

COURT HOUSE LOCATION.

Is it wise to agitate it further? The Herald thinks not. There are perhaps a two or three thousand people in this city who would on purely personal grounds from self interest prefer to have the court house located in nearly as many localities. Yet, these people have wisdom enough to know that it would be foolishness to attempt to locate the great building in accordance with their own personal whims or preferences. Three sites have been prominently discussed by our citizens, viz: what is known as the old court house block or square, on South Hill, the present location on Main and Fourth streets, and the corner of Main and Seventh streets. Without expressing a preference, the Herald would prefer any of these sites to Weeping Water, Wabash or Louisville; but we wish to endorse the prompt action of the commissioners. These gentlemen are not, as some of our people seem to think, acting in the employ of or solely for the interest of this city, but on the contrary they are solely the agents of Cass county as a quasi corporation. The first duty of these gentlemen is to select an eligible location, with as little expense to the county as possible; which includes grading and preparing site, selecting same and building the structure. Certainly in this respect all must admit that the choice of Main and Fourth is wise and economical. Cass county owned a portion of this site, holding the fee to the same for over a quarter of a century, for court house and county purposes. The site is at grade, about the center of the business portion of the city, on its Main and principal streets, and accessible to the whole county; so that upon economic grounds everybody must admit that the tax payers of the county can find no fault with the commissioners in respect to the location. The corner of Main and Seventh would have cost approximately \$7,000 or \$8,000 for the ground, with \$2,000 or \$3,000 additional cost for the grading of it and making it ready for the structure. The so-called court house square is in even a worse condition than the corner of Main and Seventh, for here the title is in the city as a public square for public buildings. The commissioners would not dare place \$80,000 of the people's money in a county building on city property. It is extremely doubtful if a legal title to this ground could be placed in the hands of the county, especially without a vote of the people of the city to donate the same; all this would surround the erection of a court house, with delays and questions regularly besides, this building would have to be placed at grade, which would damage much of the adjacent property to this block of ground, subjecting both city and county to liabilities for damage suits. The commissioners have taken all these matters into consideration and as agents of the people of Cass county prefer to make the location of the new court house at a point where it will cost the tax payers of the county the least. Our people should be reasonable in regard to this matter, and be thankful that they get the court house on any terms.

The county commissioners deserve the thanks of our people for their prompt action in locating the new court house and in the prompt steps they are taking to build it during the year 1891, and the Herald hopes none of our people will contribute ammunition to the removalists by quarreling with the commissioners over the location.

The popular branch of congress has been growing pretty steadily from the beginning of the government. In every decennial reapportionment except one—that based on the census of 1840—the number of members in that body was made larger than in the preceding decade. The house immediately after the first census was given 105 members, while the eleventh census will furnish it with 356. According to American notions this is a large body, yet the corresponding branch of the German parliament has 397 members, the French 584 and the British 670. There is no likelihood, however, that the United States chamber will ever be as large as either the British or French. Public sentiment here, so far as it has been manifested at all on the subject, seems to be averse to legislative bodies of the European dimensions.

The supreme court of Indiana has just made a decision that will have a bad effect on worldly minded men who want to pose as public spirited citizens without any cost to themselves. An Indianapolis church member subscribed to the building fund of a church, and tried to wriggle out by claiming the contract could not be enforced because entered into on Sunday. The lower court decided with him, but the supreme court reversed the decision, and hereafter church subscriptions made in Indiana on Sunday are to be considered legal obligations.

IT KILLS AT FIVE MILES.

Inside the walls of the Colt factory at Hartford, Conn., has recently been completed and tested the first of the Driggs-Schroeder rapid firing guns, which the government has purchased for use in the army. By "rapid fire" it is not meant that the new gun will send bullets with the rapidity of the famous Gatling gun, but it will send them of much larger size and with a rapidity heretofore unequalled in such projectiles. The Driggs-Schroeder gun fires projectiles weighing from one to eight pounds.

The first gun of this type to be completed and to enjoy protection and ownership by the United States government is a 6 pounder; that is, it sends a 6 pound projectile at a distance of at least five miles. The projectile is cone-shaped, and is made of hardened steel, and so great is the velocity when fired from the gun that it will perforate a 6 inch steel plate at one mile without flattening or otherwise damaging itself. Although the new gun weighs 848 pounds, so skillfully is it mounted and balanced that the merest touch of a finger sets it revolving about its axis. In this way the horizontal aim is secured. High or low range is only a matter of the gentlest touch on the breech of a vertical plane. All this is so simple that a gunner can fire the piece in all four points of the compass just as quickly—and perhaps more accurately—than he could fire a self-cocking revolver in the same direction. A 6 pound projectile can be sent whirling towards the north, and immediately another can be sent toward the south, long before the first has reached its destination.

