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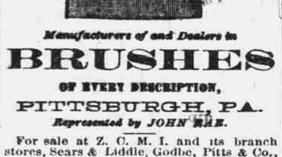

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GENERAL NEWS.

THE PRESIDENT OVERDID CIVIL SERVICE.

Grand Banquent of the Iroquois Club.

The Stockmen—The Storms in the East, Etc.

By Telegraph to the NEWS.]

Benton Reinstated.

WASHINGTON, 17.—The following correspondence was made public by the President to-night:

NESOHO, Mo., November 10, 1886.—*Hon. A. H. Garland, Attorney General, Washington, D. C.*—Sir: Your letter of the 1st inst., with the enclosures apprising me of the oasis of my suspension from the office of Attorney of the United States for the Western District of Missouri is received. I desire to make a plain statement of the facts in relation to the list of appointments to make campaign speeches. The United States District Court for this District convened on the 7th day of September. I had been there with my assistant several days prior to that date preparing cases for trial. The District business, except a few pleas of guilty, was finished on the 24th of September, and on the following day the court adjourned. On the night of the 25th I spoke at Jefferson City. I then went to Kansas City, and Rush, my assistant and I, prepared ourselves for the October term of court for the Western Division. Meanwhile I had at the

EARNEST SOLICITATION

of Messrs. Dockery, Cravens and other candidates for Congress and the Democratic State Central Committee and with the knowledge of Senators Cockrell and Vest agreed to make some campaign speeches. After so arranging with them as to the time, so as to not interfere with my official business, I gave the list to D. H. Shields, chairman, and this list was published, the dates beginning Sept. 29th at 9 p. m., at Aurora, Missouri. The appointments were made on each side of my district, so I could, and did reach Kansas City once each week to look after the routine business of the office. My assistant, Wm. Rush, was in the office all the time while I was away. Two of my appointments were made at Webb City and Sarcoxie, convenient to Joplin, where I appeared in two important cases on the 14th day of October, before Clark Crawford, United States Commissioner.

I FILLED MY ENGAGEMENTS

to Saturday, October 16th. At Seneca on Monday, October 18th, the District Court for the Western Division began the term. Every indictment and information was prepared and in consequence of this, the grand jury was dismissed at noon of the third day. I had thought I would get through with the business of this short term in one week. I had two engagements to speak during that week. One at St. Joseph I did not fill, the other at Kansas City I did fill at night after the adjournment of Court. I found on Saturday the 23d of October that I had six important cases which I believed should be tried. On that night I came here and got my partner Hon. Jos. Cravens, Hon. John T. Tell, of Mount Vernon and Dr. Jas. Evans, of Nichols, Greene County, who agreed to fill my appointments beginning with Southwest City on the 26th of October and immediately returned to Kansas City and announced myself ready for trial. The District Court docket was called. I remained in court and attended to the cases, until I received the President's letter

SUSPENDING ME.

As to my record as a public officer, I am willing for the department reports of my success in the trials, the bonds officers of the Circuit and the District Courts and those who had business with the office, to say. I acted on the following clause of the President's letter of July 19th in making engagements to speak: "Individual interest and activity in political affairs is by no means condemned. Officeholders are neither disfranchised nor forbidden to exercise their political privileges, but their privilege is not enlarged nor is their duty to the party increased by a pernicious activity." If making political speeches is the cause of my suspension, I can make no defense, but if it inferred that I neglected my official duties by so doing, I am not guilty, and ask a full scrutiny into the facts. I respectfully ask that this communication be referred to the President, with such a recommendation as you deem just. I have but to add, that I had no idea that making political speeches would be taken as a violation of the President's order of July 19th, 1886.

Very respectfully,
M. E. BENTON.

CLEVELAND'S REPLY.

Executive Mansion, Washington, November, 16.

