

The Hammonton Item.

R. Bradley

Devoted to the Interests of Hammonton.

VOL. III.—NO. 8.

HAMMONTON, N. J., SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1874

\$2.00 PER YEAR.

Our Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 28, 1874.

I have just received from the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics a tabular statement showing the decrease in exports from Great Britain to the United States in January, 1874, as compared with January, 1873. The average decrease on all the staple articles imported in this country is just about one-third of the entire amount. The total imports for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1873, was \$8,092,291, and for the same time in 1873, \$5,809,417. Total for the whole year 1872, \$40,736,597, and total for 1873, \$33,561,107. Total exports from the United States during the year 1872, \$54,662,948. Same for 1873, \$71,486,045. This shows how the balance of trade between this country and foreign nations for the year 1873 has turned in our favor—our exports to Great Britain being \$34,110,485 greater in 1873 than in 1872. While we imported in 1873 articles to the value of \$33,561,107, we exported in the same time \$71,486,045 in value.

The advocates of a renewal in a modified form of the franking privilege have been defeated in the House, but they are not dismayed, as the defeat was caused by the bill not being a sufficiently near approximation to the old privilege to suit several who for that reason voted against it. It will be again brought up in the House, where there is a majority in favor of a partial return to the ancient custom of the fathers. The vote on the pending bill stood 129 to 131; and Mr. Butler, of Massachusetts, voted against it, though he was the most effective and earnest advocate of a restricted return to the franking privilege.

As it took only thirty minutes for the Naval Appropriation bill to pass the Senate, in which the sum of \$18,000,000 was appropriated, it is to be hoped that the example will be a salutary one. There is no wisdom in spending days over the matter of appropriating what everybody is well convinced is necessary and proper. The Buncombe bickering, that has consumed much of the time of the present Congress in regard to the appropriation of a few thousands which are deemed necessary by those who know best for the proper running of certain Departments have thoroughly disgusted disinterested thinkers. Neither political party nor any individual member can gain applause by such transparent demagoguery.

At the request of a number of Senators and representatives, Capt. Saml. Adams, the original explorer of the canon of the Colorado River, and the extensive country, as large as ten States the size of Pennsylvania, in, and southwest of the Rocky Mountains, last evening lectured at Lyceum Hall, in this city. The speaker demonstrated the practicability of uninterrupted steam navigation on this splendid river for six hundred and twenty miles from its mouth, passing directly through the richest mines of gold and silver upon the American continent. He gave a most interesting description of the great canon he had ascended from the Gulf of California, and descended from the River divide of the Rocky Mountains, where Mount Lincoln towers over 14,000 feet above the level of the sea, covered with an eternal diadem of snow. Near this he built four small boats, and descended the head waters of the Colorado. His description of the view had from the summit of this mighty monarch of mountains upon the clouds and lightning below was superlatively grand. His sudden entrance from the dark canon into beautiful valleys or parks, wide in extent, (soon to be the homes of thousands,) was one of unsurpassed magnificence. His description of the ruins of cities, count, and fortifications, in a section of country hitherto condemned and almost unknown, seems incredible were it not that his statements have been corroborated by Prof. Hayden, Major Powell, Lieut. Wheeler, and others who have followed and profited by his five-year explorations, made under the instructions of the late Secretary Stanton.

The centennial bill was debated yesterday in the Senate, and Senator Scott says it will differentially tell it \$3,000,000 is not appropriated by Congress. A ready answer of the service powers have accepted

the invitation to participate in it as an international exposition, and it would seem rather late to withdraw from it honorably, after action has been taken on it under the authority of Congress. The bagaboo cry of "panic," as a reason for acting meanly in a national capacity, has been already carried too far. Statistics show that the country was never before in so substantially prosperous a condition generally. In January two millions of the nine which had been added to the public debt, during the actual panic, was repaid from ordinary resources; on Monday the new debt statement will further show that we are returning to the regular liquidation of the debt as before the panic; the balance of foreign trade is in our favor for the first time since the rebellion; and it may be truthfully said that:

"Night's candles are burnt out, and jocund day
Stands tip-toe on the misty mountain top."

