

Democrat and Sentinel.



C. D. MURRAY, Editor. James S. Todd, Publisher.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 26, 1862

No action has been taken in the Senate at the time of writing this, on the bill for restoring the Tonnage Tax. The following is the vote by which it passed the House.

YEAS.—Messrs. Alexander, Banks, Barren, Beaver, Beebe, Bingham, Blanchard, Bliss, Boleau, Bowen, (Mercer) Brown, (Northumberland) Busby, Cessna, Craig, Crane, DeLoach, Divans, Dumbley, (Green) Dougherty, Elliot, Fox, Freedland, Gamble, Graham, Hart, Gross, Hall, Happer, Henry, Hess, Hooper, Hoover, Hopkins, Hutchins, Kaine, Kennedy, Kline, Labar, Lehman, Eickstein, Walker, McGoldan, McCoy, McCullough, Myers, Newman, Peters, Potteger, Ramsey, Roy, Rhoads, Ritter, Ross (Lincoln) Ross, (Midlin) Rowland, Russell, Ryan, Shannon, Strang, Tate, Tracy, Tutton, Wakefield, Webster, Williams, Wingle, Winkle, Wolf, Worky, Zeigler, Rowe, Speaker—70.

NAYS.—Messrs. Abbott, Armstrong, Bates, Caldwell, Chatham, Cochran, Cowan, Dennis, Donley, (Philadelphia) Dunfield, Earley, Gaskill, Greenbank, Hopkins, (Philadelphia) Joseph, McMakin, McMon, Poshing, Quigley, Scott, Smith, (Chester) Smith (Philadelphia) Thompson, Vincent, Warner, Wilder—26.

Of course all the regular readers of the Democrat and Sentinel are fully aware of our views and position with regard to this measure, and it is, therefore, unnecessary for us to say, that we deeply regret that Mr. Pershing felt it to be his duty to vote against it on its final passage in the House. It will be recollected, however, that we never advocated it as a party measure, nor was it brought forward as such in the Legislature. Many prominent Republicans, such as Williams and Bigham, were amongst its ablest and most efficient defenders, while several Democrats, beside Mr. Pershing, voted against it. All the members were left untrammelled by party fetters in determining the course they would pursue with regard to it. The convention which nominated Mr. Pershing was silent on the subject of the repeal of the tonnage tax, and it cannot therefore, be truly urged, that in voting against its restoration, he violated the instructions of his party; although we believe that a vast majority of those who elected him, would have been enthusiastic in applauding his course, as he had voted "Yea" instead of "Nay." But this of course is nothing more than the public expression of our private opinion as a private individual. The matter is between him and his constituents, and with them we leave it; merely remarking, that if the parties should find themselves mutually satisfied with each other, we will be satisfied also. We have no disposition to go into a discussion with regard to the inviolability of contracts, how far fraud vitiates them, and sundry nice principles of constitutional law. We have still less disposition, to step aside and drag side issues into the ranks of the Democratic party, at the opening of an important political campaign, when all our energies should be directed to strengthening it, and placing it in a condition in which it can march forward to meet the enemy with the assurance of success. We should all profit by the lessons of the past. They teach us that when united we are invincible, but that when divided we can accomplish nothing.

We are and always have been the personal and political friends of Mr. Pershing. We admire his abilities and confide in his integrity. We are the last man in the world, who would do him the slightest injury or injustice. He has made an able and efficient representative, and on all strictly party questions, voted in a manner that must command the approbation of the most ultra Democrat in the county. At the beginning of the session when treason to the party became the order of the day, he was as true as the needle to the pole. He has also been careful in attending to the local interests of the county, and for this he merits the thanks of all.

It is a note worthy fact, that several of the most prominent Republican politicians of our county, are just now remarkably busy in calling the attention of Democrats to Mr. Pershing's vote on the bill to restore the tonnage tax. In this their object is obvious. They want to get up a fight among us on the question, and thus create a Pershing, and an anti Pershing faction in our ranks. They would then go into the campaign confident of success, and it is quite likely our beloved friend, Alick Mullin the "model member," would graciously consent to be a gain candidate for Assembly. Democrats, do not allow your worst, your most compromising enemies to become your counsellors.

