

## The Suffrage Amendment.

The House of Representatives adopted, on Saturday, by the requisite two-thirds vote, a resolution proposing to the Legislatures of the several States the following article amending the Constitution:

ARTICLE—SECTION 1. The right of any citizen of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State, on account of race or color, or previous condition of any citizen or of any class of citizens of the United States.

SEC. 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Amendments were offered which would change this to a provision establishing universal suffrage, but these were rejected by strong votes. One was by Mr. Bingham, to amend the first section so as to make it read as follows:

No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge or deny to any male citizen of the United States of sound mind, and twenty-one years of age or upwards, the equal exercise, subject to such registration laws as the State may enact, of the elective franchise at all elections in the State wherein he shall have actually resided for a period of one year next preceding such election, except such said citizen shall engage in rebellion or insurrection, or who may have been or shall be convicted of treason or other infamous crime.

Another, by Mr. Shellabarger, known as the Ohio Amendment, with the sole exception of Mr. Bingham, having decided upon it, is as follows:

No State shall make or enforce any law which shall deny or abridge to any male citizen of the United States, of the age of 21 years or over, and who is of sound mind, an equal vote at all elections in the State in which he shall have his actual residence, such right to vote, and be an elector, such regulations as shall be prescribed by law, except to such as have engaged or may hereafter engage in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, and to such as shall be duly convicted of infamous crime.

The following are the proceedings as announced by telegram:

Mr. Boutwell then moved the previous question, which was seconded. The question was first taken on Shellabarger's amendment, and it was rejected—yeas 61, nays 127.

Yeas—Messrs. Ashley, of Nevada, Baldwin, Boutwell, Benton, Bates, Bowers, Broomall, Buckland, Caffie, Cliff, Cobb, Coburn, Cullom, Cook, Dawes, Delano, Eckley, Eggleston, Elliott, French, Gravelly, Hamilton, Hawkins, Hooper, Hubbard, of Iowa, Judd, Julian, Kelley, Kelsey, Lawrence, of Pennsylvania, Lawrence of Ohio, Logan, Logan, Maynard, Mullins, Newsum, Norris, Orth, Paine, Platts, Puley, Price, Prince, Sawyer, Schenck, Seabold, Shanks, Shellabarger, Starkweather, Stokes, Sypher, Tschell, VanHorn, of Missouri, Ward, Washburn, of Wisconsin, Washburn, of Indiana, Washburn, of Massachusetts, Walker, Whittemore and Williams.

Nays—Messrs. Allison, Archer, Arrell, Ashley, of Ohio, Axelson, Bailey, Baker, Bates, Barnum, Beck, Benjamin, Blair, Blair, Boutwell, Borden, Boyer, Broomall, Brooks, Burr, Butler, of Massachusetts, Callis, Cary, Chanler, Churchill, Clark, of Kansas, Cook, Corley, Covode, Dewoe, Dockery, Dodge, Donnelly, Driggs, Edwards, Eldridge, Eliot, of Mass., Ferris, Ferry, Field, Fox, Garfield, Getz, Gilladay, Goss, Green, Griswold, Grover, Haight, Halsey, Harding, Haughey, Heaton, Higby, Hopkins, Hotchkiss, Hubbard of New York, Humphrey, Hunter, Jencks, Johnson, Jones of North Carolina, Jones of Kentucky, Kerr, Ketchum, Knott, Kountz, Ladd, Lash, Lincoln, Lyon, Loughridge, Marshall, Marvin, McCormick, McCall, McKee, Mercer, Miller, Moore, Morrill, Munger, Myers, Newcomb, Niblack, Nicholson, Nunn, O'Neill, Parham, Porter, Pierce, Pike, Pyle, Pollard, Pruyn, Randall, Ramm, Robertson, Root, Ross, Sitgreaves, Smith, Spalding, Stewart, Stone, Stover, Tabor, Taylor, Thomas, Tamm, Trimble of Tennessee, Trowbridge, Upton, Van Aken, Van Aken, Van Horn of New York, Van Trump, Van Wyck, Whittemore, Wilson of Ohio, Wilson of Pennsylvania, Windom, Woolbridge, Woodward and Young.