Why, then, should Congress allow a stigma to be cast upon the nation for the want of material aid to carry out its cherished desire for a centennial international anniversary in honor of the independence of our people and the success of Republican government in the new world? If really successful, it can afford to celebrate that success.

The Simmons contest for the collectorship of the port of Boston was not what appeared on the surface, but was mainly a fight made on a nomination of the President by the opponents of the two Massachusetts members of Congress who had addressed the nomination. The fight itself was carried on under a false pretense, as it came out during the investigation of Mr. Simmons in the Senate. It was not that there was any want of necessary honesty or ability on the part of Mr. Simmons, or that any rule of promotion under the civil service regulations was violated for Mr. Simmons was an officer of long experience in the revenue business, having been for years at the head of the Internal Revenue office in the same District, but it was the fact that he was not a member of the eminently respectable, or mutual admiration society, which has hitherto run the leading official business of Boston; and, more than this, it was the fact that he was known to be friendly to Messrs. Butler and Hooper, and not in the interest of the aristocracy of "the Hub," that caused such a furor to be raised about his transfer from the head of the Internal Revenue to that of the Customs branch of the Government business in that locality. The defeat of Mr. Simmons in the Senate is a sad blow to the old time wire-pullers of Massachusetts, and strongly indicates that General Butler will yet be Governor of that proud State.

We are, it seems probably, to have among us that *rara avis*, a Republican Congressman from brightened Democratic Kentucky. Col. John M. Burns, of the 10th District of Kentucky, is here contesting the seat of John D. Young, sitting member. Young was nominated several months before the election, and so had time to thoroughly organize the Democratic struggle and make a thorough canvass, while Burns was not put in the field till eighteen days before the election, and yet was beaten by only an alleged majority of 188 votes. Democratic adroitness had constructed a district 240 miles wide in its narrowest part, taking on some of the heaviest Democratic counties in the State to the Republican's notice, in order to ensure the return of a Democrat. Col. Burns claims and has the evidence to prove that the Democratic managers, in counting the returns, struck off his votes here and there on the slightest technicalities and without valid reason in law, a few in number in each place, in order to create the least observation or objection, but sufficient, in the aggregate, to give the opponent the semblance of a majority. This matter will be investigated by the House, and if by such Democratic manipulation, Col. Burns is kept out of his seat, Congress will see to it that he and the Republicans of Kentucky, have justice done them.

LIFE.

Strawberries from the South are found in the city.

Senator Sherman's plan of resuming specie payments. The Senator is reported to have said:—

In reply to the question, "What would you do as to national finances if you had the power?" he said, "I would do five things in the order in which I name them. First, I would definitely settle as a fixed policy that not one dollar more or paper money should be issued until what we have is at par with gold and silver. Second, I would allow national banks to be organized in the South and West until each State had its share, and would withdraw circulation from banks in States that have more than their share. In doing this I know it will not prevent the notes from going where trade carries them, but it will give each State the benefit of local banks and still a local clamor. Third, I would get back the greenback circulation to the old limit of \$356,000,000, and establish the \$44,000,000 of retired and cancelled notes as a reserve to be used only for exigencies defined by law. Fourth, to appreciate the greenback, I would authorize it to be converted into a five per cent. bond at the option of the holder to be paid out again at the option of the government for the payment or purchase of five-twenty bonds. Fifth, I would very slowly accumulate gold in the Treasury and in the Banks, so as to take advantage of the first favorable opportunity to resume specie payments. In this way we can easily, surely and wisely reach a specie standard, which is the only true basis of production, and the best for both capital and labor."

A FEW FIGURES.

Arithmeticians, who love the truths that figures always tell, may now see what it cost the nation to build the Union Pacific Road, and what it cost the stockholders of the Credit Mobilier.

WHAT IT COST THE NATION.

Box car contract.....	\$12,974,416 24
Boomer ".....	1,104,000 00
Ames ".....	57,140 103 91
Davis ".....	22,331,768 10

Total.....\$24,550,276 38

WHAT IT COST THE CREDIT MOBILIER.

