

THE PENSION BUREAU.

Commissioner Black's Good Work—An Interesting Comparison.

[From the National View.]

The following comparative statement contrasts the work of the Pension Bureau during the last two years of Republican rule with the first two years of the Democratic administration:

In the year ending June 30, 1883, there were 52,279 pension certificates issued, of which number 38,161 were original cases, and the remainder increase and miscellaneous claims. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884, the total number of certificates issued was 56,729, of which 34,190 were original, and the balance increase and miscellaneous cases. In the next fiscal year, up to the 17th of March, 1885, when General Black entered upon the duties of his office, there were 39,154 certificates of all kinds issued. From March 17 up to the 30th of June of the same year—a period of only two months and a half—there were issued 31,232 pension certificates. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, there were issued 76,614 pension certificates, 40,852 of which were original cases. In that same fiscal year there were also issued 79,985 supplemental certificates to widows and dependent relatives whose pensions had been increased by the act of March 19, 1886—a grand total for that one year of 156,643 allowances.

These supplemental certificates were issued within a very few months after the passage of the law. At no time in the history of the office has such an enormous number of pensions been "increased" without interference with the regular work of the office or without a call upon Congress for additional help. From the 1st of July, 1886, up to and including the 30th of April, 1887, ten months, there were 74,698 certificates issued, of which 34,852 were original cases.

There are yet remaining two months of the present fiscal year, and the result will be a showing greater by far than any previous year in the history of the office. This immense amount of work has been performed with a reduction of the clerical force of over one hundred. General Black determined to conduct the office upon strict business principles, and required that the entire time of the clerical force during office hours should be devoted to the consideration and transaction of the public business and the settlement of long-delayed pension claims. As one result of this regulation the first year of his administration exhibited a saving in the matter of leaves of absence of 15,664 days of the aggregate time of the clerical force, or 12 years 11 months and 4 days of the time of a single clerk.

Since the 17th of March, 1885, when the present Commissioner assumed the duties of his office, no leaves of absence have been granted for political purposes, and no pension-office clerks have gone off on "stumping tours," as was formerly the custom. From July 1, 1884, to June 30, 1885, the average number of working days for the clerical force was 286, while in the succeeding year the average number of working days was 281. In the year 1886 the present Commissioner turned over to the Treasury over \$100,000 of unexpended appropriations on account of clerical hire, and he effected a saving in the same year in the item of stationery of over \$13,000—this notwithstanding the fact that the business of the bureau had been very largely increased.

It was formerly the practice that when a pension claim had been neglected—that is, when the claimant or his attorney had failed to call up the case for a certain length of time—to mark the case "abandoned" and consider it in about the same light as a rejected case. General Black abolished this practice, and required of his chiefs of bureaus that all claims should be given a chance of being considered and finally adjudicated. Every case filed during his administration has received prompt attention. His order that all cases filed prior to his entry into office should be examined before the 1st of June has already been fully complied with, and there is not a single case in the pending files of the office which has not been examined, and in which steps have not been taken toward final settlement. As a consequence of the application of the practical business principles in the management of the office, the Pension Bureau, for the first time in its history, is abreast of the original invalid claims filed. To illustrate the enormous increase in the business of the Pension Bureau, during the month of March, 1884, there were received 159,385 pieces of mail matter, and there were sent out from its office 141,898 circulars and letters, while in the month of March, 1887, there were received 287,263 pieces of mail matter, and there were sent out from the office 183,142 letters and circulars.

The following table will show the number of pension certificates issued during the fiscal years ending June 30, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, and for the year of 1887 up to the 30th of April:

	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	Up to April 30, 1887.
Cases.	52,279	56,729	76,614	74,698	79,985
Original.	38,161	34,190	40,852	40,852	34,852
Increase and miscel.	14,118	22,539	35,762	33,846	45,133

Totals. 52,279 56,729 76,614 74,698 79,985
In the fiscal year of 1886 there were also issued 79,987 supplemental certificates to widows and dependent relatives, whose pensions had been increased by Congressional enactment of March 19, 1886.

What Are the Issues?

