

THE PLYMOUTH WEEKLY DEMOCRAT.

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J. G. OSBORNE & Editors.

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA:

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1865.



Among the important bills which passed the House of Representatives of this State, but which failed to pass the Senate, are the following:

The soldiers voting bill, the White Water Valley Canal bill, to enable the Government to pay into the State Treasury a balance of about \$116,000, received from the United States on account of military expenditures, a bill to pay the State's indebtedness to the Sinking Fund, and a bill to authorize the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to invest the money in their hands, being over \$600,000 in amount, in stocks of the State. The loss of this bill is a public misfortune, as there is no other resource than to distribute the fund among the counties, to be loaned out, while many of them report that they cannot find borrowers for the small amount of school funds now in their hands.—*M. C. Republican.*

We invite attention to the last sentence in the above editorial of our neighbor.—The bill referred to authorized the investment of all the money on hand in state stocks, and by its terms must in a short time have compelled the withdrawal from the several counties of all the sinking fund in their hands, for the purpose of placing it under the control of a few money sharks to speculate with in the indebtedness of the State. Indiana two and a half, and five per cent., are worth from 65 to 80 cents, on the dollar, and the bill authorized their purchase at par. An average of at least 33 per cent. on the amount on hand could easily have been made by a few sharpers under the operations of this bill, thus putting at least \$200,000 into their pockets; quite a nice little affair truly. The Republican says, "there is no other resource than to distribute the fund among the counties to be loaned out." It may be "a public misfortune" to have a few thousand dollars in the county to be loaned out at seven per cent. but we imagine the people of Marshall County can't see it. Then the assertion that in many of the counties of this state borrowers cannot be found for the small amount of school funds on hand, is mere bunkum, a simple device to catch the unwary and cover up the iniquity of the proposition. If it is "a public misfortune" that the sinking fund treasury is so phlebotomized, that the officers do not know what to do with the money, we should like to know how it is "important" that the State should pay off the debt it already owes that fund, and then have the officers turn right around and re-invest the money in the obligations of the State again, unless it was intended to enable somebody to speculate in these transactions?

Our neighbor also thinks that "the bill to enable the Governor, to pay into the State treasury a balance of about \$116,000, received from the United States, on account of military expenditures," was "important" and should have been passed by the Legislature, but he neglects to inform his readers that the same bill also "enabled the Governor" to take out of the Treasury the sum of \$250,000 to pay the United States, money illegally borrowed by the Governor. The money was procured in violation of law, expended in violation of law, and to have passed the bill would have been a full indorsement of all the arbitrary unlawful and revolutionary proceedings of "the Governor" for the last two and a half years. It may be "important" to the State to "enable the Governor" or any body else to pay into the state treasury \$116,000, but if the enabling act authorizes him to take out \$250,000 on the same account, we do not see how the State is to be benefited by the operation, perhaps the Republicans will enlighten us on the subject.

The Disgrace.

The republican papers are generally pitching into Andy Johnson for having been drunk on the occasion of his inauguration to the Vice-Presidency, and some of them even go so far as to demand that he apologize and reform, or else resign.

Verily, there is hope for the country yet. When loyalists here—oyal for such peddlars as drunk—democrats can afford to remain silent spectators of the family farce. Surely, if Johnson is so severely censured for disgracing his party by his sottishness, these who for years have been practicing all manner of corruption, and thus bringing the government into disrepute, will soon find themselves writhing under the loyal lash. They will the good time coming have arrived.

Pitch into 'em, make the fur fly, say we, scourge the rascals with a whip of scorpions, or what is pretty much the same thing, set the abolition editors after 'em.

We have been handed, with a request to publish it, the statement of conductor Hall, in relation to the recent railroad disaster at Grovetown. In justice to that gentleman, we cheerfully give place to his statement, which is as follows:

"I left the vicinity of Camp Douglas at precisely 5:25 P. M., in charge of a special train of twelve passenger cars, with 500 rebel prisoners on board. At Hannah station I received telegraphic orders, giving me until 8:40 P. M. to make to Donelson. I arrived and stopped still at Grovetown, three and a half miles west of Donelson, at precisely 8:40, and it was not yet 8:41 when the express struck my train at the rate of not less than 25 miles per hour, killing the engineer and dislocating one man's shoulder on the express train. There was no one hurt on my train, with the exception of one of the guard, who received slight injuries only. Had the express not passed Donelson until 8:40, as was ordered, and run at its usual rate of speed, which would have consumed seven minutes between the two stations, it would have given me ample time to have flagged it, and the collision would have been avoided. There was a delayed freight train on the sideway at Donelson, which the engineer of the express might have supposed was my train, in which case he would of course proceed. But he should not have done so without knowing positively whether he was correct in his supposition or not."

