity proposition was of such merit as to command general approval. The preservation of the House schedule on iron and steel, while making decided reductions in the duties, protects those industries in which the purpose of protection has not been defeated by trusts or pools from injury by radical and sweeping reductions.

The indication the agreement on these points gives as to the sugar schedule is not so satisfactory. There is fear that the House conferees having carried their point on iron and steel will be called upon to surrender the sugar schedule. The state of affairs here is very different. The sugar refining industry has, with few exceptions, banded itself for the defeat of the legitimate object of protection; and the leading independent refiner, Mr. Claus Spreckels, has declared that the protection afforded by the House schedule is ample. With the cheap raw sugar furnished by the pending bill no protection at all is needed by the sugar refiners. The House conferees should fulfill the pledge of Mr. McKinley made on the floor of the House, to insist up the lower duties established by the House bill.

A good way to complete the mutual concessions on the bill would be to agree to the House provisions on sugar and the Senate amendment on binding twine. Such agreement would be something in the line of fulfilling the professed opposition of the Republican party to the Trusts.

PROTECTION FOR STEEL BILLETS.

It is to be hoped that Congress will give heed to the protests of Pittsburg manufacturers against the proposed tariff rates on steel billets. Mr. B. F. Jones, in our columns to-day, states the case very plainly. Steel billets have never been properly protected, and it is now proposed to rob them of what little protection they have enjoyed. The injustice of this discrimination against a single product is patent, and the Republican tariff conferees cannot afford to let it stand. From our Washington correspondent we learn that Colonel Bayne is trying to have the unfair provisions changed. It is to be hoped that with the greater part of the schedules settled satisfactorily the effort to round out the bill in this important feature will be successful.

PROMISING BUDS.

This has been a very poor year for fruit, but the political blossoms are showing profusely on the Presidental Candidate shrubbery. Reed and McKinley are blooming in all the freshness and beauty of their first formal introduction as ambitious aspirants. Yet with the frosts of two winters still ahead, it is too early for their followers to talk with confidence.

But of the staying qualities of that hardy quadrennial, James G. Blaine, there is no such misgiving. If Blaine really means to compete for the Republican nomination for President in 1892, nobody has the least doubt that, his health spared him, he will be at or very near the top of the list when the balloting begins.

Singular to note, the one name which is seldom seriously discussed among the probabilities is that of Mr. Harrison.

PROVING THE ARMOR PLATES.

The test of the respective merits of armor plates of foreign make against a gun of American manufacture, is correctly considered as yielding results of very great importance. First, the power of the American-made eight-inch gun and its projectiles were satisfactorily demonstrated. This was to be expected, as in the struggle between armor and guns abroad, the latter have usually come off victorious. It is satisfactory to learn, however, that the performance of the heavy ordnance manufactured in the United States shows it to be fully up to guns of European make. The great significance of the test was, of course, in its demonstration of the superiority of the steel plates used in the French navy over the compound armor, which is supposed to protect a large majority of English battle ships. The Cammell compound plates were subjected to the same test as the French steel plates. At the fourth shot the former was completely wrecked, while the latter was only cracked after five shots.

It may be doubted whether in some respects this test has not a more revolutionary result than the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac. That world-renowned fight only destroyed the wooden navies, and left the respective power of naval armaments as they were until new navies were built. But this test carries to England the startling doubt whether her naval supremacy has not been lost by covering her ships with worthless armor, while the smaller French navy is protected by armor of undoubted superiority. That this conclusion will cause a panic in English navy yards is beyond question, and it is likely to produce a new demand on the long-suffering British tax-payer for the means to replate the half-protected vessels fondly hoped to be invulnerable.

The test is also truthfully said to show that our naval constructors were right in adopting the French style of steel plates for battle-ships. But in that respect the test cannot be regarded as complete until American-made plates are subjected to the same test as the French ones, in order to know whether they stand the actual proof of resisting powers as well as their foreign models.

