

Democratic Watchman

Terms, \$2.00 a Year, in Advance.

Bellefonte, Pa., Sept. 27, 1889.

P. GRAY MEEK, - - - EDITOR

Democratic State Ticket.

FOR TREASURER,
EDMUND A. BIGLER,
OF CLEARFIELD.

Democratic County Ticket.

For Associate Judge—THOS. F. RILEY.
For Prothonotary—L. A. SCHAEFFER.
For District Attorney—J. C. MEYER.
For County Surveyor—GEO. D. JOHNSON.
For Coroner—Dr. JAMES W. NEFF.

Delatory Management.

It is now nearly four months since the great flood ravaged this region of country and carried away many of the county bridges needed for the accommodation of the traveling public. In this civilized age bridges are of the first necessity to all classes of people who use the roads. They mark the difference between this advanced stage of civilization and those primitive times when the traveler was forced to ford the streams that interrupted his progress, or depended upon the tardy movements of the ferryman. The necessity for bridges being so evident, it is difficult for the citizens of our county to understand why the Commissioners have been so dilatory in reconstructing those that were carried away by the flood. Four months have afforded ample time to replace them. Within that period every one could have been reconstructed and the people would not still be laboring under the inconvenience entailed by the absence of bridges on some of the most important lines of travel in the county.

It doesn't require months to reconstruct a county bridge. Energetic and intelligent public officers, with a proper understanding and appreciation of the wants of the people, would have had every bridge that was carried away by the flood replaced with new ones within two months, at the farthest, from the time of their destruction. The Pennsylvania railroad company gave an example of what prompt energy can do in that line, and surely officers who have the interests of a county in charge should be alert in the performance of their duty as the officers of a corporation.

The bridge carried away at Howard, on an important line of travel, is still down, to the great inconvenience of those who have a right to travel uninterruptedly in that direction. The Karthaus bridge, which by agreement between the Commissioners of the two counties was left to those of Centre for reconstruction, as they are the nearest to it, also remains unbuilt, while the trade from Clearfield county which heretofore has gone to Snow Shoe is being diverted elsewhere and will be entirely cut off when the cold weather renders the stream unfordable. Other county bridges are in the same backward stage of reconstruction.

Had the County Commissioners the money in hand for the immediate reconstruction of the bridges? They should have had. The Democratic board left sufficient surplus in the treasury to have rebuilt every one of them without borrowing a dollar, and it is claimed by the Republican organs that the present board is efficiently managing the county finances. If this is the case money should not be wanting, and there should be no reason for any stream in the county not being spanned by restored bridges at this date. But there is too much ground for the belief that the Democratic surplus had been fooled and frittered away by bad financing and that when the floods came there wasn't money on hand to promptly repair the damage.

The bridges will be eventually rebuilt after a delay that might have been avoided by better management, but there is every reason to apprehend that their reconstruction will involve an increase tax levy. The next Auditor's report is likely to exhibit a style of financing and county management that will astonish the taxpayers.

The increase of taxation levied on the farmers of Potter township by the County Commissioners the present year, is not nearly so very much as the tax-payers of the rest of the county think it should be under the circumstances. That township furnished one of the present board, and if it and Huston were taxed in proportion to the inefficiency of the officials they have furnished, the rest of the county would have but little to pay.

Interfering With Gabriel.

Chicago Tribune.

The Angel Gabriel (impatiently)— "Silence, now! I've been waiting more than an hour for a chance to blow this trumpet. Who's doing all that loud talking?"

Response from 1,399,999 voices—"Private Dalzell!"

Farmers Taxes Increased.

The Commissioner's organ still insists that farm valuations in the county were not increased by the recent Commissioners' triennial assessment. (We call it Commissioners' assessment, for the simple reason that it was they and not the assessors who fixed the valuations.) If there are three exclusively agricultural districts within the county, they are Potter, Penn and Haines townships. The total of valuations in these, on other than farm property, is less in proportion to the whole than in any other districts in the county. In 1886 the total value of all property assessed in these three farming districts amounted to \$1,703,216. This was when the Democrats had charge of the county finances, and at a time when farms were selling at from ten to twenty dollars per acre more than they are to-day. The assessed value of these same farms and farm property, the present year, by a board of Republican Commissioners, is fixed at \$1,719,729, or \$16,514 MORE THAN THREE YEARS AGO.