Hon. M. E. Benton:

DEAR SIR—Your letter of the 10th instant, addressed to the Attorney-General, has been submitted to me and carefully considered. Its frank tone, and all I know of your character, convinces me of the truth therein related touching your suspension from office. When I issued the warning to officeholders to which you refer as an "order," I expected to be much harrassed by all manner of loose and frivolous tales, originating in malice or disappointment and deliberate design on the part of political enemies concerning the indulgence to be allowed appointees under the present administration in "pernicious activity" in politics, against which my warning was directed. I hoped, however, by the careful consideration of the spirit as well as the language of such warning, that those in good faith intending to respect it might not be in doubt as to its meaning, and would themselves apply it to the conditions and circumstances which it was impossible for me to specify. I did not intend to condemn the making of political speeches by a Federal official to his neighbors and friends, nor at any time and place where it was

MERELY INCIDENTAL,

if the speech itself was decent and fair; but I do not think such an official can enter as a business a political campaign, and consenting to a long list of engagements to address political meetings, widely separated, and to delay occurrences, fill such engagements without neglecting his duty if he holds an office worth having, nor without taking with him in the canvass his official power and influence. Therefore, this course was condemned. The number of speeches that can be properly made cannot be specified, nor the time when, the place where, nor the circulation of them which is proper. Nor can their character be prescribed, but a correct line of conduct can be determined on without difficulty, I believe, in the light of a desire to follow the spirit of the administration and by divorcing the conduct of a citizen from the use of his official influence in a political campaign; illustrating at all times the truth that official duty is paramount to

PARTISAN SERVICE,

maintaining the dignity of office holding, the avoiding of any pretense of a contest over the political action of others, by reason of political place, and teaching the lesson to the people that public positions are not bestowed or held under the pledge of active partisan service. A printed list taken from the newspapers and submitted to me contains the engagements to speak, made by your consent, daily, for quite a long period, and not unfrequently twice a day in different parts of the State of Missouri, and I was led to believe that on many of the days specified the court at which you had duties to perform, was in session. This seemed to me, in the present case, a flagrant neglect of official duties and propriety, and even with the explanation given, your course appears to be thoughtless and, at least subject to criticism. But the statement in your letter, showing you did not permit campaign engagements to interfere with the performance of official duties, your satisfactory discharge of such duty during your term, and the belief in the truth of your allegation that you honestly supposed you might properly do all that was actually done, have induced me to rescind the order suspending you from and reinstate you to the same. Yours very truly,
GROVER CLEVELAND.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, Nov. 17, 1886.

Hon. A. H. Garland, Attorney General:

SIR—Having fully examined and considered the statement contained in the letter of M. E. Benton which you submitted to me at the time of our consultation concerning the matter therein referred to, I have determined to rescind the order suspending Benton from the office of Attorney of the United States for the Western District of Missouri, and direct that he be notified of his reinstatement to that office.

Very respectfully yours,
GROVER CLEVELAND.

The Iroquois Club.

CHICAGO, 17.—The fourth annual banquet of the Iroquois Club occurred to-night at the Palmer House. Among the large number of distinguished Democrats to whom invitations had been sent, the following are those most widely known, and who accepted and were present: Hon. John G. Carlisle, Hon. J. B. Beck, Hon. Edward S. Bragg, and Hon. J. Sterling Morton.

The following letter of regret was received:

EXECUTIRE MANSION,
Washington, D. C.,
November 12, 1886.

Edward Forman, Esq., Corresponding Secretary:

MY DEAR SIR: I regret exceedingly that official duties just at this time unusually exacting and important prevent my acceptance of your invitation to attend the fourth annual banquet of the Iroquois Club on the 17th inst. I am much impressed with the present importance of a thorough and timely discussion by the people of the various questions which are related to the good government and the prosperity of the country, and which, because they are so related, concern the welfare and success of the Democratic party. In the work which must be undertaken of presenting these questions to the judgment of our citizens in such a manner as to remove misapprehensions and aid a correct conclusion, I believe that the Iroquois Club will prove a most effective instrumentality. Hoping that the approaching banquet will be an occasion of pleasure as well as interest and usefulness, I am

Yours sincerely,
GROVER CLEVELAND.