Mr. Bingham's amendment was also rejected—yeas 26, nays 135.

The Democrats all voted for the amendment in the first instance, but subsequently many of them changed their votes to the negative. The question recurring on the original proposition, the yeas and nays were taken on ordering the joint resolution engrossed and read the third time, and it was ordered—yeas 144, nays 45.

The resolution was then passed by the necessary two-thirds—yeas, 151; nays 42. The Speaker, as a member of the House, voted in the affirmative.

The Cincinnati Gazette concludes an editorial on this subject:

Thus the action is a decided rejection of the principle of establishing equal male suffrage by the Constitution, and is instead a partial restriction upon the power of the States to disfranchise, being, as was argued on one side, and admitted on the other, a recognition of the power of each State to disfranchise for other causes. This result is the more remarkable from the fact that the principle of the proposed amendment suffered in the debate, and that its main advocate, Mr. Boutwell, had to admit that it would permit any State to establish property or educational or religious qualifications, and that by the first two of these the mass of the blacks might be as effectually excluded as by qualifications of race or color, and that to meet this he proposed to add to the amendment the following:

"Nor shall educational attainments or the possession or ownership of property ever be made a test of the right of any citizen to vote."

This still recognized the power of each

State to disfranchise citizens by any rule of disqualifications which did not make either race or color or want of property or of education a cause. Mr. Boutwell's addition to his amendment was rejected; for still it would have been liable to the objection that the forbidding of the States to disfranchise for specified things admitted their power to disfranchise for all other things; and indeed it would take a very long list of negotiations to establish universal suffrage in that mode.

The proposed amendment admits the power of each State to disfranchise citizens by any other rule of qualifications than those of race and color. No recognition of the power of a State to disqualify citizens was ever made in the Constitution until it was done by the 14th Amendment, and we have always regarded it as a vicious principle in that provision. The tenor of the debate, as well as the views on the amendments, show that the adoption of this proposed amendment is a decided rejection of the principle of establishing by the Constitution of the United States of universal male suffrage of citizens not disfranchised by crime, and that there was an equally decided disposition to admit in each State the right to regulate the suffrage by any other rule of qualification except those of race and color.

No attempt was made to answer the argument of so good a constitutional lawyer as Mr. Shellabarger, that under this amendment each State can establish property and educational qualifications by which the mass of the colored race can be as effectually disfranchised as by rules specifying race or color; nor that of Mr. Bingham, that under this amendment an aristocracy of property, or of education, or of sex may be created, or a religious test may be set up. Mr. Boutwell admitted this by his proposed addition to forbid the disfranchisement of citizens for lack of property or education. And the result is the more remarkable from the fact that the principal argument of Mr. Boutwell, the main advocate of this proposed amendment, was that the power to regulate the suffrage had always existed in the National Government; that it is essential to government that it should have the power to say who shall participate in it, and that universal male suffrage is essential to the Republican form of government which it is the duty of the United States to guarantee to each State.

And yet Mr. Boutwell advocated, and the House adopted, a proposed amendment recognizing in each State the power to disfranchise citizens for any other reason than those of race or color. The conclusion was in every respect the reverse of the argument, except of those who maintained, as the Democrats and some Republicans did, that the power to regulate the suffrage is wholly vested in each State. It seems to have been a compromise with these, being an admission of this power in each State, but limiting it in one particular—that of race or color. We cannot but regard this as a process of degrading the Constitution. If it is expedient or practicable to amend the Constitution in this regard, the Ohio delegation have decided upon the only principle that will stand the ordeal of popular discussion. And before that tribunal, a measure which fails in the discussion, as this did in the debate in the House, will be likely to fail in the popular decision.

We believe that the principle decided upon by the Ohio Republican delegation must prevail when this measure comes before the Senate, and that if an amendment shall be presented to the several States for ratification it will be to establish by the National Constitution manhood suffrage, subject only to such regulations as to citizenship and disfranchisement for crime as the governing class of citizens have heretofore been subject to. The proposed amendment is not only vicious in point of constitutional principle, but it is a delusion in effect, because it will not accomplish its ostensible purpose. It is ostensibly to secure the franchise to the blacks, while in fact it abandons them to be disfranchised by each State by rules of qualifications assuming the less obnoxious semblance of intelligence and a stake in the country.

