

FREELAND TRIBUNE.

Published Every Thursday Afternoon
 -BY-
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 EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
 TERMS - \$1.00 PER YEAR.
 Office, Birkbeck Brick, 3d door, Centre Street.
 Entered at the Freeland Postoffice as Second Class Matter.

FREELAND, PA., JANUARY 21, 1892.

The Record insists on the candidacy of Cleveland, and has no idea of abandoning its preference. But the New Yorkers must take Cleveland, or lose the chance of naming a New Yorker. In case Mr. Cleveland cannot secure the delegation from his own State the nomination will go else where. Our first choice, in that event, would be Senator Carlisle. But a Western man, sound on the tariff question and the silver question, ought to be nominated if Cleveland's own State should turn him down. We think, however, that by the time the convention shall have assembled the leaders of the Democracy will see the necessity of consulting the desire of the masses.—*Phila. Record.*

The extra session of the State Senate last fall is estimated by Auditor General McCamant to have cost \$51,600. If McCamant can derive any satisfaction from his contemplation of the cost of the session, which was held to investigate the charges made against his besmeared official record, he is welcome to it. It was a large amount of the people's money to expend without accomplishing the desired result, but it compelled the Republican Senators to brand some of the leaders as unscrupulous robbers—acknowledge themselves as perjurers who care nothing for law or evidence. They choose the latter course by order of Matt Quay, and their substitution of the public's suspicious cost \$51,600.

There is but one course for Democrats in the House of Representatives to pursue in the matter of contested seats, as there is but one right and honest course. They have the power to unseat properly elected Republicans, but they have no right to do so. They can refuse, as did their Republican predecessors, to ignore all claims for fair play, but if they do they commit a grievous wrong. It is bad politics to misuse power, and it is something worse than bad politics. It is bad morals as well. The fact that it has been done by Republicans in no way justifies its doing by Democrats. By deciding these contests in a just manner this Congress can make a record for itself with which Republicans will not dare to compare the doings of the last House.

An important and unique decision is that delivered recently by the Supreme Court of this State, in which it sustains the findings of a lower court that gave damages to the widow of a habitual drinker who died from pneumonia. The disease was contracted while the man was under the influence of liquor, and the court held the saloon keeper who sold the drink responsible for his death. The case aroused considerable interest in Philadelphia, where it occurred, but the decision will apply equally to all portions of Pennsylvania, as it deals in intoxicants are now amenable to the law for the effects of what they sell. The act regulating the sale of liquor makes special reference to selling to drunkards, but very few believed its meaning extended the responsibility so far as death.

The offices of judges and inspectors of election are seldom given the attention they deserve, but it is of special importance that the boards this year should be filled by men who are in every way qualified to inaugurate the new system of voting, which becomes a law after March 1. With boards composed of intelligent and honest citizens, who will do their utmost to guide the voters in the workings of the Baker bill, much of the confusion and annoyance incident to a new method can be avoided. A heavy vote will be polled in November, and unless competent men are chosen for judges and inspectors, the adoption of the law in this State will certainly be a failure. Even as it is there are many who cannot understand the bill, and a bungler inside the window would cause an amount of trouble that can only be estimated by the official's inefficiency.

MATT QUAY on Tuesday won his suit for criminal libel against the Beaver Star, which was one of the papers that published the fac-simile of a check showing that Quay had a hand in the Bardsley steal. The climax of the trial was of a highly sensational order, the counsel for the defense asserting in open court that the jury, which consisted of one Democrat and eleven Republicans, had been packed in Quay's interest. The appearance of things strengthened this belief, as the jurymen were out only twenty minutes in arriving at a verdict, and the statement that they were illegally selected was not refuted. The penalty is a fine not to exceed \$1000 or imprisonment, or both. The trial against the Pittsburgh Post begins to-day, and it is stated Quay will continue proceedings against all the newspapers which printed the fac-simile. We hope he will move against those in Luzerne County as soon as possible. The Tribune is on his list and is anxiously awaiting notification that Quay will bring suit. The briber, thief and perjurer will need all the money he ever stole from Pennsylvania's treasury to overcome the evidence he will find here.

