

# Indiana American.

C. H. BINGHAM, Editor.

BROOKVILLE —

Friday Morning, November 5, 1869.

## Time of Holding Republican State Convention.

It is now generally believed that the Republican State Convention will be held in Indianapolis on the 22d of February, as usual. As yet candidates are not numerous.

**\$7,363,883**

Is the amount of reduction the public debt has had to submit to the last month. These monthly announcements are the severest dispensations that are now visited upon the Democratic party.

### Tuesday's Elections.

The results of the elections held last Tuesday may be briefly summed up as follows:

Massachusetts the Republican candidate for Governor, Gov. Claffin, has been elected by a plurality of some 10,000 or 15,000 votes, over John Quincy Adams, the Democratic candidate, and Mr. Chamberlain, the candidate of the "Labor Reform Movement." The whole Republican State ticket has also been elected. The Legislature is about evenly divided between the Prohibitionists and Anti-Prohibitionists. The Labor ticket received about 10,000 votes.

Few reports have been received from Wisconsin. They show Republican gains, and indicate the re-election of Gov. Fairchild by an increased majority—say 8,000, against 4,764 in 1867. "Well done" is the verdict the State has returned.

New York is claimed by the Democrats by a majority of 12,000. This result is attributable to the perpetration of the most bare-faced and immense frauds in the city. Eighteen thousand illegal votes, it is estimated, were cast there, and it is needless to add that they were Democratic votes. And yet, in spite of these, the Democrats carry the State by only 12,000 majority. One good thing, however, the Republicans gained. The Legislature we have. The new Constitution is defeated.

Minnesota elects Governor Austin over both the Democratic and Temperance candidates, by an estimated majority of 3,500.

Maryland goes Democratic. So did Kentucky.

### Paying the Debt.

When Mr. Boutwell stated that the nation's debt might be paid in twelve years, without increasing the public burden, people were startled at the magnitude of the proposition. Nor, until the figures were shown, were they ready to believe that it could be paid in twenty years with diminished taxation. But Commissioner Wells, known to men of both parties as a careful and accurate statistician, has written a letter fully confirming the statements of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Wells takes as his basis the established fact that the excess of receipts over expenditures for the year ending the first of July last was at least forty-eight million dollars. Were no changes to be made, the surplus would remain the same.

But there are changes to take place in our favor. In the first place the eighteen million dollars required to pay extra bounties last year, and nine and one-half million for the Alaska purchase, should be deducted from the expenditure account. Of course they will not be paid again. Then the increase of the country in wealth and population will bring a steady increase of revenue, averaging fifteen million dollars, while the rigid economy enforced by the Administration effects an annual saving of not less than thirty millions. Commissioner Delano entirely corroborates these statements. The several items put together amount to about one hundred and twenty million dollars, which sum approximately indicates the surplus revenue at the disposal of the government.

After making a very liberal allowance for expenditures, (more liberal than the estimates of the government) Mr. Wells calculates that there will be at least one hundred million dollars a year at the disposal of the government. If this sum were put in a sinking fund at six percent interest, it would extinguish the debt in less than fifteen years. Or taxation could be reduced, and the burden of the people lightened proportionately, so that only fifty millions a year would be applied to this object; and the principal would be paid in twenty-three years. And if the debt were funded at a lower rate of interest, of course the burden would be much lighter and its payment easier. Here is a proof of the success of the Administration, and of its fidelity to its pledges, that no amount of Democratic argument and abuse can controvert. The Republican party will do well in the canvass to follow Horatio Seymour's advice of last year, and "push the financial argument."

### Interesting Table.

A table has been prepared at the Internal Revenue office showing the difference between actual collections and assessments. The assessments for all the States and Territories was in round numbers \$188,000,000, and the collections reached \$173,450,000. In Illinois collections were less than assessments by \$1,000,000, in Indiana by \$109,000, in Iowa by \$2,000, in Ohio by \$200,000, in Pennsylvania by \$700,000, in Tennessee by \$200,000, in Wisconsin by \$50,000, in Missouri by \$1,000,000.

### Terrible Steamboat Disaster.

The steamer Stonewall, which left St. Louis on Sunday evening for New Orleans, heavily laden with passengers, horses, mules, hay, and other freight generally, when near Neely's landing, ten miles from Grand Tower, took fire about 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening of last week, and, in spite of all efforts to save her, was burned to the water's edge. The Stonewall had on board thirty-five registered cabin passengers, five guests, one hundred deck passengers, and sixty officers and crew. Among the number were eleven women and some children.