## Northern Capital Going South.

When capitalists give proof of a belief in the approach of peace at the South, that boon may be safely regarded as near at hand. Such proof is found in the fact that large amounts of Northern capital are seeking investment in the Southern States. General Rousseau has recently purchased a very fine and extensive plantation near Brashear city, Louisiana, and is busy with preparations for extensive planting this incoming year.

Governor Sprague, of Rhode Island, has recently made two purchases. One is a fertile island near Savannah, on the coast of Georgia; and the other a tract of land partly within the town of Columbia, South Carolina. The former of these is for planting. The latter is admirably adapted for manufacturing, having a canal running through it. It consists of one hundred and ten acres, and was bought at \$21,000. This is thought to be on his part a first step towards negotiating with the State authorities for the entire canal, which is a water power equal to that of Lowell.

Governor Sprague has also just purchased in Florida the celebrated Dungeness estate, of 6,000 acres, the gem of Cumberland Island, in view of Fernandina, on his late visit to this State. The mansion will be fixed up for a winter residence. Senator Sprague has also purchased, on the same island, a fine plantation of 3,000 acres, which will be devoted to the cultivation of ramie, an article now in great demand both in Europe and in this country. The price paid for it is \$10 an acre.

## Velocipedes.

The impression is gaining ground that velocipedes are a humbug, and that the mania for seeking notoriety astride them in public places is an unmitigated nuisance. A number of inquisitive folks who wot of would like to be informed in what their utility or ornament consists. It has been observed that they are only useful where a vehicle of that sort is useless—that is to say, on a smooth floor or pavement; and that where they might be useful they are useless—on muddy street crossings, etc., where the rider generally gets off the ungainly thing and carries it until a smooth pavement is found again.

ful they are useless—on muddy street crossings, etc., where the rider generally gets off the ungainly thing and carries it until a smooth pavement is found again.

## St. Paul Female Seminary.

We copy the following from the St. Paul (Minnesota) Dispatch. Brother Abbott's numerous friends hereabouts will see that he continues to be connected with the above institution, which is now ranked as first class, since he took charge of it.

## A First Class Institute of Learning.

One of the finest institutions of learning in our State is the St. Paul Female Seminary, (formerly known as Mr. Rhed-daffer's School); it is now in most successful operation after 12 years of progress.

The Seminary has recently been taken in charge by Rev. R. B. Abbott, A. M., an experienced and talented educator, under whose care it seems to be even more flourishing than ever.

There are now 60 pupils in attendance, a greater number than ever before—and constantly increasing. Twenty-five of these are boarding pupils, the ample buildings of the Seminary affording fine accommodations for those at a distance. The rooms are all commodious, well lit and warmed from a furnace, and neatly furnished.

The schoolrooms, recitation rooms, &c., are well arranged. There are four pianos in different rooms, affording ample facilities for practice, while a fine set of instruments afford the philosophical and astronomical classes conveniences for study. The fine grounds around the building, and its retired and commanding location, render it peculiarly pleasant in summer.

## The Faculty at present is as follows:

Rev. R. B. Abbott, A. M., Principal—Mathematics and Ancient Languages. Rev. F. T. Brown, D. D.—Evidences of Christianity and Logic. Miss Louisa L. Smith, Vice Principal—Mental and Moral Philosophy and English Literature. Miss Corena M. Leeche—Natural Sciences, Rhetoric and History. Miss Granier—French Language and Literature. Miss Kate T. Turner—Drawing and Painting. Prof. Ludwig Hansen—Teacher of Music. Miss Laura Abbott—Assistant Music Teacher.

The greatest care is taken in all the studies, to instruct thoroughly. The grade of instruction is as high as the average of female colleges in the United States, and the development of a womanly character faithfully cared for.

We take pleasure in recommending the Seminary to the parents in our State, who have daughters to educate. There is no need of patronizing Eastern Colleges, when we have first-class institutions in our own State.—[St. Paul (Minnesota) Dispatch.

