



ALTOONA, PA.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1864.

THE AMENDMENTS.—The following is the official vote of this county, on the Amendments to the Constitution.

Table with 3 columns: Amendment, For, Against, Maj. Second, Third.

In the district of East and West Wards, of Hollidaysburg, Allegheny, Catharine, Freedom, Huston, Tyrone, Woodbury and Taylor, there were no votes against the Amendments.

THE DECLARATION OF HON. L. W. HALL.—We publish, in another column, the letter from Hon. L. W. Hall to the Congressional Conference representing this county in the Conference of the Union party, which met at Tyrone, last week. It is a production which the politicians of the present day can study with benefit to themselves.

STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—By special request we reprint the proceedings of the State Teachers' Association, for the first day and a half, with such an abstract of the remainder of the session as we have been able to secure.

The regular Annual Meeting of this Association convened in this place on Tuesday, the 2d inst., at 10 o'clock A. M., in the United Brethren Church.

Remarks on this subject were made by Mr. Chubbuck, Mr. Coburn, State Superintendent, and others, after which the Association adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M.

A report written by Mr. McKee, of Westmoreland Co., was read by Supr. Jack. Subject, Illustrated Science. Discussed by Messrs. Haldeeman, Harlan, Allen, Neuler, Woodruff, Coburn and others.

The Association met in the M. E. Church. S. D. Ingram, the President of the Association, having arrived, delivered his Annual Address.

Prayer by Rev. Ermentrout. Minutes of yesterday's session read, after which Mr. Ermentrout, of Berks Co., presented a report on "The Natural Order of Mental Development."

The subject of "The Number of Simultaneous Studies," was then discussed by Messrs. Shoemaker, Dean, Sharp, Syppers and others, some advocating only three simultaneous studies and others declaring very pertinently, we thought, that the whole matter must be governed by circumstances.

The forenoon session closed with an address by Mr. Brown, of Cincinnati, on the subject of Reading. Mr. B. was very happy in his illustrations of the various methods of reading.

On motion the Conference proceeded to the 33rd ballot, when Mr. Barker received 9, being the vote of Cambria, Mifflin and Blair, and was therefore declared duly nominated.

On motion of Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. McVitty, the nomination of Mr. Barker was made unanimous.

The committee retired a nd after a brief absence returned with Mr. Barker, who, after being introduced, accepted the nomination in a few appropriate remarks.

On motion Messrs. McCamant and Nulter were appointed a committee to invite Messrs. Hall and Dorris to appear before the Conference.

After a brief absence, the committee returned, with Messrs. Hall and Dorris, who, after being introduced, respectively addressed the Conference.

GROVE MEETING.—We are requested to say there will be a "Grove Meeting" held near the Sanatory School House, in Logan township by Rev. W. I. Leacock, commencing on Saturday evening, the 13th, inst. Several Ministers of the denomination, (Free-will Baptists) will be present to assist, and all things proving favorable, the meeting will be continued several evenings.

A newspaper carrier has paid \$5,000 for the exclusive right to sell papers at the depot and on the cars of the New York Central Railroad.

Which was delivered in Mr. K's usual eloquent and happy style. It is praise enough to say that the audience, even at this late hour, listened with attention.

THURSDAY MORNING.—Opened with Prayer by Supr. Coburn.—Mendville was selected as the place, for the next annual meeting of the Association. Mr. Brown of Cincinnati entertained the association for half an hour with select readings from Shakespeare.

After some remarks on pronunciation, the Meeting adjourned until two o'clock P. M.

The following committees reported, and reports acted upon, viz:—Committee on means best calculated to secure a full attendance at the meetings of the Association; Committee on Resolutions; Committee on preparation of a book ordered by the Association at its annual meeting, at Greensburg, in the year 1860—Committee on this continued. An election of officers was then held and resulted as follows: President, Prof. F. A. Allen; Vice Presidents, Messrs. Bates, Myers, Walther, and Parker; Recording Secretaries, McFarland, and Sharp; Corresponding Secretary, Robert McDivitt; Treasurer, Amos Rowe.