In the face of these figures, showing that valuations have been increased on the farm property of the county, the organ has the effrontery to deny the fact, and attempts to deceive the farmer by assuring him that under this Republican administration his taxes have not been increased. It does not understand that it is talking to intelligent men—men who, on the matter of taxes, are shrewd enough to see that the increase of valuations is simply an underhanded and cowardly way of increasing taxation without raising the millage. The organ will discover, however, the morning after the election, that the farmers of the county understand the situation exactly, and appreciate the fact that to save themselves from a load of county debt they must drive out of power the ring that is so wastefully, carelessly and ruinously running the county affairs.

Not to be Wondered At.

During the many years that the writer hereof has been connected with this paper he has never before heard as many complaints about the injustice and unfairness of the triennial assessment. And it is no wonder. The valuations fixed are not the valuations of the assessors. With very few exceptions these township officials allow the Commissioners to over-ride them, and to force valuations up to figures out of all proportion to the real value of property assessed. It is a Commissioners' not an assessors' assessment. We know of one township in which the Commissioners had an assessor to appoint and which place they refused to fill until the person applying for the position agreed that he would simply make a return of the property of the township, and allow the Commissioners to fix the value to it. We know of another case of an assessor being solicited to increase the valuations made, and making objections to doing so, because he had made them as high as he could conscientiously under oath, was told by Commissioner HENDERSON to increase them anyway. When the Commissioner was asked how he could do this when the valuations were already as high as he believed his oath was committed he saw two men, one of whom answered to the description of the one who entered the house, standing on the sidewalk. He did not notice anything suspicious in their action, but it is possible that they were accomplices and were planning the best way in which the work to be done could be safely accomplished.

The Governor Errred.

Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin.

In refusing to give the West Branch Valley a representative on the State Flood Commission, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the lamented Judge Cummin, Governor Beaver says that the work of the Commission has practically ended. As the Commission has only distributed about seven hundred thousand dollars since its appointment early in June, and has just announced that it is going to work to pay out one million six hundred thousand dollars, it is difficult to see how the work is "practically ended." If it has taken over three months to pay out seven hundred thousand dollars, how long will it take the Commission to distribute the balance?

We think the Governor erred in not carrying out this promise, because his extravagant disposition in regard to pensions was well understood. He commenced the administration of his office with a clearly defined and approved intention of carrying out this policy, and was halted only when it became evident to his superiors that his course was exciting popular alarm and indignation. That he believes that he was sacrificed for his fidelity to the party pledges is shown in his letter to H. CLAY HALL, Esq., of Little Falls, N. Y., in which he says: "I endeavored as Commissioner to religiously carry out the promises made on the platform." He made the mistake, however, of attracting attention by a too open display of his "liberality" to the soldiers and by blowing too much about it; otherwise it is likely that he would

still be engaged in scattering the "surplus" among all sorts and conditions of pension claimants.

Another Bold and Brutal Robbery at Altoona.

The brutal robbery of a defenseless woman at her home, which was recorded as having been perpetrated in Altoona some months ago, has been repeated under similar circumstances.

This second outrage occurred on Monday in broad daylight, the victim being Mrs. Tracey, wife of Mr. Michael Tracey, foreman of the Pennsylvania railroad company's oil house, residing at No. 955 Sixteenth street. It was about 3 o'clock when Mrs. Tracey, the victim, was out in the yard in the rear of the house and heard some one knocking at the door of the dining-room. She immediately left her work and entered the kitchen through which the stranger had passed before reaching the dining-room. The door facing the street was locked at the time and the intruder had gained entrance to the house by going through the yard at the side of the building, and thence through the kitchen, from which a door opens into the room in which Mrs. Tracey met him when she came in to answer to the knocking. She inquired of him what his business was. Her question was answered by the interroga-

"Is the man of the house in?"

"No," said the lady. "He is at work."

She had scarcely made the reply when the sounder seized her by the throat, exclaiming as he did so: "If you utter a cry I will shoot you dead!" The brute still holding her by the throat dragged her up stairs and demanded her to give up the money she had about her. She replied that she had none, but the robber was equal to anything and he repeated the question and struck the woman a blow over the face. Mrs. Tracey, not wishing to have the attack repeated gave him all the money she had about her person, which amounted to \$6.75. After securing this amount he, however, was not satisfied, and demanded of the now terrified lady all the cash on the premises. She told him that he had secured all there was in the house. He did not believe her statement and he proceeded to go through the room to which he had dragged the woman. After he had finished the one room without securing anything more, he dragged Mrs. Tracey into the back room where he tied her to a bed with a piece of rope. In this room there was a trunk which belonged to Edward, a son. The thief demanded the key and being told the son had it, he again gave her a hard blow in the face which together with the fright rendered her unconscious and she remained in this condition until the thief had finished his work and made his escape.

