

# THE DURHAM RECORDER.

WORDS SPOKEN MAY BE FORGOTTEN, BUT THOSE WHICH ARE WRITTEN OR PRINTED STAND RECORD.

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NO. 4.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—U. S. Gov't Report, Aug. 17, 1889.

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### COAL MINE HORROR.

Over a Hundred Men Killed by an Explosion.

A special telegram from Scottsdale, Pa. to the Philadelphia Times gives the following particulars of a terrible coal mine explosion: An explosion of fire-damp occurred this morning shortly after 9, in the Mammoth shaft by which 110 miners were instantly killed and a large number injured. The explosion is supposed to be the result of the ignition of a miner's oil lamp, but whether this is true or not will never be known, as not a man is left alive of those who were working in the immediate vicinity of the explosion. Those who were not killed are in a critical condition and many deaths are momentarily expected.

### FIRE ADDS TO THE HORROR.

To add to the horror of the occasion fire broke out immediately in the workings. Starting from the place where the explosion occurred it passed along the tunnel into the larger workings the flame increasing in volume about every hundred yards, or wherever the gas had accumulated. Those on the bank were quickly alive to this new calamity, for the hot air rushed up the main shaft forcing them back to a more retired position. As the fire passed into the older workings the gas would ignite and a series of light reports were heard, giving warning that the fire was spreading. The machinery by which the huge fans used to force air in the mine were worked was uninjured by the explosion, and as soon as the fumes of the escaping gas moderated sufficiently to permit it they were called into requisition, and air was rapidly forced into the mine. It was thought that that would enable search parties to enter and begin at once the work of rescue. In this, however, a failure was evident for a time, and the fire burned fiercer than ever in the farther portions of the mine.

### RELIEF PARTIES AT WORK.

An entry was effected and a relief party at once descended to do its work. The scene in the mine was in every sense a horrible one. The props in the tunnels were bodily torn away and in many places blocked the passage and had to be cut away. Penetrating as near as possible in the direction of the fire a large number of bodies were discovered. Their faces were swollen and distorted and their hands clinched, showing plainly the desperate fight they had made for life. The fire had by this time passed on to the further workings and the relief party pressed forward to the spot where the explosion took place. A number of bodies, or rather portions of them, were found lying in every direction. The fire had done its work. The bodies were charred and blackened and in some cases burned to a crisp, crumbling to dust at the touch of the rescuers.

### SIXTY BODIES RECOVERED.

Sixty bodies were quickly removed to the surface by the several relief relays and then the work had to be stopped, the fire driving the workers back to the main shaft. The injured were all near the entrance to the workings and had thus managed to escape the after-damp. They were quickly given assistance.

### THE SCENE ON THE BANK.

The scene at this writing about the mouth of the shaft baffles description. Following the roar of the explosion there was a sharp concussion felt for at least a mile around. The frame shanties of the miners shook like reeds and it needed no messenger to inform the women and children of the awful calamity which had befallen them. The entire population rushed to the scene of the disaster, screaming and calling upon heaven for aid. Mothers took their children in their arms and, regardless of the cold, ran to the mouth of the mine. Once there they were helpless, and covered on the coal banks wringing their hands and trying as best they could to comfort each other. Several women fainted on the bank and were left to lie there unattended except by their weeping children. Each seemed absorbed, almost dazed with trouble. So far as can be learned sixty wives and families are left penniless by the catastrophe, and in some cases absolutely breadless, for the mine has not been working its full force for some time.

### ODDS AND ENDS.

President Moffatt, of the Rio Grande and Denver Line, travels around in a \$45,000 private car upon which, as yet, the porter hasn't got a first mortgage.

Sarasate, the violinist, netted \$25,000 by a two-months' concert tour in England. There is something more substantial than mere honor in being first fiddle.

Rose Terry Cook warns girls of a literary turn to place no dependence on literature as a bread-winner. And Rose is quite right. A good healthy husband is far more reliable.

Cardinal Manning is 82 years old and Gladstone is 81, and when the two cronies get together and talk about their boyhood's days they are as happy as old soldiers on pension day.