It would be interesting to know on what issue the Republicans expect to enter the next national campaign. None at the present moment seems to be very clear in the mind of the leaders who are speaking from time to time, or in those of the party newspaper editors who do not enjoy the precious privilege of saying nothing when there is nothing to say. Of the men who may, or think that they may, be chosen to lead the Republican host, Mr. Sherman has just come back from the South and Mr. Blaine has started for the West. The former has spoken; the latter has been spoken of. What is said by one and what is said of the other throws some light on what the issue is to be, but very little on what it is to be. It is plain, for instance, that there is going to be a good deal of trouble in making the issue "the vindication" of Mr. Blaine. On that point the distinguished ex-candidate need not go West to find out what some of his former advocates and present admirers think. The press of Iowa and Wis-

consin—two States that have been included in the published itinerary of Mr. Blaine—has recently contained a number of statements to the effect that he is an "impossible" candidate for 1888. These statements do not settle the question, but they are significant. He who runs may read the signs they afford, and they will not be lost on Mr. Blaine.

Mr. Sherman, in his remarks he has made since his return to Ohio, has made another thing clear—even clearer than Mr. Blaine's prospects—and that is that there will be no campaign made on the Southern question this year. The stakes that Mr. Blaine drove in his notorious Portland speech on the moral of the election are rudely and even contemptuously pulled up by Mr. Sherman and thrown into the ditch. The negroes of the South are not being oppressed or worked at starvation wages, as Mr. Blaine said they were and would be. The workmen of the North are in no danger of competition from labor cheaper and more helpless than slave labor, as Mr. Blaine said they would be. Mr. Sherman reports that there is good feeling between the races, that the negroes are not only safe but industrious, busy and prosperous. The stories of Southern progress, he says, are not exaggerated. That region is developing rapidly under the influence of peace, industry, and enterprise; it has become—mark the word—"patriotic!" It will no longer do to hold it up as a bugaboo to frighten either political babes or dotards in the North. Its interests are ours; its methods, principles, purposes are ours. Its representatives are in every market in the North and ours all over the South. The common bond of constant intercourse, on the basis of mutual confidence and respect, is becoming every day stronger. Obviously there can be no use for the bloody shirt in the next canvass.—*New York Times.*

TARIFF REDUCTION.

A Movement to Unite the Democrats in Congress on that Issue.

A Washington dispatch to the Philadelphia Times says: "For some days there has been more or less informal talk in administration circles on the tariff question. From intimations dropped in those quarters it may be announced that Secretary Fairchild is seriously contemplating a movement with the approbation of the President and his colleagues looking to a concentration of the Democrats in the House of Representatives and the Senate upon a measure of tariff reduction. After careful inquiry it has been ascertained that every member of the Cabinet is favorable to such a programme. After the experience of the past two Congresses the President is convinced that but one course remains open to the Democratic party, and that it is the formulation of a bill in consultation with such men as Randall and Carlisle and others representing the diverse positions of Democratic sentiment on the subject, for the purpose of bringing them together upon some common ground of agreement.

"The President has seen for some time that an issue will be made on the tariff, and has urged that it would be more sagacious to get to work at once and prepare a bill to be submitted to Congress as a measure of administration policy than to let the question continue to play havoc as a fire-brand in the ranks of the party. It is proposed to make the bill an administration question in the House, and thus bring it before the people as a distinctive issue upon which the Democratic party will stand in the next campaign. Judging from the present situation of affairs among the party leaders, it will take a large amount of pressure to bring the opposite views of Messrs. Carlisle and Randall together. It has been suggested in Treasury circles that Kentucky whisky influence, the tobacco men, and the protection Democrats can only reach a basis of settlement by pooling their differences and evolving some sort of a compromise. If this should fail a bill will be prepared at the Treasury supposed to strike between these conflicting interests.

"Secretary Fairchild is very decided in his advocacy of reduction of revenue from customs. He thinks a necessity exists for some action of this kind, or will do so soon. The accumulation of surplus will now go on steadily, and will lead to formal action on his part before the Cabinet as soon as the first indications manifest themselves in the monetary operations of the people. The theory of reduction will be in placing raw materials, like iron and wool, on the free list, and reduction of rates on certain manufactures. There is an idea, notwithstanding the ruinous importations at present rates, that certain manufactures of iron and steel can stand a reduction. Members of the administration believe there is a point at which modifications of the tariff can be made without detriment to American industry."

