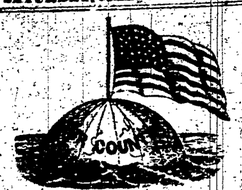
Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1864.



THE SOLDIER'S FRIENDS, AND HIS ENEMIES.

The Copperheads can no longer deny successfully that they are hostile to the soldiers, and opposed to granting any favors to the men in the field fighting for the country. We will put facts on record. The following extracts are from the proceedings of the Senate of Pennsylvania, as officially reported in the *Legislative Record*.

On Friday, the 4th of March, a joint resolution asking Congress to pass a law increasing the pay of private soldiers and non-commissioned officers in the army, came up on third reading and passage. The resolution was as follows:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That our representatives in Congress be requested to vote for, and use their influence for the passage of a law increasing the pay of private soldiers and non-commissioned officers in the army of the United States.

On the passage of this resolution, the yeas and nays were required by Mr. Beardslee and Mr. Clymer, and the vote stood as follows:

YEAS—*Messrs.* Champneys, Connell, Dunlap, Fleming, Graham, Hoge, Householder, Johnson, Kinsey, Lowry, McCandless, Nichols, Ridgway, St. Clair, Turrell, Wilson, Worthington, and Penney, *Speaker*—18.

NAYS—*Messrs. Beardslee, Bucher, Clymer, Donovan, Glatz, Hopkins, Lamberton, Latta, McSherry, Montgomery, Reilly, Smith, Stark, Stine, and Wallace*—15.

The bill passed finally—seventeen Union men and one Democrat, Mr. Kinsey, of Bucks, voting for it; and *fifteen Democrats voting against it*. This vote shows how *the party* stands on the question of paying the soldiers.

On the same day (Friday the 4th of March), Mr. Johnson, of Lycoming, moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the proposed amendments to the Constitution, permitting citizens in the military service of the United States to exercise the right of suffrage. This motion was carried, and the proposed new section, which is printed as follows, was before the Senate:

SECTION IV. Whenever any of the qualified electors of the Commonwealth shall be in any actual military service under a requisition from the President of the United States, or by the authority of this Commonwealth, such electors may exercise the right of suffrage in all elections of the citizens, under such regulations as are or shall be prescribed by law, as fully as if they were present at their usual place of election.

The vote on the passage of this amendment being taken by yeas and nays, agreeably to the Constitution, stood as follows:

YEAS—*Messrs.* Champneys, Connell, Dunlap, Fleming, Graham, Hoge, Householder, Johnson, Kinsey, Lowry, McCandless, Nichols, Ridgway, St. Clair, Turrell, Wilson, Worthington and Penney, *Speaker*—18.

NAYS—*Messrs. Beardslee, Bucher, Clymer, Donovan, Glatz, Lamberton, Latta, Montgomery, Smith, Stark, Stine, and Wallace*—10.

The amendment having received an affirmative vote of a majority of the Senate, was agreed to. Here again, all the Union Senators, together with Mr. Kinsey of Bucks, voted to befriend the soldiers, while *ten* Democratic members recorded their names in opposition. *Five* Democratic Senators among them Reilly of this County, dodged the question, who would not vote *yea*, and were ashamed to vote *nay*.

The presentation of a resolution requesting our members of Congress to vote for the extension of the time for paying Government bounties to volunteers, to enable our people to avoid the draft, afforded another opportunity for the Copperheads to show their colors.

On the passage of the joint resolution to that effect, the vote stood:

YEAS—*Messrs.* Champneys, Connell, Dunlap, Fleming, Graham, Hoge, Householder, Johnson, McCandless, Nichols, Ridgway, St. Clair, Turrell, Wilson, Worthington, and Penney, *Speaker*—18.

NAYS—*Messrs. Beardslee, Bucher, Clymer, Donovan, Glatz, Hopkins, Lamberton, Latta, McSherry, Montgomery, Reilly, Smith, Stark, Stine, and Wallace*—15.

All the Union members in favor of these resolutions, and all the Democrats—except Kinsey—against it. So the public will readily understand to whom they are indebted for this expression of opinion on the subject of bounties.

In short the Democratic party is opposed to increasing the pay of the soldiers; to conferring upon soldiers the right to vote, and to the payment of bounties to volunteers to prevent a draft. The man who stands up for the Union and the Government, can have no sympathy from the leaders of that party, while the man who abuses and assails every act of the Government of his country, while he finds nothing to censure in the acts of the rebels, is pretty sure to receive not only sympathy, but honor and praise from his Copperhead friends.

CORPORATE MONOPOLIES.

Several Coal transporting companies have applied to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, asking to be allowed to buy and sell Coal, and to lease, buy and hold large bodies of Coal land. On this subject there is a decided opinion among the operators and business men of all the regions, that the privilege should under no consideration, be granted. Gov. Curtin in his last annual message, said:

> There are several companies in the State which, in addition to large mining privileges, have control of the routes of transportation, by which alone the products of the mines of individuals in their respective districts can reach a market.—Those companies thus enjoy substantial monopolies, by means of which they not only receive the fair profits of their own property, but are enabled to make additional heavy gains at the expense of individuals. In my opinion such privileges ought never to have been granted, but as they exist, it appears to be just that the class of companies which enjoy them should pay therefore an additional specific tax.

The matter is attracting so much attention in the different Anthracite Coal regions, that the following petition setting forth reasons why the peculiar privilege should not be granted, is being circulated and numerously signed:

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met:

A number of Coal Transporting Companies having applied to your honorable bodies, to grant them the privilege to buy and sell coal, and to lease, buy and hold large bodies of coal land, in addition to their transporting privileges, your petitioners earnestly pray you not to grant powers which the history of the Coal Trade of Pennsylvania proves to be destructive of individual enterprise. Other branches of industrial productions are carefully and wisely guarded by legislation. No transporting company is permitted to manufacture for the general market and become a monopolist to the detriment of the interests of the people and of the State, by diminishing the value of property and lessening the revenues of the Commonwealth. We respectfully represent that control of the market to any extent, by a company, in so important an article of consumption as coal, must prove mischievous to the individual producer and consumer, and establish a monopoly for corporate aggrandizement and gain, pernicious in its character. The privilege of buying and selling coal was granted to two carrying companies, the Delaware and Hudson, and Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western, and it has proved so detrimental to the interests of individual producers, and so unjust in its operations, that the matter, as you are aware, was specially adverted to by Governor Curtin in his last Annual Message to your honorable bodies, with the recommendation that a tax be imposed on every ton of coal transported to market by the companies possessing the privilege. Permit us to illustrate. Last season, in the coal regions where the operators had competitive outlets to market, they received as the mines from $3 50 to $4 50 per ton, for coal. But in those regions where the outlets were controlled by transporting companies possessing the privilege to buy and sell coal, those companies compelled the operators to sell coal to them at prices ranging from $1 25 to $1 80 per ton, the corporations pocketing after paying expenses of transportation, from $2 to $4 a ton profit. The companies as said above, realized in this way, on *a single year's business a clear profit of from 50 to 80 per cent., while their stocks rose in value, from* $100 *per cent.* to $230.

Your petitioners need hardly enlarge upon the mischievous effects of a system, at once destructive and unjust. Economists agree that the correct plan to promote the material prosperity of a great State, is to encourage and foster individual enterprise, and thus develop its manufacturing, mineral, and agricultural resources. As new sources are developed, the population is increased, and are thus opened, the revenues of the State enhanced. But permit the overgrowth of the State enhanced. But permit the overgrowth of the State enhanced. But permit the overgrowth