

THE BEDFORD GAZETTE.

Bedford, March 11, 1859.

B. F. Meyers & G. W. Bedford, Editors.

STATE CONVENTION.

The coming Democratic State Convention will have it in its power to contribute greatly to the success of the Democratic party of Pennsylvania at the next general election.

Next in degree of importance, is the character of the nominees. Men who ask office, more (politically speaking) have "clean hands."

Another and a very important object should be the aim of the Convention, to wit, the thorough unity and harmony of the party. "Kansas" should be let alone.

CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICES.

We observe with great pleasure that Hon. R. L. Wagner, of Philadelphia, is spoken of by some of the leading Democratic journals of this State as a suitable person to be nominated by the coming State Convention for Auditor General.

BLACK REPUBLICAN TAXES.

The Know-Nothing Black-Republican party of Bedford county, when they were in power, as we proved in a previous article, and proved it from the record, too, plunged the people over head and ears in debt, and now try to make capital of the praiseworthy efforts of the Democratic Commissioners to pay off that debt.

GENERAL BOWMAN.

The newspapers, irrespective of party, still teem with praises of this vigilant and upright public officer. Even Opposition members of Congress are compelled to approve of the General's official conduct.

ELECTION OF STATE TREASURER BY THE PEOPLE.—Mr. Schell has introduced in the State Senate a bill to make the office of State Treasurer elective by the people—the first election for said office to take place at the general election, on the second Tuesday of October next, and the Treasurer then elected to assume the duties of his office on the first Monday in May ensuing.

THE SPRING ELECTIONS.

The local elections which are to be held in the different boroughs and townships of this county, on Friday, the 18 inst., should be attended by every citizen who is interested in the proper management of the public affairs of his district.

Some of the hangers-on of the Black-Republican-Know-Nothing party in this county, have lived for years on offices given them by Democratic votes at Spring elections.

Our friends in Napier and Bedford townships, who are always active and energetic, have already formed their tickets. Old Napier has nominated as follows: Judge of Election, FREDERICK MILLER; Inspector, CORNELIUS WHEATSTONE; Constable, MARTIN MOWRY; Supervisors, H. L. NICODemus, JOHN W. BOWEN; School Directors, ROBERT M. TAYLOR, PETER JALER, AMARIAH WILSON; Auditor, WM. CRISMAN; Town Clerk, HENRY EGLER.

THE WOODBERRY MOVEMENT.

We publish in this issue the proceedings of the second meeting held by the citizens of Middle Woodberry township, on the subject of their proposed annexation to Blair county.

ABJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS.

The last session of the thirty-fifth Congress, expired on Friday last, the 4th inst. We have neither time nor patience to review its acts, and can merely mention as some of the good which came out of this legislative Nazareth, the admission of Minnesota and Oregon, and the settlement of the vexed question of "Kansas."

DEATH OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.—As we were about to go to press, we received the mournful news of the death of Hon. A. V. Brown, Postmaster General. He died on the morning of the 8th, of pneumonia.

REMOVED.

The Post Office, last week, was moved from its former location, to the Shoe Store of A. Ferguson & Co., in "Anderson's Row."

On Monday last, J. & J. M. Shoemaker moved their goods into the room formerly occupied by Geo. W. Rupp, Esq., as a store, in "Anderson's Row," directly opposite the Gazette Office, where Jon will be pleased to see his friends and customers.

RECEIVED.

Read & Minnich have received a lot of New Goods, which they are selling at a very low figure.

John Alsip, Esq., is in receipt of a large supply of groceries which can't be excelled in quality or cheapness.

Wm. Hartley, Esq., has returned from the East with a large stock of goods in his line.—Read his advertisement in another column.

COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Bedford Gazette.

SCOTT LEGION OF CENTRAL PENNA.

Agreeably to adjournment, the surviving soldiers of the Mexican War, resident in Blair, and the adjoining counties, met at the Logan House, Hollidaysburg, Penna., Saturday, the 5th day of March, D. H. Hoibus, 2d Penna. Volunteers, in the chair. In the absence of the secretary, Wm. G. Murray, 11th Infantry, was appointed secretary.

The committee appointed at the former meeting, to prepare a constitution and by-laws for the government of the Legion, submitted through John McKeage, of the volunteers, a constitution and by-laws which was read, and on motion was laid on the table until the next meeting.

On motion—it was resolved, That when we do adjourn it shall be to meet on Saturday the 23d day of April next, in the armory of the Hollidaysburg Volunteers, at 8 P. M., and that all the surviving soldiers of the Mexican War, whether Volunteers, Regulars, or Marines, that served in said War and received an honorable discharge from the same, are hereby cordially invited to attend, and participate in the permanent organization of the Legion.

