

FREELAND TRIBUNE.

Published Every Thursday Afternoon

—BY—
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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS, - - \$1.00 PER YEAR.

Address all Communications to
FREELAND TRIBUNE,
FREELAND, PA.

Office, Birkbeck Brick, 3d floor, Centre Street.
Entered at the Freeland Postoffice as Second Class Matter.

FREELAND, FEBRUARY 5, 1891.

SEMI-OFFICIAL announcement having been made that an attempt to pass the cloture rule and the Force bill will not again be made, Senate and House are now expected to get down to work and do the greater part of the work of the session within the next few weeks. It is practically settled that no occasion shall be given for calling an extra session.

HUGH MCGARVEY, of Beaver Meadow was last week appointed messenger to the State Department to succeed John R. Parry, of Philadelphia. By this decision Governor Pattison has recognized the laboring class of the coal fields and one who has been prominent in labor circles for many years. Mr. McGarvey did valiant work in the late campaign and the position given him is a just appreciation of his services.

HON. WILLIAM WISDOM, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, died suddenly of heart failure at New York on Thursday evening last. He was attending a banquet given by the New York Board of Trade and shortly after concluding his speech he fell to the floor a corpse. Mr. Wisdom twice served in the capacity of Secretary of the Treasury, being first appointed by President Garfield. He was well acquainted with the duties of his office and was considered one of the ablest advisers of the present administration. The vacancy caused by his death has not yet been filled.

GOVERNOR PATTISON is taking a little exercise in writing veto messages. It is the fault of the Legislature, however, that he was given two opportunities to do so, one on Monday and one on Tuesday. It was a foolish thing for the Republicans to send a joint resolution to the Governor asking the Senators from Pennsylvania to promote the passage of the Force bill. A veto was inevitable. Equally foolish was it to pass a resolution to print 10,000 copies of the Governor's inaugural address. There is entirely too much money wasted on special orders for printing, and the Governor could not have a more favorable opportunity for expressing his opinion on that subject than when he has presented to him a resolution to print extra copies of his own address.

Education Spreading.

One of the most interesting episodes in the history of the educational campaign was furnished by the annual meeting of the Ontario and Livingston Sheep-Breeders' Association. For the first time in the history of the country wool-growers passed resolutions in favor of free wool. They begin by confessing that their resolutions of past years demanding a restoration of the duties of 1867 have been stereotyped and admitting that they have been sadly in error. Experience has convinced them of a truth which economists have long had knowledge, that the tariff has not kept down the amount of importations of wool not maintained its price.

These wool-growers of Ontario and St. Lawrence Counties have learned that the prosperity of the wool-growers depends upon that of the manufacturers of woolsens, and that "the American manufacturer is seriously handicapped by reason of being compelled to pay an exorbitant tax on every pound of clothing wool imported for necessary admixture, while all foreign countries of any consequence have the benefit of free wool, and are thus enabled to undersell our own manufacturers."

The result of our wool tariff, therefore, has been disastrous both to the growers of wool and to the manufacturers. The latter being driving out of business by the extravagant cost of their raw material, the former have had no market for the product of their sheep. The manufacturers have been ruined by the excessive duties, and the farmers not only have not gained by them but have actually lost. This is what the wool growers say on the subject:

The United States on the contrary, by imposing a high duty on raw wool, have not only destroyed our expert trade, but so throttled our manufacturers as to ruin the market for domestic fleece and to give to the English, French and German manufacturers the cream of our markets for cloths.

And these are the last two resolutions of the series:
EIGHTH.—The free importation of raw wool into the United States would knock out the importation of manufactured woolen goods, and would revive the present depressed state of our own manufactures, thus giving employment to labor here and creating an increased demand for our strong wools for necessary admixture.

NINTH.—Recognizing the truth of the above facts, therefore, we, the members of the Ontario and Livingston Sheep Breeders and Wool-Growers' Association, in convention assembled, most respectfully petition Congress to place wool and woolen manufacturers on the free list in order that their industries may again thrive and assume that magnitude commensurate with a nation of 63,000,000 of people.

When the wool-growers begin to realize the follies and inequities of the existing tariff laws the heaven of education is working.—N. Y. World.

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The New Road Bill.

The Country Road bill, which will be presented in the House this week, at Harrisburg, will provide for the appropriation of about \$1,000,000 by the State to the building of permanent roads. This, it is said, will be distributed to the townships in a manner similar to the distribution of the public school appropriation, and is to be given with the hope that townships will contribute from their local taxation additional money for permanent macadamizing. For this purpose the bill will probably permit townships to borrow money up to the constitutional debt limit. In each township three supervisors are to be chosen, who will serve without pay, and who will employ foremen to oversee the gangs of road laborers. In each county an engineer will be elected to pass upon the road work in all the townships.