EMERY'S ANSWER.

The war in the Northwest continues. In answer to an assertion from Bradford that Republicans among the oil producers are not antagonistic to Candidate Delamater, ex-Senator Emery responds with the names of 250 more or less prominent Republicans who have signed a paper pledging themselves to Pattison.

Evidently the contest for the Governorship is arousing deep feeling in the oil regions. Meanwhile the most important incident in that quarter will be Emery's assumption of the floor on Friday night. By his success or failure then must mainly be measured the extent of his influence on the canvass.

DRINK AND GOOD ROADS.

Not much comfort can be obtained from a perusal of this county's statistics of drunkenness as they appear in our columns today. The worst feature of all is the increase in the jail commitments, seventy-five per cent of which may be ascribed to drunkenness, since the Brooks law went into effect. In the last two years more than nine thousand persons have been sent to the county jail, and of these it is said that nearly seven thousand were imprisoned for offenses growing out of inebriety. The growth of intemperance does not appear to have been retarded by restrictive liquor legislation, but rather the contrary.

It is suggested that this army of prisoners might have been employed to good advantage on the public roads. It would have been healthier for them, no doubt, and the community would have gained good roads instead of nothing from the harvest of intemperance.

"IN the political field," remarks the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, "a lie well stuck to is often considered as good as the truth." Thus the official Delamater organ explains its persistency in asserting that Governor Pattison is responsible for the waste of money in the extra session of 1883, because the Legislature refused to do its duty.

IT is reported that Kilgore's feat in kicking open the door of the House of Representatives has placed him in the front rank as a candidate for Senator from Texas. Some very peculiar Senatorial qualifications have already been developed, such as the possession of a big bank account, but this will be the first time that a man has been thought to show Senatorial eligibility by his performance as a kicker. Plumb, of Kansas, evinced some talent in the kicking line after election to the Senate; but he does not kick to the bitter end that Kilgore does. Still, it is doubtful whether Kilgore's kicking abilities, unsupported by other qualities of statesmanship, will raise him to the Senate. He had better be content to stay and do his kicking in the House.

BOULANGER was well enough shown up before; but when he puts himself in the position of asserting that a woman from whom he acknowledges receiving $600,000, gave it because she was in love with him, he gives the finishing touch to his own reputation as something which it were base flattery to call a man.

THE New York *Press* says that the prospects are getting better that the conference committee will extend the benefits of free sugar to the consumer as well as the Sugar Trust. It is to be hoped that the prognostication of our cotemporary will prove correct; but it is to be feared that the struggle of special interests to get all they can out of the bill will result in each taking all it wants, and the Sugar Trust obtaining its share of the grab.

IF the resort to striking is ever justifiable it is so in the Illinois coal mines, where the operators refuse to pay wages on a par with their competitors. But the miners should be certain that they can win before they call upon each other to surrender the slender wages they are getting now.

MR. CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW, in a recent address, referred to reform as the "shibboleth of fools." This will form a companion motto to Senator Ingalls' declaration that "the purification of politics is an irridescent dream." Mr. Depew may know what reform was in 1872, when he tried to make a reputation in that line, but of late years the principal quality which he has exhibited in connection with reform is his ignorance of it.

IF the Republicans are going to resort to photographic views of the House in order to shape public opinion on the merits of the two parties, a picture of that row caused by Cannon's unreportable language would doubtless convey a great deal of instruction.

THE Republicans in Ohio have declared the policy of nominating strong men to Congress, in response to the Democratic gerrymander. The nomination of Foster, of Fostoria, is an example of the sort. With the close affiliation of Foster to the Standard Oil barrels, he is believed to be strong enough to carry anything, according to the Ohio ideas, illustrated by Payne, Brice and himself.

WITH the House schedule on iron and steel adopted it is to be hoped that the House conferees will not make a trade of it by surrendering its provision of cheap sugar to the consumer.