Practical Experience of an Abolitionist.

A letter from Nashville to The Ogdensburg Advance gives us an insight into the experience of an abolition editor, turned editor spectator:

A few days ago, Mr. Thomas, for many years editor of The New Haven Journal & Courier, and with whom I have been many times yesterdays at Fair Haven, called to see me. He is here in the editor's office, he would be if he could. He has leased a confiscated plantation up the river thirty miles and is going to farming it. Think for a moment of one of these "pizen" abolition editors running a plantation in Tennessee! But he's from Connecticut. There are about 600 healthy and hardy wenches now in the city, who receive rations from the government, and sleeping in quarters provided for them by the United States authorities. Persons who work on the plantations hire these servants of the government, paying them about seven dollars a month, boarding them and guaranteeing medical attendance in case of sickness. Thomas hired thirty of these people a few days ago, who were enjoying a state of "freedom, and took them up to his "farm." The occasion was one of peculiar interest and solemnity, and his drunkenness was plainly apparent in his actions and speech.—To "loyal" men, however, the manner rather than the matter of his speech was objectional, and his offence was against propriety, except in so far as the immorality of getting drunk under any circumstances is involved. The pious Independent will not call upon all "loyal" officials who get drunk to publicly apologize therefor or resign. It is shocked because Mr. Johnson should have chosen such an occasion for getting drunk. Herein is his great offence. Had he kept sober, and indulged otherwise in what Senator Hale terms "the profligacy and corruption of this administration," the pious Independent would not have been shocked. Had he kept sober, and interlarded his speech with exhortations that he was "engaged in the interests of God and humanity," although it might have been incontrovertibly proven that he was stealing from the treasury, the pious Independent would not have been shocked. It will defend a canting thief with ability and vigor, but is shocked by an impropriety.—Chicago Times.

A SAD ACCIDENT.—The Peru Sentinel says, a melancholy accident, perhaps fatal in its consequences, occurred last Thursday morning at the residence of William S. Gibney, in this county. A little girl, about two and a half years old was shot in the head, by the accidental discharge of a pistol in the hands of a girl in the employ of Mr. Gibney. The pistol was lying on the bureau; the girl picked it up, turned around and spoke to the little girl, when the pistol discharged, with the fatal effect mentioned. The ball entered her skull, and the physicians cannot find it. She is lying in a very critical condition, and her recovery is doubtful. She is perfectly rational, however, and does not appear to suffer greatly. Her physician thinks she may recover.

Sustain your Local Papers.

On this subject an exchange submits the following remarks, which we commend to the good people of this county, as both sensible and timely:

"When a paper is ordered discontinued because it is not liked, we have nothing to say—but when the reason given or excuse is: 'I wish to take a city paper, I cannot take two at a time,' we have a right to feel aggrieved, although our action is but little. The expense is a poor one, for the additional expense is but little. We know mechanics who depend upon their wages for a living, who take one or two weekly papers and a daily—and yet there are wealthy farmers who cannot afford to take a paper. Do such men ever think of the importance to themselves, pecuniarily, socially, politically, and as a matter of convenience, of having papers printed in their own counties? What would be thought of a county that would not sustain a local paper?"

And yet there are hundreds if not thousands of men in this country who take such paper. They rely upon others to furnish them with the local news of their county. Now, we insist that it is the interest of every property owner to sustain a local paper that is identified with all the interests of the county in which it is printed. And by so doing—by giving us the support you contribute to foreign papers—or at least not withdrawing your support from your home paper—we do not see how the State is to be benefited by the operation, perhaps the Republicans will enlighten us on the subject.

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About 500 confederate prisoners passed through this place last Tuesday en route to City Point, Va., to be exchanged. They were a fine looking body of men, and represented nearly every state of the south. They seemed highly pleased with the idea of being exchanged, expressing strong faith for the cause in which they are fighting.

FROM THE SOUTH.