Discussion on the Report read, in the afternoon, by Col. McFarland. The committee to nominate an Executive Board, reported the following names, Myers, Dean, Dontheth, Raub and Elliot. Rev. C. Cort announced that an arrangement had been made for an excursion at half price to Cresson on Friday morning.

On Friday morning quite a number of those in attendance availed themselves of the opportunity offered by the R. R. Co., and visited Cresson.

17th Congressional District.

Conference met at Ward House, Tyrone, on Wednesday the 3rd day of Aug., at 10 o'clock, A. M. pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the President.

The roll being called, all the numbers answered to their names, except Mr. McCamant from whom a letter was read, stating his inability to be present before noon to-day.

On motion of Mr. Henderson the Conference adjourned until 1 1/2 o'clock this afternoon.

Conference reassembled at 1 1/2 P. M. when the following ballots were had: (376 to 392) Barker 6, Dorris 3, Hall 3.

Mr. McCamant then presented the following letter which was read and ordered to be made a part of the minutes:

LETTER FROM MR. HALL. Altoona, August 3rd, 1864. Messrs. McCamant, Gayer and Landon: Gentlemen—

The Congressional Conference having balloted through three successive days without any result before adjournment, I deem it proper to relieve you of any embarrassment so far as I am personally concerned. I need not say to you, gentlemen, my personal friends, and who are familiar with the history of the events which resulted in placing me in my present attitude, that I am not now, and have not been, anxious to be the Union Candidate for Congress in this District.

To the National Union party of the County of Blair which, in the Convention of its delegates, by a vote so decided and flattering, designated me as its candidate, and to you, gentlemen, representing the party and its convention, for the zeal and earnestness with which you have aimed to carry out that preference, I return my most profound acknowledgments. I would, however, be embarrassed to the confidence reposed in me by my friends at home, if, with a selfishness incapable of looking beyond personal claims or aspirations, I should ask you to do more than you have already done, to effect my nomination. I have no ambition, that I do not desire you to insist further upon my nomination, in any future balloting by the Conference.

I am, gentlemen, Faithfully your friend, LOUIS H. HALL.

On motion the Conference proceeded to the 33rd ballot, when Mr. Barker received 9, being the vote of Cambria, Mifflin and Blair, and was therefore declared duly nominated.

On motion of Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. McVitty, the nomination of Mr. Barker was made unanimous.

On motion the Chair appointed Messrs. McCamant, Nulter, and McKee a committee to inform Mr. Barker of his nomination.

The committee retired a nd after a brief absence returned with Mr. Barker, who, after being introduced, accepted the nomination in a few appropriate remarks.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, August 9, 1864.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

GENTLEMEN:—I have called you together in advance of your adjourned session, for the purpose of presenting to you the message of the Governor, from the commencement of the present rebellion, Pennsylvania has done her whole duty to the Government. Lying as her southern counties do, in the immediate vicinity of the border, and thus exposed to sudden invasion, a selfish policy would have led her to retain a sufficient part of her military force for her own defence. In so doing, she would have failed in her duty to the whole country. Not only would her men have been withheld from the field of general operations, but the loans and taxation which would have become necessary, would have to a large extent diminished the ability of her people to comply with the pecuniary demands of the United States. She would have necessarily interfered with and hampered all the military action of the Government and made herself to some extent, responsible for any failures and shortcomings that may have occurred.

In pursuance of the policy thus deliberately adopted, she has done her whole duty to the general service. From the beginning she has always been among the first to respond to the calls of the United States, as is shown by her history from the three months' men and the defeat of the British forces under Croft and Averill. How could an agricultural people in an open country be expected to rise suddenly and beat back hostile forces which had defeated organized veteran armies of the Government?

It is of course expected that the inhabitants of an invaded county will do what is in their power to resist the invaders, and the facts hereinafter stated will show, I think, that the people of these counties have not failed in this duty. If Pennsylvania, by reason of her geographical position, has required to be defended by the national force, it has only been against the common enemy.—It has never been necessary to weaken the army in the field by sending heavy detachments of veterans and volunteer militia to domestic posts of small bands of ruffians, composed of their own inhabitants. Nor have her people been disposed to sneer at the great masses of law-abiding citizens in any other State who have required such protection.