The fire originated about ten feet forward of the deck stove, from the sparks from match used in lighting a pipe by one of the deck passengers. A quantity of hay had been stowed in the room. As soon as the alarm was given, confusion worse confounded reigned. A number of deck passengers instantly seized the yawl remaining, and floated off without oars. The pilot headed the boat for the shore while the efforts were being made to subdue the fire. In a few moments the boat grounded in water six feet deep, and about two hundred yards from the Missouri shore. A few seconds sufficed to show that there was no hope of saving the boat. In the meantime, everything available—doors, shutters, plank, mattresses, and all kinds of furniture—were thrown overboard into the river, the passengers springing in after and clinging to them for safety. About this time one of the steam pipes blew off, adding still more to the alarm, and those who were not already struggling in the water sprang in regardless of the consequences.

All except those in the yawl, nearly 250 in number, were battling for life in the current of the Mississippi. Night had gathered around them. Above the screams of the dying passengers and the crackling of the flames, was heard the shrill neighing of burning horses. With no boat or life preservers, clinging only to frail supports, scores were dying from the intense cold of the water, chilled through, with no help in sight and with no hope before them. One by one they sank to rise no more. Those who did reach the shore were not only exhausted but nearly frozen. One man, Mr. Blumer, from Galveston, Texas, died after reaching the land. Of the eleven women, three were saved; one a lady aged sixty years was saved by her son.

Soon after the fire broke out, the engineer attempted to launch the stage, but the passengers crowded on it in such numbers that he could do nothing. He then jumped overboard. They followed. One little girl still remaining clinging to a rope, let herself down from the second deck into the projecting point of the stage, and remained there until burned off, and she floated off and was saved.

The steamer Belle Memphis, on her way to St. Louis, reached the scene about ten o'clock, and gathered up from the shore all the survivors that could be found, 33 in number. Fifteen or twenty are supposed to have reached the shore some distance below, making about fifty or sixty, all told.

The conduct of the passengers and officers is said to have been heroic. Such an appalling scene has not been witnessed on the Mississippi for many years. A dispatch from Carbondale says that a party is busily engaged in dragging the river for those who lost their lives. Up to 2 o'clock Monday evening upwards of sixty bodies had been recovered, ten of which have been identified by their friends. Two or three charred bodies were found on the wreck.

### Presbyterian Union.

The New York Observer, commenting upon the recent union of the Old School and New School Presbyterians, remarks: It is the most interesting and important ecclesiastical event that has transpired in this country in thirty years. It marks an epoch in the religious history of a leading denomination, and, without doubt, it will have a powerful influence upon the religious history of the country, and we hope also of the world.

### Economy in the Navy.

One means by which expenses are being rapidly reduced in the Navy Department is the fitting out of all vessels of war with full sets of sails. This change is now nearly completed, and orders have been sent to all squadrons to cease using coal altogether, except in cases of necessity, and even then a full report of reasons must be sent to the department. If these are not deemed sufficient, the cost of the coal used is charged to the officers ordering it to be burned. Aside from saving expense, however, the design of the order is also to restore a knowledge of managing sailing vessels, to which little attention was given by our steam navy during the war.

### Another Polar Voyage.

Dr. Bayes announces a Polar voyage for 1870. The only great geographical problem that is left for man to solve, he proposes to again attempt. The Nile has rendered up its secrets; Africa is no longer an unknown land; Ormus and Ind and the farthest East have become our neighbors. But to the mysterious regions of the North men still turn their eyes wistfully. That success may wait upon his motions, science is putting forth her best energies.

General Butterfield's resignation as Assistant Treasurer, at New York, will not be accepted until his successor shall be appointed, which will take place this week.

### Bad News for Pendletonians.

The public debt statement shows a reduction for October of over seven million dollars. The following table gives the principal items of the statement:

LIABILITIES.	
Increase in coin interest .....	\$8,911,182 25
Increase in fractional currency .....	4,034,143 88
Decrease in gold certificate .....	4,316,262 92
Decrease in three per cent. ....	2,045,362 59
Decrease in interest notes .....	182,491 04
Decrease in demand notes .....	138,586 06
Net increase in liabilities .....	15,044,888 17

ASSETS.	
Increase in coin .....	\$19,005 88
Increase in currency .....	659,291 12
Increase in sinking funds .....	2,134,842 92
Increase in special bond purchase .....	11,045,384 92
Decrease in three per cent. ....	2,045,362 59
Net decrease for the month .....	7,634,882 75
Total decrease since March 1st .....	64,332,070 65
Coin balance in the Treasury .....	116,994,711 00
Less gold certificates .....	28,731,320 00
Net gold balance .....	88,265,911 00
Currency balance .....	7,244,295 24
Net cash in Treasury .....	93,311,386 92

Monetary.

