



MIFFLINTOWN - Wednesday Morning, April 9, 1873.

B. F. SCHWEIER, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

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Increase of Salaries.

Under this head the Washington public says. The extraordinary action of the Forty second Congress in passing a bill for the increase of salaries just at the close of its official term, and making the measure retroactive in relation to their own compensation, calls for more than the ordinary scrutiny applicable to public measures of importance.

That a Congress which, to say the least, has, in some respects, left a most unenviable record should, with its expiring gasp, thrust its own arms into the public treasury to the tune of more than a million of dollars for services for which the lawful compensation had been already paid, will certainly be a matter of surprise to the country at this time, and ultimately, unless we are mistaken, will come home to plague the men who have contributed to such a result.

The salaries provided by the act in question are as follows: The President \$50,000, The Vice President 10,000, Chief Justice Supreme Court 10,500, Cabinet officers 10,000, Assistant Secretaries of the Treasury, State and Interior 6,000, Speaker of the House, after the present Congress 10,000, Senators, Representatives, and Delegates, including the present Congress 7,500.

In this we raise no question as to the increase in the salaries of executive officers: 1st. Because they did not participate in the legislation; 2d. In regard to those the act is prospective only; and 3d. Because for this class of officers the advance will be more generally approved.

That exact justice may be done we present the record: SENATE. Year 36; says 27.

For the bill. Of the year, thirteen are Democrats or Liberal Republicans, being four more than the majority for the bill. Ten were outgoing Senators, being one more than the majority for the bill.

Five outgoing Republicans and five outgoing Democrats voted for the bill. Twenty-three Republicans and thirteen Democrats voted for the bill.

Twenty-six Southern Senators and ten Northern Senators voted for the bill. Against the bill. Twenty-one Republicans, six Democrats, three Southern Senators, twenty-four Northern Senators, two outgoing Senators only, twenty-five Senators whose terms continue.

HOUSE. For the increase—102. Fifty-two Republicans, fifty Democrats fifty five outgoing members; twenty-four Southern Republicans, thirty Southern Democrats.

Against the increase—95. Sixty-two Republicans, thirty-three Democrats. The united vote in the two houses is as follows: For the bill. Eighty-five Republicans, sixty three Democrats; sixty-five outgoing members and Senators eighty Southern Senators and members.

Against the bill. Eighty-three Republicans, thirty-nine Democrats. Keeping this analysis of the vote in view, it will not be difficult to fasten the responsibility of the measure upon the proper persons, and to find the controlling reason for its objectionable feature—back pay to a retiring Congress.

It is but fair to state, that there were those who sincerely believed the compensation of Congressmen to be inadequate; nor do we think that, in view of the abolition of the franking gratuity and mileage, the cost of Congressional proceedings under the new law will be greater than under the old system. But this fact—should it prove to be a fact—affords no excuse whatever for the seizure of a large sum by the retiring Congressmen beyond their stipulated and lawful compensation.

On this subject of salaries for public service there is a wide difference of opinion, some contending that Government pays an inadequate compensation for poor service; others, that the compensation is sufficient and the service well performed.

A careful observation of many years leads to the conclusion that both these propositions contain some truth and some error; that in the aggregate the employees of the Government are as well, not to say better, paid than any others in the country, as compared with the service rendered, and that for efficiency, regularity, and integrity the service will not suffer by comparison with the personal

or corporate management of any extensive private business. But there are inequalities in the service which are incident to the lapse of time and the growth of the country. These should be remedied by considerate, but never by retroactive legislation. And it is suggested that, inasmuch as the salaries of legislators, if raised at all, must be raised by their own votes, a deceit regard for their own good names and the judgment of mankind would require the act to be prospective, and to become operative only after its sanction by a popular vote.

No Congress in recent years has been so much maligned by the partisan press as the one whose acts are under consideration; and, possibly, few would have withstood the ordeal better but for this last act of consummate folly contemporaneous with its dissolution.

[For want of space, the names of Senators and Representatives have been omitted from the body of the article where incorporated by the Republic—Ed.]

MONEY. The money market in the business centers of the country has been in a dangerously feverish state for some eight or ten days. The financial editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer writes up the situation in Monday's issue thus:

With last Saturday evening ended another exciting week in the annals of the Money market, and the prospect is decidedly favorable for further weeks and even months of sudden changes in the supply and demand of funds, rates of interest and current market values. These financial storms are due to the one fact that Congress neglected its duty in providing additional currency at the late session. This dereliction renders our money columns interesting, but it is neither pleasant nor comfortable to our enterprising merchants and manufacturers, and, through them, it seriously affects the best interests of the country. An astute sage, in the past, wrote, "Happy is the nation whose annals make dull reading," and, with equal truth, it may now be said that prosperous is the people whose money markets are uniformly sluggish.