THE failure of Lima oil speculation and the closing of the two Ohio exchanges may be explained by the fact that the public has had experience enough to avoid dealing in a manipulated staple. If the Pennsylvania producers can establish competition in the transportation, storage and refining of their product, the public may deem it safe to take an interest in the market once more.

Canadian Fisheries Statistics.

OTTAWA, ONT., September 23.—The Fisheries Department has received statistics of the salmon packed on the Frazer river this season. The total catch is 246,050 cases, or over 11,750,000 pounds, valued at $1,407,248. When the pack on the Neas and Skeanrvers and of the coast is added the total number of cases will reach 400,000.

OUR SHORT STORIES.

TRUE TO HIS PROFESSION.

IF there be a man that is absolutely true to his professional faith it is the swamp doctor. To him there is no such thing as advancement in the science of medicine. "Doctorin' folks is doctorin' folks," and that's all there is about it. He selected his model from that old class of practitioners, now happily extinct in more civilized communities, known as the bleeders. To one of those old fellows the letting out of blood was the letting in of life.

Some time ago, a man while working at a sawmill, had one of his arms torn off. The only physician near at hand was an old swamp doctor, who as a last chance was sent for. When he arrived the unfortunate man was rapidly bleeding to death. The doctor whipped out his lancet.

"What are going to do?" the owner of the mill asked.

"Goin' to bleed him."

"Bleed him the deuce. Don't you see he's nearly bled to death now?"

"Oh, I can't help that. My professional honor is at stake, and I must bleed him."

"But he can't stand it. The thing to do is to stop his bleeding."

"Well, I'll stop the bleeding of the torn arm, but I'll let the blood out of the well one."

"You shall not."

"All right then, I'll not have anything to do with the case. If medicine can't go its way in this community without being trod on, w'y I stand aside."

SCRAPPIN' IN THE KITCHEN.

"I'T'S a scrappin' time I have it," said the cook. "Here I've gouged the eyes out of the potatoes, basted the meat, split the head o' the cabbage, whipped the cream and beat the eggs, and now I've got to pitch in and do up the preserves."

SHAKES.

To shaking hands the candidate
Doth now himself betake—
He later learns, alas! too late,
Who's given him the shake!

BESSY BLOSSOM'S BABY.

MOORED near the muddy banks of the old Monongahela river the shanty boat "Bessy Blossom" lay. Nothing strange about that, for there are scores of them in the vicinity of Pittsburg.

But this boat was an exception. It was clean, well painted, pretty. Two rooms cheaply but neatly furnished. Jim Bilson, aged 30, laborer, was sole owner, if we except the natty little woman he called wife. That would be only fair.

Somehow or other folks looked with interest upon this little craft. There were two children on board, a boy and a girl. As the trains passed they waved a little American flag, and the commuters learned to look for them.

One morning the children were missing, and upon the door of the shanty boat a piece of black rag was hanging, tied by a mite of white muslin. The commuters all looked solemn enough, and some of them decided to visit the bereaved family.

They did so. One by one some half dozen men crossed the gang plank, knocked at the door. The mother was out washing somewhere in the city, and the two children hung with tearful eyes over a little white box in the corner.

What a pathetic sight. Enough to move a heart of stone. Silently these strong men stole up to the casket, with solemn countenances, and were astonished to find the dead body of a miniature sky terrier that had wandered ashore in the night and devoured a Pittsburg dog button.

During the mother's absence the youngsters had draped the door.

Six strong men crossed hands upon the muddy beach, and made a solemn compact never to reveal to mortal man what they saw on board the "Bessy Blossom."

As they pass her every morning they exchange glances, bite their nether lips and are silent. That is all.

POLLY WAS PROFANE.

AN innocent green parrot with a yellow topknot is enjoying the fine weather these days, and keeps the neighborhood informed of his linguistic talents from his cage in a third-story window on the Federal street hill, Allegheny.

