

The Greenbackers meet in Chicago to be called to the people's party.

The Kentucky Congressmen, with the exception of Senator Beck, have joined in a request to President Garfield to give John B. Bowman, of this State, a place in his cabinet.

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature to repeal the present Jury Commission law, and place the selection of Jurors in the hands of County Commissioners.

The Senate Finance Committee has reported in favor of a 5-10 loan at 3 per cent interest, this being an advance of one-half per cent over the rate which the House regarded as sufficient.

REPRESENTATIVE WELLS, of Schuylkill county, has introduced a bill to compel coal operators to have ambulances at the mines for the conveyance of sick or injured persons to their homes.

There seems to be but little doubt that that tramp is carrying the smallpox disease about with him. Undoubtedly they have carried the disease to Allentown, to Bethlehem and other points where it is now causing consternation.

TIME makes many changes, and has aptly been styled a whittling. When the Twenty-third Ohio regiment marched to the big wars, W. H. ROSECRANS was Colonel, STANLEY MATTHEWS Lieutenant Colonel, and RUTHERFORD B. HAYES Major.

SOME of our Greenbackers will be interested in knowing that a State convention of their party met in Reading on Wednesday last week, and passed resolutions against refunding the national debt and demanding its immediate payment by an enormous issue of greenbacks.

The Governor has re-appointed C. L. EMERSON State Librarian. He also appointed the following Trustees of the State Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg: JOHN L. ATLEE, Lancaster; TRAILL GREEN, Northampton; and W. W. JENKINS and C. L. BAILEY, Harrisburg.

The Census Bureau, although most of its outside work is completed, is nevertheless about the liveliest department in Washington. There are still more than twelve hundred clerks employed in office work as copyists, computers, tallyists, messengers and the like. Much has already been done, but the work is far from complete.

These are not good days for the speculators who are planning to prey upon the public through the agency of a telegraphic monopoly. The current of feeling and opinion is running so strongly against them that they are likely to be overwhelmed. Several bills for their confinement have already been submitted to the consideration of Congress.

REPORTS from along the Hudson, between Poughkeepsie and Newburg, seem to show that a shock of an earthquake was distinctly felt in parts of Ulster and Orange counties, on Thursday morning last at half-past four. It is thought by others that the supposed earthquake was caused by the action of the frost in the Hudson river and other streams.

THE changes are that the position of the Vice-President during the Forty-seventh Congress will become more important as a controller of legislation than ever it has been. Vice-President Aurnum will find responsibilities resting upon him that will test both his statesmanship, his patriotism, and therefore his high degree, his devotion to the Republican party.

The New York Board of Health has adopted an ordinance which inflicts a penalty of \$250 and a possible six months imprisonment upon any and all persons issuing invitations to the funerals of persons who have died of contagious diseases. This is a good move. Such diseases often spread in a community, and much suffering caused by thoughtlessness in this particular.

OUT of 82,572 firms doing business in Pennsylvania during the year 1880, there was only 422 failures, 131 of which were in Philadelphia. In 1879 there were 711 failures, and in 1878, 732. This demonstrates that our country is prospering rapidly and trade reviving. During the last five years the amount of liabilities of failing firms in this State reached the immense sum of \$109,550,044.

THE Forty-Seventh Congress will be memorable for its cases of contested seats, more of which are announced than in any previous Congress. They bear one trait, that of MONKEY, will go uncontented from the State of Mississippi. Four seats from Alabama will be contested—three from Louisiana—three from South Carolina—two from Virginia, and two, if not three, from North Carolina.

OVER \$35,000,000 were brought to the United States last year by foreign immigrants. This ought to be sufficient to compensate for that lost by the influx of pauper immigrants, and probably it does, but it unfortunately happens that the community which supports the paupers profits nothing by the thrift and prudence of the provider. The latter go West upon their arrival at Castle Garden, while the former stay close to port.

The Indian school at Carlisle barracks, this State, has 110 boys and 44 girls. When it was started more than 100 of them had never been inside of a school-house, and when brought there were covered with vermin. After three and a half months the boys could recite fairly geography and arithmetic. They knew the use of tools as readily as white children and some have already become good wagon-makers, blacksmiths, carpenters and shoemakers.