Box car contract.....	\$7,806,188 33
Boomer ".....	6,000,000 00
Ames ".....	37,345,141 99
Davis ".....	16,430,943 22

Total.....\$67,582,233 54

Profit.....\$43,929,338 24

These figures, however, estimate a stock and bonds at par. Taking for an instant the figures of the trustees as correct, — in correct as we know them to be, — we find the cash value of this profit to have been as follows:—

From sale of bonds.....	\$12,276,160 00
Stock.....	8,744,169 87
Divided in cash.....	2,440,000 00

Total.....\$23,460,329 87

—From "The Credit Mobilier," in Scribner's for March.

Congress.

In the United States Senate, on Monday, the bill ceding to the several States the beds of unurveyed unnavigable waters within their borders, was reported and placed on the calendar. Bills were introduced by Mr. West for the settlement of war claims of loyal persons, and by Mr. Wright to retire national bank notes and to refund non-taxable bonds into 54 per cent. interest-bearing bonds for the redemption of legal tenders. The Liquor Commission bill was advocated by Mr. Pratt, of Indiana. The Centennial Invitation bill was discussed, and Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, offered a substitute making the celebration a national not international one. Pending discussion of the measure, the Senate went into Executive session, and afterwards adjourned.

In the House, a number of bills were introduced, among them the following:—By Mr. Myers, of Pennsylvania, imposing an additional duty of 34 per cent. on macaroni and vermicelli; Mr. Ward, of Illinois, legalizing the legal tender reserve, and making it available for the redemption of legal tenders; Mr. Cannon, of Utah, for the admission of that Territory as a State; and Mr. Butler, of Massachusetts, to prevent in administration of civil officers against whom articles of impeachment are presented, and partially restoring the franking privilege. A bill was passed extending to unauthorized men of the navy and marine corps the same privilege of obtaining citizenship as had by an authorized enlisted man in the army. The Currency bill was made the second order for Wednesday week. Mr. Nibb offered a resolution declaring that any scheme for the improvement of the finances which does not embrace a revision of the tariff and emancipation of commerce from all unnecessary restrictions will be unconstitutional and unconstitutional, and instructing the Ways and Means Committee to proceed with such a revision. The resolution was referred to the above committee. The bill repealing the tax on matches and bank checks was discussed. Mr. Maynard introduced a bill for the collection of the direct tax.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, the Fortification bill was reported without amendment. Mr. Logan from the Military Committee, reported a veto of the bill authorizing the lease of the old Laredo site, near Philadelphia, for a powder magazine, and the committee was discharged from further consideration of the subject. At the expiration of the morning hour, the Centennial Appropriation bill came up, and Mr. Sherman moved to refer it to the Committee on Appropriations. Pending discussion of the bill, the Senate adjourned.

In the House, bills were passed amending the Homestead laws, and to prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska.

The bill regulating commerce among the States was discussed until adjournment.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, the Indian Committee reported adversely on the claims of citizens of Kansas for losses by Indians depredations. The Liquor Commission bill was considered. The Centennial Invitation bill came up at the expiration of the morning hour, but was laid aside, and Mr. Carpenter addressed the Senate on the Louisiana bill. The Centennial bill was then resumed, and pending its consideration, the Senate adjourned.

In the House, a memorial from bankers and other business men of New York city, representing nearly five hundred millions of capital, was presented, protesting against any increase of the irredeemable currency; and against the illegal issue of the Treasury reserve. Mr. Wood's bill fixing the duty on imported wares, and McKee's bill for the execution of the laws in Utah, were referred to the Committee of the Whole. The Indian Appropriation bill was reported and adjourned, referred to be the special order after the Legislative Appropriation bill. The bill to regulate commerce among the States was considered, and an evening session was held for consideration of the revised statutes.

The investigation of the subject of molities to informers was continued by the Ways and Means Committee; Mr. Kelley presiding. H. D. Higgin, counsel for the Boston Board of Trade, argued against the system of seizure of books and papers, and molities to informers and others, and D. G. Jayne, of N. Y. went over the laws relating to seizures, and argued that without the present system the Government would be deprived of large sums.

The House Commerce Committee agreed to report the bill authorizing the Secretary of War to detail competent officers to inquire regarding the spread of epidemic diseases, and report concerning the proper means to prevent the importation of contagious diseases. Also to report the bill giving the War Department control of the mouth of the Mississippi, while the improvements there are going on.