"Honest" John and the Whisky Tax.

At the Commonwealth Club dinner George William Curtis delivered an ornate address extolling Etonian reform and the mugwumps, and significantly describing John Sherman as "about the purest and ablest man in public life" at the present time. There are other illustrations in plenty which go to show that whatever Republican or mugwumpian antipathy there may be to Blaine is rapidly crystallizing into friendship for Sherman. The cool, calculating Ohio man is deemed the most available club wherewith to knock out the magnetic man from Maine—if he is to be knocked out at all. Mr. Curtis and his friends feel decidedly uncomfortable. Not being allowed to boss the Democratic party they are pining to get back into the Republican ranks; but they cannot consistently go back or be taken back next year should Mr. Blaine be the standard-bearer. That is the mainspring of their sudden love for Sherman.

It is true that Mr. Sherman is "about the purest and ablest man in public life." It is a query which will by no means command a unanimous affirmative. The most serious smirch on Mr. Sherman's record is that which he acquired near the close of the war when the heavy revenue tax was levied on whisky.

The act of Aug. 1, 1862, imposed a tax of only 20 cents a gallon on whisky. Toward the close of the war the need of increased revenues grew imperative, and by the act of June 30, 1864, the whisky tax was raised to \$1.00, with a provision that it should be \$2 per gallon on and after Jan. 1, 1865. Congressman John Sherman voted for that bill, but before doing so he is credited with having quietly organized a big whisky syndicate to corner every gallon that could be secured. Many persons made fortunes at that time by taking whisky out of bond while the passage of the proposed law was yet in doubt, but to Mr. Sherman is attributed the unenviable distinction of deliber-

ately organizing a whisky pool and then hastening back so that his voice and influence in Congress might lend success to his big speculation.

Was not that a far more discreditable transaction than any decision given in favor of Little Rock by Speaker Blaine? And can our mugwump friends strain at the gnat while they swallow the camel?—*New York Graphic.*

Congressman Springer Interviewed.

In reply to a question as to the probabilities of an extra session of Congress Mr. Springer said: "I do not think the President has decided yet what he will do. He has not told me nor any one else so far as I can learn what course he will take. I should like to know very much, as it has a good deal to do with my own future. I think, however, that the President will be actuated by the condition of the public mind later in the summer. If the surplus should increase largely and the people call for an immediate reduction in taxation he will then have to decide between an extra session or the purchase of bonds in the open market."

"How about 1888?"

"Well, I think there is a universal feeling among Democrats that Cleveland will be renominated."

"Because he is the only man available, or because his administration has been satisfactory?"

"Both. There is no one upon whom Democrats can agree. Then he has had a very successful term in the White House so far."

"Would not Hill be a better man to carry New York State?"

"The opinion of New York Democrats who have visited Washington lately is that Hill should run for Governor and Cleveland for re-election. This would combine their forces and make the chances of both much better."

"Who will be the Republican candidate?"

"Blaine and Sherman are fighting hard for it, and it seems to lie between them, unless they should be equally strong, when Allison and Hawley might obtain the nomination."

"You don't put any faith in the reported alliance between Blaine and Sherman—the Ohioan to fail the ticket?"

"No, they will not combine. Blaine is to conduct his campaign from Europe. His is no 'pent-up Utica.' Sherman is coming out here. It is more likely that Gov. Foraker will unite with Blaine. I see that the latter cannot make friends with Bob Lincoln."—*Chicago Tribune.*

New York's Anti-Saloon Republicans.

The character of the men who spoke at the meeting of the Anti-Saloon Republicans in New York the other day shows clearly enough that the movement is one which is not intended to injure the saloon as much as it is to assist the Republican party. It is the result of conviction on the part of certain all-round party men that the saloon influence is too rampant in politics and must be restrained, but it does not contemplate any action which will drive the saloon Republicans into another party. The principal speakers were ex-Judge Noah Davis, Theodore Roosevelt and ex-Senator Windom. Every one of these gentlemen is a partisan, a man who would support by word and vote a Republican saloonkeeper before he would a Democratic saint. Other men prominent in the movement have the same record. No amount of rum sickness them at all if it is on their side.

