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FREELAND, DECEMBER 16, 1895.

Dr. Thos. M. Powell has announced his withdrawal from the contest for the nomination of poor director on the Republican ticket. There was nothing the matter with the doctor's boom. He withdrew in the interest of harmony in his party.

It is about time that the list of names in the Luzerne jury wheel be given a thorough revision. Men who have been dead for years, and others who have removed from the county, are drawn time after time with a regularity that shows carelessness somewhere.

The movement for late national conventions of the leading political parties next year, which gave so much promise of success, has fallen flat. The Republicans have decided to meet on June 16 at St. Louis and the Prohibitionists on May 27 at Pittsburg.

The tide is turning. The conservative old city of Boston, which followed the crowd into the Republican camp, has tired of such company and last week it signified its desire to come back to the fold by electing that sterling Democrat, Josiah Quincy, as its mayor by a handsome majority.

Speaker Reed is aiming for the presidency with all the skill that an astute politician possesses. In the matter of precedents, history cites two to one against his chances. Polk was the only speaker of the house who became president, while Clay and Blaine were defeated after being nominated.

The annexation of all or a part of South Heberton to the borough is causing much discussion since it was taken up for investigation by the board of Trade. There are some good arguments on both sides and the Taxpayers will cheerfully give space to communications from those who wish to give publicity to their opinions.

Tom Carter, of the Republican national executive committee, is out with a warning that Republicans must not count too much on a "walk-over" in the next presidential election. It does look as though they are claiming for their own a lot of unhatched chickens, especially in the South, but when the eggs are broken next November the birds will wear Democratic feathers, and Tom Carter knows it.

The whirligig of time brings about some queer changes. Ex-Senator Delamater, whom Pattison defeated for governor in 1890 and who had to leave the state as a bankrupt shortly after, may be the next United States senator from Washington. He has made himself popular in his new field, and is spoken of as one of the leading men of Tacoma. Truly this is a great and remarkable country, and no man need give up hope of becoming famous while he resides under the stars and stripes.

Congress, with its tremendous Republican majority, has been in session two whole weeks, yet there has been nothing done to electrify or startle the country in the line of making everybody happy and prosperous, as was claimed would be done soon as Republicans took the legislative reins in their hands again. Braggarts know that talk is cheap when votes are wanted, but when it comes to actions Republican congressmen have not got the courage to oppose, with their isms, fads and hobbies, the policy laid down for the country by the sturdy occupant of the presidential chair.

The man who is willing to make a monkey of himself can always start a sensation in congress that will bring him temporary notoriety. The first to do so this session was Representative Barrett, of Boston, who offered a resolution impeaching Ambassador Bayard because he had dared to exercise the right of free speech and to criticize the doctrine of protection. The resolution was a new congressman's bid for notoriety pure and simple, and it will never be reported back to the house by the committee to which it was referred. In the short debate which preceded the reference of the resolution, ex-Speaker Crisp showed himself to be in good fighting trim. His taunting the Republicans with being afraid to put a protective tariff bill through the house, notwithstanding their immense majority, was a hit and no Republican dared to reply.

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