Lord Randolph Churchill holds the opinion that a man has learned a whole encyclopedia of political information when he is able to discriminate between a statesman and a politician.

An English guardian of the poor has been protesting against American pork and claiming that it was not fit to feed paupers upon. "I would not fatten a fool upon it." He neglected to say what he had been fattened upon.

The Earl of Lonsdale uses a splendid silver inkstand, presented to him by the sluggers Slavin and McAuliffe as a testimonial of gratitude for the trouble he took in saving them from being sent to jail for poisoning each other.

Saving dimes is the strong weakness of Mrs. D. H. McDowell, of Oskaloosa, Ia., and during a year and a half she managed to drop \$118.70 into her little bank. It is more than likely that her husband is a sound sleeper.

The local physician who says that the people are unwise in being afraid of sending for the doctor when they are sick, should be reminded that a man is not afraid of a doctor. It is only the doctor's bill that knocks him over the ropes.

King Oscar of Sweden is a cruel man. He inflicted a lot of speeches upon the people before he ascended the throne and he is now getting them together for the purpose of publication. And yet the world wonder when a nation breaks out in revolt against its rulers.

When a prominent Bostonian find himself in failing health he goes out upon the common and takes a look at the public statues. The fear of being served up in the same way always acts as a tonic and makes him resolve to live in spite of the doctors.

Emin Pasha is still dragging his coat tail across the Dark Continent and wanting somebody to fight with. And the probabilities are that he will get all the fighting he wants around Lake Victoria and be brought back to civilization on a shutter.

Chauncey M. Depew may not be popular enough to become a President, but so long as he can console himself with the thought that six hundred babies are named after him every year he need not imagine that he is in any danger of being overlooked in the race for public favor.

The King of Italy is bound to become popular. If there is a house on fire, a child run over or an intellectual dog-fight going on anywhere around his palace or where he may be staying, he scoots off to the place and makes himself as busy as if the success of the affair depended entirely upon the part he took in it.

The monument over the late President Arthur's grave is finished and paid for, and there is a surplus of \$50,000 in the hands of the memorial committee. It is to be hoped that they will not hear of this in New York. It might tempt the Grant monument committee to say that they were quite willing to attend to the disbursing of the little balance.

Hats that Will Be Missed. Chicago Herald.

One of the notable changes at Washington shortly will be the disappearance of Senator Evans' famous old hat, which will be displaced by the glossy Broadway tile of Senator Hill. "Grandfather's hat" will disappear somewhat later.

### INGALLS' SUCCESSOR.

Sketch of the New Senator From Kansas.

Judge William A. Peffer was born in Cumberland county, Pa., in 1831, and will be sixty years old next September. He went to California in 1850, and worked in the mines for two years. Returning to Pennsylvania he married and removed to Indiana, where for six years he tilled a farm in St. Joseph county. In 1869 he removed to Morgan county, Mo., where he farmed and taught school until the war broke out. Then he removed to Illinois and enlisted in the Eighty-third Illinois Infantry. He was soon made a lieutenant, and acted as a judge advocate, and then as a subordinate quartermaster for the forwarding of supplies to Gen. Sherman. After the war he opened a law office at Clarksville, Tenn., where he remained until 1870, when he settled in Wilson county, Kansas. He edited the Wilson county Courier for several years, and the Coffeyville Courier. He was a State Senator in 1874-'6, and was a delegate to the National Republican Convention of 1880. He has always been a Republican, until quite recently, when his paper, the Kansas Farmer, a widely circulated and influential journal, espoused the Farmers' Alliance cause. In the spring of last year he began a bitter warfare against Mr. Ingalls' re-election. The Kansas Farmer each week urged the retirement of Mr. Ingalls, and when the late campaign was in its inception he so directed it as to make Mr. Ingalls the principal object of attack. The result was the election of an Alliance House of Representatives; and Mr. Peffer's selection by the Alliance caucus as the Senatorial nominee.

