

Senator Morton, last Friday, made a very long speech in favor of amending the Constitution as to enable the people to elect the President by a direct vote.

The House Post Office Committee, last Friday, unanimously authorized the Chairman to prepare a bill to reduce letter postage to two cents. This is a move in the right direction.

Last week the Senate passed the bill increasing the Governor's salary, after sending it so as to make it \$10,000 per annum, and the House concurred in the amendment, and passed the bill the same day.

We have received an argument for the division of the county in the shape of a yellow handbill, which is without imprint or signature.

The standing committees of both houses of the Legislature were announced last week. In the Senate, Mr. Strang is Chairman of the committee on Constitutional Reform, and is a member of those on Congressional Appropriation, Finance, Canals and Inland Navigation, Election Districts, and New Counties and County Seats.

The following committees were then appointed: To circulate petitions and memorials—Jerome Cuddeback, E. W. Phelps, John Kohn, John Holden, and J. Madison Rose.

The following committees were then appointed: To take charge of petitions and remonstrances when they shall have been circulated, and to confer with the citizens of Wellsboro—J. Adams, W. G. Lutz, and P. M. Clark.

The uniform statement of decrease of the public debt, which the county has been cleared for the past forty months has at last been varied, by an entry on the other side of the ledger showing an increase during the month of December of \$1,084,807.80.

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most of which may be appropriately styled "shows." Occasionally a good troupe visits Harrisburg; generally they are only fit for entertainment of the public. The American Theater is a place where what are known as "Varieties" are nightly presented to a crowd of men and boys—some drunk, some "so-so," and others "how come ye so," with others who don't care. It is a public nuisance which should be abated out of respect to the name.

Harrisburg is a wealthy city for all this. She counts her tens of millions, who live in state on Front street bordering the majestic Susquehanna. Here is a great and growing iron-making and manufacturing center—furnaces, rolling mills, nail factories, steel works, cotton mills, &c. Harrisburg has now 30,000 inhabitants. Much of the way to Camp County, which was open country twelve years ago, when some of us came here and marched out to camp to the soldiers, is now built up of solid brick, and one scarcely recognizes the place. The old capital stands; the pretty grounds about it, where many a tired soldier has rested in the glory shade, and many another slept to dream of home, are still green and bright, now covered deep with snow. At night, gas lights the shadowy avenues, and as the gray morning, through my window, I see the forms of the toilers passing to their work. Some woman's form goes by, and I ask myself, "Does she have a happy home? or is she wrecked and wretched, without the light of hope in the world?" And then I think of the gilded palaces on Front street—whether those who dwell in them are happy, or whether they only have the outward garb of happiness.

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and the proposition of the Hubbard Company to make the purchase and run the lines under the supervision of the government, with the consent of the Government, at greatly reduced rates, is, in our opinion, the safest and best method of securing present and future return in the telegraph business. The aggregate reduction in the rates under the Hubbard bill will be about two-thirds of present charges; or, in other words, the press and public will be charged but one-third of what they are now required to pay. This will be a great relief to the public, and will encourage the application of the telegraph to more general use in business, and in all manner of intellectual and social communications. It bears upon its face the marks of genuine reform, and is manifestly in the right direction. Those who prefer the way to Camp County, which was open country twelve years ago, when some of us came here and marched out to camp to the soldiers, is now built up of solid brick, and one scarcely recognizes the place. The old capital stands; the pretty grounds about it, where many a tired soldier has rested in the glory shade, and many another slept to dream of home, are still green and bright, now covered deep with snow. At night, gas lights the shadowy avenues, and as the gray morning, through my window, I see the forms of the toilers passing to their work. Some woman's form goes by, and I ask myself, "Does she have a happy home? or is she wrecked and wretched, without the light of hope in the world?" And then I think of the gilded palaces on Front street—whether those who dwell in them are happy, or whether they only have the outward garb of happiness.

Your readers know the Legislature is organized, ready for work. Mr. Elliott, of Philadelphia, was re-elected Speaker of the House. Mr. Anderson chosen to preside over the Senate. Gen. Seitzinger, the Clerk of the House. He is a kindly gentleman, and an excellent officer. John A. Small is Resident Clerk—an office he has held over twenty years. With the skill which only years of experience can give, it would be difficult to fill his place. He is author of "Small's Hand Book," which is used by law students for a compendium which he receives barely enough pay to meet the expense of the work. Zeigler's Legislative Manual is also published yearly, and compares well with the best works on parliamentary law, as modified by custom, in this country. A. J. McCreary reports the proceedings, and has the contract for printing them at \$14 a week, which is only a living price. He employs several first-class photographers, whom he pays a high price, some as high as \$600 per week. He is himself a newspaper man, well versed in all the ways of newsman—a correspondent of several Philadelphia papers, and with a very companionable gentleman.

The standing committees are not yet announced in either house; what their complexion will be I am unable to say. Philadelphia and Allegheny will undoubtedly get their full share; the country can take care of itself whether it does or not. Those two sections form the greatest nucleus of Republican strength, and very naturally control the matters when they unite.

There will probably be five cases of contested seats, one from Philadelphia, and four from Luzerne. A question of some interest to lawyers is involved in the Luzerne cases—whether the contests shall be joint or several. The opinion is that they must be several, and so I think the House will decide if the question is raised. The petition will be drawn up, and the right to contest will be limited by law.

The allegations in the Luzerne cases are that extensive frauds were committed in certain wards of Scranton city. The questions have been before the courts of that county. If the frauds alleged are proven, probably the votes of the wards contested will be thrown out, and the sitting members ousted from their seats. The Philadelphia case is something like the McCreary case in the Senate last year.

Cool, McCreary had his liberal caucus all to himself. He voted for Senator Strang for Speaker. The sole "reformer" of the Legislature was the Jolly, honest Hancock, of Philadelphia. Hancock is the humor, the character of the House. He is a master builder in that city, who works between sessions to the last hour, drops his tools, and runs to the train at the last moment. He is always on hand, and is a good worker in the House.

The renomination of Senator Cameron for United States Senator without any organized opposition, is certainly complimentary to him in a high degree. He was made a target for all the slanders of Democrats and Liberals in the late canvass, but there never was a doubt of his re-election, if a candidate. He will be elected next Wednesday, the 23d inst.

The new Governor will be inaugurated next Tuesday. Of course a great parade is expected. Several military organizations will be on hand. Committees on the orders of the day have been appointed by both houses.

To-day both houses met in joint convention and counted the votes on the proposed amendment to the Constitution providing for an election of State Treasurer by the people. It is generally thought that Mr. Mackey will hold over until his successor shall be elected by the people.

The lumbermen of the West Branch will make an effort again to reduce the booms on the logs boomed at Wellsboro. They are already here, and it is said Mr. Herdic is setting up forces in his accustomed way to defeat the bill. The boomage is now fixed at \$1 25 per thousand, which rate is said to realize over 300 per cent. on the capital invested. If such be the fact, no just man can hesitate as to what should be done. There is some doubt expressed by the members of the Legislature to reduce the boomage, on the ground that the right to it is vested. The original act by which the company was chartered reserved the power to alter or amend it; later laws, increasing the boomage from ninety cents to \$1 25, do not. All the acts being construed together, there would seem to be no doubt of the power to reduce it.

From what I have learned, it seems likely that the people will vote down the bill generally. In Philadelphia, however, it is settled the other way in most of the wards. Stories are rife that the liquor men have the local option law. I do not think it can be repealed, and think this story unfounded. Such a sum, however, would be a powerful argument.

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