On motion adjourned.

W. G. Murray, 11th Inf'y, Sec'y Pro-tem. D. H. Hoibus, 2d Penna. Volunteers, Chairman.

For the Bedford Gazette.

In pursuance of a previous call, the citizens of Middle Woodberry Township, assembled in the School house, on Saturday the 26th inst., at 3 P. M. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the meeting was large and respectable. The object of the meeting was to consider certain remonstrances, which were being circulated in different sections of Bedford Co., hostile to the movement of the citizens of Middle Woodberry Township, in their efforts to be disengaged from Bedford County and annexed to Blair; also a certain scurrilous, and fallacious article which appeared in the "Bedford Inquirer" of Feb 18th, calculated to defame and insult the citizens of Middle Woodberry, and to injure their cause before the Legislature.

On motion, G. R. Barndollar was chosen President, G. B. Holsinger, and John Zook Esq. Vice Presidents, and Franklin Holsinger, and J. H. Longenecker, Secretaries.

After a short absence the committee returned, and made the following report, through their chairman, which was ably supported by speeches from J. H. Wilkinson and others, after which the resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The project of annexation to Blair Co., has been flagrantly misrepresented by remonstrances to the Legislature, and also by a public print in the service of those opposed to the annexation, therefore it becomes necessary for us, knowing as we do, these statements to be fallacious, and designed for the purpose of injuring our cause before the Legislature, to place the actual state of circumstances right on the record, and therefore,

Resolved, That the statements in the "Bedford Inquirer" of Feb 18th, do not contain a single proposition based upon facts and could only have been propagated by a person utterly ignorant of the facts, or as willful fabrications.

Resolved, That we are a unit on the subject, and that our interests in every sense, are manifestly calculated to bring about this result, there not being a single interest to bind us to Bedford, while on the other hand, every thing to Blair.

Resolved, That the report universally circulated in this County, stating in effect that we wish ultimately to establish a new County out of Bedford, Huntingdon and Blair Counties, is mere moonshine, humbuggery, gotten up by those opposed to the project, to damage our prospects with those persons who are deeply interested with us in Blair County, and was never dreamed of in this section until its appearance in a certain public journal.

Resolved, That the effort now being made is sanctioned by the honest men of all parties, who labor with the honest conviction that what they ask should justly be extended to them, and who never expect any political aggrandizement, or do they make it a political scheme.

Resolved, That we make every honest effort to secure success in the noble prospect we have undertaken, that each and every one of us consider that the responsibility rests with equal force upon all, therefore each is hereby constituted a committee to further the project as in his limits, and to counteract the vituperation and malignancy fomented against us.

Resolved, That we are under obligations to those papers which published the proceedings of our former meeting, and hereby tender our sincere thanks, hoping that they will still further extend their good offices, and give place to the proceedings of this day's meeting.

Resolved, That the statement in the remonstrances, as to the distance being only 15 miles from Bedford to the Blair County line, is a gross misrepresentation, the nearest point being 19 miles, and not in the direction of Middle Woodberry Township.

On motion, the meeting adjourned, sine die.

SIGNED BY THE OFFICERS.

REPORT

of the Majority of the Select Committee appointed to investigate the alleged frauds in the Navy Department.

The Black Republicans in Congress, as the public are aware, have had an investigating committee appointed to inquire into certain matters connected with the awarding of Naval contracts. The result of the Committee's labors, is, first, a correct, honest and straightforward statement by a majority of the Committee, sustaining the Secretary of the Navy and the President. This majority is composed of two Democrats and one American. Secondly, the minority, composed of two Black Republicans, have gotten up an electioneering document in the shape of a Report, which is full of pervasions of facts and which is published at the expense of the Government, to be scattered broadcast over the land, for the purpose of making political capital. In order that the public may be fully enlightened on this subject we make room for the following Report of the majority:

Mr. Bocoek, of Virginia, from the Select Committee to examine into the alleged Naval contracts and frauds, presented a report from the majority, and Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, presented a minority report from the same Committee.

Messrs. Bocoek and Groesbeck and Ready join in a Report—

First, on the management of the Brooklyn Navy Yard: They take the position that appointments have long been made on political grounds; that on the incoming of the present administration the patronage thereof was concentrated to two or three districts. All these districts at the time were represented by Democrats. The delegation from the city of New York and that neighborhood petitioned the Secretary of the Navy to divide the patronage among them equally. Thereupon there was a great deal of confusion and controversy among the different members of the delegation, and between the delegation itself and the Secretary of the Navy; that great abuses had previously existed at the yard, such as idleness, insubordination, levying of contributions by the master-workmen on the men, and the appointment and retention of incompetent workmen.