Judge Peffer is even six feet tall; he is quite as slim as Mr. Ingalls, being unusually narrow-chested and lank of limb. Thick black hair grows over his low retreating forehead. His black eyes shine deep under a heavy brow. The lower features of his face are concealed by a heavy black beard, which reaches quite to his waist. His voice is deep and guttural, but he has a pleasant timbre. His manner of speaking is slow and deliberate, but not hesitating. Mr. Peffer has always been a temperate man, and he is now a prohibitionist. He is a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. He is a Master Mason and belongs to the Knights of Labor.

### Columbian Exposition.

The buildings to be erected for the international exposition at Chicago will be on a scale of almost unparalleled magnificence. The following from the Chicago Herald will give the reader some idea of the extent of the preparations: "The buildings that will be erected on the lake front are an art palace 275 x 675 feet, two stories, to cost from \$1,000,000 to \$1,300,000; a building for the decorative art display, 275 600 feet, two stories, estimated to cost \$250,000; a water palace, six stories, about 250 by 250 feet, that will cost from \$600,000 to \$800,000; a building for an electrical display, 250 by 800 feet, which will probably cost \$75,000 and a temple of music extending 400 feet along Michigan avenue. The latter building will cost \$250,000. The total amount to be expended on the lake front buildings, excluding the stone arcade that will stretch from Randolph street to Park row, is from \$2,250,000 to \$3,650,000. This does not include the two towers that will flank either side of the water palace. Chief of Construction Burnham has been authorized to take possession of the lake front next Tuesday and begin the erection of a temporary building to be used by the construction bureau."

### Information Wanted.

Clarence W. Bowen, Secretary of the Committee on the Centennial of Washington's Inauguration, 251 Broadway, New York, desires information regarding the portraits of Timothy Bloodworth and John Sevier, Members of Congress from North Carolina. These portraits, for the Memorial Volume, are particularly desired, to complete the list of portraits of the North Carolina delegation in Congress at the time of Washington's Inauguration.

The silver Senators are in favor of free coinage because they want the country to adopt bimetallism.

### Three Tariff Items.

The London Times says that the exportation of pocket cutlery to the United States has been seriously interfered with by the McKinley bill, which is, perhaps, a good thing so far as the American makers of cutlery are concerned, but the Times also says that the English manufacturers are proposing to cut down wages. This will affect us two ways. These English workmen are large consumers of American produce, and the reduction of their wages will be the reverse of a benefit to the American farmers. If a few of these English workmen come to this country the American cutlery manufacturers will shave wages down, and the American workman will get beautifully left.

A short time ago an announcement was made to the effect that tin plate was being manufactured in Chicago, specimens being displayed in various show windows throughout the city. A careful examination shows, however, that the new industry is of exceedingly limited proportions. The black iron plates forming the basis of tin plates were imported from Europe. The pig tin was also imported, and even the laborers who did the dipping were imported. The only manufacturing process performed in Chicago was the melting of the tin and dipping of the sheets into it. This simple and inexpensive work was done by imported labor of the cheapest kind. There are no works now in operation and there is not likely to be any for some time.

McKinley prices are as durable as the McKinley bill, and show as marked a tendency to rise as the whole Republican protection scheme does. A Chicago dispatch of last Saturday says: "The price of paints in small packages will be advanced next week 15 per cent. as a result of the increased duty on tin plate put into effect by the McKinley bill. The advance will be general throughout the country. The paint dealers have themselves borne the extra cost since the law went into effect, but as, in addition to the duty, the zinc men have increased the standard prices, an advance on the part of the paint trade has become a necessity." We begin to think the Republicans were right when they said it would take a year or two to understand the McKinley bill. The goats' hair fraud was discovered last month; the retail price of paints has just felt the effects of the bill, and we presume that for a year or two the bill will from time to time get its work in new and unexpected directions.

### Senator Daniel on Silver.

Senator John W. Daniel, of Virginia, who is well posted on the issues of the day, said yesterday: "The one issue on which the South and West will unite, on which there is little if any difference of opinion, is free coinage. The South is almost a unite for free coinage and so is the West. The Democratic party, which is composed of the people, is committed to free coinage. Silver has ever been the money of the people, and while the people demand silver for their currency we should comply with that demand. Since the rascally trick of demonetizing silver in '73 the issue of free coinage has slowly but surely crowded its way to the front, and if a free coinage bill does not become a law during this Congress, you may expect to see it become one of the leading issues in the Presidential campaign. The Democratic party is willing to go before the country in favor of free coinage. In my judgment, on the issue of silver you would witness the South and West getting together for the benefit of a common interest. The vote in the Senate on the free coinage bill shows an almost unanimous South and West against a solid East. The vote was significant, and it does not require a keen vision to see the current of the political mind."