## Liquor Law Amendment.

The Indianapolis Journal thinks it would be a good thing to amend the present liquor law so as to permit friends of parties, who may have become habitual drunkards, to make an affidavit to the fact before the County Auditor, whereupon that officer should be required to give notice, by publication or otherwise, of the fact, to all persons who may have received license to retail spirituous or malt liquors in the county, not to either sell or give such party liquors of any description, under penalty of a heavy fine for the first offense, and a forfeiture of license for the second. The law might also require that a list of such persons as affiliates may have been filed against, as having become habitual drunkards, shall be kept in the Auditor's office, and that a copy of such list shall be furnished to all persons to whom licenses may be granted from time to time. As the law now stands it requires that a notice shall be given to each saloon keeper, which involves much more time and labor than most persons can well afford to devote to such a purpose. We hope the temperance committee will carefully consider this suggestion.

## Game Laws.

The Lafayette Journal says the game laws of this State should be made to harmonize with those of Illinois. In that State the shooting and taking of game is now prohibited one month later in summer and one month earlier in winter than in Indiana. It is almost certain that the clause of prohibition will be changed to a month earlier in summer, i. e., to July 15, instead of August, as it now is in Illinois, by the present Legislature. The beginning of the sporting season will then correspond in the two States. Now let our Legislature change its prohibition to the first of January, as it is in Illinois. This is very important, not only on account of correspondence, but it is required by the primary motive, the preservation of game. Especially is this true of the birds. Prairie chicken and quail should not be at the mercy of murderers in January, when it is as much as a bargain to live if unmolested. Their destruction in this month becomes wholesale through their utter helplessness. We ask the attention of the Legislature to this subject, with the hope that they will treat it as worthy of careful consideration and rational action.

## Invalid Sale of Cherokee Lands.

A letter is published from Benj. F. Butler, Wm. Lawrence, Geo. W. Julian and Wm. Johnson, on the sale of the Cherokee lands, showing that the sale of these lands was not authorized by act of Congress, and is invalid.

John Reid is out in another article, being "sixthly," which his party papers are copying. If there is such a thing as writing one's name into immortality, Reid will succeed. He thinks it a great outrage on the people of this District that he wasn't elected to Congress. It would have been a greater one if he had been.—[Greenfield Commercial.

'Velocipedagogues' is the name for those who give instruction in the art of managing velocipedes.

## Congressional.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, the U. P. R. R. Central Branch subsidy bill came up, and after the rejection of all amendments, was itself rejected—24 to 27.

In the House, on Thursday, the Army Appropriation bill, appropriating \$43,199,000, was reported and referred to the Committee of the Whole. The House passed a resolution ordering the Committee on Reconstruction to inquire and report whether any, and if any, what further action ought to be taken during the Forty-third Congress regarding the representation of Georgia in the House. The bill regarding pensions was discussed and postponed till Tuesday. In Committee of the Whole, there was some debate on the Indian Appropriation bill. At the evening session, Mr. Beck, of Kentucky, made a speech against the proposed Constitutional Amendment regarding suffrage.

In the Senate, a bill allowing appointments to the Naval Academy from the reconstructed States passed. The proposed suffrage amendment to the Constitution was debated by Mr. Stewart of Nevada, and Mr. Wilson of Massachusetts, in its favor, and by Mr. Davis of Kentucky and Mr. Hendricks of Indiana, in opposition. The first section offered by Mr. Henderson, was amended, by recommendation of the Judiciary Committee, so as to read: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any State, on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude." The second section asserts the power of Congress to enforce the provision by appropriate legislation. Before a vote was taken, the Senate went into executive session and soon afterward adjourned.

On Friday, in the House, a bill providing for the better security of life and property from accidents, on account of coal oil, was offered. A bill was passed closing the land system in States where there are less than 5,000 acres of public land. The proposed suffrage amendment to the Constitution was taken up, and debated until adjournment. Representatives Shellabarger, Bingham, Ward, Butler, Scofield, Pile, Boutwell, speaking in favor of it, the first three and the last proposing amendments. Mr. Jones, of Kentucky, spoke against it. An amendment by Mr. Boutwell, forbidding an educational or property qualification, was rejected.