Cleveland and Hill.

While the sentiment of the people of the United States is for the renomination of Cleveland, a coterie of influential politicians is opposed to him. By fair-thinking men, even in the party which he antagonizes, Cleveland is esteemed for his candor, consistency and good intention. At the Jackson Day dinner in New York he reiterated his declaration of abiding trust in the people and straightforward dealing. "Let us not fall under the condemnation which waits on shifty schemes and insincere professions." "Party honors, its party duty, and party courage is party expediency." The opposition to Cleveland which has been manifested by some of the party leaders appears to be due, in New York, to the rivalry of Hill; a fear that all the offices must not be thrown open to party prey and a disrelish for Cleveland's "Mugwump" supporters, and in certain sections of the West and South to his emphatic declaration in favor of sound currency. Cleveland's tariff views are, however, attacked by his party, and with reason, almost to a man, at his back, his opponents will find the task of overthrowing him almost impossible.

Cleveland has proven himself a sincere, patriotic and earnest man. In the days when he was in public life he never faltered in the performance of his duty. In his eyes the office of Governor or President was a mere hand to execute the laws. He sought efficiency in the public service, notwithstanding the prospects of the platform. He improved the service and gave the country one of the best administrations in its history, but he lost the friendship of the politicians. As he was in official life, so he has been since he became a private citizen. He showed sublime courage when he declined to speak in Ohio last fall. Had he gone there the result might have been different; at least his visit would have added to his personal popularity in the State. But the Democratic party in Ohio had incorporated the free coinage plank in its platform. Cleveland has nothing if not consistent. He had declared himself in opposition to free and unrestricted coinage of silver, and he could not stand on a platform which approved it. Such a man is a statesman. He is above trickery, demagoguery and charlatanism.

His most formidable opponent is David B. Hill. That the latter has ability of a certain kind is not questioned. As a wily politician and puller of strings he has few equals. He keeps a close watch on the weather-vane of public opinion, and as the wind blows so he goes. He is able to bestow patronage where it will do the most good to himself—a trick at which all ambitious politicians are not entirely successful. These qualities are sufficient for a dabbler in State politics, but they do not count for quite so much in a question in which the whole country is concerned. Ability to scheme is not enough; higher and more substantial accomplishments are demanded.

B. Hill, too, has a tariff programme, and he outlined it in a recent speech. His is not the programme of the Democratic party, however. It is one of evasion and cowardice. It is distastefully reactionary, and its tendency is not clearly to define the tariff issue, but to camouflage it, and to put the party on the defensive. It is greatly to be regretted that, at a time when the party throughout the country is rallying especially to the support of a free wool bill and a bill reducing the taxes on the clothing of the people, a politician so influential and conspicuous as Hill should attempt to prevent the representatives of the party in Congress from doing what they can to carry out a policy to which the party stands unequivocally pledged. Fortunately there are no indications that the Democrats in Congress will follow Hill's strange advice in this matter. The practical unanimity with which the speech is condemned by the Democratic press of the country is evidence of the fact that the party, now thoroughly aroused to its danger, is not disposed to tolerate proposals for the abandonment of its principles. It also demonstrates that the conscience and intelligence of the party is to be trusted. The Democratic National Committee meets in Washington to-day to select the time and place of meeting of the National Convention. Several cities are actively competing for the honor. It is asserted that the friends of Senator Hill are working energetically for New York, and that Cleveland's friends are advocating Detroit.

We have no hesitation in declaring our belief that the ideal taxation lies in the single land tax, laid exclusively on the rental value of land, independent of improvements.—*New York Times.*

Tax Reform in Luzerne County.