The Committee admit all these abuses, but say they have not sprung from anything done or any steps taken, by the present Secretary of the Navy, unless this policy of attempting to distribute the patronage equally be the cause of a part of the abuses. No complaints have been made to him on the subject, and no request to redress them in most of the cases; but so far as these abuses have been made known to him, he has promptly taken means to correct them.

In addition to this, he instituted measures for a reform in this particular navy yard. About a year and a half ago he issued an order that before a man was appointed to the place of master workman, he should be subjected to an examination as to his qualifications and character, that under his direction strenuous efforts were made to prevent a practice which obtained in the yard, of men answering to their names at roll-call and afterwards absenting themselves; that in addition to this, on the 14th day of December last, he issued an order giving power to the commander of the yard to discharge worthless and incompetent men—measures of reform, all of which were very important.

The Committee repeat—He had endeavored to redress particular cases of abuse which came to his knowledge. The Committee however believe that the yard can never be managed in a proper manner, and a profitable way to the government, until some regulation shall be adopted preventing appointments in the yard from being made on political grounds.

The Committee instituted particular examination into the manner in which the Navy Agent and Naval Storekeeper discharged their respective duties. No charge of malfeasance against them was proven; but it was proven that they had not devoted as much time and attention to their offices as the important duties thereof required.

The second point of examination is the appropriate coal agency. It was proven that Dr. Hunter, the agent, has given no sort of attention to the duties of his office, but has entirely neglected it. He has a partner in the profits and duties of the office, located at Philadelphia. But the partner has bestowed very little more time upon it than has the agent himself. He has left the management of the business in the hands of a large firm of coal dealers in Philadelphia under the title of Tyler, Stone & Co. It appears that whenever he gets a requisition for coal he hands it over to them, and they superintend the whole business of procuring the coal, shipping it, &c. The Committee condemn the course of Dr. Hunter and his partner, Mr. Smith, but say that he has always been a gentleman of standing and character; that he lived in the neighborhood of the coal region, and had been engaged in the iron business, which tended to make him acquainted with the different kinds of coal; that he was recommended to this office by leading members of the Pennsylvania Legislature and other influential citizens of Reading and Philadelphia; that since he has been in office there has been nothing to call the attention of the Department to his neglect of duty. No complaint has been made by anybody to the Secretary of the Navy on the subject. The coal is of the very best quality, and has been furnished regularly for the use of the Government by the firm of Tyler, Stone & Co., and it appears, at 40 cents per ton less than the Government had obtained it for up to the spring of 1848.

In 1857 the government bought coal at \$4.25 per ton, and under this new agent purchased all the time at \$3.85. It is true that a large number of gentlemen had sworn that they could have furnished coal at a lower price, but the Committee are of the opinion that they could not have furnished an article suitable for the Government use.

As to the selection of Dr. Hunter, and his recommendation to the office by some of the applicants for the agency themselves, the Committee say that the Secretary of the Navy had never been informed of the arrangement. The previous coal agent, Mr. Tyson, resided at Reading, and had a partner residing at Philadelphia as the present agent also residing at Reading, has one at the same city. Some intimation was made to the President on this subject; but it was indefinite; and if the President understood anything about it, it was merely as to a division of duties, as heretofore.

In the firm of Tyler, Stone & Co., is Mr.

Beach a nephew of Mr. Toucey; but, in making the arrangement with that firm, Dr. Hunter swears that he did so without the least intimation, or any request, direct or indirect from the Secretary of the Navy, that he desired him to do so; and so far as he knows or believes, the Secretary had neither knowledge or wish upon the subject.

The rate of compensation of the coal agent was fixed during Mr. Fillmore's administration at the present price, and the present large amount of compensation was in consequence of the extraordinary demand for coal, in connection with the Paraguay expedition.

