THE DAILY DEMOCRAT.

A SEVEN MILLION TARIFF SWINDLE,

The Supreme Court of the United States has affirmed the judgement of the Circuit Courts of New York and Pennsylvania in favor of the slik importers whereby the government must refund to the silk importers about \$7,000,000 for overcharged duties. The tariff of taxes on imported silk ribbons were ambiguous, and 50 per cent, duty was charged by the government whereas the Courts have decided that the duty should have been 20 per cent.

This 50 per cent. duty on silk ribbons used for trimmings was paid under protest and suits instituted for its repayment to the importers until the amount of excess paid reached nearly or quite \$7,000,000, when a judicial decision was reached, declaring the proper duty to be 20 per cent. instead of 50 per cent, and giving the im-porters reclamation against the government for the entire amount of excess of duties paid. Of the \$7,000,000 that the government must refund to importers, the lawyers get nearly one half under their

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contract and the importers the remainder. The swindle in this case is clear to all

when it is considered that the consumers of these silk goods have paid the \$7,000,oon of excess duties. The importers added it to the cost of goods to consumer, and now the recovery is had for the benefit of the importers and the lawyers, while the people who paid the whole of it out of their own pockets, do not receive one cent of the refunded duties. It is simply a bald swindle upon consumers and an immense speculation for importers and lawyers.

A like swindle is now being hatched out of the changed duties on worsted goods. The ariff of 1883 fixes the duties on worsteds as plainly as the English language could make it and classifies them separately from woolens. Changed conditions in the preduction of worsteds made the duties entirely inadequate, and after the inauguration of the new administration Appraiser Leach, of Philadelphia, was Induced to increare the duties on worsteds by violent construction and with scarcely the color of law. These increased and unlawful duties are now being paid by importers under protest, as the duties on silk ribbons were paid, and the consumers are charged the full additional tariff tax.

By and by the importers will get the case before the Courts, when the increased duties paid by consumers will be refunded to the importers with six per cent, interest and the swindled people who have bought and worn worsteds will be swindled to the extent of several millions more. 1s it not time that Congress should revise the tariff and make it so plain that people cannot be swindled out of millions of money to be repaid by the government to speculate importers?

's: unt Postmaster General First Clarkson in amount to the reports about his resignation 'redit the Chicago Times etc., is protect as saying: "It may take, perhaps, until wat March before my work is accomplished, and until then I shall remain right here. After that some one else may have the place " Which must be taken to mean that by that time ne will have all the important postoffice heads re moved from their official shoulders, since "hat is the kind of "work" to which he has been heretofore especially devoted.

A New York manager has offered Henry M Stanley \$1.000 a lecture for fifty lectures to delivered in America during next winter, and the great explorer has not yet signified whether he will accept the offer or not.

The first issue of the National Eye, "a negro democratic paper," New York, was issued January 1. The editor is a while man, the business manager a negro, It is well re

Dudley from his punishment for corrupting the ballot box in Indiana, has unquestionably made a bad botch of things. Its effect in that State, according to Republican authority there, will be injurious, and in the nation generally it is simply demoralizing, as a piece o party policy. This Administration has less political tact than any that we remember for a considerable time. Small wonder that Mr Blaine holds aloof from actively appearing in its proceedings.

The Administration, in interfering to acreed

The star of Bethlehem will again be visible in this year, being its seventh appearance since the birth of Christ. It comes once in 315 years and is of wonderous brilliance for the spuce of three weeks then it wanes and disappears after seventeen months. It will be a sixth star added to the five fixed stars in the constellation Cassion: a while it remains in sight.

Let me make the rulings in the House, says Speaker Reed, and I care not who makes the rules.

UPS AND DOWNS .- Some of the principal ups and downs in business ife

here quality up and prices down. This is being done very successfully at LaForest & T iompson's and those dinner sets to be distributed among our customers [an, 1st s creating no little interest as well as our prices prices. A VERDICT-That the grand display of eat, ornamental baskets, each containing one pound of choicest tea, at LaForest & Thompson's, is the finest importation ever brought to Albany. This tea is basket fred, pure and of rich flavor. We offer it at the astenishly low price of 40c

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