If a reason for the Anti-Saloon Republican organization is asked for it may be found in the fact that the real Anti-Saloon party is making much trouble for the Republican party, which does not care to take ground on either side of the prohibition question, but which hopes, by assuming a great moral attitude signifying nothing, to stem the tide of desertion from its ranks. There is reason to believe that it will take something more than an occasional meeting of a lot of partisans under a pleasant name to convince the third party that its mission has been fulfilled.—*Chicago Herald.*

Voorhees on Blaine.

Passing prognosticate on national affairs, the Senator said that, while he was a personal friend of Blaine, and while the members of his family mingled with the friends of Blaine and his family, he thought the Republican party could never nominate Blaine as a Presidential candidate again, especially when they considered his physical condition. As the Senator said: "One of my friends, a warm, personal friend, who has traveled with James G. Blaine recently and for several months, is confident that Blaine is a physical wreck." As the Senator expressed it, Mr. Blaine is a broken down man. In Senator Voorhees' opinion, James G. Blaine had stood the strain and excitement of a Presidential ambition as long as he could be expected to, and his physical condition was entirely broken down. In the Senator's opinion, so far as he knew, the opinion was sustained by the most prominent Republicans, it would be utterly suicidal to think of nominating James G. Blaine as the next Republican candidate, and he did not think he would get a first place on that problematical ticket.—*Chicago Times interview.*

MR. HEWITT, the Democratic Mayor of New York, seems to be satisfying all classes in his administration of the affairs of the great metropolis. It has been the experience heretofore of New York mayors, for the most part, to stir up an astonishing amount of antagonism in various quarters of the city. Mr. Hewitt has been exceptionally fortunate. *Harper's Weekly*, which usually looks at affairs from a Republican standpoint, although it supported Mr. Cleveland for the Presidency, says of the Mayor: "Probably no citizen of New York, whether he voted for Mayor Hewitt or voted against him, now regrets his election. The Mayor has devoted himself to the duties of his office with an intelligence and energy which have produced the most excellent results. The Mayor is a Democrat, but he was elected by the votes of citizens of all parties. His course is another illustration of the desirability of totally separating from politics public duties which are in no sense political."

Although Mr. Hewitt undoubtedly received some Republican votes, yet it must be remembered that he made the race as the regular Democratic nominee. The Republicans also made their nomination in the usual way and backed it up by an energetic campaign. Their candidate was Mr. Roosevelt, and he probably drew out the full party strength—as full, perhaps, as it ever expresses itself in other than presidential years.—*Indianapolis Sentinel.*

NOTHING does so much honor to a woman as her patience, and nothing does her so little as the patience of her husband.

WHAT UNCLE SAM OWES.

The Monthly Official Statement of the National Indebtedness for May.

The following is a recapitulation of the debt statement issued on the 1st inst.:

INTEREST-BEARING DEBT.	
Bonds at 4½ per cent.	250,000,000
Bonds at 4 per cent.	737,800,150
Bonds at 3 per cent.	190,716,500
Refunding certificates at 3 per cent.	175,650
Navy pension fund at 3 per cent.	14,000,000
Pacific Railroad bonds at 5 per cent.	64,623,511
Principal.	\$1,098,236,812
Interest.	11,708,163
Total.	\$1,098,236,812
DEBT ON WHICH INTEREST HAS CEASED SINCE MATURITY.	
Principal.	\$6,641,295
Interest.	196,107
Total.	\$6,737,402
DEBT BEARING NO INTEREST.	
Old demand and legal-tender notes.	\$348,738,146
Certificates of deposit.	8,900,000
Gold certificates.	90,960,997
Silver certificates.	130,143,328
Fractional currency (less \$8,375,934 estimated as lost or destroyed).	6,943,222
Principal.	\$592,779,773
TOTAL DEBT.	
Principal.	\$1,685,036,883
Interest.	11,904,271
Total.	\$1,697,542,151
Less cash items available for redemption of the debt.	\$ 277,303,997
Less reserve held for redemption of United States notes.	100,000,000
Total.	\$ 377,303,997
Total debt less available cash items.	\$1,320,238,154
Net cash in the Treasury.	28,951,692
Debt less cash in Treasury June 1, 1887.	\$1,296,281,462
Debt less cash in Treasury May 1, 1887.	1,305,170,459
Decrease of debt during the month.	
CASH IN THE TREASURY AVAILABLE FOR REDUCTION OF PUBLIC DEBT.	\$ 8,888,907
Gold held for gold certificates actually outstanding.	\$90,960,977
Silver held for silver certificates actually outstanding.	130,143,328
U. S. notes held for certificates of deposit actually outstanding.	8,900,000
Cash held for matured debt and interest unpaid.	18,446,506
Cash held for bonds called not matured and balance of interest.	19,776,061
Fractional currency.	2,064
Total available.	\$277,308,997
RESERVE FUND.	
Held for redemption of U. S. notes, acts January 14, 1875, and July 12, 1882.	100,000,000
Unavailable for redemption of debt.	—
Fractional silver coin.	\$21,064,742
Minor coin.	143,571
Total.	\$ 21,208,314
Certificates held as cash.	37,300,532
Net cash balance on hand.	28,951,692
Total cash in Treasury as shown by the Treasurer's general account.	\$ 463,260,526

