

THERE will be a meeting of the Local State Committee at the Lehigh House, Harrisburg, on Tuesday, 29th instant, at 9 o'clock P. M. to fix the time and place for the next Republican State Convention, and the transaction of other important business.

HENRY M. HOTT, Chairman. A. WILSON NORRIS, Sec.

OUR exchanges say that Sewing Machines have already fallen thirty dollars in price, owing to the expiration of different patents on portions of them.

THE New Orleans Times says: "If the President expects his party will ever carry Louisiana he might as well relinquish this useless opinion at once." This shows a Democratic determination to overcome the present Republican majority in the State at all hazards. With a Democratic Governor they may do it, possibly, but with a Republican Governor, there would have been some show for the Republicans.

THE Mobile (Ala.) Register thus speaks: "The Southern people desire to accept the proposition to ally themselves with that portion of the Republican Party which sustains the President's Southern policy. They stand ready to co-operate with all who will defend that policy, but as to forming a portion of a Presidential party and surrendering the organization of the House to the enemies of Democracy, we respectfully beg leave to decline the proposition."

DURING the month of April, there was exported from the United States to Europe 8,416,829 pounds of fresh beef and 169,943 pounds of mutton. The trade shows no signs of falling off on account of the hot weather. A diminution in the amount of the shipments of fresh meat during the hot months is to be expected as a matter of course, if for no other reason than that the demand always falls off largely in the summer season.

THE St. Louis Democrat does not believe that the President's policy will divide the Democratic party at the South, and adds: "The only thing that will ever divide the Democratic party at the South will be the inability to make 50,000 offices go round among 5,000,000 patriots, and the party may confidently be expected to live as long as it has any souls to live for, and remain united as long as unity will help it in its great object."

THE legislative election in Fairfield county, South Carolina, is interesting. It is one of the strongest Republican counties in the State, and sent two Republican members to the present Legislature. They had the manliness to refuse to beg pardon of the Chamberlain Government, and were expelled. A new election being called in the county, Democratic members were returned by large majorities. The Republicans stayed away from the polls.

WHILE the President is trying to conciliate the Southern Democrats and inaugurate an era of good feeling, they are intrinsically themselves in power, and rewarding in every available way the men who were the most conspicuous in their hostility to the Union. Thus in Virginia where they are preparing for the next election for Governor, the prominent Democratic candidates are General Fitz Hugh Lee, General W. Makone, General W. B. Taliaferro, and two or three Colonels, all of whom served with éclat in the Confederate army.

WHILE the President's Southern policy is the chief subject of anxiety and comment throughout the country, there are outgivings of a new policy in other matters of moment, of much more vital importance to the interest of labor, and in greater divergence, if possible, with the views of the Republican party in this State.

At the late "Chamber of Commerce" dinner in New York, at which the President and several members of his cabinet were present, Messrs. Ervatt and Schurz, the chief spokesmen of the administration, in unmistakable terms advocated the abandonment of the protective principle in our tariff, and of the restriction against the introduction of foreign built ships into our merchant marine.

These have both been favorite objects of the Free-trade Democracy, are both matters of the greatest moment to the home industries of Pennsylvania and the New England States, and have been standing "principles" of the Southern Democracy for many years past. A more cruel blow could not be struck at the laboring, manufacturing, and producing interests of this State, than the repeal of the protective principles of our present tariff, and yet here are the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of the Interior, in the presence of the President, and with his tacit consent at least, advocating in the city of New York, whose commercial interests are controlled by foreign interests and capitalists, their pet theory, adopted by the Democratic party, of a tariff for revenue simply, thus forcing our manufacturers to compete with the miserably paid labor of Europe, and depriving our farmers of the advantage of a home market for their products.

In view of these and other late events, it is not to be wondered at, that our Republicans are inquiring, one of the other, wherein does this administration differ from that which we would have had if Samuel J. Tilden had been elected?

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17, 1877. THE mercury in the thermometer has taken a lively upward leap within the last two days. The general assent to the salutation "It is really warm" is heard on all sides. By the time of the latter part of the month a decidedly warm season, which will lead us day by day to the heated term, when it will be a relief to crouch down in the cooling shade on the banks of the rippling brook. But this transition from the cold damp days of the latter part of April and the beginning of May is hailed with joyous delight, not only by the denizens of the Capital but by the agriculturist who wishes to sow that which may reap. We recognize a bright look in the eyes of the nature, and of man, that is the convincing proof of the presence of Spring which we have been so anxiously awaiting.

EXCURSION UPON THE POTOMAC. The "Season for excursions" upon the waters of the beautiful Potomac has arrived, and the invitation to enjoy a trip down the river and return in the evening, has attracted many visitors and residents. The facilities afforded by the steamboats running between Washington and different points are fully equal to the demand. The moderate charges for fare and meals place it within the reach of all to take an occasional excursion upon the waters of one of the most beautiful streams upon the continent. The Tomb of the Father of his country at Mount Vernon, the American Mecca, is annually visited by thousands who revere his memory. They may be found upon the banks of the Potomac, all of which offer enticements to the seeker of health and enjoyment.