Among other prominent persons who sent letters of regret are Abram S. Hewitt, S. S. Cox, Roswell P. Flower, Wm. C. Endicott, Perry Belmont, Governor D. B. Hill and Governor Fitz Hugh Lee, A. G. Thurman and Fitz John Porter.

After the banquet, at which between 250 and 350 guests and members of the club sat down, the following toasts were responded to as indicated:

"Treasury Surplus and Tariff."—Jas. B. Beck.

"The Public Lands and the People's Heritage for Homes."—Hon. W. A. J. Sparks.

"The Great Republic."—Hon. W. W. Fuller.

"The President of the United States."—Hon. J. Sterling Morton.

"The Sanctity of the American Home the Safeguard of American Liberty."—Hon Jas. R. Doolittle.

"The Democratic Party."—L. J. Kinne.

"Young Men in Politics."—Hon. F. W. Leheman.

"American Industries; their Growth and Prosperity Cannot be Promoted by Unnecessary or Unequal Taxation."—Hon. John G. Carlisle.

John G. Carlisle of Kentucky, Speaker of the House of Representatives, made the leading address of the evening;

"Although the toast asserted a self-evident truth," began Carlisle. "We can't afford to ignore the fact that even in this age of philosophic speculation and practical knowledge there are men in the front ranks of literature, politics and business who seriously contend that a government can make its citizens rich and prosperous by taxing them. All taxation, no matter how it may be disguised or in what manner its payment may be enforced, is ultimately a charge upon labor." He emphatically states that substantial equality in the adjustment of the rates of taxation and uniformity in the designation of articles upon which it shall be imposed, are not only attainable but essential under the present system of taxing for protective purposes. A few have become very rich, but many have become poor. The gulf between

LUXURY AND PENURY

is growing wider and deeper day by day, but with the power of taxation exercised only for the purpose of raising revenue for the support of the Government, the principles of substantial equality and uniformity can be recognized and enforced. Carlisle concluded in the following words: "No matter who may desert or who may falter, the great fight for reform will go on. This country does not belong to either the Monopolists or the Communists, and the people will save it from both. The people, in spite of all combinations and conspiracies, will ultimately see that the true principles of justice and equality prevail in the legislation of the country, even to prevent the continuance of long-prevailing, existing, and constantly increasing evils. They will not rush from one extreme to another, but will proceed carefully, deliberately and resolutely to correct inequalities and remove unnecessary burdens, and open the paths that lead to peace and prosperity. While free trade is impracticable, industrial and commercial emancipation can and will be accomplished by wise and moderate

MEASURES OF REFORM,

without interfering with any private enterprise or injuring any public interest. To this some of us at least are irrevocably pledged not only by the traditions and declarations of the political party to which we belong, but by a sense of personal and official duty which cannot be disregarded without betraying the confidence reposed in us by the people. Whether in public or in private life I shall stand by that pledge and to the extent of my abilities and opportunities contribute in every way to the early and complete triumph of revenue reform."

Senator Beck, of Kentucky, was called upon to respond to the momentous toast, "The Treasury Surplus and Tariff."

He declared that needless taxation has brought on our troubles. The surplus revenues of the government were produced by needless taxation and can only be stopped by

REDUCTION OF TAXES.