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

The Co-operation of Railroad Companies Asked by Commissioner Colman.

[Washington special.]

The Department of Agriculture has followed up its pleuro-pneumonia quarantine with a circular asking the railroad companies to co-operate. The circular, which is addressed "to the managers of all railroad and transportation companies in the United States," says:

The insidious character of this disease, its easy and imperceptible propagation by contact with animals having the germs of disease and giving no outward symptoms of its presence, the contraction of the plague from infected cars, the spreading of the germs by means of manure carried in uncleaned cars from place to place, will make it a matter of grave concern, and render it necessary that stringent measures should be adopted to protect the cattle interests of the country from this great evil.

I have, therefore, to suggest and to request that all transportation companies shall establish on their respective lines a rule, and see that it is rigidly enforced, that all cars that have carried live stock shall be thoroughly cleaned on the discharging of their freight, and not allowed to leave the freight or stock yards before this is done. Also that the said cars shall be carefully disinfected in the following manner:

1. Remove all litter and manure.
2. Wash the car with water thoroughly and until clean.
3. Saturate the walls and floors with a solution made by dissolving four ounces of chloride of lime in five gallons of water. Stock-yards and pens should be cleaned and disinfected at least once a week.

Transportation companies having connections with infected districts should require parties offering live stock for shipment to present at point of loading affidavits of the owner and two disinterested persons stating that the cattle to be shipped have been known to affiants for at least six months next preceding, and that said cattle have not been in any of said districts and have not come in contact with any cattle from said districts. Said affidavits should be attached to and accompany the way-bill to point of destination. As several extensive outbreaks of pleuro-pneumonia have recently been traced to cattle that had been shipped from infected districts by rail, the necessity of these precautions can not be overestimated, and if enforced they would be a material safeguard against the spread of this disease.

Beitroed companies can be of the greatest assistance to the Bureau of Animal Industry in its work of extirpating pleuro-pneumonia if they co-operate with it and assist in maintaining the rules and regulations prescribed by me April 15, 1887, and the quarantine since made. I hope this support and assistance will be cordially given.

"THE OLD ROMAN."

Ohio Democrats Want Thurman to Run for Governor.

[Columbus (Ohio) special.]

The central organ of the Ohio Democracy appeared this morning in a leading editorial calling upon ex-Senator Thurman to consent to allow the use of his name for the coming gubernatorial nomination in spite of his letter of declination. This line of action means that Thurman will accept the nomination if unanimously tendered him, and is so interpreted by political thinkers here. It is well understood that Thurman does not want the nomination, but his friends claim that he could not be patriotic and decline to accept of a party which has done so much for him, and it is understood that with these assurances his name will be presented to the Cleveland convention.

"I LEFT a boy about twelve years old out here when I went in," said a farmer yesterday as he came out of the City Hall. "I saw him, sir," said a bootblack about a foot high. "Where did he go?" "Why, he ran his tongue at me, and the last I saw of him he was going for the woods. I don't take sass from any granger, I don't!"

INDIANA STATE NEWS.

