

By H. McC. STOOPS.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1893.

The *Press* of last week attempts to throw light on the bridge question, but instead throws some very cold water on the subject. The trap was sprung and the young editor walked right in and was caught. The *Press* says there are written contracts with the Indians' bridge company for the bridges that have been built. The editor has searched the auditor's office from top to bottom and the only evidence that is thrown on the subject is a bill from the company for \$3,262, with a credit of \$1,250, leaving a balance of \$2,262, which was ordered paid by the commissioners at their last special session. Four of these bridges were bought December 31, 1892, at a cost of \$1,026, while the other two were bought one at a time, the first one July 30, 1892, and the last one January 23, 1893, at a cost of \$1,900. No one is disputing the fact but what the bridges were needed and that badly, but simply the way the board of commissioners have of doing that kind of business. If the editor of the *Press* will read section 4246 of the revised statutes of Indiana, he may learn something to his advantage before discussing this matter further. That section of law states very plainly that a contractor must give bond for the faithful performance of such work. Was there a bond given in this case for the faithful performance of the work? If there was it is still in the inside pocket of some county commissioner. THE DEMOCRAT is not charging any crookedness in the matter at all, but simply the loose methods of doing business. A bridge company, or any other person, with whom there is no contract, could set up another bill and ask the commissioners to allow the same, although a verbal contract had been made. What would be the result? Simply this: that the board would either allow the claim or have a first-class law suit on their hands. But the *Press* says the auditor can explain why the contracts are not on record, as it is his duty as clerk of the board to keep a record of its proceedings. That is just what the auditor has done, made up the record in accordance with the county commissioners' orders and which is signed by them. It is their record, not the record of the auditor. The auditor has never seen the contracts, if there are any, or no one else unless it be the commissioners who still keep them hid in an inside pocket. The methods of the commissioners in building these bridges have been irregular from the start. It is generally the case that when bridges are built they are given to the lowest responsible bidder, who is required to give bond for the performance of the work, but in this case the people are at a loss to know just how it was done. The *Press* further says that the board will "institute a reform in this matter and see that all bridge contracts are hereafter recorded in full." Thanks to THE DEMOCRAT's effort in seeing that all things are well done. Reform sometimes is necessary. It is not necessary to further continue this article and in summing up the whole thing, truthful answers to the following might be of interest to the public:

When were these bridge contracts let?

By whom were the contracts let?

Who is now in possession of the said contracts?

What resident citizens went on the bond of the bridge company?

Why were they not given in for record at the time they were made?

And, again, the *Press* asks that we examine the records and contracts. What contract?

After the 4th of March, for the first time in thirty-two years, the democratic party will have complete ascendancy in both branches of congress and in the executive office. During the first Cleveland administration, though the house was democratic and the senate republican, admission of new states warranted the claim made by the republicans at the time of the admission that they were preparing for long control of the senate. They felt that if by any chance a democrat would be elected in 1892 he would still be confronted by a republican senate. The plan which gave the rotten borough of Nevada to the sisterhood of states and two republican senators were repeated with numerous western territories that gave promise of republicanism, while territories democratic were refused admission to the union. The plan was cunningly contrived, appeared to be far-sighted, and caused the most sanguine democrats to feel that within a generation it was hardly probable that democrats could look for control of the senate.

But what is the situation today, or what will it be after the inauguration of President Cleveland? The senate will be absolutely in control of the democrat party. The term of twenty-nine senators expires on the 4th of March. Eighteen of these were chosen as republicans and eleven as democrats. In the present senate the democrats have thirty-nine, the republicans forty-seven, the populists two, the republican majority being six. In the new senate the situation will be almost reversed. Elections have not yet been had in Montana and Washington. It is probable that Montana may send a democrat. But whatever may come of the vacancies it is clear that the democrat controls the senate. Controlling the house and entrenched in the executive mansion the party becomes responsible absolutely for the conduct of the government. It has work to do and will be judged by its success or fail-

ure. It can have no excuse to offer to the people if it does not accomplish all that it has promised. There is no longer a lion in their path, no longer a republican senate to counteract a democratic house. The party will be free to act, and if it fail in any serious point it cannot present the excuses that heretofore have been accepted.

TOMORROW is democrat day in Washington City, at which time Grover Cleveland will be inaugurated as president for the second time of one of the grandest republics that have ever shone on. It is a grand triumph for the persevering and never-tiring democracy of the United States, who have ever been watchful to the interests of the masses against the classes. Grover Cleveland in naming his cabinet of advisers has picked clean, capable and honest men, not so much for the political strength, but for their business qualifications. He is to be commended on his selections taken as a whole. All things will be democratic in a few months, when it will be seen that the great democratic leaders will bring things out of chaos into which they have been thrown by the policy men of the republican party. The first thing to be done will be the revision of the infamous McKinley rubber tariff bill.

The Indianapolis *News* in speaking of Judge Parrott, congressman from this district, and who will be succeeded by Hon. A. H. Taylor, of this city, says: "Of the retiring members of the venerable Judge Parrott, of Evansville, will hold a place in the memory of his colleagues in the fifty-first and fifty-second congresses as one of the oldest men in that body as well as the most picturesque. Entering his congressional career in the midst of a stormy contest, naturally he attracted much attention. It may be truly said of him that after his four years of service he retires with not a single enemy on either side of the chamber. Kind-hearted, generous and deferential, he possessed the good will of all the members, the employes and others with whom he came in contact.

Why do newspaper men use big words when smaller ones would be more to the point? This is a question that has been asked hundreds of times and has never been answered satisfactorily by anyone. Our opinion is that they use the words from sheer force of habit. Editors are well-educated men (or they are supposed to be, which amounts to the same thing) and they can no more help using big words than a fly can help getting stuck in molasses. Another opinion is that in order to conceal their ignorance they use words which they do not understand. The latter opinion comes nearer hitting the mark.