"We cannot," he said, "lock up hundreds of millions in the Treasury without bankrupting the people by depriving them of their circulating medium. God knows, our appropriations are extravagent enough now, and surely we ought not to buy bonds not due, at any premium the holders of them may see fit to demand. Therefore, nothing remains, that I can see, except to reduce the taxes to a point needed for the wants of the Government. If Congress has not sense enough to do that, and I am afraid it has not, rather than have the money locked up, the appropriations increased, or extravagant prices paid for bonds, I shall propose before this Congress adjourns to loan the surplus at say 2 per cent per annum to anyone who will deposit the outstanding 4½ per cent bonds of the United States as security, apportioning the amount loaned in the first instance among the States in proportion to the population, and authorizing either party to cancel the transaction by giving the other six months' notice. If the citizens of the several States do not take this proposition, I would, after ninety days, make it

FREE FOR ALL.

Some better plan to get the money restored to circulation may be suggested. If any of you can do it, I hope you will. I have no purpose except to keep the surplus in use till we can pay our debts and avoid the payment of exorbitant premiums, making extravagant appropriations, for worse than all, locking up in our vaults the people's money. All we need is the removal of unnecessary and unjust burdens. The manhood and muscle of our people will soon secure our supremacy."

W. A. J. Sparks, Commissioner of the General Land Office in speaking upon, "The Public Lands—the People's Heritage for Homes," gave his views upon the proper policy to be pursued by the Government in regard to each class of public lands. He held that while the obligations of the Government so far as incurred, must be carried out, the effects of this doubtful and

MISTAKEN LAND GRANT

legislation must not be so magnified that while requiring of the government a strict compliance with its part of the contract, the corporations shall be allowed unlimited license to violate theirs. It was true that it takes two parties to make a bargain, and it was equally true that the failure of one party to fulfill the contract is a release of the obligations of the other. He was ready to say that in grants amounting to 110,000,000 acres there has been no such compliance with the law by the companies as binds the government to any legal obligation in respect to the granted lands. By the Northern Pacific Railway alone, nearly 40,000,000 acres of the people's heritage for homes was being unjustly withheld. An act should be passed declaring forfeitures of the grants, if only to the extent of the portions of unconstructed roads at the time fixed by law for their entire completion. No such an act, while a measure of partial justice only, would leave to the companies at their average price of the lands more than enough to meet the

LEGITIMATE COST

of the entire construction of their roads. The great land grants to private individuals, Commissioner Sparks said, were nearly all made for colonization purposes and are not binding unless as the conditions involved have been compiled with. His characterization of these grants was almost equally sweeping with that of the railroad lands. The manner in which the existing laws operate in regard to swamp lands, pre-emption, homesteads, timber culture and desert lands were unsparingly condemned by the speaker. Before resuming his seat Commissioner Sparks briefly reviewed his course in office and declared that his efforts had been directed solely to the prevention of the illegal control of lands, to the recovery of those fraudulently held to which title has not yet been passed and to the protection of lands for actual settlement and the benefit of actual inhabitants.

The Stockmen.

CHICAGO, 17.—The Committee on Resolutions presented their report recommending the adoption of the following:

WHEREAS, It has been fully demonstrated to this convention by the testimony of professional veterinarians of the highest ability and experience, that contagious pleuro-pneumonia exists in an active form among certain cattle in the city of Chicago; and,

WHEREAS, From the fatal character of this terrible disease and the difficulty of extirpating it, the existence of it nearest the greatest cattle market of the United States constitutes a danger to the chief food supply of the country; and,

WHEREAS, The further progress of this disease causing other States to prohibit the introduction of cattle from this State threatens an entire interruption of inter-State commerce in an vitally important article of trade, and will result in a loss, the magnitude of which cannot be expressed in figures; and,

WHEREAS, It is the belief of this convention that a disease so dangerous, and whose consequence would be so disastrous and far-reaching, cannot be adequately met and controlled by the local authorities acting under State legislation; therefore, be it

Resolved, First—That this convention holds it to be the duty of the National Government to undertake the suppression of this disease.

Second—That this should be done immediately in the most thorough and complete manner and without regard to cost.

Third—That Congress should at its approaching session, without any unnecessary delay, provide by law the appropriate machinery and ample funds for this purpose; and

Resolved, Further, That a committee of five be appointed by the chair, to be known as the Committee on Legislation, whose duty it shall be to go to Washington during the coming winter and endeavor to obtain the passage of such laws as will accomplish the above end.