Two little girls stopped to admire Polly the other day. At that moment he had stopped expressing his desire for crackers to remark in an infantile tone, "O papa! O papa! O papa!" over and over again. One of the little girls called up to him, "What do you want, Polly?"

Polly answered in a gruff bass voice at once, "Go to ——!"

The little girls did not go to the torrid place named by Polly, but they went away at once.

SHE SHOULD CHEER UP.

THE autumn's drama now is staged,
In scenes of gold and red;
The summer girl who's not engaged
No longer hopes to wed!

HIS FIRST AND LAST CIGAR.

THE squatter who had "jist drapped in ter ax fur er leetle manerfac chawin' terbaccer" watched the boys as they lit their cigars, but declined to smoke one. He produced a clay pipe, filled it with "sto' tobaccer" given him by one of the crowd. After lighting his pipe and smoking silently for a few minutes he began.

"Hit's mighty nigh thirty yeer sence I rid ther mail f'om Peterville ter ther F'int. I was on'y er boy 'bout twelve yeer ol' an' I didn' have as much sence as er spring chicken. I'd git inter ther F'int at night an' stay twell nex' day. Onst I was thar jist afo' Chris'mus, I was er standin' in front uv er stable whar I kep per pony. Fo' boys 'bout mer size come er long. They axed me whar I come f'om an' whut I was er doin'. I tol' 'em. All uv 'em was er smokin' uv seegyars an' one of 'em he lowed ter me, s'se, 'Does you smoke?' An' I said, s'I, 'Yes, I smoke, but I hain't got nary er pipe.' Then he says ter one them yother boys, s'se, 'Dick, give 'im one er them leetle red seegyars uv your'n.' Dick says, s'se, 'All right,' an' he handed hit ter me an' 'lowed, 'Hit won't draw good at fust, but soon as hit gins to sizzle, hit'll be bully.' He tetched hit with the fire-end uv his seegyar, an' I put hit in mer mouth. Hit wouldn't draw, no matter how hard I pulled. Bimeby hit started to sizzle. Dick says, s'se, 'Pull hard, greeney,' an' I pulled a heap. Jis' then hit 'sploded, and I dropped, skeered mighty nigh plum ter death. The boys they runned off er laughin', but I was too skeered ter do anythin' but holler, an' you bet I hollered. A man run up an' says he, 'Whar yer hurt?' I told 'im 'bout the seegyar I smoked, an' he bust out er laughin', too, and' says, s'se, 'W'y, yer dang fool, hit was er fire-cracker yer smoked 'stid er or seegyar.' Sence 'en I hain't smoked nuthin' but er clay pipe, an' I don' trus' nary soul ter fill hit but me."

CHICAGO ALL RIGHT.

The National Commission Approve the New Site and Praise Chicago.

CHICAGO, September 23.—The South Park Commissioners this morning formally passed an ordinance granting Washington Park for the use of the World's Fair. This was formally accepted in turn by the local board of directors, and at once sent to the National Commission, but that body had taken a recess until the afternoon.

The National Committee to-day adopted resolutions reciting the fact that reports had been sent out to foreign papers, giving the erroneous impression that Chicago was not the popular choice for the World's Fair site, and signifying the entire approval of the commission with all that had been done. The resolutions, which will be sent to the principal foreign cities, state that the prospects for a successful international exposition are as bright as could be desired.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Mrs. William Reed.

The venerable Captain William Reed, of the Central Station, the oldest police officer in active service in the United States, suffered a sad bereavement last night in the death of his esteemed wife. Mrs. Reed had been ill for some time, and was 69 years of age. Captain Reed has the heartfelt sympathy of his very many friends.

Mrs. Mary Ann Jenkinson.

Mrs. Mary Ann Jenkinson died yesterday at the residence of her son in Bellevue at the age of 78 years. Mrs. Jenkinson is the mother of R. & W. Jenkinson, the well-known wholesale tobacco and cigar dealers. The funeral will occur to-morrow at 11 A. M.