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Gen. Averill, it is understood, was under the orders of Gen. Hunter, but was kept as fully advised as Gen. Couch was possible, of the energetic measures being taken by the latter.

General Couch was in Chambersburg, where his entire force consisted of 60 infantry, 45 cavalry, and a section of a battery of artillery—in all, less than 150 men. The six companies of men, enlisted on the 23d of August, were sent to the State, and two companies of cavalry, had, under orders from Washington, (as I am unofficially informed,) joined General Averill. The town of Chambersburg was held until daylight, by the small force under General Couch, during which time the Government stores and train were saved. Two batteries were then planted by the enemy commanding the town, and it was invested by the whole command of Johnson and McCall, at 7 o'clock A. M., six companies of dismounted men, commanded by Sweeney, entered the town, followed by mounted men under Gilmore. The main force was in line of battle—a demand made for 100,000 dollars in gold, or 500,000 dollars in Government bonds, as ransom, and a number of citizens were arrested and held as hostages for its payment. No offer of money was made by the citizens of the town, and even if they had any intention of paying a ransom, no money was available. The town was immediately to be burned and pillaged, the aged and infirm, and even the bodies of the dead were not protected from their brutality. It would have been a disgrace to the Government, if it had not been for the heroic stand made by Gen. Couch's small force, to defend it. Gen. Couch withdrew his command, and did not himself leave until the enemy were actually in the town. General Averill, on the 23d of August, was in the vicinity of Chambersburg, it was hoped would arrive in time to save the town, and efforts were made during the night to communicate with him. In the mean time, the small force of General Couch held the town until day-break, when he was driven out of Chambersburg, but did not arrive until after the town was burned and the enemy had retired. He pursued and overtook them at McConnellsburg, in Fulton county, in time to save that place from pillage and destruction. He promptly engaged and defeated them, driving them to Hancock and across the Potomac.

I commend the houseless and ruined people of Chambersburg to the liberal benevolence of the Legislature, and suggest that a suitable appropriation be made for their relief. Similar charity has been heretofore exercised in the case of an accidental and destructive fire at Pittsburg, and I cannot doubt the disposition of the Legislature on the present occasion.

On the fifth day of this month a large rebel army was in Maryland and at various points on the Potomac as far west as New Creek, and as there was no adequate force within the State I deemed it my duty on that day to call "Thirty Three" Volunteer Militia to domestic posts of small bands of ruffians, composed of their own inhabitants. They will be armed, transported and supplied by the United States, but, as no provision is made for their payment, it will be necessary, should you approve my action, to make an appropriation for that purpose.

Feeling it to be the duty of the General Government to afford full protection to the people of Pennsylvania and Maryland, by the defence of the line of the Potomac, I united with Governor Bradford in the following letter to the President, dated July 21st, A. D. 1864:

STATE OF MARYLAND, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, HARRISBURG, Pa., July 21, 1864. His Excellency, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States: The repeated raids across the Potomac river made by portions of the rebel army, and the extent of the damage they have succeeded so frequently in inflicting, have most injuriously affected the people of Maryland and Pennsylvania, in the neighborhood of that river, and many of them, it is believed, are being driven to seek refuge in the future are seriously considering the propriety of abandoning their present homes and seeking safety in other States.

It seems to us that not merely in this sectional aspect of the matter, but in the national interest, it is our duty to call for the aid of the Federal Government, to afford full protection to the people of Pennsylvania and Maryland, by the defence of the line of the Potomac, I united with Governor Bradford in the following letter to the President, dated July 21st, A. D. 1864:

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done at once, and as a military measure, think it will be of essential service to the General Government, and recommend that the War Department encourage by authorizing the loan or issue of uniforms, provided the law in question is enacted.

It is believed that the new militia law of this State will practically prove of no value, excepting that an enrollment will probably be made I am, Sir, Very respectfully, Your obedient servant, D. N. COUCH.

Major General Couch, Dept. of War, Headquarters, DEPT. SUBCAMPANA, HARRISBURG, Aug. 4, 1864. A true copy respectfully furnished for the information of His Excellency Governor A. G. Curtin.