Turn from side issues to the fundamental, the cardinal principles of your party. All your energies will be required to preserve them from destruction, and union and harmony in your ranks are essentially necessary to the successful accomplishment of the work. Remember, that it was a Republican Legislature that repealed the tonnage tax, and that it was Republican members, who on that occasion, allowed themselves to be seduced from their integrity, if they ever had any, by the soft blandishments of the Pennsylvania Rail Road Company. It is not the fault of the Democracy, that that infamous law, disgraces our statute books.

Meeting the Question.

The following brief but pointed resolutions were adopted at a Democratic meeting held in the borough of Washington, this State, a short time since.

Resolved, That we, the Democracy of Washington borough, are opposed to the emancipation policy of President Lincoln.

Resolved, That we disapprove of the giving of a command by President Lincoln to John C. Fremont.

That in our opinion is the kind of talk the crisis demands. The Democracy are opposed to the emancipation scheme of President Lincoln as they are to the most ultra schemes of the Abolitionists to effect the same end in a more direct manner; it is equally unconstitutional, and therefore equally unjust, unwise and impolitic. It is calculated to widen the breach between the two sections of the Republic, and to unite the rebels still more firmly in opposition to Government. Ours is a Constitutional party and cannot therefore encourage or countenance such a scheme.

Its scheme for taxing the people of the loyal States for the purpose of buying the liberty of the negro slaves, is not likely to elevate the President in the estimation of the "sovereigns." Is not our national debt sufficiently large already, and is not likely to become a burden grievous to be borne before peace is restored to the country? Taxation at the highest possible rates will be required to relieve the people from the incalculable, it would be unjust, even if constitutional, to increase this burden by taxing them to liberate the slaves. The President does not tell us what is to be done with them after they are liberated. Are they to be brought to the North? We do not want such a nuisance among us? We certainly cannot admit them to the rights in society which we enjoy. We do not wish to see respectable white laborers degraded by being made to come into competition for employment with the newly liberated half civilized negro slaves. We do not wish to see society disorganized, and life and property imperiled by an exodus of the colored population of the South to the North, and particularly to Pennsylvania and the other free border States. We know enough of the impudence of back sitters already, to comprehend what we would have a right to expect, could we number them in our midst by the tens.

McClellan's Address.

We last week published the very eloquent, terse and appropriate Address of General McClellan to the army, issued on the 11th inst. It has the ring of the true metal and forcibly reminds us of the addresses of Napoleon Bonaparte on similar occasions, as recorded in the history of that great man. It is well calculated to infuse the spirit of enthusiastic confidence into our army, and this is all that is wanting to render it invincible. We regard him as a very promising officer, for whom a brilliant future of immortality is in store. The Abolition newspapers have recently been engaged in assailing him with feigning malignity, merely because he is a Democrat. Although he has not yet done any thing to fully justify the encomiums that have been bestowed on him by some of his overzealous friends, he has certainly already displayed the foot of Hercules, and the country and army have just reason for confiding in him. A great and holy task is assigned him, and as he performs it, so will an immortality of glory or shame be meted out to him.

A few weeks ago we adverted to the injustice of the provisions of the law, for the relief of the families of soldiers in the military service of the United States. We find on inquiry, that previous to that time, Mr. Pershing had urged the matter on the Committee of Ways and Means, of which he is a member, and commented on the injustice done by the present system; he urged the fact that such Counties as Cambria have not only to furnish the men to fight, but the money to keep their families, while counties that have not patriotism enough to furnish men, escape taxation for relief. Notwithstanding the incontrovertible character of these arguments, the proposition to lay a State tax for the purpose of raising a relief fund, met with decided opposition, and all that Mr. Pershing could do under the circumstances, was to procure the adoption of a resolution by the House, calling on the Commissioners of the different counties of the State, for the information considered necessary for the Committee to possess, before a plan of equalization could be effected. The Commissioners have generally been so diffident in responding, that the necessary information has been obtained from only a few counties. It is therefore not likely anything will be accomplished during the present session. It will however appear from what we have stated, that Mr. Pershing faithfully performed his duty in the matter, and that it is not his fault that the tax payers of Cambria have not had justice done them.

Editorial Items.