In the Senate, the Committee on Pensions reported unfavorably on Mrs. Lincoln's petition. Mr. Wiley introduced a bill granting lands to a West Virginia railroad. An adverse report was made on the bill granting land to the Wisconsin & Lake Superior Railroad, and a favorable one on a bill granting lands to Minnesota for improvement of the Mississippi river. The suffrage amendment to the Constitution came up. Mr. Dixon, of Connecticut, made a speech against it as did Mr. Davis, of Kentucky. Mr. Pomeroy spoke in its favor. An amendment to the military bill was adopted, which postpones filing the vacant Brig. Generalships, and the bill passed. An amendment to the Constitution was reported, which provides for the choice of Presidential electors directly by the people.

On Saturday, the Senate again refused to allow the Capitol rotunda to be used for an inauguration festival. Mr. Henderson presented resolutions of the Missouri Legislature requesting the Senators from that State to vote for the Central Branch Pacific Railroad. He stated that before receiving the resolutions, he had voted against it. The Pension bill, as amended by reductions in committee, was passed. The West Point Appropriation bill was passed; also the Navy Appropriation bill, with an amendment authorizing the appointment of ten midshipmen from the naval apprentices. The death of Mr. Finney, late member of the House, was announced, and the Senate adjourned.

In the House, Mr. Jones of Kentucky presented a memorial of distillers and others in favor of amendment of the Revenue laws. A bill was passed giving to Assistant Collectors and Assessors who perform the duties of their superior officers, during incapacity of the latter, the full salaries of Collector or Assessor. The Constitutional amendment regarding suffrage was passed, as it came from the committee, by yeas 150, nays 42, all amendments proposed having been rejected. An hour was spent in consideration of the Indian Appropriation bill, after which Mr. Woodward made a speech against the Civil Service bill of Mr. Jencks.

In the Senate, on Monday, the Committee on Indian Affairs recommended the indefinite postponement of the bill transferring the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the War Department.

In the House, a bill to increase ten per cent. the pay of clerks in the departments, was laid on the table. Mr. Orth introduced a joint resolution providing for the annexation of San Domingo to the United States, which was laid on the table by a majority of 48. Senate amendments to the Pension and Military Academy Appropriation bills were concurred in. The House refused to suspend the rules in order to give the Tariff bill preference of other business. It was voted to devote the evening session to consideration of the new Revenue law in Committee of the Whole. The House again voted down a proposition to consider the Tariff bill. Senate bill appropriating \$30,000 to the destitute in the District of Columbia, was passed.

## Senator Pratt's Speech.

At 4 o'clock on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 27th, the two Houses of the Legislature met in joint session to listen to a brief address from Hon. Daniel D. Pratt, Senator elect. He was introduced by the Lieutenant Governor in a brief complimentary speech, when he spoke as follows:

## Gentlemen of the General Assembly:

Elected by you—the representatives of the people—to the highest office within your gift, I appear before you, not to make a formal speech, but simply to return my thanks for this expression of your confidence, and for the great honor you have conferred on me. You will all bear me witness that this result has not been brought about by any self-seeking or agency of mine. While I can not hope to magnify this office, or even to worthily fill it, I can only promise to bring to the discharge of its high trusts purity of purpose and earnest zeal to serve my country. In succeeding to the seat of the accomplished gentleman whose term will shortly expire, and in becoming the official representative of the State, I am conscious of the confidence and confidence of the country for his great abilities and services, I feel painfully the want of those qualifications necessary to make me the fit successor of the one and the colleague of the other; for you know, gentlemen, that I have been, until a very recent period, a private citizen, exclusively devoted to my profession, and that my studies and pursuits have not adapted me to this new sphere of duty. You would give little heed to mere professions uttered now, when my heart is so full of gratitude for this proof of confidence and of partial estimate of my fitness. You will judge me better by what I shall say and do in future, when my voice shall help to frame laws for the country, by the record I shall make after entering on the discharge of my duties as Senator.

The verdict of the people at the recent national election has settled many questions left unsettled by the war. Other questions remain, more of policy than principle, which demand for their solution the highest skill of statesmanship. This is not a proper time, however, to do more than to allude to them.