Mrs. Louisa Hebbig.

Mrs. Louisa Hebbig, nee Roselich, wife of Geo. Hebbig, died yesterday at her home on Fourth street, Beltzhoover borough, at the age of 62 years. The funeral takes place on Thursday at 2 P. M., from the late residence of the deceased.

HARBOR RESTRICTIONS REMOVED

To Give Chicago More Space for the Columbian Exposition.

WASHINGTON, September 23.—Acting Secretary Grant, of the War Department, has addressed a letter to Hon. Benjamin Butterworth, the Secretary of the World's Columbian Exposition Directory, in reply to his communications and telegrams, and those from the President and Vice President and other members of the directory and citizens of Chicago, in reference to the use of the Chicago Lake Front for the purpose of the Columbian Exposition. Mr. Grant says the department has arrived at the following conclusion:

The old harbor line—2,000 feet inside of the west wall of the breakwater—is re-established and extended south. The restrictions heretofore existing between the prolongation of the center of Monroe street and Park Row, inside of the harbor line, are removed upon the condition that the Illinois Central Railroad Company consent to the provisions of the act of the State of Illinois, approved August 5, 1890, and the ordinance of the city of Chicago adopted September 15, 1890, and release all claims to land between the points named and east of their right of way.

Acting Secretary Grant, in announcing this conclusion of the department, says it may be proper to state that the view of the department has been that all the waters included in what is known as the outer harbor of Chicago by reasons of the acts of Congress and the building of the breakwaters and other acts of the government, were within control of the War Department, and that it has been the duty of the department to protect the harbor for the purpose of navigation and commerce. And the act of September 19, 1890, clearly places it under the control of the department.

It is now proposed, he says, to devote a large space inside the harbor line to the purposes of the Columbian Exposition in the interest of commerce. It is urged that the exposition will result in the increase of navigation and commerce, and more than compensate for the space that might be used for piers and wharves. The department, he says, is inclined to take this view. In removing the restrictions from the locality above named, it is not intended to interfere with, or affect any private right, riparian or otherwise.

WITH SPEECHES AND SONGS

The Fourth Anniversary of the County Democracy is Celebrated.

The rooms of the County Democracy could not hold the crowd that gathered last night to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the organization of the association. The old war horses and stand-bys of the Democracy were out in full force to do honor to the event, and they did it in true Democratic Jacksonian style.

William J. Brennen, Esq., occupied the chair and made the opening address. "Billy" is a candidate for Congress and put out his best foot first. His speech was characteristic of the well known attorney and referred to the good work being done for the party by the association. Everything was informal and there was no set programme. The idea was to have a good time and anybody that wanted somebody else to do something had only to say so, and the somebody else had to get up and do it. The Hooper Bros., with their mandolins, rendered some fine music and showed by their efforts that they were artists worthy of merit and praise. The Major Sellers Quartet sang several songs and were followed by William Finnerty, the well-known soloist. L. Loughrey, 'Squire Boyle and others also contributed to the entertainment. About 11 o'clock members of Tony Pastor's company and the Innes Band appeared and rendered vocal and instrumental music. An appetizing lunch wound up the celebration.

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ENGLAND.

A Resolution of Inquiry Regarding Americans Deprived of Liberty.

WASHINGTON, September 23.—Representative Scranton, of Pennsylvania, in the House to-day presented for conference to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the following preamble and resolution:

WHEREAS, Harsh and brutal treatment of political prisoners is now universally condemned by all civilized nations, and even from England remonstrances have been addressed to the Russian Government on behalf of Russian subjects incarcerated for political reasons; and,

Whereas, Several American citizens (Dr. Gallagher, W. Kent, J. Wilson, T. Whitehead and others), are now undergoing imprisonment in England for political offenses against that country, and are, according to even official reports and admissions, being treated with exceptional and unjustifiable severity; therefore,

Resolved, That this House respectfully and earnestly requests the President to cause inquiry to be made, as far as practicable, into the condition and cases of the prisoners, and should the reports referred to prove correct, then to endeavor to secure for them humane and decent treatment, pending efforts on their behalf which, it is anticipated, will prove that they have not been fairly or legally convicted of the offense as charged against them, and are, therefore, entitled to relief.

