

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ASSEMBLY.
We are authorized to announce W. R. COON, of Clarington, as a candidate for Assembly, subject to the usages of the Republican party.

Our Washington Letter.

Special to the REPUBLICAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 9, '78.

It is felt, I will not say universally, but by a large majority here who have diagnosed the complication of ailments now afflicting our languishing business interests, that Wood and his committee of tariff adjusters are doing more to perpetuate the existing commercial prostration than are all other causes now acting in that direction. The steady decline of gold since the passage of the silver bill over the Presidential veto seems to have discredited the predictions of disaster indulged in by the advocates of the exclusive gold standard. Synonymously with this decline there has been noted a growing firmness in about every class of Government securities; and the feeling is general that if the mischievous tendencies of the inflationists on the one hand and of the anti-tariff maniacs on the other, could be restrained, we might confidently count on a gradual recuperation from this time forward. But Wood, shutting his eyes to the evil consequences already so palpable that the wayfaring man, even, is at no loss to interpret their ominous purport—appears determined to abuse the power that has accidentally fallen to him, as to cripple every interest within his reach. As compared with February 1877, the decrease for last month in custom dues amounted to \$788,622; internal revenue taxes \$1,174,847. Total decrease in the revenues for the first eight months of the present fiscal year as compared with same period last year, foots up to \$5,074,365. Only 19 out of the 52 pages of Wood's bill have been completed during the six months' session. There is hope, however, that on the first day it is presented to the House, a motion to strike out the enacting clause may be adopted, thus defeating the bill and properly rebuking the mismanagement responsible for such losses.

The report of the Senate Judiciary Committee seems conclusive as to the right of Congress to force the Pacific Railroad Companies to live up to their contracts, and to enact such legislation as appears needful to enforce the rights of the public in the premises. The report substantially says that while disclaiming on the part of Congress any right to destroy at pleasure the vested rights of property, the right to "alter, amend or repeal" the charter of the Pacific Railroads was reserved and is undoubted; that even had it not been specially reserved, the prohibition found in the Federal Constitution against the right of any State to impair the terms of a contract would give Congress the right to interfere; and finally that in the absence of any positive stipulation, the fundamental principle that no Congress has the right to limit the Constitutional powers of any subsequent Congress, would confer the right on Congress to adopt such legislation as in its discretion is deemed necessary to force those roads to comply with the spirit and letter of their contracts with the Government.

The schemes of the railroad lobbies introduced to the notice of the House during the past two weeks, are numerous, and many of them colossal in character; and it is quite impossible to conceal the indications of jobbery with which they all abound. Their significance is about the same in all of them, to-wit: the committal of the Government to the gift of millions in money or land or both, for the good behoof of speculators who have made the swindling of the Government a profession.

The Polk investigation still drags its interminable length through the weary days and weeks of Congressional sittings. The general purport of all the testimony has been so conclusive as to the guilty complicity or knowledge of most of the noted reformers of the House and many of the Senate, that they have already offered "excuses" and more are to follow. It is difficult to effectually whitewash the many who have benefited from the Public Debt.

The Public Debt was reduced two million two hundred and fifty thousand two hundred and thirty-seven dollars during the month of February. A rather favorable showing in the face of a reduction of nearly \$2,000,000 in revenue during the same time.

charies as to satisfy the public of their innocence. A start has been made on the appropriation bills. On Tuesday the fortification bill passed the House, and a deficiency bill came up for consideration.

A good many of the "erring brothers" in Congress who represent the timber stealers, seem disposed to forget past favors because the President saw fit to veto a bill designed, no one can doubt, to secure the acquittal of this class of public plunderers. But what Mr. Hayes has lost with that class of his whilom admirers, he has gained with those who believe in the punishment of thieves, great and small, whether the offense is against the Government or individuals.

The postal-savings bank bill will soon come up for disposition and will find many friends in both Houses, it is believed. The refusal of Cox to sanction the suppression of that portion of his remarks of the other day, in which he characterized the President as "a fraud," has secured for him the contempt of many of his associates. After benefiting by the kindly interference of Speaker Randall to extricate him from a very unpleasant predicament, he turns about and repudiates the bargain to which he, by his silence, had committed himself. But Randall has learned something by his experience.

All officers, enlisted and drafted men of the army or navy, who served 14 days in the war of 1812, or in any engagement of that war, are entitled to a pension of \$3 per month under the bill just passed, if not already in receipt of one; and all widows of such, who have not remarried, are also entitled.

—That old, and at all times Republican paper, the Philadelphia North American, has been looking over the political field in this State, and its conclusions are given in the following short article:

"The Republican prospects in Pennsylvania for the State election in November next are beginning to look promising in view of the uprising all over the Commonwealth against the monstrosities of Fernando Wood's tariff bill. So good an issue for the Republicans has not been offered for a long time, and unless the bill is abandoned by the Democrats in Congress, which seems now improbable, there will be an old-fashioned Republican storm in November. The reaction in Philadelphia is general and pronounced, and will tell with effect when the time comes. Success has exercised its usual influence upon the Democrats in developing all the worst tendencies of their party. The issues about the national Administration and its policy are beginning to sink away, and the necessity of Pennsylvania standing by her own principles and interests is everywhere appreciated. The Democratic hopes rest on their ability to galvanize into the semblance of life the somewhat putrescent remains of the Labor Reform party; but as a means of aiding a free-trade tariff this concern will become odious to the workmen, and sink out of sight before the revived vigor of the great industrial issue."

Terms of Peace.

An outline of the preliminary treaty of peace between Russia and Turkey is published. It leaves too many and too vital questions open for settlement by the Congress of Powers to permit of its being accepted as furnishing positive assurance of the peace of Europe. It exacts an enormous war indemnity, equivalent to about \$1,100,000,000 in American money, but territorial concessions are to be accepted for the greater portion of it. This will take an enormous slice out of Armenia. It is not agreed that the Turkish fleet or the Bulgarian or Egyptian tributes shall or shall not be pledged to Russia. The whole effect is simply to transfer the question of war or peace for England, Austria or Russia from the present negotiators to those who are soon to meet at Berlin. The Congress then and there to assemble will be as momentous as the similar one which established the European "balance of power" after the fall of Napoleon I.—Buffalo Express.

—The Public Debt was reduced two million two hundred and fifty thousand two hundred and thirty-seven dollars during the month of February. A rather favorable showing in the face of a reduction of nearly \$2,000,000 in revenue during the same time.

—Sammy Cox's disgraceful performance appears in a still worse light since the Tribune revived the half forgotten letter he wrote to the President last spring begging for the appointment to a Special Agency of Gen. H. Butler, a nephew of General Butler. Cox now calls Mr. Hayes a "fraud," but he considered him a valid enough President last March to give his friend Butler, who is a fraud of the first water, a good office.

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