



The lower House of Congress has passed the regular postal service bill, in which it is provided that the rate of postage on letters is to be reduced to two cents.

The Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, is laboring diligently at the preparation of a bill for the readjustment of the tariff, and is making good progress.

Senator Williams, of Kentucky, leaves no one in the dark as to the sort of a civil service reformer he is.

A few of the Independent journals are still intent on keeping up the issues of the late campaign and are demanding that the Presidency of the Senate shall be conceded to one of the small number of "Reform Republicans" in that body.

The uncertainty as to what Congress is going to do in relation to the reduction of internal revenue taxes, is largely affecting the collections, particularly from tobacco.

One of the most singular things relating to the late unpleasantness in the Republican household is the unanimous declaration on the part of the Democratic press that the party ought never to heal the breach.

There is a good deal of speculation about the future of Gov. Hoyt. One reports says he will go to Pittsburgh and enter into partnership with a distinguished Attorney.

Right or wrong, the record of the Democratic party has always been, when at its best, for "revenue only."

An enthusiastic Pennsylvania Democrat has purchased his ticket to attend the inauguration of S. J. Tilden as President.

Pensions.

WASHINGTON, December 20.—In response to Senator Platt's resolution of inquiry, Commissioner of Pensions Dudley yesterday submitted a long and elaborate document in reference to the condition of the Pension department, the number of pensioners now on the rolls, the applications filed, and details of the probable effect of certain pending legislation.

The annual report of the Public Printer was yesterday morning laid before the Senate. It shows that during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1882, the total expense of the office was \$2,635,159 08, which includes the expense of binding, 858,950 33; of paper, \$1,292,327 80; of the bare walls remaining, \$274,154 99, and of the Congressional Record, \$150,902 19.

BUFFALO, December 21.—The magnificent building of the Commercial Advertiser was completely destroyed by fire to-night, nothing but the bare walls remaining.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Some days ago during temporary absence from his office of Hon. John Wentworth, a sneak thief carried away a large tin box from the vault containing \$2,000 in registered United States bonds, deeds and mortgages to a very large aggregate value.

SCANTON, December 24.—Lewis Myers, a member of the Scanton city council, was severely assaulted at a place called Petersburg, on the outskirts of this city, last night, and fatally stabbed in the breast and back.

WASHINGTON, December 18.—Mr. James Freeman, a member of the Colorado State Senate, is a lucky man. The House Committee on Private Land claims has unanimously decided to report a bill confirming under the treaty by which Mexico ceded a large part of her domain to the United States, his title to 480,000 acres of land in New Mexico, which was purchased from him by the various heirs and assignees of the original Mexican owners.

WASHINGTON, December 20.—Acting Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Rodgers, has received the following telegram from Revenue Agent Wagner, at Huntsville, Ala.:

St. Louis, December 21.—Mary Timothy, seventy years of age, met with a frightful death to-day. She lived with her two children in an attic at No. 93 Rollins street.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 22.—A recent order of the Dauphin County Court changed the date for taking out licenses for the sale of liquor from February 1 to the 19th, thus compelling the hotels and saloons to close their bars for nineteen days.

New Court.

WASHINGTON, December 21.—Representative Scranton introduced in the House to-day his bill establishing the Northern judicial district of Pennsylvania and providing for a district and court of the United States to be held therein.

PHILADELPHIA, December 20.—The six-story building known as the Goldsmith Hall, 429 Broad street, owned by Jacob Heubler, was destroyed by fire to-night.

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 20.—A horrible suicide occurred at the Central Insane Asylum at an early hour this morning. When the lady attendant arose this morning she discovered that the door to the room occupied by Mrs. Catherine Stouten, a patient from Crawley county, was open and the patient missing.

CANTON, Ill., Dec. 16.—About seven o'clock this morning two boilers in Parlan, Orendoff & Co.'s extensive agricultural implement works exploded, completely demolishing the brick engine house, tearing out considerable of the south wall of the main building, besides shattering the glass and otherwise injuring other adjacent buildings.

NEW YORK, December 22.—Ernest Dubourque, a Frenchman, who, on the afternoon of October 10, ran through Fourth street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, abducting a number of women, was arraigned in the Court of General Sessions to-day for trial on the charge of murder in the first degree.

WILLINGTOWN, Del., Dec. 22.—An Every Evening special from Seaford, Del., says that David Outten, a desperate character, shot and probably fatally wounded John H. Allen, a storekeeper, last night.

