

# The Democratic Sentinel.

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## THE DEMOCRATIC SENTINEL.

DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY,

BY

JAS. W. McEWEEN

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One year, in advance, \$1.50  
Six months, " " .75  
Three months, " " .50

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of Jasper county, must be paid for in ad-  
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one-quarter column in size; and quarterly  
in advance when larger.

ALFRED McCOY, T. J. McCoy  
E. L. HOLLINGSWORTH.

## A. MCCOY & CO., BANKERS,

(Successors to A. McCoy & T. Thompson.)

RENSSELAER, IND.

Do a general banking business. Exchange

bought and sold. Certificates bearing in-

terest issued. Collections made on all available

points. Office same place as old firm of McCoy

& Thompson April 2, 1886

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RENSSELAER, INDIANA

Practices in the Courts of Jasper and ad-

joining counties. Makes collections a spe-

cialty. Office on north side of Washington

street, opposite Court House.

SIMON P. THOMPSON, DAVID J. THOMPSON

Attorney-at-Law. Notary Public.

THOMPSON & BROTHER,

RENSSELAER, INDIANA

Practise in all the Courts.

ARION L. SPITLER,

Collector and Abstractor.

We pay particular attention to paying tax-

es, selling and leasing lands. v2 n48

W. H. H. GRAHAM,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

RENSSELAER, INDIANA.

Money to loan on long time at low interest.

Sept. 10, '86.

JAMES W. DOUTHIT,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW AND NOTARY PUBLIC.

Office up stairs, in Maxeover's new

building, Rensselaer, Ind.

EDWIN P. HAMMOND, WILLIAM B. AUSTIN.

HAMMOND & AUSTIN,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,

RENSSELAER, IND.

Office on second floor of Leopold's Block, corner

of Washington and Van Rensselaer streets.

William B. Austin purchases, sells and leases

real estate, pays taxes and deals in negotiable

instruments. May 27, '87.

WM. W. WATSON,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Office up stairs, in Leopold's Bazar, 223

RENSSELAER, IND.

W. W. HARTSELL, M. D

HOMEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN & SURGEON.

RENSSELAER, INDIANA.

Chronic Diseases a Specialty.

OFFICE, in Maxeover's New Block. Resi-

dence at Maxeover House.

July 11, 1884.

J. H. LOUGHRIDGE

Physician and Surgeon.

Office in the new Leopold Block, second floor,

second door right-hand side of hall.

Ten per cent. interest will be added to all

accounts running unsettled longer than

three months. vni

DR. I. B. WASHBURN

Physician & Surgeon.

Rensselaer, Ind.

Will promptly attend. Will give special atten-

tion to the treatment of Chronic Diseases.

ZIMRI DWIGGINS, F. J. SEARS, VAL. SEIB,

President. Vice-President. Cashier

CITIZENS' STATE BANK

RENSSELAER, IND.

DOES A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS.

Certificates bearing interest issued; Ex-

change bought and sold; Money loaned on farms

at lowest rates and on most favorable terms.

Jan. 8, '88.

## THE PENSION OFFICE.

THE RECORD OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONTRASTED WITH THAT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

The Special Correspondent of the Bluffton Banner writes as follows to that paper:

WASHINGTON D. C., May 26.

The Democratic party had been

out of power a quarter of a century

when the people, the sovereign

power of government, returned it to

the administration of public af-

airs. During the absence of the

Democratic party from power pub-

lic office and the best interests of a

free people were prostituted to the

interests of individuals, monop-

olies, and gigantic corporations.

So strong had become the influence

of monopolies that the popular will

of the people was overthrown by

fraud and perjury. Laws were

enacted by the representatives of

the people and a wholesale system

of robbery promulgated under the

revenue system never before known

in the history of the country. The

people's domain was voted away by

millions of acres to corporations;

corrupt rings were formed in every

direction, and the public official

became a rogue and a plunderer.

Every necessary of life was taxed

for the benefit of the few, and the

American ship bottoms were forced

from the carrying trade on the high

seas. By Federal laws the right of

suffrage had been restricted by

bayonets in the hands of United

States Marshals, and every emo-

tion of mankind excited to sectional

hate and revenge by the party

in power. The rights of the States

to self-government had been de-

nyed, and a centralized power

sought to be established. All this

and much more was the order of

the times, and so corrupt had be-

come the public official, and so in-

tolerable the oppression of mono-

poly, that the voice of the peo-

ple, reinforced by thousands of

the honest voters of the party in

power, brought a change and ele-

vated the Democratic party to power

again.

During all these years of defeat

the party never ceased to exert it-

self in the interest of the people

and against the oppression of the

cormorants who were plundering

them in excessively taxing the

most common necessities of life.

