

THE DAILY FREE PRESS.

W. S. HERBERT, Editor and Prop'r.

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National Democratic Ticket.

FOR PRESIDENT:
WM. J. BRYAN, of Nebraska.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT:
ADLAI E. STEVENSON, of Illinois.

FOR FIFTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS,
CLAUDE KITCHIN, of Halifax.

FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR,
T. C. WOOTEN, of Lenoir.

McKinley evidently finds it easier to discover his plain duty than to do it, truly says the Durham Herald.

Since the war of 1861 this government has paid in pensions 2,612,000,000. It is now, a generation after that war has closed, paying nearly \$140,000,000 a year, about one-fourth of the government's total revenue, and a very large part of this is paid to frauds.

The Republicans on Monday carried Maine by 32,000 majority. The returns show Republican losses of 10 per cent. and Democratic gains of 18 per cent. If the percentage of Republican losses and Democratic gains in Vermont and Maine continue in the other states Bryan will be elected by a big majority.

For the first time in the history of North Carolina since the war this State will send a solid delegation of young men to the national house of representatives. Not one of the Democratic nominees for the house was old enough to see service in the Confederate army, and W. W. Kitchin, Claude Kitchin, Chas. R. Thomas and Edward W. Pou were born since the close of the war. The others—Small, Bellamy, Buxton, Crawford and Klutz—were small boys during the war. It is the youngest delegation that will represent any state in the halls of congress. It will also be one of the best.—News-Observer.

The campaign is now open, and only about seven weeks in which to do the work. Let all get down to business. Let us not rely upon the majority given us in August as a certainty for the future. We will close our eyes to facts at our peril. North Carolina should send a solid delegation to Washington. We say frankly it can only be done by hard work and every man doing his active duty—until the day of election. The party presents to the people true men from start to finish, each and all, capable, faithful and honest. Small, Claude Kitchin, Thomas, Pou, W. W. Kitchin, Bellamy, Klutz, Buxton and Crawford are worthy the people, the party and the State. Upon the work of these gentlemen and the support given them by our party friends depends largely the success of the electoral ticket. If our friends will work and make a certainty of the success of each of these candidates for congress, the success of the electoral ticket will be assured. But all who desire success must work, and work incessantly.—Wilmington Messenger.

Mines That Burn For Years.
A number of good sized mines are now on fire in the United States and have been for years. The Vulcan mine on the Green river, opposite Newcastle, in Colorado, has been on fire since the great explosion several years ago, when about 80 persons lost their lives. All efforts to quench it have proved fruitless. In Butte there is a mine which has been afire since 1834. It has been treated with carbonic acid gas generated on a large scale, quicklime and acids and all the stiling devices that genius and experience could devise, but so far without effect.

In Pennsylvania there are several steadily burning mines, and in one place where the outlet of natural gas is very great the spectacle it affords is of surpassing interest. For miles around a great tower of fire may be seen day and night, and the dense black smoke which it gives off settles upon the surrounding country. How a mine gets afire is easily explained, even though the greatest precautions are taken to prevent it. Coal seams exude a gas varying in quantity according to the pressure and the quality of the deposit, which gas when mixed with air in certain proportions is about as explosive as gunpowder.—New York Post.

Ate Their Tea.

In olden days when tea was a rare and precious luxury silver strainers were used into which the exhausted leaves were put when they had been well watered and drained. They were afterward eaten with sugar on bread and butter. This fact is recorded by Sir Walter Scott in "St. Ronan's Well."

Answered.

"A fool can ask more questions than a wise man can answer. Ain't that so?"
"I can't answer you."—Indianapolis Journal.

FAMOUS LOST RIVER.

A PECULIAR STREAM WHICH SUD- DENLY DISAPPEARS.

It Sinks Into the Earth Through an Unfathomable Hole and Bursts Forth Again From a Hill Miles Away and Then Repeats the Trick.

Famous Lost river manifests its strange disposition through the northern and eastern sections of Orange county, Ind. The river, parent of all smaller ones, gushes from a bluff in Washington county, a stream with strong current which carries everything before it. It runs in well defined banks for several miles and then suddenly disappears. Near Orleans it sinks into a great cavernous hole which might very readily be taken as the entrance to the lower regions and from which the river gained its secondary name, the river Styx. The sink is black and unfathomable and even in the driest season has never been explored, although it has been ascertained that the descent is gradual and about 500 feet.

Several miles from the first sink the stream comes forth from the side of a hill and, after running on the surface a mile or more, again sinks. By sawdust and wooden ball tests it has been ascertained that another stream which rushes from the side of a bluff eight miles distant in altogether another section of the country is a continuation of Lost river. This disappears in another sink, runs through an underground passage a mile or more in length and finally empties into White river.

It is claimed the subterranean streams do not follow a single channel, but that the entire section is honey-combed by a complex system of mains and leads.

Lost river was evidently a surface stream thousands of years ago. There is a well defined, deep rock bed leading from sink hole to sink, and in freshest season, when the volume of water becomes too great for the subterranean passageways to carry, the overflow follows the old river bed and joins the subterranean streams at the "rises." The old surface course is overgrown with trees and briars and some of these indicate that the surface course has not been used for at least centuries. Another evidence of its long habit of following underground sinks is shown by the mound builders' earthworks thrown up at various points where the river sinks away. Some of these mounds are the finest found north of the Ohio river.

Of the surface tributaries to Lost river the most remarkable is known as Stamper creek, which gushes forth from the sides of a bluff near Millersburg. It has a rampant little current which carries everything with it to a sink hole a mile distant. No one knows exactly where it comes out, but some claim it makes its appearance at Spring Mills, six miles south. Here Lick creek bursts out of the base of a hill, just in the rear of the mill. Farther down stream Lick creek sinks away from view, and then comes up and flows to New Prospect, where it empties into Lost river.

There are several other surface feeders which are quite as freakish. Near them are found caverns through which subterranean streams flow. They are filled with eyeless fishes and water animals. In some the streams have a swift current and are evidently part of the Lost river system. At certain points in the county the surface has caved in and shows Lost river running underground to the depth of 100 feet. How the water is again elevated to the surface is not known. The passageways are through white rock, worn smooth and white by the water.

Those who have made a study of the subterranean streams of Indiana and Kentucky have advanced the theory that away below the surface of Indiana—in at least the southern portion—there is a secondary great system of waterways and subterranean rivers. Some geologists of note have concurred in this theory. It is known that such streams do exist in the extreme southern section. Wyandotte and other caves owe their origin to these streams. Some years ago a subterranean stream was found running under Rush county, almost 70 miles northeast. The water can be heard roaring through the passageways and at times the course seems to be over-taxed. It evidently flows a great distance from the northeast and probably has its source in the St. Lawrence river system. At English a flood resulted in the discovery of another lost river. A new cavern was opened by the water in Crawford county.

The attractiveness of Lost river and its tributaries is enhanced greatly by the weird, wild scenery of Orange county. There is no section of the state where the scenery is more striking and diversified.

Near the mouth of the river are the famous West Baden and French Lick springs, which throw off a water brackish in taste and green cast in color, which has become noted over the entire country. Indianapolis Press.

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