The Somerset Herald.

EDWARD SCULL, Editor and Proprietor

WEDNESDAY.....March 7, 1888.

TRUSTS are being done to death. The latest is a coffin trust.

TWELVE thousand men are idle in Pittsburgh and towns adjacent on account of mills closing.

CHARLEY MITCHELL, the English champion, has been arrested for arranging a prize fight with Sullivan.

MR. RANDALL will now take his turn and Mr. Mills will begin to learn how little he knows about the tariff.

THE Lawrence County Bar has unanimously endorsed Judge Wickeam, of Beaver as a candidate for Supreme Judge.

COLONEL WM. R. MORRISON, of Illinois, has announced his willingness to accept the Democratic nomination for Vice President.

IN the case of the Crown Prince of Germany it is a battle between science and disease, as in the case of General Grant, and the daily reports are more and more disheartening.

EX-SENATOR JOHN STEWART has written a letter declining to be a candidate for Judge at the Republican primary in Franklin county this spring, assigning his reasons therefore as "entirely personal."

MR. THOMAS DOLAN, of Philadelphia, one of the largest woolen manufacturers in the United States, says that the Mills free trade bill is a measure that if enforced will close up every worsted mill in the country.

THE Crown Prince is doomed, according to the latest dispatches. The public will be sorry if the news is verified, for Unser Fritz is one of the few heirs presumptive to royalty who are respectable and respected in private and public life.

MR. WM. T. HOWARD, the defeated Republican candidate for Mayor of Altoona, will contest the election of his successful competitor, Mr. E. H. Turner. Howard claims gross violations of election laws occurred at different polling places in the city.

THE Atlanta *Constitution* has been receiving no small amount of praise from the Republican press of the country, for its manly course in assailing the President's free trade views, and commenting on the fact, says: "Well, we would as lief be patted on the back by a Republican organ as by a Democratic free trader. The success of either means ruin to the South—one to its social organism, the other to its new industries."

CONGRESSMAN W. L. SCOTT, who seems to have sole charge of the interests of the Administration in this State, proposes to run things with a high hand. He has undertaken to knock out all protectionists, no matter of what party, and according to the program mapped out, both Congressman Randall and Senator Cameron are to be retired to private life, the former because he is a stumbling-block in the way of the free trade conspirators, and the latter because the man from Erie wants to be his successor.

MR. JOHN R. REED, of Philadelphia, has been appointed United States District Attorney for the eastern district of Pennsylvania to succeed John K. Valentine, the Republican incumbent, whose term will expire on the 11th of this month. It is given out that this appointment was made in compliance with the dying request of the late Samuel J. Tilden. Possibly Representative Randall can forgive the appointment on that account, but for some reason or other Randall and all his friends backed ex-Chairman Dallas Sanders for the place.

SENATOR EDMUNDS, of Vermont, in declining to be a candidate for delegate to the Republican National Convention, says: "I have been long under the impression that our State should, in general, be represented in the National Convention by such of our citizens as are not in Congress, and I have on former occasions accordingly requested that I should not be proposed or appointed as a delegate. Besides this it is morally certain that Congress will be under urgent stress of accumulated business, demanding all the strength and attention I can command."

A statement has been prepared at Washington that places the number of able bodied men over 18 and under 45 years of age, not enrolled in militia forces at 7,920,768. Adding to this number the militia of the several States and Territories, 100,837, we have an available force of 8,021,605. The Pennsylvania National Guard ranks first and is claimed to equal in nearly every respect the regular army, while General Sheridan is reported to have said that he sometimes wishes to see another war that he might have the happiness of putting Pennsylvania boys into the fight.

The Democratic hostility towards Union veterans is plainly illustrated in the Senate debate on the Dependent Pension Bill. The principal object of the Grand Army and of the Pension Committee of the Senate has been to formulate a measure that the President could find no objection to. Last year's bill has been carefully revised and the points in it which the President found fault with have been eliminated. As the debate has proceeded signs of dissatisfaction with the method pursued have multiplied on the Republican side. The attempt to adapt a pension bill to the prejudices of a President who has shown himself entirely out of sympathy with the Grand Army is deprecated by many Senators. They consider it unjust to provide for only those who are wholly incapacitated for the performance of labor, and would prefer a measure providing for all disabled veterans, no matter how or where or when disability has been incurred. They will all support the present bill, notwithstanding many consider it an inadequate relief measure, and would gladly substitute for it an act of more substantial justice to the veterans. On the other side the Southern Brigadiers have all taken occasion to assail the bill and attack the Grand Army as a political organization and as a corps of professional beggars, who assume that they should have free access to the National Treasury. Senator Vest and Blackburn have taken the lead in this sort of vituperation, and like the President seem to take special delight in directing insults at the Union soldiers.