MAJOR LIEU HALFORD has been detailed for a trip to Europe as paymaster for two or three people who could have been paid as well without him. But Harrison is a grateful man when gratitude is at the expense of the treasury rather than of his own pocket. No one will deny that he owed Major Elijah the trip, and this way of discharging the debt is, after all, somewhat more respectable than petty larceny.

GOV. MCKINLEY, of Ohio, the apostle of protection, is compelled to take a dose of his own kind of medicine as prescribed in his famous tariff bill. McKinley endorsed for a friend who engaged in the manufacture of spittoons for campaign purposes, and not having any further use for such a plant the owner fails and McKinley finds himself involved to the amount of about \$90,000.

SENATOR WIGGS introduced a bill into the senate last Friday to change judicial circuits in the First-congressional district. The bill proposes to make a circuit of Vanderburgh, one of Posey and Gibson, and one of Dubois and Pike. The measure is likely to become a law. It passed it will give Pike county four terms of court of five weeks each per year.

AS SOON as President Cleveland is inaugurated John W. Foster should be recalled from France, and some one sent to represent the United States before the Berlin Sea arbiters who will be more a representative of the American people than he is of the Steve Elkins clique of speculators.

GIL SHANKLIN has a mania for being interviewed. During the past twenty days Gil has arranged two interviews each day. Is it possible that he has taken to doing penny-a-line work for metropolitan newspapers. It is understood that he is booked for an Alaskan appointment.

ANOTHER new apportionment bill for legislative purposes has been introduced into the house. This bill if passed will give Knox and Pike counties two joint representatives and one senator. This will suit the people of Pike county admirably and don't you forget it.

A Correction.

MR. EDITOR.—The Oakland City papers and the *Press* announced in their last issues that the Oakland City college and the Winslow normal are to meet Tuesday, March 7, at Mrs. Charles Ward's at 3:00 p. m.

Minerd Burress returned last Saturday from an extended visit in the south. The Shubert company did not appear at the opera house Monday evening owing to the sickness of members of the company. They will appear here sometime next week.

Geo. B. DeTar.

S. G. Davenport made a business trip to Indianapolis last week.

Mrs. Sadie Spike, of Washington, is visiting in the city.

John J. Eiser, the well known grocer, is dead. Saturday morning his son George went in to look him up to have breakfast and think him. He was tired and sleeping concluded to let him rest. An hour or so after Mrs. Eiser went to the bedroom to awaken him and at once noticing something wrong hastened at once to the store and informed her husband, who immediately secured medical aid. Upon the arrival of the physician it was learned that he had been stricken with apoplexy. All that was known in medical circles to resuscitate the sufferer was tried, but without producing any favorable result. He was never conscious at any time after being found helpless in the morning and at noon life passed away. The deceased was born in Baden, Germany, July 24, 1828. He came to Petersburg about forty-two years ago and engaged in the cigar trade, of which he was an expert workman. He followed that branch of trade for some years, and then added groceries to his line of business, in which he had been engaged until his death. Coming to Petersburg when it was but a small hamlet and during the early days of the canal, he grew up with the town, keeping company and its people, until he was known by all its people as "Uncle John." He was one among the few men who have helped in a large measure in building up Petersburg and making it what it is today. He was industrious and hard-working and looking forward to the further advancement of the city's interests. He was an honored member of the Masonic and I. O. O. F. orders, of which he had for many years been treasurer, and being one among the oldest members of the organizations in the city. In his earlier days he was one of the leaders in all the work implies, and was for years either a member of the town council or the school board, and always while a member of either, took great pride in keeping up with the times, and yet being economic in his duties. A good, honest and patriotic citizen has been taken from our midst to his just reward. The funeral services occurred Monday afternoon at the C. P. church, Rev. Yokley officiating, and assisted by Revs. Freeman and Bain. After the funeral services the orders of which he was a member took charge of the remains and interred them in the beautiful Walnut Hills cemetery. A large number of the G. A. R. Post attended in body in honor of the deceased.

Major H. D. Lockhart took charge of the remains and interred them in the beautiful Walnut Hills cemetery. A little fight took place near Needmore last Friday between two boys. No bones broken, but some slight scratches and bloody noses.

Specimen Cases.

S. H. Clifford, New Cassel, Wisconsin, was troubled with neuralgia and rheumatism, his stomach was disordered, his liver was affected to an alarming degree, apparently prostrated and confined to his bed.

His pulse was weak and he was unable to move his limbs.

He was treated by Dr. Miles' Pills.

He was soon well again.

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Out Again.

Prisoners Escape From the Piano Box Jail.

Walked Out the Door Tuesday Evening Just Before Dark.

McAtee and Lockhart Take to Their Heels and Put Out for Tall Timber.

Nothing Heard of Them After Leaving Town—The Sheriff Offers \$50 Reward.

Black Oak Items.

Birthday dinner are the order of the day here.

White river is slowly receding within its banks.

Robert Miley is contemplating a trip to Sammamish, Illinois.

Henry Miley is going into the farming business this spring. Success.

Miss Flora Harper and Miss Mary Burdette attended the last day of the

Neelmore schools.

The Needmore school, conducted by Miss Lula Harper, closed fast Friday with appropriate exercises.

Carrollton, who has been visiting friends at Linton, Indiana, for the past two weeks, returned last Wednesday.

Misses Fannie Elkins and Julia Arnold, two charming young ladies of Blackton, attended the closing of the Needmore schools.

Misses Etta Miley, Cassie Leighty, Lulu Boger and Miley Quackenbush, four charming young ladies of the Needmore schools, attended the closing of the Needmore schools.

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Rambler.

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