ALMOST a year ago George Jones, a sixteen-year-old mulatto boy, shot and killed George Foster in Pittsburgh. Last week the case was on trial and was concluded on Saturday.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., Dec. 22.—Thieves broke into Waters' Cambria City barber shop and cleared out everything of value.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 22.—A recent order of the Dauphin County Court changed the date for taking out licenses for the sale of liquor from February 1 to the 19th, thus compelling the hotels and saloons to close their bars for nineteen days.

Another Victim.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—On Thursday afternoon last, Alfred Crook, an old and respected citizen residing at 530 Madison street, was accosted by a well-dressed stranger who pretended to know his family.

A Philadelphia dispatch of Saturday says that the published report that it has been determined by the Reading railroad management to ask the holders of the junior securities of the company, which amount in round numbers to \$1,000,000 to contribute to a new seven percent security for the new consolidated five, was denied to-day by one of the managers.

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A Mail Robber's Sentence.

WHEELING, W. Va., December 24.—There has been considerable excitement at Clarksburg, W. Va., during the past few days over the trial of mail robbers Frederick and John Jackson. Ex-Secretary of the Navy, General Gold was engaged by the government to aid in the prosecution.

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Reception to Governor-Elect Pattison and Wife.

HARRISBURG, Dec. 21.—The reception of Governor Hoyt to Governor-elect Pattison and wife at the Executive Mansion to-night, though not large in point of numbers, owing to the inclement weather, was a very pleasant affair.

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GET THE BEST!

MORE Somerset County people have read the HERALD during the past year than ever before, since it was first printed.

Because its news columns present all the latest news in an attractive style.

Because it always gives all the local news without burdening its columns with unmeaning and uninteresting correspondence.

Because its Court reports are always full, fair and trustworthy.

Because it is the medium used by the people of the county when they wish to let their neighbors know when they have a farm or anything else for sale.

Because all legal advertising appears in its columns, and people are thus kept posted as to what transpires in the management of the affairs of the Courts and County.

Because it is active, aggressive, and always for the cause of its constituents.

If you have friends who live outside the county, there is no more acceptable present you can send them than a copy of their county paper.

If you have a neighbor who needs a paper recommend the HERALD.

Christmas Gifts.

WHERE TO BUY THE FANCY AND TOILET GOODS which I think cannot be surpassed in the county. Having my entire stock of Holiday Goods last season, I have no old offer. Entire new designs!

Ladie's Dressing Cases and more novelties in Odor Cases; they are truly handsome, worth a visit to see these alone. My store is absolutely full of comprising:

WATCH CASES, Puffs and Boxes, Sachet Powders, Cigar Cases, Smokers Sets, Large & Pocket Cases, Whisks & Holders, Cloth Brushes, Hair Brushes, Nail Brushes, Tooth Brushes, Shaving Brushes, Infant Brushes, Infant Toilet Baskets, Pocket Books, Side Books, Card Books, Card Cases, Visiting Cards, Music Folios, Etc., Etc.

PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS I have a very fine assortment; and all should get prices before purchasing elsewhere. Also, Autograph Albums, Family Bibles, Pocket Bibles, Testaments, Gospel Hymns.

WRITING DESKS, "ANAGRAMS," DIARIES FOR 1883! Then you should see the endless variety of Christmas Cards, Birthday Cards, Reward Cards, FANCY INK-STANDS, EASELS, AND PICTURE FRAMES, Japanese Brackets, WorkBoxes, Pallets, Etc., Etc., Etc.

BOOKS, And Handsome Editions of the POETS, all suitable FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS! The following are among the many on our shelves: BYRON, BURNS, TENNYSON, MEREDITH, DANTE, POE, HAWTHORNE, BROWNE

GOLD PENS! I have just received a case of GOLD PENS direct from the manufacturer, LeRoy W. Fairchild, New York. This is by far the finest set of Gold Pens ever offered in Somerset county. You cannot buy a more suitable present for Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, Cousin, Aunt, Lover. Do not fail to see these goods whether you buy or not.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS! If your children want a paper, subscribe for the HERALD. A visit to my store will amply repay you, and you will be most politely whether you wish to buy or not, no trouble to show goods. Have everything needed for

Respectfully, Subscription \$2.00 per year. Address THE HERALD, Somerset, Penn'a. Mammoth Block, . . . Somerset, Pa.

THE GREAT COMET. Professor Frisby, of the Naval Observatory, has just completed a calculation of the orbit of the great comet of 1882, from observations made on September 19, October 8 and November 24, and finds the orbit to be a very lengthened ellipse, and having a period of about 793, and probably identical with a very large comet seen 371 B. C. and 363 A. D., just about the time of the death of Constantine. Its perihelion distance is only about 700,000 miles; the centre of the sun, and it extends outward at aphelion to about 90 times the sun's distance from the earth.