MR. MILLS, of Texas, the recognized mouth piece of the Cleveland administration in the House and Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means has submitted his bill for tariff revision, or more properly speaking tariff destruction. Mills proposes that the free list portion of his bill "shall go into effect on or after July 1, 1888." It is not very likely that it will go into effect at so early a date as the American people are not in the humor to sit idly by and calmly watch the ruin of their principal industries. The hardest blow is directed at the agricultural interests of the North, in disregard of all protests and in hopes of destroying the entire protective system, for it is expected if the farmer is deprived of direct benefit in the tariff, he will turn in and assist the free trader in his next raid upon the industries of the country. The principal product of the American farmer—wool—is not alone selected for slaughter, but lumber in all its forms, beeswax, licorice, chicory, and broom corn, the turpentine which the farmer of the "poor lands" of the Carolinas counts on as an addition to the revenue of his unprolific acres; the staves which the farmer of the half-cleared timber lands sells to pay his taxes and his grocery bill while he hews a farm out of the forest are to be reduced in price by competition with the output of Canada and Norway. Hempseed, flaxseed, flax, hemp, jute, in all their forms; tallow and tow; brushwood and oak bark; pickles and sumac berries, are all among the sources of rural wealth that are to be unprotected. The infant, and for the most part country, industries of cottonseed oil, flaxseed or linseed oil, and broom-making, are to be subjected to competition with the untaxed products of Canada and Europe. But, as a relief, salt, wich now only cost 58 cents per barrel of 280 pounds, is to be free, and the farmer who has grown rich by the purchase of "cheap and untaxed salt" can invest his savings in the statuary of Italy or the pictures which have gained prizes in the saloons of Paris.

It is a free trade bill throughout, and Mr. Mills has faithfully served the administration. Like his master he considers the internal revenue system unworthy of mention, and would teach that it is better to pay war taxes on our internal trade than to levy custom duties on foreign goods sold in the home market. The bill is altogether un-American and it will be met in Congress and by the country as an unpatriotic and injurious measure.

PRESS COMMENT.

Chicago *Tribune*: There is something weirdly pathetic in the spectable of a slender legged mugwump editor performing his great act of reading Hon. Sam Randall out of the Democratic party.

Springfield *Union*: If Congressman Mills is going to receive samples of all the products of this country, the manufacture of which he is ignorant of, he will soon be able to set up and stock the biggest variety store in the United States.

Cincinnati *Enquirer*: There are clear indications of active work to obtain an approximately solid Southern delegation for Mr. Sherman. Mahone has charge of the boom in Virginia. The Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate is said to have charge of the Senator's interests in North Carolina.

Milwaukee *Sentinel*: While the Atlanta *Constitution* and other Democratic journals are applauding Mr. Dickinson for "cleaning out the few remaining Republicans in his department," they forget that a bad postal service is a very poor recommendation for Mr. Cleveland's administration.

Mankato, (Minn.) *Free Press*: The Chicago *Tribune* is doing all it can to make John Sherman's nomination assured. It keeps up its abuse of the Ohio statesman in a silly manner, and the people who read it invariably come to the conclusion that Mr. Sherman has made some very desirable enemies.

New York *Tribune*: But Mr. Cleveland also knows that fraud, terrorism, and crime prevented the election of members who favor protection from many Southern districts. The same great National crime by which he was elected—that and nothing else—prevents the election by an overwhelming majority of Protectionists to every Congress.

New York *Mail and Express*: The enemy of Mr. Blaine who can pretend to doubt the sincerity of this manly and unmistakable talk, and who will still try to insinuate that he dodsts Mr. Blaine's good faith, must be too strongly saturated with prejudice or too destitute of the better traits of human nature to deserve either argument or respectful attention.

New York *Mail and Express*: There is a growing unanimity of Republican conviction that the party has reached a crisis in its history and destiny, when the National Convention should be a deliberative and representative body, containing the ablest leaders who can be induced to serve as delegates and utterly unamenable to the control of small politicians.

Globe-Democrat: If the Republican National Convention were held to-morrow, John Sherman would undoubtedly lead all aspirants on the first ballot. He appears to be the first choice at present of four or five of the Southern States as well as of some of the Middle and New England States. This support, with that of Ohio, would put him first at the opening of the contest if it should begin now.

Chicago *Inter-Ocean*: If the nomination to the Presidency were offered to Judge Walter Q. Gresham he would probably accept it. But he is not a candidate in the sense that he is seeking the place by any attempt to interfere with any man's boom. He is not antagonizing any man's candidacy and has no organization lookking after State delegations. He is devoting attention to business, and while he is conscious of the excitement prevailing in political circles he will not allow it to interfere with his spring fishing.

Omaha *Republican*: The mugwumps took Mr. Cleveland upon trust. As the protege of Mr. Tilden he set up the claim of a reformer. Disgruntled Republicans saw in this an excuse, and they believed an opportunity. They expected to live off the fat of the land. They have got nothing but disappointment.

Detroit *Tribune*: If there is such a thing now as a mugwump party, will somebody please locate it and make known its mission? How much net profit does it figure up out of its investment in Grover Cleveland? Don't the liabilities far exceed the assets up to date? If they don't so appear the bookkeeper is a big fraud.