THE day of decorating the graves of those who in the war of the rebellion "gave up their lives" that their country might live, is near at hand. On the 30th inst., the beautiful ceremony of strewing flowers upon the dead, and a heroic girl to be observed at Arlington and other cemeteries. This is a holy office for the survivors of the honored dead, the performance of which brings us into communion with the spirits of those endeared to us in life, and having gone hence are now imaged in our hearts of hearts. The American who would suggest an abandonment of this befitting national recognition is unworthy of the noble sentiments of the noblest of our citizens.

EX-PRESIDENT GRANT WHEN IN ENGLAND. The report that ex-President Grant in London will pay a formal visit to the Queen, that his "call" will be returned by Victoria in person, and further that he will be the guest of Disraeli, the Prime Minister of England, remains one of the most interesting rumors of the day. John W. Barron, who was the only son of a President, but who was accorded special recognition, Van Buren's dancing attendance at Court was the subject of much ridicule in this country, but we do not apprehend that the plain, honest President will subject himself to like criticism. He will indulge in no set speeches expressive of adulation. He will maintain the dignity of an American citizen who has just retired from the most exalted position within the gift of his countrymen.

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THE business of shipping fresh beef to Europe is steadily on the increase. The last report from the Treasury Department showed that the February shipments were the largest reported up to the date of the statement. The aggregate that month was 3,605,610 pounds. On Saturday the 12 inst., the shipments were upwards of a million pounds, and as they have been heavy throughout the month, the inference is fair that the aggregate will largely exceed that of February. A correspondent writing from London says the effect of these shipments has been felt much less in the London market than is generally supposed. The reason is that it is in great demand, is bought up as soon as exposed, and that no small part of the shipments find a sale elsewhere. Last autumn, American beef shops were opened in Glasgow, and the price at that city has fallen four cents a pound. London capital is going into this business, however, and the result, it is expected, will soon be seen in the reduced prices.

THE visit on the 30th inst. of thousands of our countrymen to the city of New York, to look upon the remains of the dead who fell in bloody strife for the national agitate, will bring to mind the circumstances under which the Government became possessed of the remains. It was the residence of Gen. Lee being a private property of Mrs. Lee, having been purchased by her by Geo. W. Curtis. The Cemetery was located upon it in the estate which she owned. Mrs. Lee at the death of her husband was sold under the will of her husband, and the bones of our soldiers. This suggestion raised such a storm of indignation that we do not hear of its repetition. At some future day it may be that the heirs will receive some pecuniary compensation.

THE WHITE MOUNTAINS ON FIRE. WOODVILLE, N. H., May 16.—Nearly the whole of the side of the White Mountains, from Lancaster, White, and Crawford Counties, to the Fabian House, Concord, county, are on fire. There has been no rain for several weeks, and yesterday it was raining fever than ever. Monday the whole town of Whitefield fought the fire all day long to save the village and the lumber mill belonging to the Brown and Company. The loss is confined to timber, fence, etc. Another fire yesterday on Brown's lumber road, destroyed 200 cords of wood. A fire at New Zealand, near the Fabian House, destroyed the wood and coal works of J. H. Baldwin, who lost over 500 cords of wood, besides valuable timber. Trains on the Mount Washington Railroad were cut off on the 15th inst. and did not reach the city until yesterday. A large lot of wood belonging to the Portland Railroad Company is on fire near the track. No bridges have yet been burned. The engines and cars of the Mount Washington Railroad are stored at the base of the mountain, and are in great danger. Engineers have been directed there to get them on the road to be necessary.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., May 16.—A forest fire two miles wide is raging in the South Branch, Me., and is rapidly progressing toward the city. The fire is under control in many places. It is under control in many places. It is under control in many places.

CHICAGO, May 14.—A special from St. Paul, Minn., says the coal miners of that State are on strike. The strike is on strike. The strike is on strike.

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OUR NEW-YORK LETTER.

NEW YORK, May 18, 1877. THE NEW-YORK MACHINERY DROPS. The most interesting thing that has happened for many years, in the drop in sewing machines, the business has been controlled for years by a ring organized by two or three of the largest companies, who in the early years of the business succeeded in getting control of the points without which no machine could be made. These companies compelled all the others to pay royalties, and really kept a great many out of the field by refusing to license them at all. Last Tuesday all these patents expired, and now the trade in sewing machines is free and unincumbered. That the burden imposed by this ring may be understood, I may say that one company has paid in the last ten years nearly a million of dollars. But the great trouble with the business is not so much the system and the enormous expense of making. The commission paid to agents mount up terribly, and then most of the machines have been sold on two years credit, on what are called leases, the company owning the machine till it is paid for. There is also the loss of interest on the capital invested. It is necessary, and there was the enormous expense of detectives, collectors and processes to recover, all of which made the business of selling a machine the first cost of which was perhaps \$20 for 1870, and very little more. The new company, which has nearly a half of the patents expired, and all the other companies who make machines competing with it, were forced to follow suit. They are not so far as a general thing, but the business down to a cash basis, and the people who can pay will have the benefit of the reduction; inasmuch as under the old system a woman who could not get credit for a few dollars could get possession of a \$20 sewing machine, this change of base will work to the disadvantage of the poor, but the really paying people will be advantaged by it.

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