Local rates of interest were seriously affected early in the week by the severe monetary pressure experienced in New York, the almost unprecedentedly high rates of interest paid by our neighbors made Wall street a powerful magnet for spare Philadelphia capital; considerable sums of available capital were sent where borrowers were more than willing to pay 1 1/2 per cent a day. Then, too, the parties here, carrying stocks in New York, and their name is legion, were compelled to draw heavily on their cash and investment reserves to pay for their Wall street whistles. But the intense pressure gradually yielded, and at the close of the week money worked comfortably in our midst; loans on call were negotiated at 6 1/2 per cent, and at the close of business on Saturday several of the large firms of brokers found themselves with unemployed balances on their hands. Time bills were not much influenced by the fierce flurry in money for temporary use; thirty two-name 90 days and 4 months' obligations sold freely at from 10 1/2 to 12 per cent. With prime collateral good bills were disposed of at 9 1/2 to 10 per cent.

There is not a little talk of instituting legal proceedings against certain parties for violating the Usury law last week in taking higher rates of interest. These threats of suits are laughed at, for the Usury law, those who lend say, is a relic of barbarism as it existed in feudal times. It is violated every day, for money, like wheat, beef, cloth, paper or iron, will sell just for what it is worth in the open market, but its price can be regulated only by the equitable and irrevocable law of supply and demand. There is prevalent now, among our most progressive and reliable capitalists, the opinion that the statutes against usury are in no small degree responsible for much of the inconvenience attendant on monetary stringencies. Inasmuch as they force lenders not only to sell their money above the so called legal rate, but to demand, for their own security easily convertible collateral in sums sufficient to make themselves secure where the law affords them no protection. More remarkable still these threats of appeals to the courts come, in many instances, from the very parties who have been violent contractionists, insisting that the supply of money for the uses of the country must be kept down, and now they quarrel with the results of their own teachings. In our opinion, the law should be repealed or else enforced, and the duty of the District Attorney should be directed towards this result. In New York a fund of a large amount is being raised for the purpose of punishing, criminally, the money lenders.

The gold premium attracted quite as much attention as the market for money; the manipulators on the "bull" side have been pushing their plans with more than usual caution. Always retiring just before a sale of Treasury gold, they returned to the charge with renewed vigor after the government coin was out of the way. Thus they sent up the price to 11 1/2 on Monday, permitted it to drop on Tuesday, kept out of the way on Wednesday and Thursday, but on Friday resumed their work, and sent up the premium to 119 on Saturday afternoon from 117 1/2 on Thursday. These manipulations emanate from the minds of men who can afford to wait as well as plan, and form a combination which exceeds in capacity its predecessor. Secretary Richardson will, no doubt, do all that in his power lies to protect legitimate trade against

speculation, and he is moving as slowly and cautiously as his wily opponents, which is a promising sign for the country.

A queer story is told in the New York correspondence of the Chicago Tribune of two prosperous merchants in West Broadway. One of them was married, rather late in life, some two years ago, and after he and his wife had gone to housekeeping, he invited his fellow merchant to pay them a visit. The latter went, and was much pleased with the new wife, who appeared to be very young. They grew to be firm friends. He told her he could not resist the conviction that he had seen her before, at which she laughed, and said that was the impression received from all sympathetic natures. Their cordial relations continued for a good while, and one day the mercantile admirer received a letter from an intimate in Boston, informing him that his friend had some time before married an eccentric woman, Mrs. —, who had the reputation of being several times divorced.

This set the admirer to thinking and tracing out circumstances within his knowledge. The result was, he discovered beyond question that Mrs. — the wife of his friend, had, seven years before, been his own wife, from whom he had obtained a legal divorce on good and sufficient reason, six months after their union. Anxious to corroborate this, he went to Mrs. —, and asked her if it was not so. She replied in the affirmative, and without hesitation, adding that she recognized him from the first, but did not care to impart any information that he himself did not possess. She had been literally in the divorce business, having had no less than seven legions in twelve years. She understood the art of making herself look young, and at five and thirty she did not appear more than five and twenty. It was the art that deceived the friend.