Relief for Volunteers and Army Nurses.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2.—The House Committee on War Claims has directed a favorable report on Mr. Stone's bill to correct the muster-rolls of volunteer soldiers so that the muster shall cover the date from which the men were regularly enrolled and actually performed their duties, and to provide that officers' commissions shall take effect in the same manner. The bill also extends for three years the time during which claims may be filed for muster pay. The committee also authorized a favorable report on the bill to pay to all volunteer and registered female nurses of the late war $25 for each month of service, after deducting from such aggregate amount all sums heretofore received by them.

Louisa M. Alcott Dying in the House With Her Father's Corpse.

BOSTON, March 5.—By a most painful coincidence, Louisa M. Alcott, the well-known writer, lies dying while her father's body is being prepared for burial. For a long time Miss Alcott has been ill, suffering from a nervous prostration. Last autumn, placing herself under the charge of Dr. Green, she appeared to be improving, and afterward went to Dunreath Place, at the Highlands, to reside temporarily with Dr. Rhoda A. Lawrence. While there she drove in town to visit her father Thursday, the 1st instant, and incautiously leaving off her fur cloak, caught cold which on Saturday settled on the base of the brain, and developed into spinal meningitis.

The Tariff Bill.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The Chairman of the Ways and Means committee to-day submitted to the full committee the tariff bill, upon which the Democratic members have been at work for several months. The free list section is to take effect July 1, 1888. The measure was immediately made public. The new tariff bill proposes to fix the duty on pig iron at three dollars per ton; on iron or steel railway bars, weighing more than 25 pounds to the yard, and slab or billets of steel, $11 per ton. On iron and steel T rails, weighing not over 25 pounds to the yard, $14 per ton; and on iron or steel flat rails punched, $15 per ton.

The bill provides for admitting free of duty after July 1st "all wools, hair of the Alpaca goat and all other like animals; wools on the skin; woolen rags, shoddy mengo, waste and flocks." After October 1st, 1888, it provides, among other things, for a forty per cent. duty on woolen and worsted cloth, shawls and all manufacturers of wool, not specially enumerated; and on flannels, blankets, knit goods, women's and children's dress goods composed in part of wool.

The bill makes the following additions to the list of articles which have been imported free of duty:

Timber, hewn and sawed, and timber used for spars and in building wharves. Timber squared or sided. Wood unmanufactured, not specially enumerated or provided for. Sawed boards, planks, deals and all other articles of sawed lumber. Hubs for wheels, posts, last blocks, wagon blocks, car blocks, gun blocks, heading blocks, and all like blocks or sticks, rough, hewn or sawed only. Staves of wood, pickets and palings, laths, shingles, clapboards, pine or spruce logs.

Provided, that if any export duty is laid upon the above mentioned articles, or either of them, by any country whence imported, all said articles from said country shall be subject to duty as now provided by law.

Salt, in bags, sacks, barrels or other packages, or in bulk, when imported from any country which does not charge an import duty upon salt exported from the United States.

Flax straw. Flax not hackled or dressed. Flax hackled, known as dressed line. Tow of flax or hemp. Hemp, manilla and other like substitutes for hemp. Jute butts, jute. Sunn, sisal grass, and other vegetable fibres. Burlaps not exceeding sixty inches in width of flax, jute or hemp, of which flax, jute or hemp, or either of them, shall be the component material of chief value. Bagging for cotton or other manufactures, not specially enumerated or provided for in this act, suitable to the uses of which cotton bagging is applied, composed in whole or in part of hemp, jute, jute butts, flax, gunny bags, gunny cloth, or other material.

Provided, that as to hemp and flax, jute, jute butts, sunn and sisal grass, and manufactures thereof, except burlaps not exceeding sixty inches in width, and bagging for cotton, this act shall take effect July 1, 1888.

Iron or steel sheets or plates, or taggers iron, coated with tin or lead, or with a mixture of which these metals are a component part, by dipping or any other process, and commercially known as the plates, terne plates, and taggers tin.

Beeswax, gelatine and all similar preparations; glycerine, crude, brown or yellow; fish glue, or isinglass, phosphorus. Soap stocks, fit only for use as such. Soap, hard and soft, all of which are not otherwise specially enumerated or provided for. Extract of hemlock and other bark used for tanning; indigo, extracts of, and carmined; iodine, resublimed; licorice, juice; oil, croton; hemp seed and rape seed oil; flaxseed or linseed oil; oil, cotton seed; petroleum. Alumina alum, patent alum, alum substitute, sulphate of alumina, and aluminous cake, and alumin crystals or ground. All imitations of natural mineral waters, and artificial mineral waters. Baryte, sulphate of or byrytes, unmanufactured; boracic acid, borate of lime and borax; cement, Roman, Portland, and all others, whiting and Paris white; copper, sulphate of, or copperas; potash, crude, carbonate of, or fused and caustic potash; chlorate of potash, and nitrate of potash, or saltpeter crude; sulphate of potash; sulphate of soda, known as salt cake, crude or refined, or nitre cake, crude or refined, and glaubers salt, sulphur, refined in rolls.