CONVICT'S DESPERATION. JACKSON, Mich., Dec. 24.—The convicts in the third tier of the cells in the east wing of the prison in this place last night noticed a dense smoke, and as they raised an alarm shrieks were heard issuing from cell No. 60, occupied by a life convict named J. Van Auken. The guard on duty accosted to the cell as quickly as possible. The cell was filled with smoke, while flames enveloped the grating entrance. Owing to the expansion of the iron door by the heat, difficulty was experienced in opening it, but when it swung back the convicts were seen to be cutting their way through the flames. His cries of agony were terrible, for he was literally cooked, and as he shot out upon the corridor he would have gone over the railing to the stone floor, many feet below, had the guard not caught him by the arm and stayed his burning spring. He was shockingly burned about the face and all over his body, and as he was being taken to the hospital, repeatedly cried, "I want to die. I have been a bad man; I deserve this!" He lingered a few hours, when death put an end to his sufferings. Van Auken had piled his clothes in front of him and poured his lamp oil on them, deliberately burning himself to death.

A RAIN OF STONE METAL. JOHNSTOWN, December 24.—A serious accident occurred at No. 5 furnace of the Cambria Iron Works at Johnstown yesterday. A large section of the outer wall gave way at a point between thirty and forty feet from the ground and about midway of the height of the furnace. The hole was probably two feet wide by six feet long, and through it poured between 140 and 150 tons of material which rained down upon and broke through the iron roof of the casting house. Fortunately, nobody was injured. The material which escaped was in its natural state, the part of the furnace where the break occurred being above the zone of fusion.

DISASTROUS RESULTS OF AN ICE BREAK. PITTSBURGH, December 24.—The ice in the Allegheny river broke to-day and came out with disastrous results. About 65,000 logs were mostly, if the finer grades, was swept away from its moorings, causing a loss of \$16,000 to three owners. There were several narrow escapes from drowning, and a number of raftsmen who went down the stream on the pieces have not been heard from since. A portion of the lumber was saved below the city.

FATE OF A ROCKLESS DESPERADO. LA SALLE, Ill., December 24.—A notorious character named Patsy Donnelly this morning entered a saloon in Peru, drew a revolver and fired three times into a crowd of men around the bar. One shot struck Michael McDermott, injuring him fatally. Donnelly stepped out of the saloon and met Oliver Patrick Scott, at whom he fired, but missed. Scott thereupon sent a bullet into Donnelly's brain, and he fell dead. An inquest was held and the jury exonerated the officer.

RESULTS OF AN UNHEEDED SIGNAL. AT Columbia, New Jersey, on the New York, Susquehanna and Railroad, there is a steep grade and a sharp curve necessitating fast running on the part of coal trains to overcome them. Yesterday a flagman ran back toward an approaching coal train and signalled the engineer, but the signal was unheeded and the train dashed into the cars, throwing the locomotive and cars over the bank. The train men escaped uninjured.

JOHN BROWN'S BATTLE GROUNDS FOR SALE. WASHINGTON, December 24.—General Belknap, acting for a Pennsylvania manufacturing company, and offering to bid \$250,000 for government property at Harper's Ferry if it shall again be put up at public auction. Solicitor Royner, of the treasury department, has agreed, and as soon as the proper papers have been drawn up, the property will be advertised for sale for three months.

DANIEL BOONE'S GREAT-GRANDSON'S SHOP. GALVESTON, Dec. 24.—A special from Honey Grove to the News says: At Ladonia, Texas, this morning, William Vaughan shot and mortally wounded two brothers named Boone, great-grandsons of Daniel Boone, of Kentucky fame. The tragedy was the result of some trivial dispute. About a hundred men are in pursuit of the murderer.

IN Pickens county, Georgia, last week, ten illicit distilleries were closed, 14,000 gallons of whisky, beer and low wines seized, and six distillers arrested.

WHERE A FINE ASSORTMENT CAN BE FOUND, CONSISTING OF ALL KINDS OF EASY CHAIRS, PARLOR SEATS, PEDESTALS, FOOT RESTS, AND FANCY TABLES OF ALL KINDS. PURCHASERS WILL DO WELL TO EXAMINE THE GOODS AND NOTE THE PRICES.

W. A. YANT & BERKELEY BILITE'S, Main Street, opposite the Central Hotel, Somerset, Pa.

HOLIDAY FURNITURE CAN BE PURCHASED AT W. A. YANT & BERKELEY BILITE'S, Main Street, opposite the Central Hotel, Somerset, Pa.

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