STATE.

Governor Joel Parker has been made President of the State Board of Agriculture.

The 20th of March is fixed upon by both Houses of the New Jersey Legislature as the day for adjournment.

The following Commissioners of Deeds for Atlantic County have been confirmed: Thomas P. Smith, of Galloway, resigned; appointed for Egg Harbor City, August Stephany vice Fred. Oliver; Egg Harbor township, Simon Lake, Galloway, Jos. Turner, to fill vacancy; Buena Vista, L. A. D. Wm. W. T. Farrell.

A few days ago, about 10 o'clock in the morning, Mr. J. E. Wark, who is stopping at the house of Mr. Smith, on the corner of Middle and Main roads, heard dogs barking furiously near the door, on opening which, a fine specimen of a silver gray fox, rushed past him and took refuge in the kitchen. Here he baffled the skill of several men, and dodged 5 balls from a revolver before he was secured. It was a rare prize. The dogs were small, and dare not attack the fox.

GENERAL NEWS.

Chief Justice Waite was sworn into office on Wednesday, and took his seat upon the Supreme Bench.

It is estimated that the oyster bed, of Virginia, cover an area equal to 640,000 acres, and yield an annual money value of \$10,000,000.

The House Judiciary Committee yesterday considered the Senate amendments to the bankrupt bill, and decided to recommend non-concurrence and the appointment of a conference committee. In this way, they think, the bill may be perfected so as to be satisfactory to both Houses.

The receipts of the National Government during the quarter ending December 31 are officially reported at \$56,621,596. Of this amount, \$31,308,449 were the net receipts from customs, and \$22,308,064 from internal revenue. The net expenditures during the same period were \$6,823,337.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue reports to the Senate that during the last six months 259 illicit distilleries have been suppressed. Of these, 75 were in North Carolina, 71 in Tennessee, 37 in Georgia, 29 in Kentucky, and 12 in Virginia. The capacity varied from 15 to 1000 gallons, the daily average being 30 gallons.

It is stated that the members of our Grange in Illinois intend to combine and purchase their clover seed this Spring through a similar organization in Missouri, and thus effect a saving. Pat. contra, Marion Grange, 391, of Hamilton county, Iowa, has severed its connection with the State and National Granges. They claim that the machinery of the Order is expensive and useless, and only for the gain of a few individuals who wish to live on salaries paid by the farmers, and

to use the farmers for political purposes, and worthless patents for agricultural machinery are being peddled off at enormous prices, and that the Order is a fraud and a usurpation.

The Temperance Grange, however, and has assumed a more dignified position. The whole country has become interested, and preparations are everywhere making for praying out the rum demon. Woman's prayers are heard, at least most of the week. The power which is moving and moving the women to lead the men in their cause, and compelling them to shut up their saloons, and empty their liquor into the streets, seems to be sweeping over the land like the power that moved the Washingtonians thirty or forty years ago. But we fear it will be only ephemeral, and in its reaction leave the last state worse than the first.

THE END OF THE TIGHBORNE TRIAL.

This celebrated trial, which has been before the public in one form or another for nearly three years, has at last been concluded by the conviction of the claimant of perjury and his sentence to four years penal servitude. Roger Tighborne sailed for New York from Rio de Janeiro on the ship Bella, which was lost at sea. His mother, advertised for her son for several years, and finally he heard that he was living in Australia, having been picked up at sea when the Bella foundered. The claimant, who has just been convicted of perjury, arrived in England in 1866, and was recognized by Lady Tighborne as her son. She died, however before he instituted suit for possession of the title and estates, and all the other members of the family denied the identity of the claimant. The suit for title and estates commenced on May 10, 1871, and was continued with little interruption excepting one adjournment for four months until March 4th, 1874. The speech of the Attorney General occupied five weeks in its delivery and after Lord Balfour had testified to the effect that he had tutored the said Mr. Roger when at school, and that the claimant had no such marks on his person, the jury announced that they had heard enough testimony. Two days afterwards the claimant's case was withdrawn from the court, and the claimant was then arrested for perjury. This trial commenced April 22d, 1873, and was concluded on January 28th, 1874, when Lord Chief Justice Cockburn commenced his charge to the jury, which was as interminable as the speeches of counsel. The two trials of the case cost the British Government not less than \$2,500,000, but in England there is a strong love for Justice, that makes the cost or trouble of getting it a matter of minor consideration.