Wood tar; coal tar, crude; aniline of oil and its homologous; coal tar, products of, such as naphtha, benzine, benzole and pitch; all preparations of coal tar not colors, or dyes, and not acids of colors and dyes. Logwood and other dye woods, extracts and decoctions of; spirits of turpentine; bone, black, ivory drop black and bone clear; ochre and ochery earths, umber and umber earths sienna and sienna earths, when dry. All preparations known as essential oils, expressed oils, distilled oils, rendered oils, alkalies, alkaloids, and all combinations of any of the foregoing and chemical compounds and salt by whatever name known, not specially enumerated or provided for in this act.

All barks, beans, berries, balsams, buds, bulbs, bulbous roots and excrescences, such as nut galls, fruits, flowers, dried fibres, grains, gums and gum resins, herbs, leaves, lichens, mosses, nuts roots and stems, vegetables, seeds and seeds of morbid growth, weeds, woods used expressly for dyeing and dried insects.

All non-dutible crude minerals, but which have been advanced in value or condition by refining or grinding, or by any other process of manufacture not specially enumerated or provided for. All earths or clays unwrought or unmanufactured; China clay or kaoline. Opium, crude, containing nine per centum and over of morphia, for medicinal purposes. Iron and steel cotton ties or hoops for baling purposes, not thinner than number 20 wire gauge. Needles, sewing, darning, knitting and all others not specially provided for in this act. Copper, imported in form of ores, regulas of, and black or coarse copper, and copper cement, old copper fit only for manufacture. Nickel, in ore, matte, or other crude form not ready for consumption in the arts. Antimony, as regulus or metal; quicksilver, chromate of iron or chromic ore. Mineral substances in a crude state and metals unwrought, not specially enumerated or provided for. Brick.

Vegetables in their natural state or in salt or brine; chicory root, ground or unground burnt or prepared; acorns and dandelion root, or intended to be used, as coffe or substitutes therefor, not specially enumerated or provided for. Cocoa, prepared or manufactured; dates, plums and prunes; currants, raute or other; figs. Meats, game and poultry; milk, fresh; eggs, yelks. Beans, peas and split peas. Pulp for papermaker's use. Bibles, books and pamphlets, printed in other languages than English, and books and phamplets and all publications of foreign governments, and publications of foreign societies, historical or scientific, printed for gratuitous distribution.

Bristles, bulbs, and bulbous roots, not medicinal; feathers of all kinds, crude or not dressed, colored or manufactured; finishing powder; grease. Grindstones, finished or unfinished. Curled hair, for beds, matresses human hair, raw, uncleaned, and not drawn; hatters' furs, not on the skin. Hemp and rape seeds and other oil seeds like character. Lime. Garden seeds, linseed or flaxseed. Marble of all kinds in block, rough or squared. Osier or willow, prepared for basket makers' use; broom corn, brush wood. Plaster of Paris, when ground or calcined. Rags of whatever material composed. Rattans and reeds, manufactured but not made up into finished articles.

Paintings in oil or water color and statuary not otherwise provided for. But the term "statuary" shall be understood to include professional productions of a statuary or of a sculptor only. Stones unmanufactured or undressed, free-stone, granite, and stone and all building or monumental stone. All strings of gut or any other like material. Tallow, waste, not specially enumerated or provided for. All wools, hair of the alpaca goat, and other like animals. Wools on the skin. Woolen rags, shoddy, mungo, waste and flocks.

Estimates of reductions in revenue affected by Mill's bill have not been completed in details, but the aggregate, according to the best information in the hands of the committee, is fixed at $55,000,000. This total includes about twenty-two and a quarter million, on account of the free list, seventeen and a quarter millions on account of woolen goods, one million six hundred thousands for china and glassware, three-quarters of a million dollars in the chemical schedule, something less than half a million dollars on cotton, one and a half million dollars on flax, hemp and jute, and sugar about eleven million dollars.

Sherman's Two Speeches.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 2.—Colonel A. M. Willis, a Republican of this city, having written Senator Sherman that some persons (who had been impressed with his speech here during the Senator's Southern trip last fall) thought they had discovered in his subsequent speech at Springfield a pledge of a reactionary policy in Southern affairs, the Senator, under date of Washington, February 18, has replied:

You are certainly right there was no difference in sentiment or purpose between my speeches at Nashville and Springfield. Every word I uttered at Nashville I can repeat with entire sincerity. I do not wish to revive the animosities of the war, and what I said there of Confederate soldiers, their honesty and courage, I have said over and over again in the North. My arraignment of the Democratic party at Springfield is also historically true and entirely consistent with my Nashville speech. I do not think the Democratic party of the North, during and since the war, has occupied a much worse position than the Confederates of the South. The latter fought openly for what they conceived to be right, while the Democratic organization did precisely what I said they did in my Springfield speech. What I desire in the future is a frank and full discussion of the policy of protection as it affects the industry and prosperity of our people North and South. I do think the Southern people ought to faithfully observe the fifteenth amendment and to make no distinction on account of race and color in the right to vote, and to have that vote counted. The difficulty in the way of enforcing this amendment ought to be an appeal to their patriotism to support alike every clause of the Constitution.