While the nation has decreed that the public debt incurred in saving the Union from dissolution and the country from anarchy and ruin, must be paid in good faith, yet the method, the time and manner of payments are left necessarily to legislative discretion. It devolves on Congress to devise and employ such methods as will best burden and interrupt industrial pursuits, to so adjust the taxes on the capital, the enterprise and consumption of the country, as will least affect the general prosperity, and make all equitably share the burden.

And so, too, while the voice of the people has endorsed the general reconstruction policy of Congress, many details remain to be settled by prudent and patriotic legislation, to bring back into harmonious union the States lately in rebellion. The country demands peace, order and protection in these communities where the rebellion remains, fanned occasionally here and there into consuming flame. The disaffected must be made to submit absolutely to the law. Turbulence, disorder and outrages upon life and property must be stopped at every hazard. Protection from the government is the equivalent which the citizen receives, or should receive, for the taxes he pays and the military service he owes, and he is defrauded and the government dishonored whenever it fails to render that protection to the humblest of its citizens, at home or abroad. It is his right to enjoy the blessings of life, liberty and the pursuits of happiness, and the government fails in its high mission and promise when it fails to guarantee these to all within the reach of its power.

The expenditures of the government during the war and since its close have been large, and necessarily large, but the time has come when the strictest economy in the administration of our affairs should begin. If there is anything to which both of the great parties committed and pledged themselves during the past year, it was to the retrenchment of expenses, the abolition of unnecessary offices, the strictest accountability of public officers, and efficiency and honesty in every branch of public service. These pledges must be redeemed. While our people pay this burdensome tax contentedly when satisfied that it is honestly applied, they have set their faces like flint against waste of the public revenue by their servants. They demand that all our resources from taxation be applied to the reduction of the public debt as rapidly as may be, and they demand that the expenses of the government be reduced to the lowest practicable limit consistent with its efficient administration. They demand that all schemes of internal improvement and corporate enterprises, however plausible they may seem, which look to the government for aid by way of subsidies, be postponed while this mountain of debt continues to cast its shadow over the nation. They demand that the offices be filled with competent, trustworthy men, selected solely with reference to their fitness to best serve the interests of the Republic.

I have great confidence that the incoming administration of Gen. Grant will distinguish itself in meeting these reasonable demands, and accomplishing these desirable results. I need scarcely say that, so far as my humble influence shall extend, my efforts shall be given in this direction. Waiting in my case political antecedents, that ordinarily are required by those placed in positions of power, you, gentlemen, in behalf of the people, have committed to my hand the great trust of representing, in part, our loved State in the highest deliberative body of the nation. It shall be my honest ambition, by diligence and fidelity, to justify your choice.

## One Cause of Cumback's Defeat.

One cause, we do not say it was the only one, of Major Cumback's defeat, was because he was a Christian. That sounds singular, don't it? But it is true. During the pendency of the resolution before the Senate, to censure him for his letter to Baker, not a bolting demagogue or a ranting copperhead or one of the drinking, cursing, "ring" wine pullers could mention him without sneeringly, terming him the "Christian Statesman." The two Democratic papers teamed, to the amount of about three columns a day, with stuff of the same import. One of them published Mr. Cumback's beautiful poem "Pray for Me," and underneath it a dirty, vulgar parody.

This shows the style and spirit of the opposition, which finally defeated Mr. Cumback and the will of the Republicans of the State. Has it come to this, that a man is to be ridiculed and sneered at because he acknowledges his obligations to his Maker, because he tries to influence others to the Right?

We know that Mr. Cumback would a thousand times rather be defeated, with his honor unsullied, than to have succeeded at the sacrifice of his religious principles; and we know, also, that the good Republicans of the State look upon him with pride and pleasure for so doing—and although defeated and swindled in an outrageous manner, they say to him: "Well done, good and faithful servant."—[Lawrenceburg Press.

## GREENSBURG LETTER.

THE TIMES—THE LATE SENATORIAL CONTEST—HUNTER MCLAUGHLIN LAWSUIT—SEITZ HOUSE CHANGE—WINKED OUT—TURNPIKES—IMPROVEMENTS—PERSONAL.

Correspondence of the Brookville American.

GREENSBURG, IND., FEB. 1, 1899.