The third branch of the examination relates to the live oak contracts. Two dealers had live oak on hand—Swift the most. At the time proposals were issued the Government had taken steps for the construction of seven sloops of war, and the expedition to Paraguay had been authorized—much less time was allowed for the delivery of the timber than heretofore because it was wanted for use very soon.—Some of it, which was immediately needed was bought up, and used by the Government before the time for awarding the contracts. The Secretary of the Navy, in his specifications, inserted an unusual clause, by which he reserved to himself the right to award the contract on the bids of any party, unless the price was a fair and reasonable one; so that if he wished to get the timber of these two men for the use of the government, he would show to them and to the world that he did not intend to give them for anything more than a fair price. When the bids came in under these proposals these two men who had the timber (Swift and Jas. Bigler,) were not the lowest bidders. Others bid below them, and the contracts were awarded to them. Immediately after the contracts were awarded the contractors came to Washington and told the Secretary of the Navy that it was impossible for them to comply with the contract. They knew when they made the bids, that they could not get the timber in time, but relied upon getting the time extended for the delivery. Failing to comply with their contracts, the latter were declared void. Under the law the Secretary had the right to contract with Swift or any other person, even if he had to give a higher rate than these men proposed to furnish the timber for, and charge the difference to the defaulting contractors. But Swift came forward and furnished the timber at each and all of the yards at the lowest price bid by any other party. The Committee believe that the price was fair, and that there was nothing in the transaction that in any way impeached the integrity of the officers of the Navy Department.

In 1854 while Mr. Buchanan was in England, George Platt, whose wife has some family connection with Swift, entered into a contract or arrangement with Swift, that he (Platt) would endeavor to get contracts for him to supply timber on the condition of receiving 10 per cent of the gross amounts of all the contracts. Platt introduced Swift to the Secretary of the Navy and other influential persons, and put him on good relations with all his friends. Soon after the Cincinnati Convention, Platt introduced Swift to Mr. Buchanan, but merely said that he was an "Old Line Whig," and that he had given him (the President) a cordial support. Swift, it appears, contributed freely to the Presidential election. In introducing Swift to Mr. Toucey, Platt made a similar remark. This was all that was ever told to the Secretary or to the President, until some time after the contracts for live oak—in September—were awarded to Swift.

Some time in October or November, while Platt was at the White House, he showed the President the agreement with Swift, saying that Swift had refused to carry it out, and asked him if there could be any objection to prosecuting Swift for a non-fulfillment of the agreement of 1854; and the President replied he could see no objection to it; and that Platt could do as he pleased.

It appears that Swift claims that his contract with Platt only extended to the end of the last administration.

The next and last branch of inquiry was in relation to the awarding of contracts for the seven sloops-of-war ordered at the last session of Congress. There were seven contracts in all and in awarding five of them, it appears that no political or any other improper influence was resorted to by the different bidders; that the proposals were advertised according to the law, that the leading establishments in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, and Hartford presented bids for each and all of the engines; and that the contracts were in every instance awarded to establishments of high reputation for undoubted mechanical efficiency. These bids were referred to a board of engineers, consisting of the Engineer-in-chief, and three Chief Engineers, and the contracts were given out according to the report of the Board—in some cases unanimous, and in others on the recommendation of the majority. Mr. Martin was a member of this Board, and is the inventor of a boiler which was included in the plans of all the bidders except two, whose plans were decided on by the Board of which he was a member; and the plans which did not include his boiler were rejected by every member of the Board. All of the plans, for real competition, included Martin's boilers. The Committee find, under the state of the case, that no preference could have been given to any plan by Martin on that score, but suggest that it would have been better if he had not been put on that Board.

One of the contracts was awarded to Merrick & Sons. Their bid was next to the lowest of seven. One was only four thousand dollars lower, and some bids about forty thousand dollars higher. It further appears that the plan of the bid which was lower was condemned by every member of the Board, and the plan of Merrick & Sons was approved by every member of it. Merrick & Sons are not politicians, and never undertake to influence their workmen. Two of the three incline to the Opposition. In connection with this, a letter from Colonel Patterson to the President (recommending the firm, not for this particular contract for they bid for many) was exhibited, but it fully appears from the testimony generally and the statement of the Secretary of the Navy, that the President took no part whatever in it—made no recommendation of this or any other contract during his administration; but merely in the course of business, as was shown by the testimony, referred to this letter by the common and usual endorsement to the Navy Department, to which the subject properly belonged; the practice being to refer business to the proper Department.

When persons are implicated in the investigation by committees, witnesses are summoned at their request. As to the charge against J. Glancy Jones—in the annexed minority statement—he, being out of the country, could have no

knowledge or notification of the existence of the charge. Therefore, so far as he is concerned, the evidence being altogether ex parte, the committee think it would be wrong for them to pronounce or form any opinion upon the subject.

The committee come to the conclusion, that the action of the Secretary of the Navy has been "judicious and useful"—that he has been actuated only by a desire to get the best machinery at the lowest practicable cost, and would not venture or desire to change one of the contracts which he has made.

The Committee report resolutions to the following effect:

1. That testimony taken in the investigation proves the existence of glaring abuses in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and require the interposition of legislative reform; that it is due to justice to declare that these abuses have been slowly and gradually growing up during a long course of years, and that no particular Administration should have the entire blame thereof.