JNO. S. SCHULTZE, Assistant Adjutant General. On the same day I approved in writing of the proposition, and expressed my opinion that the Legislature would pass an act in accordance with the provisions of the 23d of August.

WAR DEPT. ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 1, 1864. Major General D. N. Couch, Commanding, etc., Harrisburg, Pa.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d of July, relative to the United States Militia law, and in reply to inform you that the subject has been carefully considered by the War Department, who cannot sanction the issue of the clothing in question.

Very respectfully, Your obedient servant, THOMAS M. VINCENT, Assistant Adjutant General, Headquarters Department of War, Subcampagna, Harrisburg, August 6th, 1864.

A true copy respectfully furnished for the information of His Excellency, Governor A. G. Curtin.

JOHN S. SCHULTZE, Assistant Adjutant General. In each of the years 1862, 1863 and 1864, it has been found necessary to call the State militia for the defence of the State, and this has been done with the assent and assistance of the General Government.

From the want of organization, we have been obliged to rely exclusively on the volunteer militia, and with few exceptions those who have been called out, have been organized them anew for each occasion. This has caused confusion and a loss of valuable time, and has resulted in sending to the field bodies of men who were untrained and unaccustomed to military service. It is therefore proposed that a law be enacted, providing for the organization of the militia into regular companies, and that the officers be appointed by the Governor, on the recommendation, approved by him, of a board of examination, composed of three officers of the militia, and of whom one shall be Major General of the division shall be one of the two to be designated by the Governor, on adjoining divisions, or in such other mode as the Legislature may think fit; that in all cases the officers shall be selected by preference from officers who have been in service, and shall have been honorably discharged by the United States; and that effectual provision be made for drafting the militia when required. The recommendation in regard to appointments is made to avoid the expense and too often political questions which divide military organizations by the election of officers, and to secure the services of the deserving and competent men.

The election of officers in the volunteer forces in the present form, is injurious to the service, while promotions by seniority, and appointments of meritorious privates has produced harmony and stimulated to faithfulness. In the enlistment of new organizations the plan adopted by the Government, of calling for recruits, has been found to be the best policy. I also recommend that the Governor be authorized to form (either by the acceptance of volunteers by draft in such parts of the State as he may deem expedient) a special corps of militia, to consist of the proportion of Cavalry, Artillery and Infantry to be kept up to the full number of fifteen regiments to be styled "Minute Men, who shall be sworn and mustered into the service of the State for three years, and who shall be drilled at such times and places as he may direct, who shall be clothed, armed and equipped by the State, and paid when assembled for drill or called into service, and who shall at all times be liable to be called into service for the defence of the State, independently of the remainder of the militia.

This force would be subject to sudden calls, the larger part of it should be organized in the counties lying on our extreme border, and as the people of these counties have more personal interest in their protection, the recommendation is made to authorize the Governor to designate the parts of the State in which it should be raised, and to fix the time and expense of transporting troops from remote parts of the State and the subsistence and pay in going to and from the border.

A body of men so organized, will, it is believed, be more efficient in our extreme border, and as the expense of clothing, arming and equipping such a force cannot be correctly ascertained, but the Quartermaster General has been directed to make an approximate estimate for your information, which will be forwarded to you by separate communication.

The State should provide at least six four-gun batteries of field artillery with all the modern improvements.

The suggestion has been frequently made by unreflecting persons that the State should raise a permanent force permanently in the field for her defence. Apart from other considerations, it is to be observed that the expense of such a measure would be quite beyond the present ability of the State.

To raise and maintain an army of fifteen regiments would involve an annual expenditure of more than fifteen millions of dollars, and any smaller force would be inadequate. The plan which I have above proposed, I think, give to the State efficient protection, and if the Legislature should think fit to adopt it, the expense can be readily provided for by loan or otherwise.

Having an organized force under the control of the authorities of the State, and mastered into service for domestic protection, we would not, as heretofore, lose time in arranging for transportation and supplies with the National Government, when it became necessary to call it into the field.

When thoroughly organized, it should be in all its appointments and equipments, and the Legislature should think fit to adopt it, the expense can be readily provided for by loan or otherwise.

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