

PLYMOUTH DEMOCRAT.

G. OSBORNE & L. HARVEY, Editors.

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA:

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1867.

WILL IT EVER BE PAID?

It is estimated that the national debt is now about 3,000,000,000 of dollars, exclusive of the floating debt not yet adjusted, which, it is thought will reach at least \$2,000,000,000 more. This is, by far, the largest public debt in proportion to the population of the country, that was ever incurred by any people. Add to this, the State and municipal debts of the American people, and the sum total is of alarming dimensions. So great indeed, is the amount of interest required to be raised to keep our credit good, even among ourselves, that many leading minds are enquiring whether it is possible that we can ever pay the principal.

The interest on our public debt is not all that we have to pay. The current expenses of the government must be met, whether the debt be paid or not. The means with which to pay, are drawn directly from the laboring classes of the people. The producer is the one on whom the burden falls most heavily. He is the very center of the laboratory where the wealth of the country is originated. Without his labor, others can do nothing towards increasing the wealth and prosperity of a nation. Let it be remembered also, that

producer is being heavily taxed in behalf of the consumer, the latter comparatively free from the burden.

The holders of Bonds issued in the pressure of a fictitious public opinion, created by sharpers and demagogues for the very purpose of bringing about this state of pressure on the weaklings who then had charge of our finances, pay no taxes, draw large dividends, build fine houses, far sumptuously every day, clothe and decorate themselves in the most costly fabrics. The poor man pays for all these things by his toil, and has scarcely enough left with which to buy the mere necessities of life.

He is beginning to see and feel the injustice of this condition of things. How long will it be before the producing classes demand that taxation shall be equalized, and failing in this, how much longer will it be before they demand the absolute repudiation of these untaxed bonds? We have no hesitation in saying that we believe the time is at hand when these bonds must be taxed as other property, or they will be repudiated by the people. We believe also that this question of "taxation or repudiation" will be confined to no particular party as at present organized. Men of all parties are alike interested in it, and will act and vote together on that issue, regardless of other political differences.

SILENT FROM POLICY—THE DRIFT OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY TO A STRONG GOVERNMENT. Some two weeks ago we published a report of a speech delivered by James Hughes, one of the leading and controlling spirits of the Republican party of Indiana, at Bloomington, in which he took strong and decided ground in favor of restricting the right of suffrage and for a strong and stable government—a monarchical government like that of Great Britain. So far as the old government was concerned, he pronounced it superseded by a new order of affairs in the declaration that "the constitution was not worth the paper on which it was written." In regard to suffrage he said: "The right of suffrage has already been too much extended and cheapened in this country. While I am opposed to extending the right of suffrage to the negroes, I am in favor of disfranchising one-half of the white people in the country." At all events, we have no idea whatever, that the public debt of this country will ever be paid.

It can not have escaped the attention of the most casual observer that crime of all kinds has for some years past been largely on the increase. Murder, theft, robbery, embezzlement, adultery and every species of wickedness which the brain of man can possibly conceive have become common. Scarcely a day passes that the newspapers do not chronicle the commission of deeds which a few years since would have shocked the minds of the people, but which now create no particular sensation because of the frequency of their repetition. The good man and the patriot may well ask, why this alarming increase of crime? Is the nature of man changed from what it was before? Certainly not. Human nature is to-day what it has always been.

There are two principal causes for the present morbid condition of society. In the first place, a false system of moral training has been brought into use, whereby crime is treated as a species of moral insanity, and the offender has been taught to believe that he is, and ought to be, the subject of sympathy instead of punishment.

Another reason for the increase of criminality is doubtless found in the war but recently brought to a close. Men have in too many instances been indulged in the perpetration of offenses, the commission of which, before the war, they would have looked upon with horror.

"Familior breeds contempt," and

"He is a monster of such frightful meanness that he is to be hated and despised, but seen, yet seen too oft, alas!"

"We first abhor, then pity, then embrace."

The public mind has become much too familiar with vice, for the public good. We do not, of course charge that all soldiers indiscriminately indulged in vice and crime.