NOT A GREAT TRAVELER.

An Elk County Man Who Never Journeyed Over Six Miles.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

WILCOX, September 23.—This county of Elk has a curiosity in the shape of one J. G. Anderson, of Glen Hazel. Although he has lived on his farm, near this place, for 80 years, and within one mile of three railroads for 12 years, neither he nor any of his family have ever ridden on the cars.

The greatest distance he has ever been away from home has been to this place, a distance of six miles, with a horse and wagon.

CANDIDATES FOR CONGRATULATIONS.

Two Prominent Young People Quietly Married Last Night.

A pretty but quiet little wedding took place in St. Peter's Church, last night, about 7 o'clock, Rev. Mr. Mackey officiating. The contracting parties were Miss Alice V. Connor, sister of J. C. Connor, department operator of the First police district, and James H. Sheppard, a brother of ex-City Clerk George Sheppard.

Shortly before 8 o'clock the bride and groom left for the West on their bridal tour. On their return they will reside in Pittsburg.

NO YANKEE NEED APPLY.

An American Denied Permission to Fish in Canadian Waters.

OTTAWA, September 23.—The Minister of Marine and Fisheries has had under consideration the application of Captain Whitelaw, a United States citizen, asking permission to catch whales in the Gulf of Georgia.

As the Captain proposed to do his whaling in American bottom, the Minister would not allow a precedent to be created, and permission was refused.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

THE late Rev. E. P. Roe will be honored with a monument at the hands of his townsmen at Cornwall, N. Y.

STEPS are being taken in Troy to erect a monument to to the memory of Miss Emma Willard, who did so much for the higher education of women.

THE Duchess d'Uzes, who furnished Boulanger with his money, is the owner of the Veuve Cliquot champagne business, which she inherited from her mother.

JOHN H. LITTLEFIELD, who lectured last season on "Personal Recollections of Abraham Lincoln" in nearly every Northern State, is now in greater demand than ever.

PASTEUR is a small, solidly built man, very pale and rather sickly in appearance. He limps when he walks. His face shows in every lineament a high order of intellect.

DOUGLAS SLADEN, the Australian poet, is spending the present month in Nepigon, Ont. Next month he will visit Montreal and Boston, in which latter city he has many admirers.

AT his beautiful home in Germantown the late William Brockie dispensed a cordial and lavish hospitality. Nearly every person of any distinction who visited Philadelphia found in Mr. Brockie a warm friend and thoughtful host.

GENERAL MERWIN and Judge Morris, the opposing candidates for Governor in Connecticut, are so irretrievably and entirely bald that their heads shine like a couple of arc lamps. And yet each of these gentlemen is after the other's scalp.

THE Rev. Royal H. Pullman, who is running for Congress on the Republican ticket in the Third district of Maryland, explains his position by remarking that he is trying to elevate politics, and that he is doing only what every Christian should do.

REV. DR. MEREDITH, who, next to Dr. Talmage, preaches to the largest audiences in Brooklyn, was a sailor boy. It was in that capacity that he first arrived in San Francisco, where he remained some time, and then went to Boston to study for the ministry.

ALL the printing of the Hampton Institute of Virginia, and much of it is of a very artistic character, is done by the negro and Indian students of the college. The Indian boys in particular learn the art readily and take much interest in turning out ornamental work.

SNAP SHOTS IN SEASON.

IF everybody was honest we would not have to carry night keys.

