

An "Innocent Men's Club" was recently organized in Philadelphia, New Jersey and the other Star Route cities should apply for membership at once.

The young son of Dan Voorhees, who exhibits great skill as a sculptor, has placed a bust of Don Cameron on exhibition in one of the Senate committee rooms.

The Chicago Times says that "The tariff bill is hardly sufficient to satiate the republican party to get along without the grace of Providence in the next election."

The charge in the message of Gov. Pattison to the Legislature of Pennsylvania that the Standard Oil company has been guilty of bribery, will be investigated by a joint legislative committee.

The decision of the national supreme court in the case of Elliott and others against the "board of liquidation" of Louisiana is no less interesting than remarkable. It goes to the full length of declaring that there is no power in the national constitution—or, at least, in the judicial part of it,—to enforce the provision that "no state shall make any ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts."

The Legislature adjourned Monday, the Republican element, in the lead of Governor, his Lieut. and others endeavored to control and obstruct legislation by "bulldozing" tactics, but failed. By determined and persistent efforts on the part of the Democrats measures were pushed through. The appropriation bill was passed at the last moment, and it is probable Dorsey's protege—Governor Porter—will claim he has no authority to sign it, and attempt to place the responsibility of failure on the Legislature. But then he will ingloriously fail, as both Govs. Morgan and Baker have set precedents, and Baker says he would sign it.

The closing hours of Congress were enlivened by a little colloquy between Randall and Hewitt, in which the New Yorker gave the Pennsylvanian a pretty thorough overhauling. Mr. Hewitt urged Randall to vote against the conference tariff bill, when the latter got out of temper and told Hewitt that he had been fighting the battles of the democratic party for twenty-five years and wanted to be dictated to by nobody. Hewitt replied: "Yes, sir, I understand how you have been fighting the battles of the democratic party for years. If packing and assisting in packing the ways and means committee in the interest of monopolies and against tariff revision and the people for years means fighting the battles of the democratic party, you have been doing it. You have done more, sir, to keep the democratic party out of power than any other man in the country, and I tell you, Mr. Randall, you will meet your Waterloo in the democratic caucus which assembles to elect a speaker for the forty-eighth congress." With Hewitt and Cox, who will be influential in the New York delegation, against him; with the New Englanders dissatisfied at the cut on the wool tariff; with the west urging either Morrison or Springer, and the south united on Carlisle or Blackburn, Randall's road to the speakership is uphill all the way there.

There were in the house of representatives a number of gentlemen who had the best reason for believing that Mr. Keifer, the speaker, had not been clean in his great office; he was not impartial, but fair, not able. It was very well for Mr. Randall who with his protection friends, had been the beneficiary of Mr. Keifer's notorious partiality, to say under his breath that by the rule of common decency he had the right to offer without objection a resolution complimentary of the retiring speaker. Ordinarily, there would be no objection at all but in the case of Keifer the lie would be so palpable, so uncalled for, so glaring, that a dozen members of the minority offered their objection to the presentation of the Randall resolution. This resolution, Randall said, was only a compliment. But what is a compliment? It is defined as an agreeable truth, just as flattery is described as an agreeable falsehood. No agreeable truth can be asserted of Keifer's conduct in the chair. He has not been decently a partisan. He has been petulant, mistaken, stubborn for others, and notoriously unfair. As a compliment was impossible, flattery was out of the question with men who had felt the injustice of the Speaker and knew that the history of the house does not show a speaker who was less deserving a courteous word than the gentleman from Ohio, whose term was as inglorious as, unfortunately, it was brief. The resolution was objected to by several. A fact which has no precedent, we believe, in the case of any previous speaker. Poor, miserable Keifer!

The tariff is considered a bore by a great many people. It is for this reason that so few will take the trouble to examine the question. Here now are a few thoughts put very tersely and clearly. Read them: Very protection resulted in nothing worse than the Government, giving a bonus to the half million of protectionists of \$50 every time they sold a \$100 worth of goods, it would be a

small hardship and injustice to the people in comparison with its evil influence in leading the country into periods of wild and unnatural speculation for a rise, only to be followed by corresponding periods of undue depression. Even this might be suffered without much complaint if it did not practically add greatly to every one's cost of living.

No one in the infancy of this public could have obtained for the product of his industry a dishonest advantage over that of his fellow-creatures, because in those days there was no man for protection; and no one would have then built a factory unless he felt pretty sure it was needed and would prove profitable. There was, consequently, no fiscal cause at work to stimulate or production, as it then was.

The protectionist import the Congress at every session for more protection, and many of them urge as an argument in their favor that they represent manufacturing property equivalent to \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000 each; and it is well known that in prosperous times not a few manufacturing corporations pay dividends ranging from 50 to 100 per cent, on their original capital.

IT IS WELL THAT ENDS WELL says the Indianapolis State Sentinel. The Legislature has adjourned sine die in several regards. It challenges comparison with the last the State has ever had. True, Democrats have had to contend with the legacy which Dorsey, the State route, foisted upon the State, Governor Porter and Lieutenant Governor Hanna, but in spite of such obstacles, the Democratic Legislature has made a good record and the people will approve and applaud results. What are the chief features which command this approval? Senator Hilligoss, who has been one of the most vigilant watchmen in the Senate, outlined them as follows:

First, the descendants' estate law. The obnoxious features of the law as it stood upon the statute books of the State have been eliminated. The master committee no longer exists. The rights of administrators, without expense of Court proceedings, is secured, and the newspaper notice of administrators' account current is no longer required. These and other obnoxious features of the law of 1881, enacted by the Republican Legislature, that worked legalized robbery of estates, are eliminated, and the action of the Legislature in this regard is worth more to the people of Indiana than the entire cost of the session.

Again: The Republican road law of 1881 has been repealed, and the people have in its stead a "Supervisors" law. Widespread complaint justly existed among the farmers of the State over the law that has been repealed, and the work of the General Assembly on that subject will prove to be a God-send to the masses.

The dog law is believed to be one of the best pieces of Legislation ever placed upon the Statute books of the State, one which will yield much more revenue to the school fund than the law of 1881, while it provides an easy and safe way for the farmers of the State to secure pay for their sheep killed by dogs. The law also protects owners of dogs, and is evidently just in all of its features.

The asylum bill, providing for the care of the State's insane, is a grand piece of Legislation, and is a severe relief to the people of Indiana. It will be a great boon to the State's poor houses.

The Democratic party of the State can well afford, in the light of all the facts, to go before the people with the record.

Governor Alexander H. Stephens died at the Executive Mansion, Atlanta, Georgia, March 4, 1888. The news of the death of the great statesman while not altogether unexpected created a very profound sensation all over the land. Below we publish a short biographical sketch of the life of the deceased:

Hon. Alexander H. Stephens was born in Taliaferro County, Georgia, February 11, 1812. He graduated at Franklin College, Athens, Ga., in 1823, and rapidly obtained a large and lucrative practice at Crawfordville. He was elected to the legislature of Georgia in 1836, and was re-elected in 1842. He was elected to the State Senate, in 1843, he was elected as a Whig to Congress and held his seat until 1859. In February, 1847, he submitted a series of resolutions in relation to the Mexican War, which afterward formed the platform of the whig party. He opposed the Clayton compromise in 1846, and took a lead in the movement in 1850. The passage of the Kansas and Nebraska act of 1854 in the House of Representatives was strongly supported by him. He was elected to the legislature of Georgia in 1856, and was re-elected in 1858. He was elected to the State Senate, in 1859, he was elected as a Whig to Congress and held his seat until 1865. 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