We are pleased to say that we believe the fact to be true, for otherwise, but still, no candid man or soldier will deny that in far too many instances, vice and crime were indulged at by both officers and men.

The practical question that concerns the public most is, what is the best remedy for existing evils? We are free to say

that we do not know that anything in the shape of legislation would improve the present state of things. We believe the remedy lies in the breasts of citizens themselves. Let crime be frowned down by an enlightened and moral public, and every means be used to make offenders feel and appreciate the great wrong and degradation of criminality. Let the laws be enforced, not in the spirit of vindictiveness, but with firmness, so that offenders will know that punishment certainly follows crime. If this will not secure good order in society we know of nothing that will do so.

The leaders of the radical party constantly tell us that so soon as they obtain control of civil affairs in the south, the most beneficial results will follow. In Tennessee that party is in power in every department—having all the offices and all the patronage—and yet there is more violence and crime committed in that State than in any other Southern State. It is the arena of continual strife, turmoil and commotion. Brownlow has fifteen thousand militia under arms, equipped and kept at the expense of the general government, to execute his will. How do the laboring men of the North like to pay the cost of supporting Brownlow's army, especially when it is to be used to keep him and his party in power? His administration is a fair specimen of radical rule.

The Cincinnati Enquirer publishes the official vote of Kentucky at the late Congressional election. The Democratic majority over the radicals is some 46,000, and over the radical and third party combined it is 41,593 votes. The radical vote in the State is not 31,000, of which nearly one half is in the 8th and 9th Congressional Districts. In other parts of the State their vote is merely nominal. The full vote of the State was not polled by 50,000. We think the Democracy will elect their State ticket in August by 80,000 majority.

Secretary McCulloch has just written a letter in which he says:

"The report that the condition of the finances would require a special session of congress originated doubtless with persons who want a session for purposes of their own. A session is certainly not needed, so far as the treasury department is concerned, and I have no hesitancy in saying that a special session would affect injuriously the credit of the government. We need industry more than legislation."

The trial of John H. Surratt, on motion of the government, was postponed until June 10, in order to afford time to procure the attendance of several important witnesses.

EX-GOVERNOR MORTON, A FRAUDULENT VOTER. Translated from the Indiana Volksblatt, Indianapolis, May 11th, 1867.

There is no trick too mean for our ex-Governor, now United States Senator, Oliver Perry Morton, to commit. At our city election, on Monday, the poor wretch even attempted to put in a fraudulent vote.

He drove in his carriage to the polls in the 1st Ward, was lifted out of the same and was on the point of putting in a ballot as O. P. Morton, when Mr. John Doreckier, a German Democrat, challenged him with the question, whether he was an inhabitant of that Ward. Morton could not answer yes, because he is not even a citizen of this city, having always called himself a citizen of Centreville, Wayne county, thirty-three years, and the neighbors, many of whom resided in the neighborhood when the State was a Territory, testify that the tree bore fruit forty-three years ago. The tree was a seedling. It is a well known fact that peach trees are of but a few years' duration, and this is one of the extraordinary exceptions. Not many years since the fruit in the neighborhood failed entirely, and the remark was made on a certain occasion that upon the entire ridge it was not possible to find two peaches. The assertion was true, with one single exception, and that was the tree here referred to, which contained about two dozen—Lancaster Register.

Although it has had ample time, the Journal, occupying the position of the central organ of the Republican party in Indiana, has not said one word in condemnation of the sentiments expressed by Hughes. If it was proposed to the doctrinaires enunciated by that individual, it certainly should have pronounced against them promptly upon their utterance. As it has not done so, the people have the right to infer that it coincides with the views expressed by Hughes, and that such is the platform of the party organization which it represents. Hughes says—we quote:

"All history proves that there is but one interest that is conservative, and that can safely be intrusted with the governing power, and that is the property interest." This sentiment was not uttered in the heat of debate or political excitement, but was calmly and deliberately expressed. And no doubt the opinion entertained by Hughes are those of the leading men of the Republican party. And the policy which the Journal has advocated under its present direction sustains the position taken and put forth by Hughes. The idea of the Journal all through has been to favor and protect the property interest—especially the bond-holding aristocracy, and we suppose for the reason given by Hughes, "that it is conservative and can safely be intrusted with the governing power." It favors the exemption of the wealth represented by that class from taxation, and necessarily the transfer of the burden to the laboring or producing classes.