Regarding Pensions.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—The House Committee on Invalid pensions to-day ordered a favorable report on the Matson bill, authorizing the Commissioner of Pensions to pay pensions to the wife or guardian where it is shown to his satisfaction that the pensioner is a habitual drunkard.

Similar action was taken on the Weber bill, providing that in considering pension claims of dependent parents, the fact of the soldier's death by reason of any wound, injury, casualty or disease which under the conditions or limitations of sections 4,692 and 4,693 would have entitled him to an Invalid pension, and the fact that the soldier left no widow or minor children having been shown as required by law, it shall be necessary only to show by competent and sufficient evidence that such parents are without other present means of support than their own manual labor or the contributions of others not legally bound for their support; provided, that no pension allowed under this act shall commence prior to its passage, and in case of applications hereafter made under this act, the pension shall commence from the date of the filing of the application in the Pension office.

A Letter From Roscoe Conkling.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 29.—The following letter from Roscoe Conkling is in reply to one addressed to him by the secretary of the club recently formed in this city bearing Conkling's name, in which the club proposes the New York statesman for the presidential nomination:

NEW YORK, Feb. 29.—My Dear Sir: Setting great store by good opinion of my countrymen, I warmly appreciate the fact announced in your letter of the 17th inst. that the c tizens of Pittsburgh have organized a club to indicate their wish that the Republican party may make me its candidate for President of the United States. Not being an aspirant for political preferment and not supposing that the party with so many tried and distinguished men to choose from, would wish me to become the bearer of its standard, the honor you and others have so unexpectedly done is gratifying, not so much as a political act, but rather as an evidence of personal kindness and confidence. Regarding the formation of the club in this light. I am grateful to its members and promoters for all their action implies, and I shall remember and value it always. Without reference to candidates, it will be great satisfaction if the club bearing my name shall contribute in any way to reinstate the organization, whose wisdom and earnestness proved so useful during the most tragic and trying period of our history. To see that party again triumphant and united, worthy of itself and of its past, the brave and honest champion of the rights, the welfare and progress of sixty-three million people is inspiration enough for all Republicans. In that hope I unite with you and all who cherish it in sincerity.

Respectfully yours,
ROSCOE CONKLING.

Presidential Straws.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 29.—The Harrisburg *Telegraph* the past week addressed a large number of Republican editors as to their choice for President since Blaine's retirement. Replies have been received from 51, seven of which have no preference, 11 are for Sherman, 10 for Blaine, 9 for Cameron, 4 for Hawley, 2 for Gresham, 2 for Lincoln, and 1 each for Evarts, Allison, Hiscock, Schofield, Depew and Beaver.

For second choice, 3 are for Gresham, 2 each for Allison and Depew, and 1 each for Quay, Hawley, Sherman, Packer, Cameron and Lincoln.

Squire and Flynn Go Free.

NEW YORK, March 1.—The trial of Maurice Flynn and Rollin M. Squire, for conspiracy, has been abandoned by District Attorney Fellows, because of a decision of Judge Lawrence to the effect that declarations of an alleged conspirator cannot be proved before the conspiracy is proved. This made it practically impossible to insure conviction, and the case was abandoned.

The Suffering at Mt. Vernon, Ill.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2.—The following telegram was received here to-day from Miss Clara Barton, of the Red Cross Society, dated at Mt. Vernon, Ill.: "Reached Mt. Vernon yesterday. While reports have been correct, it has not been possible for words to adequately describe the situation. The destruction, loss and needs are much greater than realized by the public. Everything is needed. Every aid welcome and should be tendered. A cold, hard rain falls on a thousand houseless and homeless people here to-day."

The Will of W. W. Corcoran.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—The will of W. W. Corcoran was filed and admitted to probate to-day. The only public bequests are $100,000 to the Corcoran Art Gallery, to which Mr. Corcoran had already given a million and a half; $50,000 to the Louise Home, to which Mr. Corcoran gave in life half a million dollars; $5,000 each to the three orphan asylums of the District, and $3,000 to the Little Sisters of the Poor. He makes many bequests ranging from $100 to $15,000 to relatives, personal friends and servants. The remainder of the estate is left in trust for his three grand children.

The Michigan Liquor Law.

LANSING, Mich., March 2.—The Michigan Supreme Court has decided two points of the new State Liquor law unconstitutional, weakening the force of the law very much. One was the section providing for police control by the Detroit authorities of townships adjoining Detroit, and the other a section making lawful the arrest without process of a saloon keeper discovered in the act of violating the Liquor Law.