The tax bill now before Congress, will when it becomes a law, of course interest the solid men of Cambria. When that event occurs we will publish an abstract of it, in order that our readers may know, what amount they must pay the fiddler, for the privilege of dancing. The bill as it stands at present, contains many irregularities—finding some articles too high and others too low, which we hope will be remedied before it is passed finally, and becomes a law. We say we hope so, because it is infinitely better to hope than despair, however dark may be the clouds that hang over the future.—There is but little reason to doubt, that Congress will during the present session, abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. This will certainly be a very bold step in carrying out the irrepresible conflict. The Abolitionists evidently are determined to make the most of the unlimited power they now possess. Truly has it been said, that "men clothed with a little brief authority, can play such tricks before high Heaven, as make the Angels weep."—The Senate recently granted the use of their Hall to Wendell Phillips for the purpose of delivering one of his fanatical Abolition harangues. What a dignified body the Senate must be, Phillips differs from John Brown only in this, that while John was a brave fanatic, Phillips is a cowardly skulking one.

HARRISBURG, March 21.—The following general order issued by the Governor this afternoon, is just and well deserved tribute to the bravery and gallant conduct displayed by the Fifty first Pennsylvania regiment, the fair fame of which was so long tarnished by unfounded charges of disloyalty and cowardice. These are now dispelled, and once more the regiment stands in a position which any in the nation would be proud to occupy.

General Order No. 16.—The Fifty first regiment Pennsylvania volunteers, under the command of Col. J. F. Hartenrath, has behaved with distinguished gallantry at Romanoke Island and at Newbern. In the latter engagement they stormed the enemy's batteries at the point of the bayonet, and were the first to plant our flag on their entrenched works. The honor which they have thus won for the Commonwealth and themselves ought to be held in remembrance.

It is, therefore, ordered that Romanoke Island, 8th of February, 1862, and Newbern, 14th March, 1862, be inscribed on the flag of the regiment. By order of A. G. Curtin, Governor and Commander in Chief.

Clement C. Barclay, Col. of Philadelphia has been commissioned by Governor Curtin to visit our volunteers in the army of the Potomac, and to look more especially after those who are sick. Since the commencement of the war Mr. Barclay has been an ardent friend to the soldier, and many have been the recipients of his kindness and liberal benevolence. He goes upon this mission at his own individual expense, and is deserving of the highest honor and praise.

CHICAGO, March 22.—A special despatch to the Tribune says; The gun boat Lexington from the Tennessee river has arrived, and reports that our forces are scattering into the country about Savannah, accomplishing of importance besides an occasional capture of the enemy's scouts and bringing into our lines prominent rebels who are charged with aiding the rebellion.

Our forces have entire possession of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, in the vicinity of Savannah.

The Ohio is rapidly rising at this point it has risen a foot in the last two hours.—The streets are covered to the depth of four feet in some places.

A balloon was sent up from the fleet yesterday to reconnoiter the enemy's works.

A messenger has returned from Cape Girardeau and reports the rumored attack on that point by Jeff Thompson without foundation.

Late advices from Island No. 10, arrived at six o'clock this morning. The position of the gun and mortar boats was not changed. Firing was kept up at intervals to prevent the enemy from making repairs on the works.

Railroad Jobbers.

The lobbies of Congress are filled with speculators anxious to obtain Government assistance for moonshine railroads which could never be constructed in the ordinary course of business enterprise. Some of them being nowhere and end nowhere. The whole amount understood to be demanded by these railroad jobbers is nearly fifty millions of dollars, although it is expected that they will unite on one scheme as an entering wedge to establish a precedent. A majority of the present Congress is unalterably opposed to any squandering of the public money at the present time, and the lavish promises of lobby agents will have no effect whatever.

The report, that Major W. W. Ivory, formerly of this county, was killed in one of the recent battles, is untrue.

Important from Memphis.