During its absence from power it

never ceased to combat the en-

croachments of centralization or

the aggression of monopoly. It

finally triumphed, and after three

years of power and administration

of public affairs we are about to

go before the people asking for a

still further lease of power.

The claim for this preferment is

based upon the good results and

efficient work in every department

of the public service. The party

has reclaimed millions of acres of

the imperial domain that had been

voted away during its absence from

power to unholy combines. It has

pruned the public service of

many useless offices and reduced

public expenses by the millions of

dollars. We can not go into detail

in all the departments, but will

briefly take up one branch of the

public service, the Bureau of

Pensions.

In the Presidential campaign

that restored the Democratic party

to power it was loudly proclaimed,

a cleaner administration in the pension office under the present Commissioner of Pensions, than for years.

For this purpose we will take the past six years and here is the result:

### ORIGINAL PENSIONS GRANTED.

For the fiscal years of 1883-84-85, under Dudley, the Republican Commissioner, we find from the records allowances of pensions as follows:

1883 'see Report, p. 87' allowed	38,162
1884 'see Report, p. 17' allowed	34,182
1885 'see Report, p. 17' allowed	35,767
Total in three years	108,111
1886 'see Report, p. 11' allowed	40,857
1887 'see Report, p. 28' allowed	55,194
1888 'see Report, p. 28' allowed	44,608
Total in two years and 10 months	140,659

It will be seen from these figures that General Black's administration has allowed in two years and ten months 32,548 more original pensions to soldiers and their widows than was allowed by Dudley's administration in three years, and if we add the 11,300 Mexican service pensions granted under the Act of Congress, the increase of pensions granted would reach 43,848, making an average of 1,289 more pensions granted each month by this administration than by its predecessor.

To further illustrate the work done in this important branch of the public service, we will take two full years of Dudley's administration and compare the same with two full years of Democratic administration:

1883..Original pensions granted	88,762
1884..Original pensions granted	34,182
Total	72,444
1886..Original pensions granted	40,857
1887..Original pensions granted	55,194
Total	96,051

Increase in favor of this administration over its predecessor of 23,607 original pensions granted in the two years services given.

### PENSIONS GRANTED OF ALL CLASSES.

The more fully to give our comprehensive statement of the work done in all classes of claims, we take from the records as may be seen by reference to the Commissioner's yearly reports, the allowances and pensions granted in all classes:

1883..Originals allowed	38,162
Increase claims allowed	22,716
Restoration, re-issues, etc.	798
Total for the year	61,704
1884..Originals allowed	24,182
Increase claims allowed	22,417
Restoration, re-issues, etc.	1,221
Total for the year	47,820
1885..Originals allowed	35,767
Increase claims allowed	33,985
Restoration, re-issues, etc.	1,503
Total for the year	71,255
Grand total of all classes of claims allowed and certificates issued in the three years of Republican rule	184,211
1886..Originals allowed	40,857
Increase claims allowed	113,371
Restoration, re-issues, etc.	2,229
Total for the year	156,457
1887..Originals allowed	55,194
Increase claims allowed	32,117
Restoration, re-issues, etc.	2,707
Total for the year	90,008
1888..Originals allowed to May 1st,	44,608
Increase claims allowed	32,028
Restoration, re-issues, etc.	11,583
Mexican War allowed	11,500
Total for the 10 months	99,519
Grand total for the 2 years and 10 months under the Democratic administration of pensions granted & certificates issued	340,940

Making a grand total of increase in claims of all classes admitted and certificates issued by this administration in thirty-four months' work over its predecessor in thirty-six months of 149,729; or, to state it in another form, General Black issued 4,716 more certificates each month than his Republican predecessor.

### CLAIMS REJECTED.

It is well known to the reader that there has been an indecent clamor raised all over the country against the present administration of the Pension Office by the Republican press, charging that soldiers' claims were being peremptorily rejected without cause other than that of enmity to the soldier, and nearly every rejected claim has had an airing by some Republican, and the Commissioner roundly abused. It is well known to the informed that all rejected pension claims are re-opened whenever the claimant files evidence, but this

fact made no difference with the political demagogues who hoped to score a point for their party with the soldier element by attacks upon the Democratic administration. In order, to silence forever such clamorous political rogues, we here give a comparison of claims rejected, by years:

1883..Originals rejected	16,901
Widows' originals	4,512
Navy claims	876
Total 'see Report, p. 87'	22,289
1884..Originals rejected	27,537
Widows' originals	4,883
Navy claims	459
Total 'see Report, p. 23'	32,879
1886..Originals rejected	15,918
Widows' originals	3,728
Navy claims	662
Total 'see Report, p. 17'	20,308
1887..Originals rejected	7,657
Widows' originals	3,481
Navy claims	412
Total 'see Report, p. 41'	11,550

We have taken two full years of the Republican administration, and by comparing the work of rejecting soldiers' claims with that of the two full years of the Democratic administration our comrades will discover that in the years 1883 and 1884 the Republican Commissioner of Pensions rejected 13,460 more original claims than were rejected by General Black, the present Commissioner, in the same length of time.