Greensboro Patriot: Deputy Collector Fields has just returned from a raid up in the county of Yadkin. He destroyed one illicit distillery inside the corporate limits of East Bend, which run two stills and had twenty-two beer stands—the largest he has ever found. Three others were seized near there. Much beer was destroyed, but no liquor found, or any arrests made.

### Condition of Iron Industries.

There is a business maxim to the effect that the state of the iron trade furnishes an accurate indication of the prosperity of the country. It is, therefore, satisfactory to learn that the year 1890 was signalized by increased consumption and production of iron. In the latter respect, indeed, the output beats the record: The furnaces of the United States in 1890 produced 9,200,000 tons of pig-iron, against 7,800,000 tons in 1889, an increase of 1,600,000 tons, or at the rate of about 21 per cent. For the first time our iron product exceeds the yearly output of Great Britain, being, in fact, 1,200,000 tons greater than that of our chief rival.

Somewhat contrary to general anticipation, the greater portion of the year's increase is credited to the Northern and Western States. Pennsylvania shows an augmented production of 763,000 tons; Illinois gains 184,000 tons and Ohio 173,000 tons. The total production of the South for the year was 1,953,459 tons, a gain of only 387,000 tons over 1889, of which gain Alabama contributed 123,000 tons, Maryland 181,000 tons, and Virginia 76,000 tons. It is noticeable that several States which have not heretofore been prominent as iron producers show considerable progress, this being notably the case with Colorado, Missouri and West Virginia.

The record of the past year is satisfactory. But the outlook of the present season is not so favorable. The unsold stock of pig iron at the opening of 1891 is estimated at 680,000 tons, against 390,000 tons on January 1, 1890. There has been a considerable check to the production, and between forty and fifty furnaces which were in blast last Summer have temporarily ceased operations. This is partly attributable to labor troubles in the South; but it may also be ascribed to recent financial disturbances. The effects of the panic are seen in a decrease of building operations and railroad construction. With the present return of improving financial conditions, iron industries may, however, be expected to show a corresponding revival.

### Government By a Minority.

The election of Orville H. Platt to succeed himself as Senator from Connecticut is a striking commentary on the system of popular government which is supposed to exist in that State. Mr. Platt received 141 votes to 134 for his Democratic opponent. In the popular branch of the Legislature there are 117 Democrats and 133 Republicans. The 117 Democrats were elected by towns which cast 92,235 votes at the last election; the 133 Republicans come from towns which cast 42,019 votes. The Democratic towns had 50,216 more votes than the Republican towns, and yet the Republicans have a majority of sixteen in the lower house of the Legislature. Mr. Platt's election is a vindication of the right of 43,019 people in Connecticut to govern 92,235. The rotten borough system which keeps two Republicans in the Senate from Connecticut is in vogue in several other New England States. It is in conflict with the American idea of popular government, and the Republican Congressmen who rant about the suppressed negro vote in the South maintain a stolid silence in reference to the enormous white vote in New England which counts for nothing.

### Iron Production in 1890.

The production of pig-iron in the United States last year, for the first time in its history, exceeded that of Great Britain, having been 9,202,703 gross tons, an excess of 1,200,000 gross tons over the amount turned out in Great Britain, and an increase of 1,599,061 gross tons over the domestic production in 1889. This increase was well distributed throughout the principal iron-producing States, being more marked in Pennsylvania than in any other State. The increase in the South shows a strong and healthy development of the iron interest.

Mark Twain is not, as is generally supposed, doing less literary work than formerly. It is only because he puts such a high McKinley tariff price on his fun that the papers are not able to use it, except upon State occasions, when a little extravagance may be safely indulged in.