2. That the coal agency for some time past has been in the hands of persons wholly inefficient and grossly incompetent, and that reform is needed in the regulations which exist on the subject; and that there is no proof which traces any knowledge of such inefficiency and incompetency to the responsible authorities in Washington.

3. While the Committee will never sanction or approve, on the part of any officer of the Government, any favors to contractors, yet if the Secretary of the Navy did contemplate any favor to Swift, he did not design to bestow it to the detriment of the Government, but that in all he did in this matter he kept always in view the good of the public and the interest of the service.

4. That in the letting of contracts for the construction of steam machinery for the use of the Navy, during the present Administration, nothing has been shown which calls for the interposition of the Congress of the United States, but it is manifest the present head of the Navy Department has displayed a very laudable zeal to secure the greatest amount of speed and efficiency attainable to said vessels.

The Republican party is a queer institution. Some of its leaders advocate Free Trade; some of them are rampant for a Protective Tariff. Some of them want Cuba; some of them don't. Most of the Republican members of Congress voted against Oregon—a portion voted in favor thereof! Hence it is evident they have no settled policy on any subject—not even the "Nigger" question, for members advocate aggressive measures against Slavery, while their most politic champions disclaim any intention to interfere with the institutions of the South. If this be not "a house divided against itself," where shall we find one.—Eric Observer.

BUCHANAN CLUB.

Will meet at the Court House on Saturday evening next to nominate a ticket for the coming Borough election. Every Democratic voter in the Borough, whether a member of the Club, or not, is invited to attend.

O. E. SHANNON, Pres't.

Trees! Trees!

THE subscriber has on hand a quantity of fruit trees, which she wishes to dispose of on reasonable terms, in lots to suit purchasers—such as, early and late apples and peaches—also, a lot of choice grape vines, cheap for cash, or country produce. Mar. 11, '59. MARY W. BROWN.

Seed Potatoes.

A very small quantity of Prince Albert and Buckeye potatoes, new varieties, and said to be very fine, can be had at Hartley's. Try them. Mar. 11, '59.

BIG PAD LOCK.

HARDWARE, IRON, PAINTS, OILS, VARNISH, FARM IMPLEMENTS, &c.

WILLIAM HARTLEY

HAVING just returned from the East, is now receiving the largest stock of general hardware, Cutlery, Brushes, Oils, Paints, Iron, &c., &c., ever offered to the people of Bedford county. The Store is enlarged—the goods are new—the latest patterns and best quality—purchased for CASH at reliable houses.

NO AUCTION TRASH.

All Warranted as Represented. Being determined to sell cheap, and believing that the credit system of Bedford county is ruinous to all classes excepting lawyers, justices, sheriffs and constables, I have adopted the following TERMS upon which I will succeed or fail, viz: CASH, or approved trade or produce, excepting to those only, who will promptly settle, either by note or cash on the 1st of July and 1st January, of each year. To all such I offer great inducements, and will try to please them, and give them the worth of their money. The custom of those who buy with but a faint probability of paying is not wanted. I hereby return my sincere thanks to my former customers, and earnestly desire their patronage.—Determined to sell as cheap as possible, and to keep as good ware, as any other establishment in the State. The public are invited to a careful perusal of my catalogue, in which is enumerated under their proper heads the articles always on hand. Builders and all in want of anything in my line will find it to their advantage to examine my stock. March 11, 1859.

EXECUTOR'S SALE OF Real Estate.

THE subscriber, Executor of the last Will and Testament of John Clark, late of the Borough of Bedford, dec'd, will sell at public sale, on Thursday, the 7th day of April, next, at the late residence of said deceased, the house and lot of ground occupied by him, in said Borough, being lot No. 191 in the plan of the town, adjoining the School House lot on the East, Isaac Mangel, Jr., on the West, the Raystown branch on the North and West Pitt Street on the South; containing 60 ft front on Pitt Street and running back to said Raystown branch. Having thereon erected, a one story log and weather boarded dwelling house, blacksmith shop, log stable and other out-buildings.

ALSO, at the same time and place, the out-lots of said deceased, numbered 49 and 50 in the map of Bedford, situated about 1 1/2 miles from Bedford on the west side of the road leading to the "German Corner," adjoining each other, and lands of Hugh Moore, Jacob Martin's heirs, John Spreat, (late Wm. Staken.) John Brideham and others, and containing about 19 acres and 57 perches.

Terms.—One third in hand and the balance in two equal annual payments without interest, to be secured by judgment notes, or notes and mortgage, at the option of the subscriber. Possession given as soon as the terms are complied with.

JOSEPH CLAR, Executor. March 11, 1859.