It appears that the robber forced open the trunk and took from it \$25 in gold and \$15 in silver, making his pilferings sum up to \$46.75. Shortly after the villain left the house Mrs. Tracey regard consciousness and began crying for help. Before taking Mrs. Tracey upstairs the thief had taken the precaution to lock the doors on the inside so that no one could have come into the house. The neighbors finally heard the cries and when they entered the dining room, not finding any one and hearing the cries continued, they proceeded up stairs where they found Mrs. Tracey still bound to the bed. Her arms had been tied very tightly at the wrists and above the elbows, and from the elbows to the wrists were black and blue marks. The cords were quickly unbound and she was released.

Immediately after she was liberated she was attacked by a violent hemorrhage, and for a time it was thought it would result fatally, but it was finally stopped. She was in a critical condition and it was thought she would not recover from the shock. She said that the man was rather below the medium height, was very slender and had a dark mustache. He wore a slouch hat and dark clothes. Besides taking the money the robber took a "British Bulldog" revolver and Mr. Tracey's best hat. It is possible that there were two parties concerned in the robbery and assault. A driver, whose name could not be learned, stated that shortly before the crime was committed he saw two men, one of whom answered to the description of the one who entered the house, standing on the sidewalk. He did not notice anything suspicious in their action, but it is possible that they were accomplices and were planning the best way in which the work to be done could be safely accomplished.

The functions of the General Assembly are defined as follows:

There shall be a General Assembly; it shall consist of deputies from the organizations represented in this convention, and from the Democratic societies which shall hereafter affiliate with them, chosen under the rules of those societies. The ratio of representation in the first General Assembly shall be determined by the Executive Committee, and hereafter the General Assembly shall be the supreme legislative council of the Society; it shall elect all officers, and the terms of all officers shall begin and end on the first of its annual meeting.

At the recent meeting of the Democratic State Convention, the following was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Democracy of Pennsylvania hail with delight the rapid organization of Democratic societies throughout the Union; that we recommend their institution in every neighborhood in this Commonwealth as the nurseries of "sound republican principles," and we look with special interest to the perfection and extension of the organization at the first General Assembly of the societies at Philadelphia, on Tuesday, October 15, 1889, where we cordially invite the presence and friendly cooperation of the Democracy of neighboring States.

A full representation of all primary societies at this, the first General Assembly, is respectfully urged.

Secretaries will please forward lists of deputies as soon as chosen to John D. Worm, Secretary Democratic Society of Pennsylvania, 109 South Broad street, Philadelphia.

CHAUNCEY F. BLACK,

John D. Worm, President,

Secretary.

A Poor Reason.

Gov. Beaver's reason for not appointing a successor on the State Flood Commission to the late Judge Cummin was set forth to be that the work of the commission has been practically ended. Indeed! Ended, with over \$1,000,000 of undistributed money in its hands! Well, then, let us have a report showing what this remarkable commission has accomplished.—*Record*.

Gov. Beaver's Reason.

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Had a Hard Time Of It.

Mrs Laura Williams, of Jersey Shore, will take charge of the school at Waterville this winter. She was teaching at the Rogers school, Pine Township, when the flood came; the house where she boarded was swept away, taking with it all her clothing, and money amounting to \$40. She left the school house on Friday evening, but, as it was raining very hard she did not go to her boarding house, but sat just at the home of John Callahan. During the night she was compelled to leave the Callahan house and wade through the water up to her waist to get to the bridge across the run; she had barely crossed the bridge when it was carried away. The destruction of the Benjamin Carson house, where she had been boarding, left her with nothing, except what she had on.

It is droll enough indeed to observe that the Republican party in Berks county has ripped itself up the back. It is commonly supposed that there are hardly enough Republicans in that Democratic Gibraltar to make a party big enough to have a factional fight, but there seems to be an internecine conflict raging that bids fair to attract the attention of the whole State, and possibly to involve the rival leaders in unpleasant fashion. This kind of strife over the spoils may not make any material difference in this State this year, but the party may find itself in need of the utmost harmony before it gets safely out of the Gubernatorial woods next year.—*Evening Telegraph*.

It Beats Johnstown.

An Overwhelming Flood in Japan Sweeps Towns and Villages to Destruction—15,000 People Perish.

State Cutting of Wages.

St. Louis Republic.