Professor Alexander H. Wilson states that he has made analyses of the tubers of diseased potatoes, and finds in the ashes a marked deficiency in the salts of magnesia and lime. In the ash of the healthy tuber from five to ten per cent. of magnesia salts are usually found, and over five per cent. of lime. But in the ashes of diseased tubers, although the proper quantities of other minerals were found, the percentage of magnesia was only from 1 per cent. up to 3 91 per cent, and of lime only 1.77 per cent. With these considerations before us, I think, says Professor Wilson, that we are justified in appealing to chemical science—to solve the problem as to the prevention of the disease—o suggest not a substance that will destroy the enemy, for this is next to impossible, but to give the plant such nourishment as will enable it to resist the adverse circumstances in which it is placed, as well as the attacks of its own peculiar enemies. Some years ago Professor Thorpe found from the analyses of diseased and healthy orange trees, that in the former, the amount of lime and magnesia are deficient; the same thing, we have seen, is the case in the diseased potato plant. It has lately been shown, by Dr. Grace Culvert, that lime is one of the few substances which we know are capable of arresting or preventing the development of fungi in organic solutions. He does not give any experiments relating to the action of caustic magnesia on fungi, but doubtless the action will be found to be similar. Here, then, is a curious, and at the same time significant fact: Diseased potatoes are deficient in lime; lime prevents the development of fungi; lime prevents the development of fungi in the vessels of plants; the deficiency of lime in the vessels of plants is furthered by this deficiency? The circumstances are such as scarcely leave room for doubt. But far, then, theory and practice agree; lime has been found by experience to be useful in preventing the disease; and we cannot doubt that magnesia, if tried, will be found to have a similar effect.

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HAMMONTON, ATLANTIC CO., N. J.

Election Next Wednesday.

The Spring Elections hereabout, for the purpose of electing town and township officers, takes place next Wednesday, the 11th inst. Considerable feeling is manifesting in some sections.

In Egg Harbor City, the new Depot is the rallying cry. In Mallow G. W. Rich will be the candidate for Freeholder. He has held the place for several years, and performed the duties with credit to himself, and satisfactorily to most of the voters of the township. We hope Mr. G. W. Rich will be the next Clerk. He is posted in the matters of the town, and the laws that he has got them in a good shape, having performed his duties faithfully and well, and for very little compensation. Of course he is not without some opposition, as is every good man. If Mr. Rich will let well alone they will return both the above men.

In Hammonton, excitement is at fever heat. A tremendous effort is being made to elect Geo. F. Miller from his place as Town Clerk. No stone will be left unturned, no string will be left unspooled, and nothing, in fact, will be left undone that can be done or devised, by the opposition, to defeat him. All sorts of accusations have been made, and as far as we can find, without a particle of foundation, to influence voters against him. He is made the support for all the sins of omission and commission that have been committed in the management of town affairs from its incorporation. Not by the mayor, but by the few. Curses loud and deep are heaped; maledictions pronounced, and fearful forebodings uttered, if he is re-elected. But notwithstanding all this Mr. Miller has a host of friends, who say, give us proof. Every man is considered innocent until proved guilty. Give us proof, and no proof is found. We have thinking men among us who will not take the mere idle talk of any kind, and will not be brow-beaten or beguiled by men who are not citizens. Many think Mr. Miller's election almost a certainty, notwithstanding. We should have been glad to have had the "Reformer" given us something in regard to the matter for publication. We should have been glad to have furnished both sides of the question at least. Our opinions have been open for them, but not a line has been sent us.

Several Conventions go out at the end of this year, and some of them will undoubtedly be re-nominated, but there will be a great effort to defeat them. Who the opposition will bring out, we have not the least idea, and have taken up chains to find out. They have a caucus to-night, at Union Hall. The regular caucus of the town will be held on Monday evening next, and we hope every voter will be there. And we believe good men will there be nominated, worthy the confidence and votes of our people.

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