On the question of the order to assessors to return properties and land at their actual value, or as nearly as they can be properly estimated, the White Haven Journal applauds the action of the county commissioners. "This order," it says, "has created consternation among the Wilkes-Barreans, who are fearful that the tax may be called upon to pay their just proportionate share of the county's expense. The barons of other towns and townships are also in despair, for a similar reason. The small towns and farming villages and districts in the county have for years past borne the burden of excessive taxation while the city dwellers have escaped with light contributions to the county's funds. The assessors in rural districts have complied with their oaths of office and made honest valuations within their districts, while the officials in the more populous and prosperous districts have evaded their duties and assessed their valuations that were ridiculously low. The rule to return assessments at one-fourth of the real valuation has been accurately carried out in the country districts, but in the cities of the county the assessments are made at about one-sixteenth of the actual value."

The Journal then instances a case in the county seat where land sold at \$1000 per foot frontage was assessed at \$67 per foot. Of course such glaring inaccuracies are unjust to every taxpayer, and the fact that the fraud can be detected easily is because land is visible to the public, and its real and assessed valuations can be ascertained without the slightest difficulty. That is one of the leading and soundest arguments in favor of placing all taxes upon land values, and if assessors discriminate in favor of certain land they are caught at once. Continuing, the Journal says:

"In some of the coal townships lands that cannot be bought for \$5000 an acre are assessed at a valuation of only \$200 an acre. It is such outrageous inequalities in assessed valuations, and consequent taxes, that have kept the rural communities poor and enabled the more populous and wealthy ones to prosper. But, thanks to our present efficient county commissioners, this unjust discrimination will cease, for under the new instructions all assessments will be made at actual values, and the rich nabob will pay his just share of taxes along with the poor laborer."

Whether aware of it or not Editor Feist's article contains considerable of Henry George's theory of tax reform. The newspaper generally knows what it is talking about, and the remarks will be endorsed by every single taxpayer in Luzerne County. Under the present law, which taxes improvements, personal

property, etc., the power of the county commissioners is limited, but if their instructions in regard to land and property valuations are obeyed they will do considerable in lessening the evils of unjust taxation. That the matter should be treated so aggressively by our conservative contemporary shows the Journal to be a wide-awake newspaper, and whether it becomes a full-fledged exponent of Georgeism or not we welcome its assistance in the crusade against "outrageous inequalities in assessed valuations."

The underlying principle of the single tax—that the earth belongs equally to all, and that the best way to secure substantial justice is to tax the occupant an amount equal to the yearly value of the land—is sound.—*Journal of the Knights of Labor.*

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| Chop | | \$1.25 |
| Ham | | 10c per lb |
| Cal. ham | | 8c " |
| Shoulder | | 7c " |
| English wall nuts | | 10c " |
| Mixed nuts | | 10c " |
| Hazle nuts | ..... | 12c " |
| Chestnuts | ..... | 10c " qt |
| Hickory nuts | ..... | 8c " |
| Pea nuts | ..... | 5c " |
| Buckwheat flour, 25 lbs for | ..... | .60c |
| 1 quart beans | ..... | 5c |
| 1 quart peas | ..... | 8c |
| 1 pound barley | ..... | 5c |
| 1 can sardines | ..... | 5c |
| 4,800 matches | ..... | .25c |
| 1 piece sand soap | ..... | 5c |
| 4 pounds currants | ..... | .25c |
| 300 clothes pins | ..... | .25c |
| 3 pounds good raisins | ..... | .25c |
| 4 pounds raisins | ..... | .25c |
| 1 pound coffee | ..... | .20 and 25c |
| 1 pound good tea | ..... | .25c |
| 5 pounds soda biscuits | ..... | .25c |
| 5 sticks stove polish | ..... | .25c |
| 3 pounds mixed cakes | ..... | .25c |
| 3 pounds coffee cakes | ..... | .25c |
| 5 pounds best sugar | ..... | .25c |
| 6 pounds brown sugar | ..... | .25c |
| 2 pounds ham | ..... | .24c |
| 3 pounds bologna | ..... | .24c |
| 3 cans lime | ..... | .25c |
| 3 boxes axle grease | ..... | .25c |
| 3 dozen pickles | ..... | .25c |
| 2 quarts baking molasses | ..... | .25c |
| 2 quarts best syrup | | .25c |
| 3 quarts cheap syrup | | .25c |
| 3 pounds corn starch | | .25c |
| 3 pounds bird seed | | .25c |
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