The mechanism of the gun proper is as simple as that of the mounting apparatus. The firing is effected by means of a trigger no longer than that of an ordinary revolver. There are two extractors, each working independently of the other, so that if one becomes disabled the empty case will be safely and surely ejected by the other. The mechanical parts of the gun are completely covered by a steel band, so that it is impossible for dirt to get into the breech opening. The gun was invented by Lieut. W. H. Driggs, of the United States navy, who, with Lieut. Seaton Schroeder, patented his invention and resigned from the service in order to devote himself to its manufacture.

A LABOR PAPER SETS THE FREE-TRADER PRESS RIGHT ON WAGES.

The Labor Tribune, the official organ of the iron and steel workers, thus pays its respects to the free-traders who dishonestly try to twist the recent wage reductions in Mr. Andrew Carnegie's mills at Homestead into an argument against protection:

"The press announcement of the recent adjustment of Homestead wages was about right, but the comment was away out from straight. The comment was uniformly to the effect that, notwithstanding the McKinley bill, Mr. Carnegie, who is designated in the aforesaid as 'the Prince of Protection,' has reduced wages ten per cent in his chief plant. Of course the commentators did not know that the adjustment was made on a scale agreed to in the summer of 1889, that tariff had the least to do with it, and that indirectly. Also that the production of the Carnegie plants received very much less consideration from the McKinley bill than did other metal items. The fact is that the press commentators referred to, while fancying they were hitting the protectionist policy a hard blow, were doing pretty much the other thing. The duty on rails was reduced by the McKinley act from \$17 to \$13.44, a trifle over 20 per cent. The demand for rails fell off, and as a consequence in the rail plants more steel was worked up into billets and slabs. Hence a fall in the market price of slabs and billets, and hence the reduction in the wages which the commentators gloat over. Arguing from their own defective logic, it was a reduction of duties that led to the reduced wages, and this leaves their comment 'high and dry' as a hit at the protection policy."

Tax resumption of payments by B-rker Bros., the Philadelphia banker whose suspension took place about three months ago, reminds the country not only that the recent financial disturbance has passed, but that the wreck which it caused is being rapidly repaired. This Philadelphia banking firm was one of the largest institutions which got into difficulties on this side of the Atlantic during the convulsion. It is now on its feet again, however, and apparently as strong and enterprising as ever.

Now it turns out that all the blame for the recent mine horror in Pennsylvania rests upon the shoulders of a drunken fire boss who was too maudlin to look after his duties. Men in whose hands are intrusted the lives of others can not be allowed to get drunk, and fire bosses will have to be added to railroad engineers on the tea-total list.

The Eagle of this week contained several ill-natured threats at this locality, which are clothed in florid rhetoric, but there is an air of "we have to say something about the court house business" which destroys the force of the utterance. The Eagle should not be unmindful, however, that the sentiment of this county, as fairly expressed at the polls, is in favor of retaining the county seat at Plattsmouth. Even our inveterate enemy, Isaac Pollard, admitted, the day the county commissioners refused to grant the prayer of the removalists for another election, that Plattsmouth fairly and honorably won the county seat prize at the last county seat election, on the day Benjamin Harrison unhorsed Grover Cleveland for the presidency of these United States, and Gov. Todd, who holds the stopper for Harry Race's bottle of Eagle Vitriol, publicly admitted the same day that the commissioners were right in ruling as they did, and that he, Todd, would have done the same thing. So what is the use in trying to incite and inflame the minds of the people against the board of county commissioners, when every fair minded man who knows the facts must admit that they have acted within the strict letter of the law. We have been without a court house in Cass county for years, and everyone admits the necessity for county buildings. The county seat has been, at election after election, for twenty odd years, voted by the people to remain at Plattsmouth. Then why make such a fuss over the court house? The bonds are legal and have been so adjudicated by the highest court of the state. They were voted for "a court house at Plattsmouth." They could not be used at any other place for a court house. It is idle twaddle to curse the court because that tribunal has decided adversely to the plaintiffs in the bond case. Courts are authorized to decide such questions, and every time they do so, some one of the parties litigant is defeated and thinks he has been wronged; but it don't help his case, nor changes the judgment of the court, nor alters the status of the parties, for the defeated party to accuse the court of dishonesty. Three judges, with all the records before them, free from the local influences which surrounded Judge Broady, were certainly as apt to decide the case correctly as the one judge who first tried it, and it will be pretty hard work to make the people think otherwise. Again, the newspapers in this county, which have abused the court the hardest, have probably never read the opinion of the supreme court and dare not publish it that the people may read it and judge for themselves whether the reasoning and decision of the court is sound or not. Let fairness prevail and look at both sides of this controversy, and the Herald has no fears of the ultimate judgment of the people of Cass county. The court house is a public necessity and will be built, and there is no reason indulging in covert threats to be carried out "behind the bush" in the future.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

Judge Seales, of the Cook county court of Chicago, has just rendered a decision in the case of S. A. Kean & Co. which is highly important to all banks and depositors. The point raised was that depositors whose deposits had been made within thirty days of the failure were entitled to a preference in the settlement.