THE COMMITTEE

have considered the address of Dr. Gadsen, and endorse fully his views regarding the summary destruction of all cattle diseased with pleuro-pneumonia or that have been exposed to that disease. They further endorse his views with regard to the necessity of prompt payment for cattle destroyed, and they urge on this convention the adoption of such measures by the work of the committees or otherwise as will serve the above ends in the speediest and most effectual manner.

The committee further recommended the appointment of a committee on legislation and one on the duties of the local government toward the contagious diseases of cattle.

They also recommended the adoption of the following

ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION:

Resolved, That it is the duty of the Federal, State and Municipal authorities to unite in an effort to extirpate pleuro-pneumonia wherever it may be found, by destroying the diseased cattle and those having been exposed to the disease, so far as may be possible purifying all places in which the disease has existed, and adopting strict sanitary restrictions with regard to the management of cattle in feeding stations.

Denver, 17.—Prominent cattlemen here and elsewhere in Colorado, and also in New Mexico, are signing a petition to the railroad companies covering St. Louis, asking them to give their influence towards the establishment of a cattlemen's stock yards at the west side of St. Louis. There appears to be a unanimous feeling among the

WESTERN CATTLE-GROWERS

that the establishment of yards at this point will tend to distribute shipments and force Chicago, Kansas City and other dressed beef syndicates to pay a more reasonable price for range cattle. The present prices are so low as to make the business unprofitable.

The International Range Association meeting will support all portions of the range country. Several new associations have joined within the past few days. Indications point to a large meeting here in February.

Union Veteran Legion.

PITTSBURG, 17.—The National Encampment of the Union Veteran Legion was organized to-day in the Grand Army Hall in this city, and the following officers were elected: National Commander, Geo. B. Chalmers, Pittsburg; Senior Vice-National Commander, John Fox, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Junior-Vice-National Commander, C. B. Zimmerman, Youngstown, Ohio; Quartermaster-General, Frank L. Blair, Pittsburg; Chapiain-in-Chief, Rev. John A. Blair, Pittsburg; Surgeon-General, Dr. J. L. Crawford, Greenburg, Pa.; Adjutant-General, John B. Short, Allegheny City, Pa.

There are twelve encampments in four States, with a membership of 3000 veterans, represented in the convention. Encouraging reports were read of the intended formation of encampments in Iowa, Ohio, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Nebraska, Texas and Delaware. The Legion is composed of soldiers, sailors and marines of the army, navy and marines during the war of the rebellion, who volunteered for three years previous to July, 1863, and were honorably discharged after a service of at least two continuous years, or were at any time discharged by reason of wounds received during the service.

Still Storm-Tossed.

OMAHA, 17.—The snow storm which began yesterday morning continued all night and is still in progress. This afternoon about a foot of snow has fallen. It has been blowing a blizzard since early morning, and every railroad is more or less blockaded. The only trains which arrived to day were the Chicago & Rock Island, and the Kansas City train. No other trains came in or went out. Travel is entirely suspended. The storm is general throughout Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming.

Denver, 17.—The light snow which fell in Colorado Monday and Tuesday proves to be much heavier in Western Kansas and Nebraska. The west bound Kansas Pacific mail is snow bound at Brookville since Monday. The east bound is delayed at Hugo, but is expected to get through to-morrow. No Burlington train has arrived since yesterday morning. They expect to get through to-night. The Santa Fe trains have been

OUT SINCE YESTERDAY.

It is impossible to say when they will get through. All the Colorado roads are open and running on time. The thermometer here is four below; other portions of the State vary from this to 29 below.