—The body of a dead boy was found near Jacksonville recently. The facts in the case seem to be about as follows: Mrs. Livingstone, a widow, and her son Pless, aged about 19 years, went to the home of Columbus Young, a brother-in-law, who also has a son, aged 16 years. The boys went fishing, and in the evening the young boy came home, and said that Pless had gone off with some strange boys. His statement was believed at first, but when the missing boy did not arrive, even after dark, a search was commenced. No traces of the lad were found that night. The next day the creek was dragged, but to no purpose. In the evening the dead body of the boy was found, near the creek, with a bullet in his brain. Then Young, who told the above story, said they and two other boys were shooting fish, and he pointed the pistol at Pless, thinking all the cartridges were fired, and said, "I'm going to shoot you." The boy fell dead and his companions fled. The other boys, who witnessed the affair, tell the same story.

—Edward Daniels, a brakeman on the Chicago and Atlantic Railway, was discharged for drunkenness. He received his money at Hammond, drank heavily, and climbed on a freight train to steal a ride to Chicago. The train just commenced to move when he fell off, striking the rail the full length of his body. A wheel caught his foot and mashed the leg clear up to the hip. Twenty cars passed over him. When the last car was over, he raised himself three times, gasped his name, "Edward Daniels," and died. It is not known where his relatives live.

—Patents have been issued to the following named Indiana inventors: William E. Clayton, of Huntington, pipe wrench and cutter; Joseph S. Locke, of Spartanburg, machine for making wire and slate fences; Benjamin A. Nye, of Indianapolis, vehicle top; John J. Ralya, of Anderson, saw; Henry Richards, of Decker, key-board attachment for musical instruments; William H. Roberts, of Indianapolis, portable fire escape; David D. Weisell, of Fort Wayne, artificial tooth.

—Auditor of State Carr has sent a circular to all County Auditors regarding the State House tax. It reads that as no provision was made "by the late General Assembly for the continuance of a tax levy for the new State House fund, the tax levy of 2 cents upon each \$100 worth of taxable property in this State for said purpose is discontinued, and therefore no tax levy for that purpose should be placed on the tax duplicate for 1887."

—Bent Jones, a life-time convict from Orange County, confined in the southern prison, has been granted a patent on a folding table. The invention is considered to be very valuable, and is gotten up on an entire new principle from others heretofore made. The patent on the iron castings alone is supposed to be worth at least \$100,000, if the inventor was out of confinement to properly dispose of them.

—The Crawford County Regulators crossed over into Orange County a few nights ago and disciplined, in the customary effective manner, Benjamin and Joseph Carroll. After the switching seance had been concluded the knights of the switch rode around the neighborhood and notified the people, at the same time requesting that a doctor be summoned to care for the sufferers.

—August Geist, for thirty years a faithful and trusted employe of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad at La Porte, was instantly killed by being run over by a freight train while attending to his duties in the railroad yard. He was greatly respected by the officers of the road. He leaves a large family.

—The body of a man aged about fifty-five was found in the river, ten miles above Madison. The body was poorly clad, and was evidently that of a laborer or fisherman. Decomposition had set in, and the coroner, after viewing the remains, ordered them buried.

—John Worth, of Centerville, purchased a can of salmon, and, with his wife and daughter, ate it for supper. About midnight they were all taken dangerously ill, and it required the services of every physician in the city to save their lives. They are very low yet from the lead-poisoning.

—An alarming and fatal epidemic has broken out at Oxford, Benton County. It attacks young children, principally, and in most cases terminates in death in a few days. The sickness is severe from the start, and the afflicted child soon goes into spasms, which ends in death.

—On a farm of G. H. McKinney, near Pleasantville, Pike County, William, the son of the farmer mentioned, was killed by lightning during a storm, while taking shelter under a tree. His brother was also so severely shocked that his recovery is doubtful.

—William Straightman, an employe of the Lafayette car works, died from the effects of injuries received recently. While assisting in removing a large bar of iron from the steam hammer he was struck in the abdomen, the injuries terminating in death.

—The large barn of Elihu Knight, living five miles southwest of Winchester, was burned. The fire is supposed to have been of incendiary origin. The loss will be fully \$1,000, with \$400 insurance in the Continental, of New York.

—The citizens of Fort Wayne are jubilant over the fact that they have finally struck gas in abundance. Gas well No. 3 was shot recently, and proves to be a gusher.

—James Huntzinger, aged 15, was drowned while bathing in White River at Anderson. His body was recovered. It is thought his mother will die from the shock.