"IN the midst of life we are in death." This was forcibly brought to mind by an incident yesterday. I saw a grave-faced, spectacled man patiently scanning the files of THE DISPATCH. Curious to know his object, I kept an eye on the columns sought. He was poring over the obituaries, making careful notes on a pad, and seemed to be gloating over that which brought sorrow to others. He spoke not, neither did he sigh. Slowly, but surely, he transferred the names of the deceased to his note book, the list lengthening with every pencil stroke. What did he want—who was he—why did he seek the record of the dead in the land of the living? Can you guess? No. Well, I'll tell you. He was a tombstone maker—the man who carves deep epitaphs into the headpieces; who polishes long shafts of granite for the rich, and rubs rough edges off mean slabs for the poor; who grows fat on green graves in all communities that patronize fashionable cemeteries. What was he doing? Well, he was taking down the names and address of the dead to guide him aright in drumming up business among the living. He may call in person or send his prospectus or agent to see you—you who have lost someone whose memory must be perpetuated by a name, a text, a line, a verse, a word or a cold, cold stone. A grewsome task, to be sure, but a profitable one withal. So I left him filing out his pad—name, age, abiding place when living—with Death! Each pencil stroke brought him nearer his own tombstone, but he could not see it in the Then while so busy with the Now. He was grubbing for gold in the grave.

TOO much sympathy acts like a poultice on a healing wound. It keeps the spot sore.

THE acts of Congress are supposed to be laws. They have mainly been lawless this session, however.

PEOPLE who howl for a higher education should study in balloons.

CONGRESS and baseball will stop about the same time. Good things seldom come in pairs, but when they do we appreciate them.

A BALTIMORE street preacher says the Devil gets around just before election time. He will probably travel over Pennsylvania in a barrel this year.

MURDERS are committed in cold blood during heated arguments.

THE campaign orators are doing the speaking this time, but the people who finger the ballots are doing the thinking.

THE Count of Paris will not be disputed.

THE wind may be tempered to the shorn lamb, but how about the bald-headed man.

NOW let the sound of hammers drown all the discord in Chicago. When actual work begins on the fair buildings people will begin to save up their small change in order to help foot the bills.

THE college football crack is a bigger man than the college President.

ARTISTS agree that the Sheriff of Allegheny county could have hung the paintings at the Exposition a good deal better than the hangman to whom the disposition thereof was intrusted.

PEOPLE who talk about Pittsburg being dirty and sooty nowadays must look at it through a glass—or several glasses.

THE big men who were entertained by skeletons at the Whitechapel Club, Chicago, the other night, probably saw snakes before the night was over. The club keeps them on tap in the sideboard.

CHICAGO'S hindsight is better than its foresight, after all.

IF you want to see a fine-looking, well-fed, contented, jolly, broad-browed body of big men take a peep into the hall where the German Catholic Congress sits.

THE McKinley tariff bill will make mighty interesting reading in Europe.

THOSE who chew the cud of contentment instead of the weed need not carry a tooth brush in their waistcoat pocket.

A SWEET-FACED girl may have a sour temper.

BASEBALL players are not the most contented fellows on earth, even if they are always re-signed.

A BOY babe left in a doorway is certainly a stop-son.

THE bondless and uninsured married man who travels without an accident insurance ticket in his trousers pockets nowadays is heartless indeed. Besides, the paper will identify you.

GIRLS who use arsenic wafers make pale angels.

THE man who prays loudest and longest usually has something on his conscience.

PEOPLE who swim in the gilded ripples of the social stream are just as liable to sink as those who paddle along in the free baths patronized by the masses. Both will clutch at the same straw, too.

THE clerks at political headquarters are busy "shoving the queer" now. The voters can't be queered this time, though.

KITTENISH girls are liable to become real old cats.

THE man who stands upon truth cannot be knocked down by a lie.

WHEN Delamater's record is held against the Emery wheel at Bradford next Friday, its polish will probably be dimmed instead of brightened.

THE pirates of the rail should be treated like the pirates of the sea.

