Elk Advocate.

HENRY A. PARSONS, JR. - - Editor

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1875.

Presidential Elections.

The following article from the *Erie Dispatch* in relation to Presidential elections, we think very sensible, and to the point. Nothing, we have seen embodies our sentiments better: The proposed amendment to the national constitution framed by the Committee on Privileges and Elections and intended to provide for the election of President and Vice President by a direct popular vote, is] not brought forward a day too soon nor should its discussion and adoption be postponed by any consideration whatever. It has been the good fortune of the Republic to escape, thus far, the evils which the Electoral System embodies, but the story of some of the hot and violent election struggles of the past ought to warn us that we are not safe till every possibility of carrying our most important election by trickery, and contrary to the popular will has been forever removed.

The fault of the Election plan is that it throws the entire vote of every state into the scale in favor of a candidate who may perhaps have but a bare majority of supporters in that State or who may be able to secure a greater or less majority by fraud, while his opponent is the real choice of the people. It has frequently happened that the Electoral vote of *one* of the large states has decided the Presidential contest, and the fact that the chief magistrate's chair is at the mercy of the gang of ballot-stuffers who may chance to be ahead in one state by ever so small a majority makes us fearful of any further reliance on the plan of choosing the President by Electors.

The celebrated election of 1844 was always claimed as a fraudulent one by Whigs, whose candidate, Henry Clay, was defeated by Polk by a majority of 6,000 votes in the state of New York. Had Clay received the Electoral vote of New York he would have been declared President and there was abundant evidence to show that, in fact, that state was carried by the Democrats only by a profuse distribution of fraudulent ballots throughout the several counties and by the most barefaced repeating on the part of the rank and file.

The proposed Constitutional Amendment provides that the President and Vice President shall be elected by a direct vote of the people in each Congressional District of the Union, which would largely decrease if not utterly do away with the chances of controlling the election by fraud. One vote is given to each District and the candidate who carries the majority of Districts in each state secures two votes from the state at large. If the state is equally divided each candidate takes one vote from the state at large and a majority of all the votes elects. The plan is simple, clear in all its workings and unobjectionable in every way. If some method of this kind is not adopted we may expect serious complications at every recurring election which will some time be aggravated to a determined appeal to arms by a disappointed candidate and his partisans. The country cannot afford that such disgraceful scenes as are now convulsing Louisiana should ever follow the occurrence of a national election and be re-enacted in all the States of the Union.

Lumber Trade.

It is stated in a memorial presented to Congress by the lumber dealers of the United States that the sum of 144,000,000 is invested in this industry with an annual production of 210,000,000, affording employment to 200,000 men. It is also declared in the same paper that six states produce more than half the large amount named, viz: New York, Maine, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The aggregate amount of their production is $112,949,237. Pennsylvania ranks first, with an annual production of $28,938,985. New York stands second, producing timber to the amount of $21,238,238, giving employment to 15,400 men. The amount of pine and hemlock timber yet standing in the forests of the timber States is estimated at 225,000,000,000 feet. Besides this, Canada and California have each 100,000,000 feet thus nearly doubling the aggregate total of timber on the North American continent. This is a seemingly inexhaustible amount of timber from which to draw in the future. But statistics show that if the present rate of destroying timber is continued for a fifth of a century the supply will be so limited as to be seriously felt in the markets of this country. All the timber States should take steps to protect this source of wealth from heedless spoilation.—*Reynoldsville Herald.*

The silver and gold ore veins from Newburyport Mass., mines, have been traced 15 miles into New Hampshire.

NEWS.

The Hon. Garnet McMilan, member of Congress-elect from Georgia, is dead.

The Maine Democratic legislative caucus nominated John C. Talbot for United States Senator.

Charles A. Stevens, Republican has been elected to Congress in the Tenth Massachusetts District to fill the unexpired term of the late Alvah Crocker.

Richmond, Va., January 15.—The House of Delegates passed joint resolutions denouncing the interference of the United States officials in the affairs of Louisiana.

Robert Edmonds, the founder and owner of the packet line on the James river and Kanawha canal, died in Richmond Va. 15 inst., aged 67 years. He was a native of Vermont, and had been a resident of Richmond over forty years.

Springfield, Ills, January 15.—At the Convention of Miners' Associations yesterday delegates were present representing twenty thousand miners. A resolution was adopted favoring arbitration and denouncing strikes.

Cincinnati, January 15.—The city officers yesterday commenced work breaking up the traffic and ownership of Italian children. A number of arrests were made. The children will be sent to the House of Refuge and the owners tried for bratal treatment.

John Flynn, who was convicted a few days ago in Sunbury, Pa., of murder in the second degree, escaped from jail on Friday night with another convict, whom he forced to burn a hole through the cell door, and then pick the lock. Flynn keeping guard with a revolver.

President Grant has received four letters from Democratic sources threatening him with assassination. Saturday morning's *National Republican* says that one of these would-be assassins warns the President to make his peace with God, as he will surely meet the deserved fate of Abraham Lincoln.

