

Republican News Item.
CHAS. L. WING, Editor and Manager.

THURSDAY JAN. 13, 1898.

"FIRST OF ALL--THE NEWS."

The News Item Fights Fair.

IT IS A PATRIOTIC HOME NEWSPAPER.

Published Every Friday Morning.
By The Sullivan Publishing Co.

At the County Seat of Sullivan County.
LAPORTE, PA.

Entered at the Post Office at Laporte, as
second-class mail matter.

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.50 per annum. If paid in advance \$1.00. Sample copies free. All communications should be addressed to

RULETIC NEWS ITEM.
Laporte Pa.,

ACCURACY IN GUNNERY.

The Degree Attainable is Something Yet to be Determined.

The degree of accuracy attainable in modern naval gunnery in actual warfare is something yet to be determined. With the exception of the battle of the Yalu during the Chino-Japanese war, there had been no opportunity for finding out what might be accomplished at long range by a modern gun, mounted on so unstable a platform as the deck of a rolling vessel; and the value of the Yalu fight as an object lesson in this respect was impaired by the relatively unskilled character of the gunners.

Certain it is that while death and destruction were meted out all around in that encounter, an enormous amount of ammunition was used up in the work. The bombardment of Alexandria by the British fleet in the early eighties afforded none of the conditions of a sea fight, since the vessels were at anchor in practically smooth water and their target certainly was immovable enough; and even there the expenditure of powder and shell was out of all proportion to the damage inflicted.

The point has recently been made, however, that after all, it is astonishing that a ship is ever struck by a projectile from a gun, and that there is probably more luck than cunning in the art of modern naval warfare.

In a lecture at the United States Naval War College, at Newport, Prof. Alger, a short time ago, stated, for example, that at a convenient fighting distance, say 2,000 yards, a modern battleship, like the Indiana, of the United States Navy, appears to be of the same size as a picture of her, eight-tenths of an inch long, held at the point of clear vision about fourteen inches from the eye, while the outlines of the real ship will be much less clear and distinct than those of the picture. The height would, of course, appear to be still less so that the difficulty of hitting such a target, even with the ship at rest and the gun in a fort, instead of both moving more or less rapidly, can be appreciated at least to some extent. The element of luck must truly enter largely into effective fire under such conditions.—Cassier's Magazine.

How to Go to Sleep.

At the recent meeting in Montreal of the British Medical Association, in the section of therapeutics, Dr. J. B. Learned, of Northampton, Mass., gave his experience with the many methods of inducing sleep without taking drugs. He sets the brain to work at once on retiring—it is to direct the respiratory process. It is to count respirations to see that they are fewer in number, regular, deep and somewhat protracted. In addition, certain groups of muscles are employed in routine order in silent contraction. By constant change other groups are brought into use. He has completed a systematized routine of contractions and relaxations. A slight elevation of the head from the pillow for a definite time by count of respirations is one of the many changes in position. All this is without any commotion, and need not be recognized by a sleeping companion. Brain and muscle and all parts of the body soon come into the normal state that precedes and invites sleep. A sense of fatigue soon overtakes one while thus employed, and before he is aware the brain has forgotten its duty to regulate the breathing process, the muscles have ceased to expand to the call made upon them in the beginning, and sleep is in control of all the forces and all the organs.

Peers in Trade.

Two peers carry on the trade of milk men in London, and there is also a titled fruiterer. He is no other than the Earl of Harrington, who keeps a shop at the Trafalgar Square end of Whitehall. His lordship's name is not up but he acknowledges the connection by calling the establishment "Elvaston," after his castle in Derbyshire. The windows, too, are placarded with the frank announcement that the fruit is "from our own gardens."

Great Strength of Fish.

The most prodigious power of muscle is exhibited by fish. The whale moves with a velocity through a dense medium of water that would carry him, if continued, round the world in something less than a fortnight, and a sword fish has been known to strike his weapon clean through the oak plank of a ship.

Tropical Looking Restaurant.

Go where you may among the finer restaurants and dining rooms of New York you will find the tables shadowed by huge artificial palms, growing out of moss. The fashion has spread in every direction, and gives these resorts a certain tropical appearance.

STATE POLITICS.

The So-Called Business Men's League Stands Unmasked.

ITS PRESENT OCCUPATION.

Aiding the Most Corrupt Political Machine in America.

PHILADELPHIA VIEWS OF IT.

A Scorching Editorial in The Inquirer, the Leading Republican Newspaper in Pennsylvania—Some Interesting Facts Concerning a Political Conspiracy in Which Two High State Officials Are Now Engaged.

(Special Correspondence.)

