

THE PARDONING POWER.

Answering the Slanders of Political Charlatans.

Figures Will Not Lie, and the Hon. John E. Neff Furnishes Them.

OFFICE SECRETARY OF STATE, INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., July 25, 1878.

To the Editor of the Sentinel:

—So much has been said and so many false statements made regarding the exercise of the pardoning power by Governor Williams, it is just that a full, fair and candid statement of the facts should be made public. It has been charged that the record of pardons issued by Governor Williams has been kept secret, and that the public have been refused an inspection of the same. This statement is wholly false. All the records pertaining to the granting of pardons have been kept among the other public records of this office, and at all times open to public inspection. As regards the records in the governor's office, they are private, belonging to him individually, from which he makes his report to the legislature. This record in the governor's office was first kept during Governor Baker's administration. During the administration of Governor Morton the records of pardons were so imperfectly kept that it is extremely difficult to ascertain anything about them. In order that the public may form some idea of how the records were kept during Governor Morton's administration, we produce the following entry, made on page 61, of record F, register of pardons and communications:

These pardons are taken from a memorandum kept by C. P. Jacobs, private secretary to Governor Morton. He did not keep a memorandum. W. R. HOLLOWAY, Col. A. D. C. GOVERNOR MORTON.

During the time of Governor Hendricks' administration his private secretary, Mr. Sam'l R. Downey, has kept a complete record of all pardons granted in the governor's office, and during my term as secretary of state we have kept in this office a full and complete record, including a copy of the pardon issued, and this record has been kept open to the public the same as all the other records of this office. It has also been charged that Governor Williams has been exceedingly liberal in the exercise of the pardoning power, and has grossly abused this privilege as conferred on him by the constitution of the state. We propose to answer this charge by a comparison. In the year 1869 there were confined in the state's prison:

North 339
In the state's prison south 392
Total 731
During that year Governor Baker issued 80 pardons.

In the year 1870 there were confined in the state's prison north 295
In the state's prison south 383
Total 682
During this year Governor Baker issued 89 pardons.

In the year 1872 there were confined in the state's prison north 341
In the state's prison south 403
Total 744

During this year Governor Baker issued 62 pardons. During the four years of Governor Baker's administration, while the number of prisoners confined in the two prisons averaged about 700, the number of pardons issued by him averaged about 72 per year. During Governor Hendricks' administration the number of prisoners averaged about 900, while the pardons issued by Governor Hendricks averaged about 58 per year. Since Governor Williams' administration there have been confined:

In the state's prison south for the year 1877 500
In the state's prison north 646
Total 1,236

During the year 1877 Governor Williams issued 66 pardons. There are now confined in the state's prison south 623
In the state's prison north 635
Total 1,308

During the last six months and 15 days Governor Williams has issued 60 pardons.

We have made no comparison with Governor Morton's administration, for the reason that the records are so imperfect that no comparison can be made. When we take into consideration the large increase in the number of convicts confined in our state prisons, the fact is apparent that Governor Williams has not exercised the pardoning power with any greater liberality than his predecessors. It must also be remembered that our prisons are overcrowded, and do not afford capacity to accommodate the prisoners confined within their walls. Nearly four hundred are liable, the state being unable to contract their labor; the state's prison south has not cell room to accommodate its inmates, and nearly two hundred have to be provided with sleeping apartments in the chapel. A large number of the pardons recently issued by Governor Williams are convicts whose time of imprisonment had nearly expired, and were issued as a matter of necessity to relieve the over-crowded condition of the prisons. This is a fair statement of the facts, and is made in justice to the public and Governor Williams.

Respectfully yours,
JOHN E. NEFF,
Secretary of State.

SOLDIERS' REUNION.

Annual Meeting of the "Boys in Blue" at Farmersburg.

The fourteenth annual reunion of the soldiers of the Wabash valley, held at Farmersburg, was a success in every particular. The crowd came from all directions, on foot, by rail, in wagons and on horseback. It was truly a gathering of yeomanry, and the day was one never to be forgotten. Some six thousand people were in attendance from Knox, Sullivan, Vigo and other counties. The day was inaugurated by music disbursed by the "Sullivan Silver Band," who did much towards enlivening the occasion by their playing. After the music prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Tansey, of Carlisle, Ind. Mr. Tansey spoke in a very conciliating tone of our late erring brethren, and prayed for the prosperity of our whole nation. After prayer the address of the occasion was delivered by Captain W. E. Davis, of the old Twenty-seventh Indiana. The captain gave the people an oration in every particular suitable to the time and occasion. He spoke of the cause of the war, and of the patriotism of our people displayed in them and its results. He said such a war had never been fought in the world's history. It was the life and strength of Americans pitted against each other in a civil strife, father against son, brother against brother, each battling for his supposed rights. But now peace had settled over our glorious country, and we

should all cultivate a spirit of reconciliation and brotherly love. The speech was one unusually free from political allusions in such gatherings, and will doubtless have its bearing. After the oration a grand rush was made for "baskets of lunch," and soon dinner was spread upon the green sward, and all were at home and did full justice to the bounteous repast spread out before them. Your correspondent was the invited guest of Captain Elias Gaskous of Sullivan county. The captain's wife acted the hostess for the famished ones. Seated around the "spread linen" were the Hon. W. E. Davis, the speaker of the day; the Hon. John Briggs, of Sullivan, Ind.; the Rev. Tansey, our worthy chaplain of the day, a courteous, clever gentleman; Mr. Register, candidate for representative from Sullivan county, (as the gentleman is on the national ticket we will console with him after the race); the host and hostess and your correspondent. After the inner man had been "done for," the balance of the day was put in different ways. The wish of all was for another reunion.

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NOTICE

TO—

CONSUMERS

OF—

TOBACCO

—

THE WEST SPEAKS.

"BEST PILL IN EXISTENCE."

THE first dose produces an effect which often astonishes the sufferer, and in a short time follows an appetite, good Digestion,

SOLID FLESH & HARD MUSCLE.

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