ALL over the country the ice harvest has been unusually large. On the Hudson, down in Maine, and everywhere, in fact, the companies have been hard at work cutting and storing the first quality, and ranging in thickness from fifteen to twenty inches. Every ice house is full already, and more private houses than usual have been packed. Stores of private families, who never thought of storing ice before, have improvised houses and filled them. The price of ice, next summer, certainly ought to be lower than it has been for many years. The operations of the companies have not been disturbed even by the accustomed January

WHETHER or not Pennsylvania is to be represented in the next cabinet is a point to be decided. Senator said a few days ago that President CAMERON had been asked by the Senate to name a Pennsylvania man for the place, and had accordingly submitted three names, either of whom he declared would be acceptable to the people of the State. This is now being vigorously contradicted. The fourth of March will not be held, however, and the all-out respect which will be President GARFIELD's constitutional advisers will be set at rest.

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The lottery men are up to all sorts of devices to entrap the unwary and glib public. Lately they have been publishing in such papers as admit their advertisements an account of a man who twice drew very large prizes in the Louisiana State Lottery. We do not know whether such is really the fact, it is about as usual as the lottery is managed here.

IN all probability it is the nearest canon, put out for the purpose of entraping the credulity of the weak and unwary. The only persons who have grown rich through lotteries are the swindlers who conduct them.

THE new Democratic doctrine now preached in the South is that the North rebelled against the State rights doctrine, and this was sought to be established in the effort to maintain the true idea of a Union in the Confederacy. BEN HILL now says that if it had not been for GRANT, "the one man, the rebellion of 1861 would not have been a failure." This is the idea which the Southern Democracy went to the effect of making the Confederacy, on this single principle the Democratic party of the South will be conducted and its Senators and Representatives in Congress will shape their course.

SEVERAL of the safes which were in the fire at the recent railroad disaster at Tiooga Centre, N. Y., have been sent to the Treasury at Washington. Experts are now identifying the contents. In the burnt mass were found jewelry, including diamonds, watches, gold and silver coin, legal tender notes and national bank notes, government coupons and railroad bonds. The coin, which was melted in all manner of shapes, will go to the mint as bullion. The jewelry, except the diamonds, is worthless. The burned legal tender notes are being skillfully separated.

ALready the express company is sum of getting back \$7,000 for these notes. Very little paper note, coupon and bond that was burned, will be identified.

HISTORY of a TIDAL WAVE. In a few weeks the present Congress will expire by limitation, and its going will mark the total recession of the "tidal wave" of 1874. The history of that tidal wave is interesting, and may prove instructive to politicians of any age. It has been customary with some to attribute that tidal wave to the policy of Gen. GRANT's administration. In fact that policy had no more to do with it than BEACONFIELD's administration had in determining the result of the election in this country last November. The tidal wave of 1874, which changed the complexion of the House and led to the reversal of the majority in the Senate, followed as a logical result of panic and financial disaster. No person with any considerable knowledge of the laws of trade, regards the panic of 1873, and the depression that followed, as due to the policy of any administration. Or if any should attribute it to that policy he would be called upon to explain how it came about that that policy has remained constant from 1830 to the present moment, and at present permits the country to enjoy a degree of prosperity never before experienced.

With depression came discontent, which strictly in conformity with the law, and the crowding to the front of every financial theorist in the country. Every man had a grievance and was anxious to redress it by striking at the most prominent head that presented itself. The Republican party had been in power for thirteen years. It was held responsible for the disaster. Every ruling party must expect to be held responsible for disasters, the causes of which are obscure to the mass of men. Hence, at the next election all the discontented, led by demagogues as ever, joined with the opposition to obtain a redress of grievances. The result was seen in the election of a Democratic House as a first effect. What followed is history.

We may give the people credit for trying to obtain redress by putting the Democrats in power in the House. But did they obtain redress? They did not. The policy of the government remains unchanged. Every law under which the Treasury does its work to-day was enacted by a Republican Congress. All the funding measures were perfected by a Republican Congress. Resumption of specie was effected under a law passed by a Republican Congress. Every law out of which the financial policy of the administration issues to-day was enacted by Republicans. What, then, did the country gain by the tidal wave of 1874? No man can point to a single particle of gain. It entailed a dead loss in time, in legislation, in prestige, and in progress. In short, the history of Congress since 1875 is a history of incapacity, and time wasted in trying to build up the Democratic party at the expense of the country at large. The evil effects of such blind and passionate striking for redress of grievances will not disappear in twenty years. The panic of 1873 was the logical outcome of popular extravagance. The

people themselves invited it, just as they invited that of 1847 and again in 1857. There was overtrading and over-confidence in the permanency of speculative values. And no sooner did the settlement day arrive than, after recovering from the shock, thousands came forward and demanded a continuance of the causes which produced the effects complained of. It was precisely as if men unloosed by conflagration should demand that everybody should be turned to the streets without a roof to shelter them.