Philadelphia, Jan. 10.—Now that the holidays are over the political leaders are turning their attention to the gubernatorial struggle, and incidentally to the probable nominees for the legislature and the election of a United States senator. That picturesque and wholly insincere organization known as the Philadelphia branch of the Business Men's League has taken off the mask in this city, and now stands revealed as the respectable ally of the most offensive political dictator that ever cursed a free American city.

This organization, which claims to represent decency in politics, has become the supporter of the most corrupt political machine that exists anywhere in the United States, with the possible exception of Tammany Hall. You may fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time. This grotesque attempt to serve the devil in the livery of Heaven is not likely to succeed in an enlightened community such as Pennsylvania, where the people have free schools and are reared in a manner that enables them to take care of themselves.

A mere list of men who are controlling factors in this concern that failed in its attempt to place John Wanamaker in the United States senate is of interest.

The first is Thomas Dolan, the president of the United Gas Improvement company, a concern that has just grabbed up the gas works of this city against the protests of the citizens. It was Wayne MacVeagh who said that every councilman who voted for this ordinance would have branded across his forehead in undying letters these words:

"Bribed by the Rich to
Rob the Poor."

Dolan is the president of this company; Wanamaker one of its stockholders. Indeed, Mr. Wanamaker urged council to make the lease to his company. Then comes Rudolph Blankenburg, who made a speech favoring the lease, and finally E. A. Van Valkenberg and Frank Willing Leach. Leach is a man who in his brief lifetime has been on every side of the political fence. He has been against Quay, for Quay, and then against Quay. He deserted the senator about two years ago because the Beaver statesman refused to make him chairman of the Republican state committee. Then he took charge of Wanamaker's campaign, and the result was Wanamaker's overwhelming defeat. Leach has failed in every political move he has made since he left Quay.

"Delusions will sooner or later bring unhappiness."

"We are fruit trees. Christianity is an orchard, not a forest. The Christian is known not by his height or bigness, but by his fruit."

"When a man says he is broad on the ten commandments, keep your hand on your pocket book. If he is broad on the command, 'Thou shalt not steal,' he's a rogue; or broad on the command, 'Thou shalt not lie,' he is a liar."

"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all other things shall be added." Some men who have sought the other things think because they have gained all things else, the kingdom will be added."

"Do your righteousness before God and not before men. Live before God. I preached two sermons once on living carefully before the people. I burnt them up. They burnt well, for they were very dry. I never expect to preach them again. If you live right before God, you may be careless as to how you live before any one else."

His sermons are delightful poems and the poems are full of wisdom.

It is well for the people of the state to know who are the conspicuous members, leaders and attaches of this bogus reform concern. In order that the real feeling of the people may be known it will be interesting to quote from editorials that have appeared in the Philadelphia papers within the last day or so. The Inquirer, which is regarded as the leading Republican paper in Pennsylvania, says:

"We read in a combine newspaper that the so-called Business Men's League of this city has held another meeting. It is noted that the most conspicuous members present were the following:

"Rudolph Blankenburg, chairman of the executive committee and advocate of the gas grab. Mr. Blankenburg ap-

peared before the councilmanic com-

mittee and made an address in favor of the practical gift of the works to the United Gas Improvement company, under the terms of which we are saddled for thirty years with high priced gas.

Thomas Dolan, president of the con-

cern, who will line his pockets with the vast profits which should go into the city treasury, and thus keep down the tax rate.

"E. A. Van Valkenberg, of Van Val-

enberg unsavoriness.

"Such a combination in politics ought to appeal to the patriotism of the people of Philadelphia in this terse but expressive platform:

"What will be left worth having after we get through?"

The Philadelphia Times, which has been one of the main supporters of this fake organization, says:

"The Business Men's League of this city may not find in the anti-combine organization its political ideal, but when it assails only that side of the factional disturbance in Philadelphia, and throws its whole power in favor of the lobby leaders who use the contributions of the very men who are in the Business Men's League to betray Republican candidates for congress and other positions when it is the interest of political masters to do so, it confesses its want of fidelity to its professions, and must fail to make itself felt in guiding the Republican party of city and state to better political conditions.

"These are not pleasant truths to

state to the Republicans who are

connected with the Business Men's

league of this city, but it is the truth,

and they should look it in the face and

fully understand it. They have a great

opportunity. There is great need for

the action of just such men as are

largely prominent in the organization,

but they are today in a false position before the Republicans of both city and state, and if they would accomplish substantial good they must reform their lines before they are summoned to action in the great struggle of 1898."

There are indications that two state officers who now occupy high positions paying fat salaries at Harrisburg are trying to control the nomination for governor by frequent references to the Delamer campaign, and warning the people that it will be repeated unless these conspirators are allowed to choose their own candidate.