SPANISH dancers are now the metropolitan rage. They are an improvement on the Gaiety skirters, as they use eyes and arms instead of the lower limbs to please the scanty-haired.

A DOG always has a tail to tell when it desires to express satisfaction.

A PACK of cards is no longer "the Devil's book." The reprints of the French and Russian novelists and the intense realism of some English-writing romancers can give the pasteboards a "pat" hand and win out for Satan every time.

THE old adage about whistling girls and crowing hens has been ruthlessly shattered by the successes of the tuneful females of the period. Of course they are not dead yet, and anything is liable to happen before they pucker their rosy lips for the last time.

THEY have colored lights in the House now.

WILLIE WINKLE.

Ex-President Hayes Addresses Soldiers.

WARREN, O., September 23.—The dedication of the soldiers' monument brought a large crowd to the city to-day. Ex-President Hayes delivered the address, speaking interestingly 30 minutes on the general topic of the war. There was an imposing parade of the G. A. R. and civic societies.

AN AUTUMN SONG.

All the summer's worn and old;
The sun has ceased a-wooing it.
Trees are drooping blood and gold—
Blood for murder of the right,
And gold to hide it out o'sight;
But for all they are so bold
I think they'll fail for doing it
I'll the careful sun is cold.

Till the watching stars for dread
Go out, and cease to lighten it.
Cruel earth drinks up the red,
Wrung by lust of greedy gain
From the broken sweater's pain,
From the dying and the dead,
Till never moon may whiten it
With her silver pity shed.

Ye who tread a golden way
With hearts of others paving it
Hark! the autumn voices say:
"The yellow leaves lie ankle deep,
But through them still the crimson peep,
Ruddy drops to stain the day.
No after rain-drops, laving it,
Wash the purple from the clay."

—*Nina F. Layard, in Harper's Magazine for October.*

SOME LIVE TOPICS

To be Voted on at the Exposition—An Important Prize Essay Contest.

The Exposition has entered upon its fourth week. Since the opening day, visitors have had an opportunity to vote upon a variety of popular topics, and thousands have taken advantage of THE DISPATCH Poll Book to express their views thereon pro and con. This popular mode of gauging public opinion will be pursued by THE DISPATCH until the close of the big show. To-day visitors are requested to cast their ballots and make such remarks as they see fit on the following topic:

Should the Granting of Liquor Licenses be Placed in the Hands of a Commission? Open to Lady and Gentlemen Voters.

Vote Aye or Nay on the foregoing at DISPATCH Headquarters, Brunswick-Balke-Collender Billiard Company's Space, Exhibition Building.

On account of the bulk and variety of the competitions for the Prizes offered by THE DISPATCH for the best essay on the measures to be taken to promote the growth and prosperity of Pittsburg, THE DISPATCH has decided not to detract from their importance by another essay contest until after the pending awards have been made and the competitions published. The topic is of vital importance, and the public must be given opportunity to digest the views of the writers without being turned in other and lesser channels.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD.

A Large Concourse of Ministers, but a Scarcity of Chickens.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

COCHRANTON, September 23.—The thirty-third annual session of the First Synod of the West of the United Presbyterian Church met in the United Presbyterian Church at 7:30 this evening.

The session was called to order by the Reading Moderator, Rev. Mr. Graham, of Allegheny Presbytery, who preached the sermon, and opened the Synod with prayer. The six presbyteries constituting this Synod are Allegheny, Beaver Valley, Butler, Cleveland, Lake and Mercer. The Stated Clerk, Rev. H. H. Hervy, of Hartstown, called the roll of ministers and elders, about 180 answering to their names. Rev. L. McCompbell, of Butler Presbytery, was elected moderator for the ensuing year.

The Board of the Theological Seminary, of Allegheny, will report to-morrow, when a professor of church history will be elected and other business transacted. In the evening there will be a conference of young people's meeting, opened by Prof. J. R. McClelland, of Grove City. The