Floating Battery and Hollis' Fleet at Island Number Ten.—The Rebels 20,000, with eighty guns.—The Fight Raging Fiercely.—Yancy's Capture in Doubt.—Order from Governor Corbin.—General Grant at Savannah, Ala.—General Beauregard at Corinth.—

MEMPHIS, March 20.—A special despatch to the Tribune, from Cairo, says there are reports this morning from Sikestown that Jeff. Thompson is marching upon Cape Girardeau, pressing men and horses in the Confederate service. A skirmish had taken place between the Union forces and his advance; three of the enemy were killed and wounded. Reinforcements had been sent to the Cape. A gentleman who had been a contractor at Memphis and was there on Thursday, arrived this evening, reports that Governor Harris disappeared from Memphis on the second day after the one on which the Legislature adjourned. He has not been heard from since. He is supposed to be at Corinth, Mississippi. The Legislature had adjourned and gone no one knew whither. The subject of burning the city, in case evacuation be necessary, is still openly discussed. There had been no impression of Union men into the Confederate service to any extent except for guard duty, until since the fall of Fort Danelson. Since Governor Harris' proclamation impressions have been general; hundreds have been picked up in the streets and taken from stores and dwellings and marched off to camps instruction at the point of the bayonet.

The floating battery has been so constructed as to be sunk to the water's edge, leaving nothing exposed except the armament, which consists of nine Dahlgren guns, which were built for the protection of Memphis. It has been towed up to Island No. 10. Hollis' steam boat has been sent there.

The Union men are leaving Memphis in great numbers, leaving their property to be confiscated and glad to escape with their lives. Quarrels in the street are of frequent occurrence between Union men and Secessionists, and shots were freely exchanged. The rebels greatly need iron and have offered \$25,000 to any artisan who will discover the process of malleable iron. Ammunition is plenty; manufactures are in operation day and night in the vicinity of Memphis. There are no mail facilities except along the railroad route. Letters and papers are carried from town to town by private enterprise.

Another correspondent telegraphs that he left Island No. 10, yesterday at noon. The firing was only moderate from the Benton and Mound City, at intervals of fifteen minutes each, the object being to reduce the upper batteries. Five guns were dismantled. From two guns occasionally shots were fired, which came very near our boats. The works, 4th mainland and Island, are far more extensive than is generally supposed. There are at least eighty guns, many of them of the largest size, several filled, and 20,000 troops. I saw at one time, ten regiments on dress parade on the mainland. Their quarters are out of reach of our mortars. The Island is pretty well covered with tents, and our shells reach all parts of the Island and works on the Island. It evident that all the rebel batteries have been proof themselves, as men can be seen to disappear when a shell falls into the batteries. As soon as the upper fort is reduced the gunboats will advance to another in detail.

On Tuesday night the Mound City kept a steady fire on the upper fort, preventing the rebels from making their usual nightly repairs. They commenced removing the dead and wounded from the casements of the fort. Large numbers were carried out and taken back into the woods. On Monday nine hundred shots were fired from the gun boats, mostly shell, besides three hundred from mortars. As yet but one man has been killed by the enemy.

Iron-Clad War Steamers.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The Senate Committee on Naval Affairs held an important meeting this morning, at which they authorized their chairman to report a bill, the main features of which are the same as that offered the other day by Senator Hale. It appropriates fifteen millions of dollars for iron clad war steamers of the latest and most approved designs.

It also appropriates a sum sufficient for the immediate completion of the Stevens iron clad frigate. This grand engine of offensive and defensive operations at sea, has worked its way into favor with all the leading practical and scientific experts and engineers.

It is endorsed by a host of naval architects and nautical men, and none more enthusiastic in its praises than experienced officers of the Navy. The War and Navy Departments have carefully examined its principles, and the various ingenious devices by which it can produce the mightiest results, and they are satisfied that it will be a grand triumph of American science and skill. President Lincoln, who had himself such mechanical genius, has taken the deepest interest in its success, and is assiduous to have adopted an engine so terrible in offence, so impregnable in defence.

The Senate Committee on Military affairs this morning, had under consideration the propriety of transferring the sum of seven millions, originally appropriated for fortifications and harbor defences, to the purpose of constructing iron-clad vessels of war, suitable for harbor and coast operations. This last plan meets the approval of General Totten, the able chief of the Engineer Department. Thus, the recent engagement at Norfolk is destined to work a revolution in war-like operations. The whole subject was finally referred to a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Latham, Howard and King, to consult with the military and naval authorities and to report at the next meeting.

Great Britain.—Effect of the Union Victories.

The importance of the Federal victory at Fort Danelson was generally recognized in England, causing an advance in American securities and depression in cotton.