Crops in Excellent Condition.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—A summary of the weather condition for the period from January 1 up to date indicates that the weather has been generally favorable to the coming crops the in Southern States, although in some sections the cold wave which occurred the last week in February caused some damage to fruits.

Reports from Kansas and Nebraska indicate that the weather conditions have been exceedingly favorable during the past winter. The wheat acreage is large, and the condition excellent. Plowing and planting are in progress as far north as Southern Kansas and Missouri, while the ground remains frozen generally in the States north of the Ohio River, where the deficiency of the rainfall of last season and the slight amount of snow and low temperature during the winter leave wheat pasturage in bad condition.

Generally, in the Middle States the weather has been favorable for prospective crops. Wheat and rye are reported in good condition, except in Northern New Jersey.

A Texas Tragedy.

HUSTON, Tex., Feb. 29.—News has reached here of what is perhaps the most horrible crime which has ever been perpetrated in this section of the state. The bloody tragedy was enacted at a settlement known as "Spanish Camp," about sixty miles west of this city. Spanish Camp is composed of Mexican negroes and desperate whites, and is remote from railroads and telegraph lines, and on this account only meagre reports of the facts are obtainable. Sunday morning about 2 o'clock a negro cabin was set on fire and the occupants brutaly shot down as they ran, half awake, from the burning house.

Five were killed outright, one severely wounded, and two were consumed in the burning dwelling. In the same neighborhood the dead body of a negro, named Bath, was found hanging to a tree, and it is thought that he was hung on the same night the other negroes were shot or burned. The affair is said to be the outcome of a suit over the title of the land where the negroes lived, and which they had purchased. The suit was decided in favor the negroes at the last term of the district court in Wharton. So far as heard from no arrests have been made although the sheriff and posse are on the ground.

A Million Dollar Blaze.

NEW YORK, March 2.—A fire broke out to-day in the building at Forty-second street and Lexington avenue, and swept almost the entire block bounded by Lexington and Florida avenues and Forty-second and Forty-third streets, causing a loss of $1,000,000. The building, which was seven stories, was occupied by Potter & Stymes, furniture manufacturers, and Powell, Weinman & Smith, cigar manufacturers. In a short time the building was completely gutted and the walls fall in. The flames communicated to dwellings on Forty-first street, and they were quickly consumed, the terrified inmates fleeing with what they could gather in their arms. The wooden girders of the elevated railroad on Forty-first street burned away, and a section of road was crushed by falling walls. The Vanderbilt hotel was saved from destruction, and rendered uninhabitable. Two firemen were injured, but not seriously. There were many narrow escapes. To-night there remains of the entire block only a row of houses in Third avenue and a mass of blackened walls.

An Ironclad Temperance Bill.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 29.—The joint committee of both Houses of the State Legislature has prepared a bill for the sale of liquors. It authorizes permits to sell only to registered pharmacists. Applications for permits must be made to the district judge in open court and must be signed by a majority of the property owners in the ward and not less than twenty-five women, the wives of property holders. A bond is also required in the sum of $3,000. The statements set forth in the application must be proved in open court and any person may appear to resist the application. Permits can only be granted to each 2,000 of population. If no pharmacists apply the court may appoint some discreet person to sell. All liquors must be purchased through the County auditor by those holding permits. Purchasers from pharmacists must make oath to their application, and if not known to the pharmacist must be identified. The penalty for false statement of a purchaser is the same as for perjury. No liquor can be sold to minors, intoxicated persons or those in the habit of getting intoxicated. The penalty for violation by a pharmacist is a fine of $100 and all the penalties of the Clark law.

It is an ironclad bill throughout and will effectually close out the drug store saloons.

Grand Army Denounced.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—There was a lively debate in the Senate this afternoon over the Pension bill introduced by Senator Manderson. In the course of it the Democratic party showed once more its cloven foot. The Grand Army of the Republic was honored by wholesale denunciation from men like Blackburn and Beck, who, unable to conquer it twenty-five years ago with their swords, think that they can afford now to besmirch it with their tongues. Mr. Beck called the veterans who offered their lives to preserve the Union "beneficiaries." Mr. Black expressed the hope that the bill would be defeated in the Senate; if not in the Senate, then in the House; and if not in the House, then by the Executive. In his opinion the Grand Army of the Republic was a political organization, which did not approach Congress as other petitioners did, humbly and respectfully, but demanding and threatening. For the time he seemed to lose sight of the fact that even among his own constituents there are thousands of Democrats to-day who are members of the Grand Army. Carried away by his rhetoric he accused certain Senators on the Republican side of favoring the bill because of their Presidential aspirations. His speech had the true ring of Kentucky stump oratory in it—unrepentant, devoid of logic and triumphantly defiant.

