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FREELAND, DECEMBER 18, 1890.

The Hen Law a Failure.

That peculiar hen law passed by the last legislature at Hartford has had a disastrous effect on a well known Danbury farmer's hennery, says a letter from the latter place to the N. Y. Sun, and has caused the dissolution of friendship which have existed ever since the two farmers were boys and fought to possess the same girl home from singing-school. Darius and Stephen are the front names of the two former friends.

Stephen is a man who devotes his time to raising garden truck. After the hen bill became a law last June he had a field of fine sweet-corn, which was cut shortly after. Hens would get into it, however, and one afternoon he found a large patch of the corn ruined. Returning to his house he took down his shot-gun, loaded it, and calling on Darius he began, patting his gun significantly:

"Darius, if I see any more o' your chickens in my corn I'll dispose of 'em to you, an' the law'll uphold me in it, too. I gin you fair warnin', Darius, an' now I'm goin' fer 'em every time I see 'em."

"But, Stephen—" began Darius, in an explanatory tone, and he was shut off by his neighbor, who said:

"Now, I don't want any words. Ef you don't keep your chickens outen my corn I'll shoot 'em on the spot, and the law'll uphold me in it."

The next morning the report of the gun was heard in Stephen's corn field and in a few minutes that party approached Darius' house and threw over the fence as sleek and plump a rooster as ever scratched up corn-hills for a numerous harem. Mrs. Darius went out and picked up the fowl and at noon the family enjoyed a chicken-patie dinner. For a week every morning Stephen's gun was heard, and one or two and sometimes three hens or roosters would be thrown over into Darius' yard. His wife picked them up, dressed them, like all country housewives, dried the feathers under the gas lamp, and sent them away for use in cushions for Darius' arm-chair or pillows for the lounge. What Darius' family, which was a good-sized one, could not eat of the fowls were sold to the market men when they came around, and the good wife already had a nice little sum of money laid by in a broken tin saucer on the partry shelf, which she expected to devote to purchases when she went into town again.

Finally Stephen's wife remarked to him one evening that her chickens were disappearing remarkably fast, and she couldn't understand it.

"I reckon that blasted fox is around agin," said he, "and I'll lay for him with my gun. 'I'm gettin' to be quite a shot," and he chuckled as he remembered how he had filled Darius' hens with bird shot. The next morning he started bright and early for the cornfield with his trusty gun. There was the flock scratching away as usual. Every soldier's widow, who has to work for a living, and his minor children, and the parents of all unimpaired volunteers who died in the service, it now in need, can get a pension. Address, with stamp for return postage, C. L. EBBEL, 507 East-1st-Street, Beaver Falls, Beaver Co., Pa.

The Administration, which before the elections had no use for foreign nations in its tariff policy, now finds it desirable to recognize their existence to the extent of trying to secure an international agreement for the remonetization of silver. It is a bigger world than the Administration had any idea of a few months ago.

In the debate on the Force bill Senator Kenna, of West Virginia called attention to the significant fact that every one of the original thirteen States, from Massachusetts to Georgia, voted against the authors and advocates of that bill at the November elections. The people of the old thirteen States are still as true as ever to the principles and traditions of constitutional liberty.

The appointments made by the County Commissioners elect at their conference last week seems to give general satisfaction to the Republicans of the lower end. While it is true that all who were willing to serve the county in the different positions at the disposal of the party all could not be provided for, and the next best thing to do was to make a compromise, which was done by appointing Mr. Haines to the wardenship of the jail and Mr. Norris as Commissioners' Clerk. The party in the lower end brought great influence to bear on Mr. Smith to vote for Mr. Norris for warden and as that could not be done a compromise was the result.

Correspondence From the Capitol.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 1890.

While it is wholly true that this Congress at its second session, has under the letter of the Constitution, every right to originate and perfect such legislation as a majority of its members approve, it may well be questioned whether, in the circumstances, it is either wise or expedient to attempt the enactment of any measure for which there is no popular demand, but which may seem to be called the exigencies of party warfare.

Since the Force bill was passed by the House and introduced into the Senate a general Congressional election has been held, in which it is not unfair to suppose that the people acted in the cognizance of and with full reference to the proceedings of the first session of the Fifty-first Congress. That they did not approve of all these proceedings would seem to an impartial observer neither an unintelligent nor unjust conclusion from the results of that election. In view of this disapprobation, and of the further fact that a Legislature truly performs its functions only when it reflects the will of the people, it would seem expedient for this Congress to devote the short period now remaining to it not to discredit partisan measures, but to perfect practical business as may be of benefit to the country. That there is no lack of such business is shown by the number of measures now pending. The Supreme Court needs relief. Commercial interests demand a bankruptcy law. Labor seeks the due acknowledgment of its rights. The several appropriation bills have to be thoroughly considered, and various other measures of a purely practical and non-partisan character await disposal. The present time would seem to be more favorable for the accordant action on such matters than for the adoption of doubtful schemes for ostensible party advantages. These considerations are applicable to the Senate as well as to the House. It is very true that the late upheaval did not so directly affect the upper as the lower chamber, but the territory concerned in it is represented in both, and its indications should not go unheeded in the Senate. It is, therefore, most opportune for bringing up the arrears of practical legislation, about which all parties are agreed, and it is to be hoped that the majority in the Senate will read the signs of the time aright and do its duty in the premises wisely and patriotically.

The silver men among the Republicans of the Senate have been trying to make some agreement with relation to the Federal Elections bill, which will secure the passage of a Free Coinage bill through both Houses of Congress. As partisans prefer that the agreement should be with members of their own party, but it is not improbable that if they cannot get what they want in any other way they will combine against the Elections bill. One thing they are alive to is the fact that the success of their own measure depends upon their making terms before the Election bill is disposed of. They would probably have no difficulty in making an agreement with their party leaders in the Senate. What they insist on is that it shall have a fair show in both Houses of Congress. This situation is liable to lead to a combination between the Democrats and the silver Republicans in the Senate.

It is understood that the Republican members of the Census Committee have reached an agreement upon a reapportionment of 356 members of the House. The present House consists of 352 members. This understanding has been arrived at after mature consideration and consultation with their party associates on the floor. The ratio of representation is one to each 173,900 of the population. This is about the lowest number which will permit each State, during the next decade, to retain its present membership. It is not at all likely that any anti-gerrymander features will be incorporated in the Apportionment bill. There is considerable divergence of opinion as to the advisability of doing this, and in the opinion of some members it is doubtful whether Congress can enact any provision that will effectively check gerrymandering.

Some misguided party organs are calling on the Senate to push the Force bill at a more rapid pace. What it really needs is the pace that kills. R.

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