Unfortunate as that campaign was, its result was largely to be attributed to these same individuals. These men, for their own selfish purposes, devised the plot and provided the money and newspaper publications necessary to poison the public mind against Delamer in 1890. They circulated falsehoods and made deals which defeated the Republican ticket; they knew they were falsehoods at the time they uttered them. They charged fraud at the Republican primary elections in certain counties, and when new primaries were about to be called in these counties they prevented these elections, which would have disclosed the falsity of their claims. Delamer weakly agreed to their pleading, and then they laughed and went on lying.

These men were concerned in worse things than have been alluded to during that campaign, and the proof is full and complete. They then climbed into fat offices at the hands of the Republican party, and from their snug retreats are now firing from ambush and spreading lies in pursuance of their new plot. They speak through a Philadelphia newspaper. They have a candidate of their own, whom they intend to spring upon the party as the only Moses who can lead out of the difficulties which they are now trying to create.

There was published in this correspondence some weeks ago a story about Congressman Stone, of Allegheny, enforcing the right of an old Pennsylvania soldier to sit on one of the benches in the rotunda of the Capitol. The publication of the incident has attracted great attention throughout the state, and Colonel Stone has been in receipt of many letters of congratulation from old soldiers all over Pennsylvania. These letters have thanked him for looking after the interests of a crippled soldier. Among the letters received by him was one from past Judge Advocate General William H. Redheffer, of Philadelphia, enclosing a set of resolutions passed by Encampment No. 2, Union Veteran Legion, last Tuesday. The resolutions read:

"Resolved, That the thanks of all veterans of the late war are due and owing to their fellow comrade, Hon. William A. Stone, for his prompt and patriotic actions on Dec. 8, 1897, in demanding and securing for a fellow veteran the undisputed right of use and occupancy of the public benches situated in the rotunda of the Capitol at Washington, D. C., thereby enforcing a recognition not only of the proper respect due a fellow veteran, but of his rights and privileges as an American citizen.

"Resolved, That our comrade, Hon. William A. Stone, by his gratuitous and prompt action in the premises has earned and is entitled to our highest admiration and esteem.

"Resolved, That Encampment No. 2, Union Veteran Legion, recognizing and in appreciation of Comrade William A. Stone in the premises, hereby extend to him our sincere, grateful and heartfelt thanks."

T. M. A.

"Resolved, That our comrade, Hon. William A. Stone, by his gratuitous and prompt action in the premises has earned and is entitled to our highest admiration and esteem.

"Resolved, That Encampment No. 2, Union Veteran Legion, recognizing and in appreciation of Comrade William A. Stone in the premises, hereby extend to him our sincere, grateful and heartfelt thanks."

T. M. A.

The Rev. A. C. Dixon of Brooklyn, has a striking way of fixing the attention of his hearers upon the idea he seeks to impress. These expressions from a recent sermon illustrate:

"Delusions will sooner or later bring unhappiness."

"We are fruit trees. Christianity is an orchard, not a forest. The Christian is known not by his height or bigness, but by his fruit."

"When a man says he is broad on the ten commandments, keep your hand on your pocket book. If he is broad on the command, 'Thou shalt not steal,' he's a rogue; or broad on the command, 'Thou shalt not lie,' he is a liar."

"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all other things shall be added." Some men who have sought the other things think because they have gained all things else, the kingdom will be added."

"Do your righteousness before God and not before men. Live before God. I preached two sermons once on living carefully before the people. I burnt them up. They burnt well, for they were very dry. I never expect to preach them again. If you live right before God, you may be careless as to how you live before any one else."

His sermons are delightful poems and the poems are full of wisdom.

It is well for the people of the state to know who are the conspicuous members,

leaders and attaches of this bogus

reform concern. In order that the real

feeling of the people may be known it

will be interesting to quote from edi-

torials that have appeared in the Phila-

delphia papers within the last day or so.

The Inquirer, which is regarded as the

leading Republican paper in Pennsyl-

vania, says:

"We read in a combine newspaper that the so-called Business Men's

League of this city has held another

meeting. It is noted that the most

conspicuous members present were the

following:

"Rudolph Blankenburg, chairman of

the executive committee and advocate of

the gas grab. Mr. Blankenburg ap-

peared before the councilmanic com-

mittee and made an address in favor of

the practical gift of the works to the

United Gas Improvement company, un-

der the terms of which we are saddled

for thirty years with high priced gas.

Thomas Dolan, president of the con-

cern, who will line his pockets with the

vast profits which should go into the

city treasury, and thus keep down the

tax rate.

"E. A. Van Valkenberg, of Van Val-

enberg unsavoriness.

"Such a combination in politics ought

to appeal to the patriotism of the

people of Philadelphia in this terse but

expressive platform:

"What will be left worth having after we get through?"

The Philadelphia Times, which has

been one of the main supporters of this

fake organization, says:

"The Business Men's League of this

city may not find in the