In a five minutes' speech Mr. Hoar disposed of Mr. Blackburn's sophistries most thoroughly. He spoke with great earnestness of the services of the Grand Army, deplored the spirit in which it was now being attacked and denounced in no uncertain language the motives of a Senator who could apply, as Mr. Beck had, the term of "supper-loyal" to members of the Grand Army. Mr. Teller also had his say, and pretty effective it was, too. He exposed the absurdity of framing a bill with the sole view of having it meet the approval of the President. Not without reason he regarded this as and unwarranted interference on the part of the Executive—an attempt, in fact, to bulldoze Congress into doing his bidding.

Mr. Manderson made a speech in which he completely exposed the falseness of the assertion made by Mr. Blackburn, that the Grand Army was forcing Congress into a compliance with its wishes by threats of political punishment as a consequence of a failure to heed its demands. He showed what everybody knows, except Mr. Blackburn, that the Grand Army availed itself simply of the right of petition like any other organization; like the Knights of Labor, for instance, the Women's Christain Temperance Union, Boards of Trade, and mercantile associations. Mr. Blackburn had little to say after Messrs. Hoar, Teller and Manderson got through with him, and as for Mr. Beck, he never opened his mouth after having denounced the Grand Army as "beneficiaries," and after receiving the special attention of Mr. Hoar for the use of that offensive expression. Consideration of the bill went over until to-morrow.

Children Murdered by their Mother.

KEY WEST, Fla., March 2.—A dispatch from Baracoa, eighty miles from Havanna, states that a mother murdered her four children in cold blood. She chopped off the heads of two of them with a hatchet, and the other two she held in a tub of water until they were drowned and then cut them up. She said, when arrested and taken to jail, that the devil tempted her to the crime.

THE RAILROAD STRIKE.

But Little Change in the Situation.

CHICAGO, March, 5.—The meeting this morning of chairmen of Grievance Committees of the several Western railroads was very largely attended, and the most complete harmony and unity of sentiment were manifested. M. J. O'Brien who has been selected at the Brotherhood headquarters as the person to hold communication with press representatives, said, in regard to the meeting of the Grievance Committee Chairman, that he was strongly of the impression that the strike would not be extended to other roads.

The fact that delegates from the Brakemen's Brotherhood were present indicated one object of the conference. All the engineers who could be induced to talk said the brakemen were with the strikers and would not run freight trains with non-Brotherhood engineers.

The meeting closed at 7:30 P. M., and many of the delegates left for their homes. Chief Arthur and all the others have been pledged to the utmost secrecy.

Mr. O'Brien, of the Press Committee, when asked this evening if a strike was contemplated on the Northwestern Road, where the classification system is still in force, said:

The Grievance Committee of the Northwestern Road is not in possession of any grievances to present to the officials of that road. The utmost good feeling exists between the officials and the men in the engine service. A strike on that road has not been discussed; that is as a division matter. It is the intention of the engineers to confine the strike to the "Q" system and not to have the strike business become contagious. It would require very little to spread this feeling of striking, and we do not want that.

"What do you think of the progress the Burlington is making in handling its business notwithstanding the strike?" "We consider that the 'Q' has not been successful in their effort to work. Their engineers—the men they have passed—have been successful only in burning out engines, and the feeling that their men are incompetent is so general that the people of Iowa have called on their Board of Railway Commissioners to examine the men and see if they are capable and competent, and say whether the 'Q' road is right in putting incompetent men on their engines, and thereby rendering the public liable to accident through the incompetency of these men. The Iowa Commissioners are in session at Burlington, and they have been examining men for three or four days. We have received a copy of the report of the examination that has taken place there. As far as the result goes the report shows the men examined are very incompetent. The ultimate victory will surely be ours, as the Brotherhood can hold out just as long as the company."

"Do you know of any new men leaving the Burlington Road?" "They are going back right along all the time as soon as they understand the situation."

"What about the strike on the Burlington and Northern?" "The Grievance Committee on that road has reported that it has examined into the matter and found that no grievance exists there. The officials of the Burlington and Northern have undertaken to be perfectly neutral in the matter."

THE MEN READY FOR AMICABLE SETTLEMENT.

Grand Master Sargent, of the Fireman's Brotherhood, was shown the report of the proceedings in the House of Representatives, in which it had been proposed to send a committee to investigate the Burlington Railroad strike. He said:

You can say for me that we are perfectly willing that any committee composed of practical railroad men should examine and pass upon our demands at any time. We have been ready at all times to meet the officials of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Road and settle our grievances in an amicable way. We are not asking them to pay any more wages than is paid by all the lines running out of Chicago. We are perfectly willing to have a Congressional committee examine into the matter and see if they can bring about a settlement. This strike is not of our seeking, but we know that the demands of the men are just, and we can readily convince any intelligent man of that fact. And should the Burlington officials to-day accede to our demands (which are 3½ cents per mile, passenger service; 4 cents per mile, freight services; 60 per cent. of above rates to firemen) the wheels of the entire system will be moving in twelve hours.

Chief Arthur said: "I heartily indorse Mr. Sargent's words."