HORRIFIC.—A son of Jacob Dice, Esq., living near Chambersburg in this county, was killed on last Saturday. He was returning from the field with a carriage in which he had placed a large rake, used to gather up corn stocks, when the horse took fright, throwing him out and entangled him in the lines and thus dragged him one hundred yards, tearing the skin entirely off his head. He lived until two o'clock the same evening when death put an end to his sufferings.—Covington Friend.

INDIAN ANTIQUITIES.—We learn from the Sullivan Democrat that a party of gentlemen of antiquarian proclivities recently excavated a mound in the vicinity of Fairbanks, and were rewarded by finding the skeletons of some thirty-nine Indians, in the backbone of one of which was found an arrow head. In a vault were also found a large pile of bones, apparently brought from some other locality. The mound was fifty feet high, and had been covered with heavy timber.

A battle with the Indians was fought in that vicinity by a detachment under Lieutenant Fairbanks, during the Indian war, but the size of the trees on the mound would indicate greater antiquity of the skeletons than that event.

The people can see from the positions boldly and unequivocally assumed by Hughes, the drift of the Republican party to a "strong and stable government." The policy of the Republican leaders is the centralization of power in the general government and the overriding State authority. The war aided these designs, and the assumption of authority by the general government, under the plea of military necessity, completely set aside the Constitution—indeed it, as Hughes expresses it, "not worth the paper on which it is written." As starting at the enunciations of Hughes appear, they only state a condition of political affairs which really exist, for the governing power of the country is in fact the property interest. In name our government is Democratic or Republican, but in fact it is what may be represented by the term of "strong government," and it is as arbitrary and despotic as the British government.

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All persons are hereby notified not to harbor or assist my wife, she having left my bed and board without cause. I shall pay no debts contracted by her. JOHN KIFFER.

Plymouth, Ind., May 30, 1867.

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ernment, which Hughes pronounces "the best government that has ever existed."

The silence of the Journal and of the Republican press of the country generally in regard to the remarkable speech and declaration of Hughes is ominous. We have not seen in a single paper representing the Republican organization a repudiation of the sentiments expressed by the man who was the leader of the Republican side of the House in the last session of the Legislature—hence we are bound to accept his enunciations as foreshadowing the future position and policy of the Republican party.—Ind. Herald.

From the Indiana Herald.

STATE ITEMS.

The Muncie Guardian tells a long story of a reputed millionaire who set all the susceptible girls of that city crazy, flirted and promised to marry a score of them, finally got drunk, got in jail, and was only released by a contribution from his lady friends.

LYNX.—Mr. Benge, of Miami county, recently shot a large lynx. It was first seen in the door yard of Mr. Jackson playing around like a kitten, and a parentally enjoying itself heartily. There was a large fierce dog in the yard at the time, but he would not go near the animal, and seemed to be in great bodily fear.

Mrs. S. M. Wagner, who drew the \$8,000 prize in the Richmond lottery, is a sister of Captain Miller, who got up the concern. Of course she is. The Millers were in close pursuit in the woods.

Yours truly, M. B. MARSHALL, L. L. PLUMB.

NEW ORLEANS, May 27.

A disputed, via Brazos, May 21, to Gen. Berizibar, My Esteemed Friend:

Viva la Patria! Queretaro fell, by force of arms, this morning, at 8 o'clock. Maximilian, Mejia, Castello and Miramont are prisoners.

BENITO JUAREZ.

Just received.

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J. J. REYNOLDS, Maj. Gen.

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At 3 o'clock, on the morning of May 15, La Crua was taken by our forces, who surprised the enemy. Shortly after the garrison were made prisoners and our troops occupied the plaza. Meanwhile the enemy retreated toward Cerro de la Campana, where our artillery caused him to surrender at 8 o'clock. A. M. Maximilian and his generals, Mejia and Castello, surrendered unconditionally.

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