A fearful case of hydrophobia has developed itself in Allegheny City. The victim is a boy named John Conradi, aged twelve years, son of Mr. Conradi, residing on First near Middle street. The facts as far as developed are these; the boy John and his brother went out into the country to work on a farm. Some time during the season a dog which was on the place was observed to act very strangely, and it was thought at the time that the animal was suffering from "rabies," and the boys were ordered to catch him and tie him to a tree. They did as ordered, and in the attempt they were both bitten by the rabid animal. After they had been bitten they went to the house where the proper restoratives were applied and the wounds healed, nothing more being thought of their injuries. On the 28th of last month peculiar symptoms were noticed in the lad. That day he had convulsions and fainted at the mouth Dr. Hartman was summoned and prescribed some and also stated what was the matter. The boy kept on growing worse from day to day, the convulsions coming on often, his head of water being very great. His father states that the lad suffers as most terrible to behold, that he occasionally barks like a dog and possesses the strength of a giant. Yesterday the convulsions came off, and his sufferings seemed greater than the previous day. Death will no doubt put a relief to his sufferings.—Pittsburg Gazette, Apr 5d.

STOLEN.—Twenty three hundred dollars were stolen from the Berks county Treasury on the 2nd inst. The treasurer was engaged with a tax collector, when two strangers entered, one of whom asked to have a one hundred dollar bill changed. The treasurer requested him to wait a few minutes. The stranger took up a newspaper and placed himself with the paper open in such a position that the view of the vault door was hid from the treasurer. The second party then asked for a drink, and stepped into the entrance of the vault where a pitcher stood, and pretended to drink. He did more than drink; he quietly took up one of the largest packages of money and handed it out of the window to a confederate, who was waiting to receive it. The two men immediately left the office. The loss of the money was soon discovered, but the thieves as yet are at large.

An honest old Pennsylvania farmer had a tree on his premises he wanted cut down, but being weak in the back, and having dull ax, he hit upon the following plan. Knowing the passion among his neighbors for coon hunting, he made a coon's foot out of a potato and proceeded to imprint numerous tracks to and up the tree. When all ready, he informed his neighbors that the tree must be filled with coons, pointing to the external evidence made with his potato foot. The bait took, and in a short time half a dozen fellows with axes were, chopping at the base of the tree, each taking their regular turn. The party also brought dogs and shot guns, and were in ecstasies over the anticipated haul of fat coons. The tree finally fell, but nary a coon was seen to "drap."

AN exchange says the Pennsylvania Railroad Company contemplate laying two additional tracks between Pittsburg and Philadelphia the coming summer, and intend to expend \$19,000,000 in improving their property in this state during the present year.

PRESIDENT GRANT and family journeyed at Lebanon, Pa., on last Saturday and Sunday; on Monday they visited Harrisburg, and remained till Tuesday.

SHORT ITEMS.

Sassafras tea is becoming a fashionable beverage in Pittsburg.

The Buffalo church choir are said to be the best "courting societies" in the State.

Marriages between white and colored persons have been legalized by the Rhode Island Legislature.

A marriage took place in Butler county last week and the following morning the bridegroom was found dead.

The most wholesome beef sausages that can be purchased in London are made from horse-flesh and soaked bread.

When a prisoner won't work at Sing Sing, they tie a dozen bricks on his back and let him walk up and down half a day.

The Supreme Court of Illinois has decided that a man in that State is not responsible for a slander uttered by his wife.

A Connecticut farmer spent a week digging in a hill for a fox, and then found a rabbit which sold for twelve cents.

The authorities of Dartmouth College suspended the entire sophomore class a few days ago, for disorderly conduct in the chapel.

One of the latest Parisian fashions is a band of black velvet worn around the hair upon which are sewed gold flies, bees, and other insects.

The California Chinamen are killing and eating all the buzzards they can lay their hands on, and prefer them to roast turkey.

A jury in Venango county has awarded Miss Harriet Swingle \$925 damages for a breach of promise to marry on the part of Sophronius B. Shafer.

Fifteen Detroit clergymen have published an open letter to Governor Dix, commending his course in the Foster case. Capital punishment has been abolished in Michigan.

A young girl left Lowell, Mass, two years ago with \$500 in her pocket, and went to Kansas and turned farmer. She could sell out her property this day for \$60,000.

A wedding party in the Church of Notre Dame de Lorrette, Paris, were all victimized by a pickpocket, who went so thoroughly through their ranks that not enough was spared to pay the marriage fees.