Chicago, 17.—The *Inter-Ocean's* Manitowoc, Wisconsin, special says: The schooner *Nellie Redington* is reported to be going to pieces at Two Rivers. She had been at anchor off the north pier all day. She shipped one of her anchors at 5 p.m. and drifted against the north pier, and if the wind keeps on, will go to pieces before morning. Three of her crew have reached the harbor pier all right, but there are seven men more on board whose lives are in danger. The life-saving crew can do nothing to help them on account of the sea, which is very large.

The Base Ball Men.

CHICAGO, 17.—The Board of Directors of the National Base Ball Association held their annual meeting to-day and duly awarded the championship of 1886 to the Chicago Club, N. E. Young was re-elected secretary for the seventh consecutive time. Herman Dercher, expelled by the Detroit Club in 1882 for financial irregularities, was reinstated. Upon the unanimous request of the directors, the charges made by the Chicago Club against Capt. A. A. Irwin of Philadelphia were withdrawn on the condition that rules to prevent a recurrence of the trouble will be adopted.

The rumors that it was the intention of Pittsburg Base Ball Club to apply for admission to the League were confirmed by the unanimous admission of the club at the meeting.

W. A. Nimeck and A. K. Scanbrett were admitted to the association as representatives of the Pittsburg team.

The playing rules suggested by the joint committee were read and accepted by the League. It is rumored that the St. Louis Club tendered its resignation as a member of the League, and that the resignation was accepted. The disposition of the players has, it is said, been left to a committee of three, Spaulding, Soden and Sterns, and they have decided that the players shall be divided between the Kansas City's and Washington. The report that St. Louis had resigned was denied by the League officers who also discountenanced the gossip concerning the Kansas City's being denied admission. The denials in both cases were, however, anything but emphatic.

The Races.

SAN FRANCISCO, 17.—Entries for to-morrow's races.

First race, mile heats, all ages; Laura Gardner, 80; Bird Catcher, 100; Arago, 92; St. Patrick, 85; Marc Daly, 105; Echo, 99; Sir Thad, 101; Belshaw, 89.

Flunigan stakes, two-year-olds, one mile, usual weights; Wallace, Nelson, Napa, Todd, Goliah, Loredo, Grisette, Safeban, Jim Duffy, Voltiguer.

Winter handicap, all ages, mile and three-eights; Nielson, 116; Moonlight, 100; Lizzie Dunbar, 110; Monte Cristo, 103.

Fame stakes, three-year olds, two miles; Ed Carrigan, 118; Guenn, 115; May Blossom, 115.

A Train Death.

PITTSBURG, 17.—Peter Munich, a well-known resident of New York, died on the train last night while en route to his home. Mr. Munich has been afflicted with consumption and several months ago went to Colorado for the benefit of his health. He did not improve, however, and on Sunday started for home, alone. He gradually grew worse, and when the train reached Fort Wayne it was found that he was dead.

Cuban Bandits.

NEW YORK, 17.—A letter from Havana dated November 13th says: "On Wednesday last a party of bandits under Romero called at a sugar plantation belonging to Señor Francisco Pedroso, and demanded $10,000, declaring that if the money was not forthcoming they would burn the plantation. Señor Pedroso refused them what they asked. Four hours later the flames had destroyed not only the extensive and well cultivated cane fields, but the factories, dwelling houses, depots, great quantities of corn, lumber, plows and nearly everything of value on the plantation.

In the province of Cienfuegos, a robber band under Nicolas Espinosa, and his Lieutenant, Matagas, have kidnapped Señor Balta sar de la Torrente, for whose ransom they demand $8,000. They also had Señor Lucieno Casanova and the two sons of Mr. Lombard. The bandits in the province of Santa Clara kidnapped the steward of Santa Lugarda. He was afterwards ransomed for $5,500.

Verdict in the Wilson-Moen Case.

LOWELL, Mass., 17.—This evening the jury in the Wilson-Moen case brought in a verdict in favor of Moen the defendant for $96,522, being the amount of Wilson's notes for $70,000 held by Moen, with interest.

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