A Patriotic Dog.

"Speaking of dogs," said Gen. Joe Bartlett a few evenings ago to Gen. McFeeley, as he reflectively sent the smoke of his cigar curling up to the ceiling, "do you remember that big three-legged yellow dog called 'Budge' that followed the army of the Potomac during the early years of the war? Budge was a character, if I may be pardoned the expression. He was a patriotic dog, too, for he was one of the first to go to the front in 1861, with the three-months men of New York, of which he was a native. Budge was a terrible fighter. I remember, when the troops were on the march to engage in the first battle of Bull Run, he chewed up every rebel dog on route. Every man that wore the blue was Budge's friend and took it upon himself to see that he had the best camp and the country afforded. When the fight was well under way on the plains of Manassas it was fun to watch Budge shell the half-stupid cannon-balls and shells as they rolled along or plowed up the earth. It was while engaged in this cheerful pastime that Budge lost his left foreleg; a cannon ball took it clean off. We who took an interest in him were about that time too much engaged to look after wounded men, much less a dog, therefore Budge was left on the field as we supposed to die or fall into the hands of the enemy.

"Some days subsequent to the battle, when we had returned to our old camping ground, who should come limping in on three legs, his tail wagging like mad with joy, but old Budge, well, sir, some of the boys who witnessed the scene just shed tears over the fidelity and loyalty of that dumb brute. A surgeon of the Twenty-seventh New York fixed up the stump, and in the course of time it healed. Budge was all through the Pennsylvania campaign, and during the advance and retreat he hobbled along, and during engagements followed his favorite pastime, chasing cannon balls and shells. Nothing could abate his zeal in that direction. Budge followed the troops back to Washington, took part in the second battle of Bull Run, the battle of South Mountain, and then hobbled until he reached Antietam. In the battle of the second day his favorite pastime, part in the conflict on our right, and seemed to enjoy it. He was very busy that day, and had got so that he could make good time on three legs. He had plenty of balls and shells, I can tell you, to look after, too. When the fight was over along in the afternoon Budge was missing. The next morning in passing through the terrible cornfield in search of our dead and wounded soldiers some of the boys ran across the lifeless body of old Budge, and by his side was the wounded member of the brigade who had been in the habit of feeding him. Budge, he said, remained with him when the rebels swept through the cornfield in one of the numerous charges made. Budge defended him against what he knew was the assault of an enemy, and was shot down, loyal to the last to the cause, the old flag, and the constitution, and the union, too, if you please, if he was nothing but a dog."—N. Y. Tribune.

Irrigation in Idaho.

Idaho territory has 2,000 miles of irrigating ditches.

The Bid Was Withdrawn.

In Jacksonville, Fla., in the Winter of 1848, an auction sale of the personal estate of a deceased planter, comprising some seventy or eighty slaves and other "chattels," was held in the public market-place. I was glad of the opportunity to see for myself how such things were done. On beginning the sale the auctioneer announced that families would not be separated, but would be sold in "lots." After a number of "lots" had been duly brought to the block and knocked down to the highest bidders, a bright-looking boy was brought forward and placed upon the stand. The auctioneer at the same time called an old colored man among the crowd to come up and stand beside the boy. He did so, and the auctioneer said:

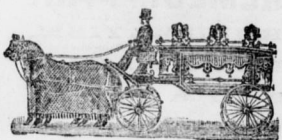
"Gentlemen, the old man is this boy's father; he lives in the West Indies, and is a free man. He wants to buy the boy and take him to his home and make him free. He bids \$100, which is all the money he has."

The intent of this statement was evidently to discourage any advance on that bid, and it touched a sympathetic chord in his audience. The crowd watched the proceedings for a minute or two in silence, while the auctioneer dwelt upon the bid of \$100, and was calling it off for the third and last time, when from the outskirts of the crowd, a voice bid "Fifty." Every eye was at once turned in the direction of the bidder, who was a rough, dissipated-looking fellow, a typical slave-trader in appearance. The auctioneer paused a moment, heaved a sigh, and then repeated his previous statement, concerning the old man, emphasizing the remark that \$100 was all the money he had.

"And now," said he, "I am bid four and fifty." From a dozen voices came the cry, "Withdraw your bid!" The bidder growled in a surly, refusal, saying he wanted that boy, and has as good a right to bid as anybody. "Four hundred and fifty" came slowly from the lips of the auctioneer. The shouts of "Withdraw your bid" were repeated in angry tones on every side.

"Well," said the bidder, "I withdraw it." The auctioneer quickly went back to the original bid, on which he dwelt two or three times when down went his hammer. "Sold at four hundred. Old man, the boy is yours; take him down." The crowd cheered, and the principal figure in this little drama, who, the moment before, had been the picture of despair, hurried down from the stand smiling and happy.

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