Wisconsin has a forlorn dame, plaintiff in a breach of promise case, who writes in one of her letters, produced at the trial, that she has "shed tears enough over it to run a small-sized grist-mill."

A milliner at Defiance, Ohio, walked into a church one Sunday recently, and rawnided a business man who had slandered her. The minister halted upon the affair was over.

The governor of Minnesota has sent a message to the legislature stating the loss of human life by the great storm in January. The number of deaths was 70 and of persons injured by entire or partial loss of hands or feet 81.

Mrs. Mary Ann Cotton, of West Anckland, England, has put even Mrs. Lucretia Borgia, of Rome, Italy in the shade in the poisoning business, having put a quietus upon nineteen victims before a shadow of suspicion fell upon her.

Paris has been carried away with the romantic story of Ting Sang, a Chinese adventurer, who made a fortune by petroleum speculations in Omaha, lost it by starting a newspaper in Baltimore, and is now engaged in sweeping the Rue Lafayette.

The Virginia Legislature has adopted the joint resolution approving Gov. Walker's plan for the assumption of the state debt by the Federal Government, and has directed the Governor to forward copies of the resolution and his message on the subject to the Legislatures of the different states.

Immediately after the adjournment of the New Jersey Legislature on the 4th, Senator Sheppard, of Cumberland, was arrested on a charge of receiving \$2500 for his vote in the interest of the National Railway. He gave bail to answer the charge at the May term of the Oyer and Terminer of Mercer county.

The Liberal Christian believes that "no folly can be greater than for society to excuse crime on the plea of drunkenness. It is saying to passionate, hasty, and thoughtless youth, if you want to do anything criminal, get drunk and you can do it with comparative safety. It is multiplying the quantity of crime and the perils of society."

A man named D. H. Drake was arrested at Cadiz Junction, Ohio, on Tuesday night a week, charged with the murder of an aged lady and little girl near Mattoon, Illinois, some four weeks ago—Drake is a relative of the murdered woman. He denies any knowledge of the matter, but a son of the woman's, says under arrest, has "squealed" and says Drake was hired to commit the murder.

A large fire occurred at Parker's Landing Thursday night. It broke out at nine o'clock, and was not brought under control until two o'clock A. M., destroying the Parker House, Central Hotel, Exchange Bank, Savings Bank, Post-office, Western Union and Pacific and Atlantic Telegraph offices, and a number of other offices, comprising the most valuable portion of the town. Loss over \$300,000. The insurance will cover a considerable portion of the loss. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary, as it is the third fire that has occurred there within thirty-six hours.

Marshall Magruder, in January last, in New York, had a quarrel with a young man, named Lockwood, on Sunday—Magruder remarked that out of respect to the day, he would postpone shooting his antagonist till Monday. On that day he fully fulfilled his promise. Lockwood recovered from the wound, but the punctilious observer of the Sabbath is now sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

One of the latest inventions is a portable travelling bed, which can be rolled up like a shawl in a cylindrical form, 23 to 27 1/2 inches long, and 7 to 9 1/2 inches in diameter, the price ranging from \$5.50 to \$22, according to the size and quality. It consists of a light hair mattress, including single or double air pillows, a fine woollen coverlet, a campstool, attachment and cords for adapting the mattress as a hammock, and apparatus for filling the pillows with air.

The Kansas City News furnishes a volume of melancholy history in the following brief space: "To day there is a man going about the streets of this city, ragged, dirty, penniless, subsisting on free lunches and the charities of gamblers, and has not slept in a bed for months, who, during the war, was one of the most dashing cavalry officers in the Union Army, and was promoted from the rank of First Lieutenant to full Brigadier and Brevet Major General for brilliant exploits on the field of battle, and who for a long time had a large and important command."

Administrator's Notice. Estate of Jacob Thomas, deceased. I, the undersigned, to whom Letters of Administration on the estate of Jacob Thomas, late of Fermanagh township, have been duly granted according to law, hereby give notice to all persons indebted to said estate to come forward and make payment, and those having claims against it, to present them properly authenticated for settlement.

JOSEPH B. THOMAS, Administrator. March 19, 1873-6t.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

1873. FRANCISCUS HARDWARE CO. 1873.

We have just received 15,000 BOLTS, 15,000 BOLTS.

Wall and Window Paper! Wall and Window Paper!

WALL PAPER, WALL PAPER, WINDOW SHADES, WINDOW SHADES.

WALL PAPER, WALL PAPER, WINDOW SHADES, WINDOW SHADES.