We omitted the year 1885, in which 17,323 claims were rejected, nearly all by the Republican Commissioner who had control nine months of that year. It is not what political opponents may say, but it is the records that "tell the truth."

### FUNDS DISBURSED.

The following table showing the disbursement of funds to pensioners for the past six years, do not indicate that the Democratic party has entertained that great enmity to the soldiers so maliciously declared in the campaign of 1884 by the Republican press. Here is the comparison:

For 1883, Dudley, Commissioner,	\$ 60,494,072 85
" 1884, " "	57,296,536 74
" 1885, " "	65,063,706 72
Total in the three years,	\$183,854,316 31
For 1886, Black, Commissioner,	\$ 4,554,970 45
" 1887, " "	74,818,456 85
" 1888, " "low estimate,"	77,000,000 00
Total in three years,	\$156,373,427 30

Increase in disbursements on account of pensions for the past three years under a Democratic administration over the three preceding years of Republican rule of \$33,000,540.99.

Had it not been for the change of administrations in the pension office the soldiers of the country could not have known how inefficiently the work in that department was carried on under Republican control, and when they go over the foregoing figures of comparison in all branches of the adjudication of pension claims they must conclude that the present administration has done far more for them than its predecessor.

### PENSION LEGISLATION.

The Act of August 4, 1886, approved by President Cleveland, increasing the pensions of 10,030 maimed soldiers from \$24 to \$30, from \$30 to \$36 and from \$37.50 to \$45 per month, and the Act of March 19, 1886, increasing the pensions from \$8 to \$12 per month of 79,989 soldiers' widows and dependents, stands as a monument of justice to these worthy beneficiaries of a grateful country. General Black's administration issued these 79,989 certificates in addition to the work and certificates noted already in three months and without one cent of expense to the pensioners.

My Republican friends, we are giving you record facts, which, if rightly and honestly considered, must convince you that your party leaders stand convicted of deceit and the use of dishonest and false representations for political ends. But let us pursue the records still further:

### SPECIAL EXAMINERS FOR THE FIELD

There is no branch of the public service that has been more abused by Republican administrations than that of investigating soldiers' claims through the system of special pension examiners in the field.

It has been charged that these examiners were more directly interested in their party's success than in the work of assisting claimants in proving up their pension claims. Especially was this the case in 1884. As to how well founded such a charge may have been we will take the records of the last fiscal year of Republican rule in the pension office:

Average number of examiners in the field,	308
Soldiers' claims investigated	9,831
Reports made,	39,351
Depositions taken,	189,748
Credibility reports,	23,863
Total expenses of the examiners,	\$514,269 19
Average cost of investigating 9,831 claims each,	\$52 31

Now, for a fair comparison, let us take the year 1887 under a Democratic administration:

Average number of examiners in the field,	253
Soldiers' claims investigated,	31,010
Reports made,	26,399
Depositions taken,	140,544
Credibility reports,	33,863
Total expenses of examiners	\$427,404 30
Average cost of investigating 31,010 claims each	\$13 78

Difference in the cost of every claim investigated in the last year of the Republican administration over the last year of the present administration of \$38.52.

In the last year of Republican rule, which included the campaign of 1884, the traveling expenses of special examiners in the field, as shown in the report of that year, was \$343,551.00 while in the last year it was only \$153,180.20. To this fact we may charge the increase cost of \$38.52 in each claim investigated under Dudley's administration, and to this fact we may also charge that but little doubt can exist in the minds of the public that the special examiners in the field in the campaign of 1884 were but little less than a body of recruiting sergeants for the Republican party.

But that the writer may not be charged with selecting special periods in comparing the work of the pension office, we will take the last two fiscal years of the Republican administration and compare it with the last two years of the Democratic administration:

Average number of special examiners in the field for the last two years of Dudley's administration,	289
Total number of claims investigated,	17,283
Average cost of each investigation,	\$49 50
Average number of examiners in the field for the last two years,	265
Total number of claims investigated,	42,726
Average cost of each investigation,	\$30 90

These are the figures taken from the records and embodied in the reports for the years named, which show that for