Pittsburgh, Jan. 12.—A fire at Monterey Station, near Parker's City, tonight destroyed the railroad depot, a two-story dwelling house and livery stable. The fire originated in the depot and is supposed to have caught by a defective flue. Loss not ascertained, but probably $20,000.

The deputy constable appointed to look after the children employed in the factories in this State has presented his report to the Governor. He declares that in Massachusetts there are 66,000 children growing up in ignorance, in consequence of their employment at too early an age, and too exclusively in factories.

Jersey City, January 14.—At shaft number five of the Delaware and Lackawana tunnel, where three men were recently killed by the falling of a bucket, an explosion of rend rock powder occurred early this morning, resulting in injuring C. Cooper, Patrick Hale and Michael Donnelly. The men are severely wounded and will be crippled or blinded for life.

The trial of a notorious counterfeiter, Tom Ballard, is to begin at Albany on the 19th inst. After his conviction, which, from the overwhelming evidence against him is a foregone conclusion, it is possible that the government may suspend punishment to give a chance of showing if he can substantiate his assertion that he possesses the secret of manufacturing bank notes that cannot be counterfeited.

Stroudsburg, Pa., January 13.—The case of the heirs of Monroe Snyder against the Pennsylvania Mutual Life Insurance Company to recover the face of a life policy, payment of which was refused on the ground that deceased had committed suicide with intent to defraud, was closed to-day with a verdict for the plaintiffs for $16,459. Motion will be argued for a new trial at Mauch Chunk, on the 1st of February.

Gold has been found near Peterborough, N. H. Average samples of the vein produced at the rate of over $20 per ton assayed by working process. A company has been formed in Boston to work this mine, with a capital of $50,000, all paid in. A twenty-stamp mill, with Rae's electic amalgamating process, has been ordered in this city, and is to be in running order at the mine on the 1st of next April.

Washington, Jan. 13.—The Secretary of the Treasury estimates the appropriations required to supply deficiencies for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, and prior years; State Department, $23,764; Treasury, $264,797; War, $118,767; Navy, $13,377; Interior, $471,349; total $892,054.

The Secretary of the Interior asks a deficiency appropriation of $50,000 for the sustenance and support of the Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Apache, Kiowa, Comanche, Wichita Indians in the Indian Territory.

Westchester, Pa., Jan. 11.—The Government paper mills on the Westchester and Philadelphia Railroad, four miles from here, were placed under charge of a Government detective on Saturday last. Yesterday fifty-eight ladies from the Treasury Department arrived at the mill and will at once proceed to take an account of the stock on hand. It is alleged that some of the paper has been found in the possession of parties who intend using it for no honest purpose. About 100 sheets were obtained in some manner unknown by a prominent member of Congress, who immediately reported the case to the Secretary of the Treasury, hence this examination, the result of which none can surmise. The affair is kept entirely quiet, the party here claiming that they are making the usual yearly count, but as it is only a few weeks ago that the count was made, and considering the fact that the party left Washington on Sunday night, their departure as well as their mission being kept a profound secret outside of the Treasury Department, and the failure to notify the superintendent of the mills of their intended coming, tend to strengthen the statement that something is wrong.

Elmira N. Y., Jan. 15.—The body of the murdered man found near Sheshequin, Pa., and supposed to be that of a drover, has been identified as that of Alvin Lewis, a leading business man of Darly, Pa. The second inquest failed to throw any light on the manner of his death. The body was buried in the Sheshequin Cemetery. The day afterward parties from Darly appeared and asked that the remains be disinterred, as they believed they were those of Mr. Lewis which they proved to be. He left home three weeks ago on business and had with him between $3,000 and $4,000. Renewed efforts will be made to find some clue to the murderers.

Great alarm exists among the people of the mining towns in this State owing to the turbulent disposition of the miners now on strike. More than twenty thousand men are penniless and idle, with starvation staring them in the face. At a miners' meeting on Thursday, a resolution was passed calling on the men to arm and help themselves to bread.

Administratrix's Notice.

ESTATE of Clark A. Wilcox, late of Horton township, Elk County, deceased. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having legal claims against the same will present them without delay in proper order, for settlement, to

SARAH V. WILCOX,
Administratrix.

Or her Attorneys, Messrs. Hall & M'Cauley.

Ridgway, Pa., Jan. 5, 1875 jan6-6t

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TO THE CITIZENS OF PENNSYLVANIA.—Your attention is specially invited to the fact that the National Bank are now prepared to receive subscriptions to the Capital Stock of the Centennial Board of Finance. The funds realized from this source are to be employed in the erection of the buildings for the International Exhibition, and the expenses connected with the same. It is confidently believed that the Keystone State will be represented by the name of every citizen alive to patriotic commemoration of the one hundredth birth-day of the nation. The shares of stock are offered for $10 each, and subscribers will receive a handsome engraved Certificate of Stock, suitable for framing and preservation as a national memorial.

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