Dauphin's Dishonest Ex-Treasurer.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 4.—It has been discovered that during the term of County Treasurer John S. Longenecker, from 1882 to 1885, there was a defalcation in his office amounting to $17,000. Longenecker's clerk was Erastus J. Jones, who succeeded him as County Treasurer. When Longenecker went out of office Jones gave him receipts showing that he had received all the money supposed to be in the Treasury, when the fact was that there was a shortage of $17,000, which Jones concealed and carried all through his term of office, ending on the 1st of January. On that date George Grove became the County Treasurer, and he would not receipt for anything but cash from Jones. There was a good deal of delay before Jones would admit that there was anything wrong, but finally, when he could no longer prevent it, the truth came out. The county looked to Longenecker to pay the defalcation of his crooked clerk, and Longenecker fell back on his bondsmen, Colonel James Young, of Middletown, and Colonel W. W. Jennings, of Harrisburg, who paid the money, taking Longenecker's note for $20,000, representing principal and interest. There is much conjecture as to what Jones did with the money.

The Fated Crown Prince.

LONDON, March 2.—Official news has been received here that the condition of the German Crown Prince is alarming. Upon the receipt of this intelligence the Lord Chamberlain communicated with the Queen with reference to altering the court arrangements for next week, which include a levee and a drawing room. He was directed not to alter the present arrangements, but to prepare to postpone the receptions at the shortest notice.

Arrangements are being made privately to transport the German Crown Prince to Berlin. On account of the animosity felt in Berlin Dr. Mackenzie will not accompany the Prince, but will proceed direct to London.

SAN REMO, March 2.—Up to midnight the Crown Prince had passed a satisfactory day. He coughed less frequently. The patient spent a good deal of the day on the balcony.

Dr. Mackenzie still declines to admit that the existence of cancer has been proven.

Additional Local.

Washington Letter.

From our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 5, 1888.

The Mills Tariff bill now before the House Committee on Ways and Means is being carefully scrutinized and dissected by leading statesmen here, Republicans as well as Democrats. The general impression among Republicans is that the measure is an iniquitous one; and largely because, in some respects, it is not so radical as was anticipated and is therefore all the more dangerous to our varied industrial interests.

It is true that nearly three hundred articles are placed upon the free list, but many of them are not produced to any considerable extent in this country; while others though important American products, do not represent any very strong political force, so to speak, and therefore will not arouse any very powerful antagonisms in these directions.

There is no question but that it was the original intention of Mills and his Democratic colleagues to place iron, coal and other ores upon the free list, but the fear of losing Virginia, West Virginia and other Southern States next November, has deterred them. As a result, copper and nickel are the only ores from which all duty is removed. However, two very important American products are free-listed—wool and lumber—and these two features of the bill alone ought to damn it beyond redemption. The most important feature of the measure, aside from the free-listing of wool and lumber, is the very sweeping reduction in the sugar duties aggregating probably $11,000,000 per annum. The reductions in the metal schedule are violent in some instances—among them being the cut of $17 to $11 per ton on steel railway bars—but the bill is all the more menacing to our iron industries from the fact that the reductions are less startling in some respects than had been looked for; but the changes are general, and apply to nearly every branch of the trade.

Two questions are now discussed here: First, What are the prospects for the passage of the bill? And, secondly, what will be its effect upon the Presidential contest? In the first place let me say, the measure will not pass—not in its present shape, or anything like it. Bear in mind that the Democratic majority in the House is only about fourteen—it is impossible to say just what it is, owing to the uncertain politics of two or three members. Assuming that the Minnesota Republicans, and possibly half a dozen others, may vote for the bill, fifteen or twenty Democrats voting against the measure will kill it. The six Louisiana members are certain to oppose the bill owing to its treatment of the sugar question, while the two California Democrats are equally certain to vote against it, for it means ruin to the three most important staples of the Golden State—wool, lumber, and fruit. These eight are sure to be reinforced by at least a dozen or fifteen other Democrats, under the lead of Randall.

As to the political phase of the question, it is yet too early to speak, beyond stating the fact that the Mills bill removes all doubt as to the ability of the Republicans to carry California and the other Pacific Coast States—Oregon, Nevada, and Colorado.

Congressman Scull's three days' vacation was very pleasantly passed. He says he spent one day with his family and two with the boys. His next-door neighbor in the House, Representative Osborne, says he thinks the former were mighty lucky to get one-third of his time.

Last week's debate in the Senate on the Dependent Pension bill was not only a very interesting one to those who listened to it, but it has been the means of furnishing some very valuable material for the ensuing Presidential campaign, in the way of political literature. The speeches made by Senators Blackburn, Vest, and Beck in opposition to the bill are almost certain to turn up about next September and October in the hands of the surviving veterans of the late war all over the country. The three Senators mentioned characterized the G. A. R. boys as mendicants and beneficiaries, and accused them of endeavoring to dictate to Congress; and the Missouri Senator went so far as to say,