It has been some time since a letter has appeared in your columns from here; and now, more to keep my promise than because of any news there is to write, I drop you a few lines. I presume that in business, enterprise, &c., we compare favorably with other cities of this size; yet I must say of the past year here, business has been dull. Our merchants are not reaping the rich harvests they did during the war, when goods were continually and rapidly advancing, and were being sold for the forty and fifty thousand dollars worth a year. Nor are our hotel keepers footing up profits so rapidly as they did when this was the headquarters of Provost Marshals and Drafts. Then our city was crowded, and money scattered to the winds like chaff. All sorts of people came to us, some in response to the direct summons of Uncle Sam; others with the patriotic (?) desire to furnish men to suppress the rebellion. It was here, and in those times, that I first formed the acquaintance of my excellent friend, the Hon. C. C. Cory, your distinguished Representative in the Legislature. But since then "grim-visag'd war" has smoothed his wrinkled brow, and it is times are duller, we have peace.

It is scarcely necessary that I should speak of the late Senatorial contest, as accounts of it have already appeared in your columns; yet you will indulge a word. As your readers are doubtless aware, this is the home of Lieutenant Governor Cumback, who figured so conspicuously in that connection, and of course our people were very deeply interested in the contest, and disappointed at the result. There is not a man or a woman in the community but that regards it as a shameful outrage upon one of the purest men in the State. With such men as Hughes, Cravens and Stein, the Baker correspondence was a mere pretext. The conspiracy was really prompted by jealousy and hate. Cumback was in their way, and if possible, must be broken down. After passing through a terrific fight, he went into caucus and beat all his competitors put together, two to one. This should have settled the question. By the established usage of the party it entitles him to the Senatorship for six years. But a handful of men resolved upon a bolt. They did it, and defeated Cumback and the people.

Every politician of any particular prominence in the Senate was in the conspiracy. But those who were there to represent their constituents, rather than mete out their own revenges and hates, were for him. They were without experience, however; and here was Cumback's misfortune. In the House, especially, the members, with half a dozen exceptions, were there for the first time, and consequently without experience in such matters. The arts of old and experienced politicians were new to them. It is no strange, therefore, that the almost solid vote of the Democracy for Hughes, after several unsuccessful ballottings, accomplished its purpose—created a kind of panic. Experienced politicians would have seen through it, and not have been in the least disturbed. But not so with the old honest farmers in the Legislature; they could not regard it as a mere feint, but thought it meant union of the bolters and the Democracy, and the election of Hughes, and this they would have regarded as a greater calamity than the reelection of Hendricks. There was no danger of this at any time. The bolters would not have dared to do it, and there was not a Democrat in either House but that would rather have cut off his right hand than have given Hughes a vote that would have secured his election. The inexperienced could not be made believe this; a few of them clamored for a change, and thus Cumback's line was broken. If the seventy men who voted for him on the first ballot had stood by him—and this they would have done, but for the fear of the election of Hughes—he would have succeeded. The constituents of the refractory members were bringing a tremendous pressure to bear upon them, against which they could not have long held out.

But the contest is over; its mistakes and misfortune can not be corrected. Col. Cumback, although defeated by bolters, can escape the reflection that he was the people's choice for the position. Their confidence in his ability, honesty and integrity are unabated. He is young, has a long future before him, and will be heard from again. I am inclined to forgive Cory for all his political sins on his refusal to vote for Hughes. He has not forgotten the session of 1897, nor have Tebbis and Bobo, when Hughes stood up in his place in the House and abused them like dogs by the hour.

An important and tedious law-suit, involving more than seven thousand dollars, is now in progress in the Common Pleas Court here. The parties to the suit are Nathan Hunter and Samuel R. McLaughlin, two well-to-do neighbor farmers living three miles north-west of this city. It grew out of the sale of territory in the Right of Lugenbell's Patent Ditching Machine. Lugenbell sold the territory to McLaughlin, took his notes, assigned them to Hunter, and Hunter brings suit upon the notes. The defense is fraud, failure of consideration, &c. McLaughlin was young, honest and unsuspecting, and Lugenbell, with the aid of Hunter, who seems to have acted as a kind of stool pigeon in the transaction, (pretending that he was buying territory at large figures himself) took McLaughlin in and "did him up" in the sum of eight thousand dollars. Already six or eight days

have been consumed in the examination of witnesses, and it will likely take up the greater portion of the present week. McLaughlin seems to have the sympathy of all outsiders, as between himself and his more shrewd and calculating neighbor, it would be mere guesswork to say what the end will be. Wilson, Gavin & Miller are attorneys for Hunter; and Cumback & Bonner, and Wilson Morrow Esq., well known to the Brookville bar, for McLaughlin.