The London Times admits the recent successes of the Federals and their importance, but says they have been gained in countries where the allegiance of the population was divided, and that they have scarcely brought the Federal Government any nearer than before to a reconstruction of the Union.

The London Morning Post hopes that both the Unionists and the Secessionists will look upon the present state of affairs as affording grounds for a compromise of their difficulties, as the conquest of the South is beyond the attainment of the North on the one hand, and the complete establishment of their independence on the other, may be beyond the power of the South.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

Mr. Cyrus W. Fidd had an interview with Earl Russell recently, at the Foreign Office, in regard to connecting Europe and America by a cable from Ireland to Newfoundland. The interview is understood to have been satisfactory and encouraging.

The annual meeting of the Atlantic Telegraph Company was held at London on the 19th of March, to receive the report of the Board of Directors.

THE SUMMER.

Mr. Layanl stated in the House of Commons, in reply to inquiries, that an officer of the Summer, named Myers, accompanied by a Mr. Thompson, of Galva, had been at Tangiers from a French merchant vessel, and were arrested by the United States Consul, who requested the assistance of the Moroccan troops for the purpose, but he (Layanl) was not aware that any pressure had been put on the Moroccan Government. Myers and Thompson have since been released.

THE BRITISH FORTS IN CANADA.—Lord Palmerston, in response to a question, said:—The Government originally intended sending a much larger force to Canada than that despatched, and it was only in consequence of the representations from the colonial authorities that the number was reduced. He believed the proposition, vigor and power displayed by the Government had tended greatly to a peaceful solution of the difficulty with America.

Important from Winchester.

WINCHESTER, Va., March 19.—The railroad bridge at Harper's Ferry was completed last night. The rail road was completed from Cumberland to Martinsburg, but it will take several days to finish the connection between Harper's Ferry and the Martinsburg, in consequence of the want of rails, which was all taken up by the enemy. Two trains will start from here for the Ferry to-day.

Messengers from Strasburg report that the rear guard of Jackson disputed General Shields' approach foot by foot, with infantry and artillery. It is reported that our cavalry occupied the town after noon. One of our soldiers was severely wounded. The agent of Adams' Express Company is now here to re-establish an office.

An official report says that the rear guard of Jackson was overtaken by Gen Shields, just beyond Middletown, with small field pieces, and small bodies of infantry and cavalry. They disputed Gen Shields' progress stopping at all the strongest points and then retreating. They crossed the Cedar Creek bridge and destroyed it.

Gen Shields this morning built a temporary bridge, and after some skirmishing entered the town, and threw out his pickets two miles beyond.

The loss of the enemy is not stated. A droopon, who was wounded in yesterday's skirmish, suffered amputation of the leg to-day.

Heavy firing was heard in the direction of Strasburg since the above information was received.

The Arlington House which for some months has been occupied by Generals McDowell and King as 'head quarters,' is now to be fitted up as an hospital. It was a year ago the home of General Lee, whose wife was the daughter of George W. Custis, the step son of Washington, who fitted up the estate. Gen Lee had many mementoes of the Pater Patrie at Arlington, when it was his happy home. By his treasonable desertion he forfeited his position as well as this fine estate.

Official Order—Army Corps.

Head Quarters Army of the Potomac, Fairfax Court House, March 18, 1862.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 270.

In compliance with the President's Order No. 2, of March 8, 1862, the portion of the Army of the Potomac assigned to Army Corps are as follows:

First Corps, Major General Irvin McDowell, to consist, for the present, of the divisions of Generals Franklin, Magraw and King.

Second Corps, Brigadier General Sumner, consisting of the divisions of Anderson, Blunt and Seligman.

Third Corps, Brigadier General Heintzelman, consisting of the divisions of A. J. Porter, Hooper and Hamilton.

Fourth Corps, Brigadier General Keyes, consisting of the divisions of Smith and Casey.

Fifth Corps, Major General X. P. Smith, consisting of the divisions of Williams and Shields.

The cavalry regiments attached to the divisions will, for the present, remain in sequence and will provide for the regulars, as well as for the necessary regular infantry and regular cavalry.

Arrangements will be made for the division of such Army Corps as may be possible.

The commanders of the divisions will report in person, or where that is impracticable, by letter, to the commander of the Army Corps.

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