"Lynchburg papers of Monday and Tuesday bring us some of the details of the raid through the upper country, which, in view of the fact that Sheridan has communicated with Grant from Columbia, we conceive to be puerile to withhold, and therefore lay them before our readers. The Virginian says that the Yankee division sent in that direction followed the Orange and Alexandria railroad as far as Buffalo river, burning the railroad bridge that point. Every bridge between Charlottesville and Buffalo, a distance of more than forty miles, has been destroyed, and much of the track torn up, though the extent of damage has not been ascertained. The nearest approach they made to Lynchburg was New Glasgow, 17 miles distant, where a small party of them burned the railroad depot. On Wednesday a party estimated at from 2,000 to 3,000 appeared at Bear creek, supposed to be making for the south side of the James river. The fine bridge over the river being burned on their approach, they contented themselves with loud curses upon our reserves, who were stationed on the other side of the river. They burned the boat of the James River company at Bent Creek. They had captured four of our scouts who were left in the hands of an equal number of their troops, who, being cut off from the main force by the burning of the Tyre river bridge, gave themselves up to their prisoners, and were brought to this city. The raiders burned every mill they could find along the James river, destroyed all the tobacco and tobacco houses, and carried away all the horses and negroes they could lay their hands upon. They shot about 300 of their broken down horses on the plantation of W. R. Cabell, below New Market, and took off all the horses belonging to that gentleman they could find. It is said that 300 Yankees crossed the river opposite Columbia on Friday, but retreated to the north side.

The New York Independent calls upon Vice President Johnson to apologize or resign because of his indecent exhibition in the senate on inauguration day. The sense of propriety prompting the demand is of course commendable, but we are at a loss to understand why it should be so actively exercised in the case of Mr. Johnson, and so dormant in cases of vice and criminality in officials occupying stations only less high nominally than Mr. Johnson, and high with duties more grave and important than those devolving upon the vice president. What was Mr. Johnson's offence? He was drunk when called upon to take the oath of office. The occasion was one of peculiar interest and solemnity, and his drunkenness was plainly apparent in his actions and speech.—To "loyal" men, however, the manner rather than the matter of his speech was objectional, and his offence was against propriety, except in so far as the immorality of getting drunk under any circumstances is involved. The pious Independent will not call upon all "loyal" officials who get drunk to publicly apologize therefor or resign. It is shocked because Mr. Johnson should have chosen such an occasion for getting drunk. Herein is his great offence. Had he kept sober, and indulged otherwise in what Senator Hale terms "the profligacy and corruption of this administration," the pious Independent would not have been shocked. Had he kept sober, and interlarded his speech with exhortations that he was "engaged in the interests of God and humanity," although it might have been incontrovertibly proven that he was stealing from the treasury, the pious Independent would not have been shocked. It will defend a canting thief with ability and vigor, but is shocked by an impropriety.—Chicago Times.

THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW YORK, March 19. Sheridan is lost again of sight. Last Wednesday he was at the crossing of the South Anna river by the Richmond and Fredericksburg railroad, and expected to turn up at White House for supplies; but the Herald's City Point correspondent says a dispatch from that point Friday states that he had not made his appearance. Scouts were sent out, and the people in that vicinity said he had an engagement with Pickett's rebel division, in which the latter was worsted. This was confirmed by deserters and exchanged prisoners, who say that Pickett's division hurried out of Richmond on Sunday to meet Sheridan. Though not reaching White House at the time expected no fears for his safety.

NEW YORK, March 20. Files of late Richmond papers show that an effort to raise negro regiments in the rebel armies has been made in earnest. The official order has been issued, and a rendezvous for the reception of recruits, slave and free, has been established. All who are received will be mustered in for the war.

Gen. Lee, in a letter written on the 10th inst., urges on the work of raising and organizing negro troops, and says he is anxious to witness their first experiment in fighting for the rebel cause.

The Tribune says it has private information that Gen. Lee has notified Jeff Davis that it is impossible, with the means at his command, to make head against the union forces now concentrating for his overthrow.

NEW YORK, March 21. The Herald's Wilmington correspondent of the 15th says: "All refugees, deserters and prisoners brought in by Sherman are being brought into this place—two steamboat loads arriving on that day.

"On the 14th Sherman left Fayetteville marching toward Goldsboro. Before leaving, the extensive arsenal was destroyed. It was the largest in the south.

"Every cotton mill and several residences were also destroyed, and six small steamers were also burned. The negroes who have followed Sherman will be sent to South Carolina, consigned to the care of Gen. Saxton.

"The rebels will make a stand, if at all, at near Goldsboro. Johnson having united with Bragg and Hardee—reinforcements having come from Richmond—give a combination with which they hope to

defeat Sherman and Schofield combined. If successful they calculate to return and crush Grant.

"Our released prisoners are sent north as fast as possible. Their condition is horrible; 30 or 40 die daily.

"Gen. Terry is to take the field immediately."

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The Commercial's Hatcher's Run correspondent, 18th, says: "Our troops here have been under arms for thirty-six hours, expecting an attack from the enemy—Movements for several days within the enemy's lines have risen to this expectation. Our troops are eager to have the attack made. An early evacuation of Petersburg is looked for. It is reported that Sherman and Schofield are moving up the Weldon road. Our troops were never in more magnificent spirits.

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