The Republican managers in Illinois are very angry because the suffering miners of Braidwood and Streator refused to consent to the reduction of seven and one-half cents a ton proposed by Governor Fife's administration. The Chicago "Inter-Ocean" even proposes that the miners should be starved into submission. It is cautious in its language, as a matter of course, but does it think the workmen of Illinois are too ignorant to understand what it means when it says of a meeting in aid of the miners that "it must be admitted that appeals for help in the present emergency will be less persuasive in tone, mingled as they will be with the blatant harangues of the demagogues. It will be difficult to keep the two voices distinct."

Again, it charges that "Democratic demagogues" prevent the miners from accepting what it calls "the compromise," meaning a very heavy cut in wages; and that they thus demonstrate a kind of indifference to the blood that might be shed."

As a threat this is intelligible. It may be answered with a threat in plain language—if the Republicans shoot any of these poor men, they have delayed holding campaign tines with profuse promises of high wages, the Republican party will be driven out of power in Illinois.

Let us be perfectly plain and candid in this matter. After every Republican in politics, from the lowest "stump" to the present occupant of the White House, has told these ignorant men these hypocritical lies—has victimized them by these false promises, intelligent and benevolent Democrats do not propose to consent to any reduction of wages forced by the bullet or bayonet of the State. Our Republicans and plutocratic friends might as well digest that statement now. After the infamies of their last campaign it is no longer possible for them to whip the Democrats into their schemes of robbery by raising the cry that the government is in danger; that social order is attacked; that it is necessary in order to prevent anarchy that the men who claim the fulfillment of campaign promises of high wages should be starved, shot, or bayoneted into submission.

Democrats are done with that sort of business. If it is right for one party to promise high wages for votes, it is right for the other to interpose between the State bayonet and the ignorant laborers who think these promises, made by the men they have elected to control the government, will be or can be carried out through government policy.

No plutocratic protectionist shall cut down wages with the consent of the Democratic party. Nor will the Democratic party consent to the use of starvation or bullets as arguments in favor of "compromise" involving the breaking of all Republican pledges and a forcing down of wages, already too low, to enable the laborer to pay the price of the necessities and comforts of life, while this price is kept high by Republican laws.

This is a plain statement of the facts in the case. The fighting ground is Democratic ground, and the Democratic party will not shrink the issue on it.

A Very Bogus Archbishop.

Philadelphia Record.

There was a good story told at the Union Republican Club on Tuesday night, after the friends of William R. Leeds had gathered there to celebrate his victory over Magistrate John F. Pole. In the palmy days when the Tenth ward used to roll up some of the biggest Republican majorities in the city the boys were not so particular where or how often they voted. A repeater one day approached the polling place in the division which embraces the Cathedral and the Archiepiscopal residence. Walking boldly to the window he thrust his ballot through the panel and called out his name and residence.

"James F. Wood, Eighteenth and Summer street."

The name and address was that of Archbishop Wood. The Democratic window-book man, who happened to be a Catholic and, of course, a member of the Cathedral parish, said to the repeater:

"Look here, I won't stand this. You ain't Archbishop Wood."

The repeater flashed a look of scorn at his challenger, and in a pretended injury exclaimed:

"The hell I ain't. Take that vote there, judge!"

But the judge was so rudely shocked by the profanity of the bogus Archbishop that he rejected the vote.

Government by the Grand Army.

The disappearance of "government by the people," and the substitution of government by the Grand Army of the Republic, for the Grand Army of the Republic proceeds apace.

The New York "Press," edited by the commissioner of the census, publishes this morning a dispatch from its Washington correspondent which says: "It is understood that one reason why the president has hesitated to appoint General Merrill is that he has as yet failed to procure the endorsement of General R. A. Alger, the commander-in-chief of the G. A. R., and other big veterans." How do the American people enjoy this spectacle of a power within the State which is greater than the State, of an organization before whose hands the president of the United States humbly bows?

A Green Traveler.

The Montgomery (Lycoming county) Mirror says:

"It seems incredible in this age of railroads that a citizen of this county would live a score of years within twelve miles of two or three lines of railway and never have been on a car. Such is the fact, however, as reported to us by Parker Houston, of this place. While on his way to Williamsport the other day, a young man boarded the train at Muney and took a seat.

Noticing that the man was extremely nervous when the train started, Mr. Houston spoke to him and soon learned that this was the first time he had ever been on the cars, although he was twenty years old and lived within twelve miles of Muney. He had never been to Williamsport, and Mr. H. and the other passengers were no little amused at the movements and remarks of the young man during his initiation in the mysteries of railroad traveling."

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