The Seitz House changed hands to-day—Mason & Son, formerly proprietors of the Palmer House, Indianapolis, taking it on a lease of three years at eighteen hundred dollars a year. It is a fine new building, completely furnished, and in charge of the Masons it is useless to say that it will become one of the best and most popular Hotels in the country.

The Herald (Democratic organ of this county) yielded up the ghost soon after the Presidential election. Democratic newspapers are short-lived in this county, scarcely any of them ever having reached the age of one year. Conner (the Herald man) came near making it a success when any one who has tried the experiment here for years, and deserved more substantial encouragement from his party than he received. The party, though, as a mass, are not readers, and that tells the whole story. Mr. Conner, believe, talks of trying his fortune in the newspaper business at some other point, and in a business way I wish him every success.

Extensive piking operations will commence in this County this Spring. Several companies were organized under the late law, last session, and work commenced. Still other companies will organize this season, should the Legislature not repeal the law. This, however, from present appearances, is hardly probable. It will certainly be amended so as to relieve it of many of its inequalities and hardships. The action of the Legislature on the subject is awaited with a great deal of anxiety by those more directly interested. Whilst at Indianapolis, a few days ago, I ran across several of our most substantial old farmers, working like beavers in the field, and who, when asked, were sure, were having their first experience as lobbyists. Decatur, like a good many other Counties, has her blood up over the question, and Turnpike Legislators have stood from under.

Improvements in the way of building promise to be extensive as usual here the coming season. John P. Hittle is remodeling his store building on the southwest corner of the Square, and will put up a side iron front. Chas. Zoller is making preparations to remodel his business building on the north side, Lee P. Lathrop, one of the proprietors of the Citizens Bank, will complete his large brick dwelling which was enclosed last season. When completed, it will be one of the largest and finest residences here. The Presbyterians will complete their Tabernacle. The Christians have purchased a lot, and will put up a large church building. Other improvements, too numerous to mention, are in contemplation.

The many old Franklin County friends of Sam'l S. Shirk Esq., will regret to learn that his health is not improved.

Among the arrivals from a distance in attendance at our common Pleas Court last week, I noticed E. S. Swift Esq., of the firm of Hanna & Swift of Ohio.

Dr. John M. Craig, formerly of Mt. Carmel, has just returned from New York, where he has been in attendance upon a course of Medical Lectures.

I forgot to mention, in speaking of the improvements going on, that Mr. Dunsmore, recently from your County, is putting up a fine brick residence. Mr. D. is one of our most energetic and stirring citizens. Can you not send us a few more of the same sort?

DECATUR.

## Union Pacific Railroad.

One thousand miles of the Union Pacific Railroad are now in actual operation, and but little more than two hundred and fifty miles of track remain to be laid, which suggests the idea that by the next anniversary of our nation's birth day we may ride from the Atlantic to the Pacific by rail. At the beginning of the year 1868, only 40 miles of the road had been constructed; during that year, 265 miles were laid; during 1867, 275; during 1868, nearly 500—that is to say, more than a thousand miles of track were laid in three years.

The energy and determination with which this great enterprise has been pushed forward, should challenge the admiration of every friend of progress and civilization. It is without a precedent in the annals of railroad building. Its earnings, for local business alone, during the past year, amounted to over five millions of dollars; and when it is opened from sea to sea, its national value, no less than its prosperity, will be exceeding great. The iron horse is a great civilization, and will do more to solve the Indian and Mormon problems than all the wars and vast expenditure of money by the Government.—[Joumal.

## NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

## TO THE PUBLIC.

NOTICE is hereby given that I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by my son, George Conrad, as he ran away from his home last Fall and has remained away since then. I will not pay any of his debts.

PETER CONRAD.

Feb. 5, 1899. Pipe Creek, Franklin Co., Ind.

## NEW ARRANGEMENT.