Gold has had lower range in New York, during the past week, than for several years past. There was a slight recovery, on Saturday, from its downward tendency; but this was lost on Monday, and it has ruled at still lower points than on any day of the week. The latest quotation is 127.

### Not a Bad Suggestion.

Treasurer Spinner will recommend, in his report, that the amount received and accredited as conscience fund, and that received from the sale of specimen fractional currency, which is not redeemable, be transferred to a sinking fund, and applied to the payment of the national debt. The former is nearly \$114,000 and the latter nearly \$23,000.

### Opinion of Grant's Character.

The London Post, commenting on the action of Gen. Grant in regard to gold speculations, says the habits of life of President Grant are a sure guarantee that he will do his duty impartially to all parties. His character as a soldier will protect him from temptations to which those who make politics a trade frequently yield.

His judgment as a statesman remains to be tried. Thus far he has given evidence of statesmanlike prudence and good temper. The temporary failure of the Alabama negotiations led him to wisely postpone the reopening of the subject. The course he has pursued with respect to Cuba proves that however anxious for aggrandizement of the Union, he is resolved to observe faithfully the duties prescribed in international law.

### Schism Among the Mormons.

The following is an extract from a private letter from a well informed gentleman living in Salt Lake to one of the editors of the Chicago Tribune:

"The schism, of which you may have heard while here, is working. Stenhouse, and all the editors and proprietors of the Utah Magazine, have been suspended, and they stand firm, and they will, they will be cut off. It is only valuable as showing what may be expected when the overpowering will and interest of Brigham Young shall have been removed—a revolution, proceeding from the heart of the church itself, enthroning the majority of the people instead of God, of course putting down the absurd idea of daily revelations, with which, as it is based upon it, would go polygamy and the preposterous scheme of empire to which they are now so fanatically devoted."

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### The Richmond Dispatch, speaking of the Tennessee Senatorship, says:

"The fate of Mr. Johnson is well merited. We should be far better off had he never lived, and we trust we have seen the last of him."

The Department of Agriculture reports that the state of the cotton crop attests ample sufficiency for all the wants of the country, and that the conditional estimate of 2,750,000 bales can be exceeded.

It is rumored that an investigation will be ordered by Congress into the gold speculations among the first business of next session, as people everywhere want to know who are concerned. The investigation will be thorough.

Very respectfully,

GEO. S. BOUTWELL, Secretary.

Secretary Boutwell has addressed the following letter to Treasurer Spinner:

TREASURY OF THE UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON, November 1, 1869.

SIR: In answer to your letter of October 30th, stating that you have \$177,277 50 in gold interest due this day on bonds purchased for the sinking fund, and \$376,636 50 in gold interest due this day on bonds specially purchased to await the action of Congress, and asking instructions as to the disposition of these amounts, I have the honor to say that you will sell all of said gold, and with the proceeds purchase bonds, and add the same to the respective funds from which the gold was received; that is, the gold received as interest on the sinking fund bonds to be expended for the purchase of bonds, and added to that fund, and that received from the bonds specially purchased to be added thereto.

Very respectfully,

GEO. S. BOUTWELL, Secretary.

In addition to the above there was, on the 1st of July, \$139,740 gold interest taken, and with it \$153,500 of 5-20s purchased and added to the sinking fund.

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In the meantime, everything available—doors, shutters, plank, mattresses, and all kinds of furniture—were thrown overboard into the river, the passengers springing in after and clinging to them for safety. About this time one of the steam pipes blew off, adding still more to the alarm, and those who were not already struggling in the water sprang in regardless of the consequences.

All except those in the yawl, nearly 250 in number, were battling for life in the current of the Mississippi. Night had gathered around them. Above the screams of the dying passengers and the crackling of the flames, was heard the shrill neighing of burning horses. With no boat or life preservers, clinging only to frail supports, scores were dying from the intense cold of the water, chilled through, with no help in sight and with no hope before them. One by one they sank to rise no more. Those who did reach the shore were not only exhausted but nearly frozen. One man, Mr. Blumer, from Galveston, Texas, died after reaching the land. Of the eleven women, three were saved; one a lady aged sixty years was saved by her son.

Soon after the fire broke out, the engineer attempted to launch the stage, but the passengers crowded on it in such numbers that he could do nothing. He then jumped overboard. They followed. One little girl still remaining clinging to a rope, let herself down from the second deck into the projecting point of the stage, and remained there until burned off, and she floated off and was saved.

The steamer Belle Memphis, on her way to St. Louis, reached the scene about ten o'clock, and gathered up from the shore all the survivors that could be found, 33 in number. Fifteen or twenty are supposed to have reached the shore some distance below, making about fifty or sixty, all told.

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