With the present Congress the tidal wave itself disappears, but the wreck and ruin remain to warn men not to avoid the evils of the present by rushing into the pit of evils of which they know nothing. To do evil that good may come is the end of moral sanity. To suppose that change means betterment, is to suppose what cannot be demonstrated beforehand. Men are to remember that all progress is by averages and never in any case by extremes. It is by the average outcome of a policy that it is to be estimated.

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Corresponding Secretary—Ezra M. Conkey. Recording Secretary—D. W. Sells. Treasurer—John B. Rutherford. Chemist and Geologist—A. L. Kennedy. Librarian—William H. Eggle.

Two-thirds of the Democracy of the Forty-third Congress will return to their homes after the 4th of March, with their ideas of self-importance very much contracted. Statesmanship in the Democratic party has always been a production of spontaneous growth. It comes up like the toadstool, in a night, and like that growth of intense heat, is useless in every sense. Of this class of Democratic statesmen the country has had a surfeit. It has rendered the Forty-sixth Congress memorable for its failures and its follies, and the men who will pass hence, covered over with the evidence of their failed presence in public life, will be received as a relief to the country. They will not appear in twenty years. The party will for years to come, suffer another such majority as that which now rules the popular branch of Congress to wit:

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Two-thirds of the Democracy of the Forty-third Congress will return to their homes after the 4th of March, with their ideas of self-importance very much contracted. Statesmanship in the Democratic party has always been a production of spontaneous growth. It comes up like the toadstool, in a night, and like that growth of intense heat, is useless in every sense. Of this class of Democratic statesmen the country has had a surfeit. It has rendered the Forty-sixth Congress memorable for its failures and its follies, and the men who will pass hence, covered over with the evidence of their failed presence in public life, will be received as a relief to the country. They will not appear in twenty years. The party will for years to come, suffer another such majority as that which now rules the popular branch of Congress to wit:

SENATOR WALLACE has introduced a constitutional amendment proposing a change in the mode of electing a President, by direct vote of the people. It proposes to divide each State into as many districts as it has Senators and Representatives in Congress, and each district to have one vote for President. The returns to be canvassed by State officers and their decision to be final. The two houses of Congress to declare the result in joint convention. This embodies the principle of minority representation in the votes of the several States.

THE Arrears of Pensions law has finally become comprehensible to even the average member of Congress. It was an unwise measure, and was pushed through on the buncombe principle, to aid in re-electing certain small fry Congressmen who could not hope to succeed on the score of merit and fitness. There was just enough merit in the bill to warrant its presentation in the House, but it was predicted then that the measure would breed greater injustice by far than it would cure. It was natural, of course, that persons entitled to recover arrears under the law should favor it. But there is certainly a limit to the power of a nation to mortgage its income. The Arrears of Pensions bill actually executes a mortgage upon every dollar of the probable surplus income of the treasury for years to come.

We must at some time come to an end of the extraordinary expenditures growing out of the war. The regular pension list cannot and ought not to be reduced except in the way the law itself indicates. As pensioners recover health, and as they die, the list is reduced. But it must be many years before the appropriation for pensions can range much below \$25,000,000 annually. Were it possible to modify the present Arrears law so as to bring it within a reasonable outline of income yet unearned it would be well to do that. But we see no way in which it can be done. We have already entered upon the payment of arrears, and thousands of applications are on file. It will not do to discriminate between persons equally entitled to the benefits of the law.

But one thing can be done, not for the relief of the Treasury, indeed, but for the relief of pensioners themselves. There are a horde of agents in Washington who live off the fees exacted of those who employ them to get arrears of pensions. To pensioners it may be proper to say that no agent can do any more for them than they can do for themselves. It is not necessary to employ an agent to secure arrears of pensions. If one is entitled to arrears, all he has to do is to send in his application to the Commissioner of Pensions and ask for the blanks and instructions. Such applications will be responded to. And when the proper blanks have been filled out, and proved as other pension papers are proved, the applicant can mail the papers to the Commissioner, who will have them filled and examined in their course, and when found correct the applicant will receive a draft for whatever may be due him. Pensioners may find it necessary to consult with somebody in their neighborhoods no doubt. Any lawyer can manage the matter where the applicant is in doubt as to what he ought to do. But it is flinging away money to employ Washington, or professional agents, at all, and what any local lawyer can do when there is a doubt.

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