This singular claim was based mainly upon the law which makes the receiving of deposits by banks any time during the thirty days immediately prior to the failure of the bank presumptive evidence of fraud. The law itself is a self-evident absurdity. The moment a bank ceases to take deposits it ceases to do business as a bank, and in effect serves notice on the public that it has gone from banking to bankruptcy. No other interpretation could be put on the matter. To make use of the statute to create a preference among creditors would be a palpable perversion. The only excuse for the act at all is that it may be a good idea to deprive an insolvent banker of the presumption of innocence, and throw upon him the responsibility of proving that he had not been getting money under false pretenses. Such a reversal of the common rule is justified by the peculiar fiduciary nature of the business, and the fixing of an arbitrary date simply puts the matter in shape.

An appeal has been taken, but it is not expected to be pushed. The prospect is that the thirty-day depositors will join with the rest in accepting the compromise offered by Mr. Kean's friends, 85 cents on the dollar. His wife turns in real estate not legally liable for the bank's debts, but morally liable, as she believes, making, it is thought, 15 per cent more, or 50 per cent in all. If the creditors get that much they may well feel much as St. Paul said he did when he saw the sign of the three taverns.

It is the common experience of creditors that prompt settlements on what seems a liberal basis of discount is preferable to a delayed settlement. The first offer is generally the best, and the

generous creditor generally comes out ahead of the Gradgrind who is bent on squeezing out the last cent. Time seems to be a powerful factor in the shrinkage of assets in insolvency.

The Prettyman bank affairs are being adjusted more quietly. One of the trust companies has them in charge, and it is thought the assets will realize rather more than was anticipated. It surely looked upon their face that both banks had been run dishonestly, but the impression is gaining ground that in both cases the real trouble was that the head of the concern ventured too far on small capital, rather than deliberately planned to defraud his customers. This opinion may or may not be correct, but it is undoubtedly true that the public has more to fear from errors of judgment in banking than from deliberate purpose to swindle.

TARIFF PICTURES.

New York Times: "While we may do pretty well in the food line and raw material, you know we are nowhere in the reports of manufactured goods." And yet agricultural implements are manufactured goods, and protected iron and steel and lumber and paint and varnish enter into them.

The exports of agricultural implements of domestic manufacture increased from \$2,119,772 in value in 1886 to \$4,246,079 in value in 1889 or 100 per cent.

AMERICAN MACHINERY FOR BRAZIL.

London Industries says that "the Union of Industry, a large company, has been formed in Brazil for manufacturing purposes," and that a "representative of the concern is in the United States buying machinery, which includes a paper making plant, a saw-mill and steam laundry appliances. He has visited Germany, France, Belgium and England, and is reported to have declared that American machinery is superior to anything made in Europe. The price of European machinery was, he says, a little lower, but the American machines were much more labor saving."

High School Notes.

Miss Carrie Vass one of the graduates of last year has resumed her studies in the Plattsmouth schools taking a review and preparing herself for teaching.

Roll of Honor in central building for the last term comprising pupils who were neither absent nor tardy:

Table listing names of students and their corresponding term last year.

Increase..... 216 Room 4 earned the banner seven times during last term. Miss May Berry, the teacher feels proud of it and well she may with 24 schools at work to accomplish the same end.

Promotions will be made today for the purpose of relieving the wards, which are overcrowded. Rooms 8, 10 and 11 will be filled to their fullest capacity. One of the greatest hindrances to a successful school is the want of room. Our rooms are all too full to accomplish good work and for the health of the pupils this is a question that must soon be met and in a more substantial manner than in one and two room buildings. We predict one of the improvements for the city next year will be a four room school building. MUST HAVE IT.

Miss Edith White and Miss Mamie Carmack were welcome visitors to high school today.

Mrs. Atwood, Mrs. F. E. White, Mrs. Pepperburg and Mrs. Newlan were visitors at central building today, also the city editor of the Journal.

The exercise this morning was furnished by Miss Clark's and Miss Sampson's room. To say that it was a success is placing it mild. A song by Miss Clara Drummond was well rendered. She is one of Miss Clark's brightest pupils. The representation of wax works was a success in every feature and the entire program was good and highly appreciated. CLARA WILSON.

Will you suffer with dyspepsia and liver complaint? Sillou's vitalizer is guaranteed to cure you. For sale by F. G. Fricke and O. H. Snyder.

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