

Democratic Watchman

Terms, \$2.00 a Year, in Advance

Bellefonte, Pa., March 28, 1890.

P. GRAY MEEK, - - - Editors.

Figures That Show the Deception.

When we first called attention to the fact that the Commissioners statement for the past year omitted items of indebtedness already incurred, which if paid, or deducted, would very materially lessen the alleged balance in the county treasury, we had no idea it would cause such a troubling of hearts among the Republican managers to explain the matter, nor did we imagine that they would be silly enough to plead as an excuse, for what might have been accounted for as an oversight, that it is not customary or necessary to show "contracted indebtedness" or known liabilities, to give the tax-payers an idea of the financial condition of the county.

If it is not necessary, as the *Republican* claims, show "contracted indebtedness" in the county statement, why is there a list of outstanding indebtedness under the head of "Liabilities" published in each annual statement? And if this list of liabilities does not include all known indebtedness, it is not a fraud and a deception upon the tax-payers?

In the last statement, as certified to by the Commissioners, the outstanding indebtedness as given, under the head of liabilities, including commissions for collections and exonerations of bad taxes, is put at \$3,199.69, and yet in less than one month after the publication of that statement, the mouthpiece of the Commissioners admits that the contract price for erecting the Karthaus bridge was \$6,500, on which amount but \$400 had been paid, leaving a balance of \$5,100 of indebtedness on this one bridge alone, of which nothing at all was said, no account taken, and the tax-payers left to believe that no such indebtedness existed. It is the same with the Howard bridge. And yet with a known debt of \$6,100 on the Karthaus bridge, which is conveniently dropped in making up the statement, and an unsettled account aggregating half that much more, due for work on the Howard bridge, the Commissioners published that the "estimate expenses for bridges for the coming year is but \$5,500, all told."

If the statement was not made up to deceive the tax-payers, why was the known indebtedness of the Karthaus bridge—\$6,100—left out of the liabilities entirely, and why was the total estimate of money to be paid out for bridges the present year, fixed at a figure that would not pay the indebtedness on this one bridge?

Can you make anything else but a clear, clean cut case of deception and fraud of such a financial exhibit?

Explanations That Need Explaining.

Nearly every week since the publication of the commissioners' statement, we have called attention to the fact of their being \$1,566.60 of state tax, shown to have been paid into the county, unaccounted for. We have asked an honest, fair explanation of where it was, or what has become of it, and had a right to expect an explicit and truthful answer, but in place of this we get two explanations which are so utterly at variance with each other, that we are compelled to believe them both the work of some person or persons who know nothing about what they attempt to explain, or else intentionally state what are not facts, in order to further deceive the tax-payers of the county.

In the issue of the *Republican* of March 20th we find the following as an explanation of this matter:

"As to the former charge we fail to find from an examination of the statement, where the *Warren* finds that \$1,566.60 that it charges was never paid into the state. Admitting, however, that it is there, it is very easily to explain why it was never paid in. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN COLLECTED."

In this issue of this week the same paper, gives another and entirely different explanation of the matter. It says:

The amount of State tax levied, not collected, for 1889, was \$12,32. Uncollected \$137.89, leaving a balance of \$738.43. There was paid to the State, treasurer's commission and extra clerk hire on account of State tax, \$3607.24. This would leave a balance of \$2131.19 yet to account for. In addition to the above payments on account of State tax are the following which does not appear on the statement simply because the statement is a statement of the "Receipts and expenditures of Centre county" and not the receipts and expenditures of the State, even in Centre county. Abatements on act. of State tax \$293.64 Commission for collecting same 243.65 Assessors pay making assessment 653.04 Exonerations on act. of State tax 791.86 Total \$1982.15

Taken \$1982.15 from the \$2131.19 as above given, and you will find a balance of \$140.04, which last and final balance is now in the treasury of Centre county and stands on the books of that office to the credit of the State of Pennsylvania, and which amount can be had whenever the State wants it.

Now the question is, which of these

two statements does the *Republican* expect the tax-payers to believe? It can't be both, for if this \$1,566.60 has not been collected, how could the commission for collecting be charged up, and "exoneration" and abatements on account of state tax be made? If it has been collected and the books of the commissioners' office make the showing the last statement in the *Republican* asserts they do, why did not the commissioner's statement make the same showing? Why smuggle up these charges amounting to almost \$2,000? It will not do to say, as does our neighbor, that it is "because the statement is a 'statement of receipts and expenditure of Centre county'" and not the receipts and expenditure of the state, even in Centre county." Other expenditures are charged up against this state tax and set forth in the statement. Why not the ones just discovered by the *Republican*?

Are not both these explanations made up specially to cover a mixed up state of matters at the commissioners' office. Which of the explanations "explains," and how will our neighbor explain both so that they will fit?

A Clear Give Away.

From the evidence of a combination of circumstances we were led to believe that Mr. JAMES MILLIKEN was the author of articles that appeared in the *Daily News* and *Republican* of this place, condemning Postmaster General WANAMAKER for his project to make the telegraph business of the country a part of the post office service, and we said so in our issue of last week in an article headed "A Mystery Explained." In answer to this the *Daily News* had the following paragraph:

We have always given the editor of the *WATCHMAN* credit with possessing considerable fore-sight, reasoning and powers of intuition, but after reading the first article in third column on fourth page of last week's paper entitled, "A Mystery Explained," we have come to the conclusion that there is one more weak minded, giddy-headed editor in the world than we thought there was.

This piece of foolishness is of no weight in the question, but on Wednesday morning an incident occurred which confirmed our belief that it is our friend and neighbor, Mr. MILLIKEN, who is throwing hot shot into the post office department through our neighbor's columns. The incident to which we refer was the appearance in our sanctum of a colored man who handed us an envelope well filled with manuscript and directed to Mr. GATES, editor of the *Daily News*, saying that Mr. MILLIKEN had sent it. Seeing that he had made a mistake and got into the wrong shop, we set him right, and he took it over to the place where it belonged. In the afternoon the *Daily News* came out with another fierce attack on WANAMAKER. A man could be hanged on circumstantial evidence less strong than that.

Colonel Ricketts for Governor.

The Pittston *Times* claims that Colonel R. Bruce RICKETTS is rapidly gaining strength among the Democrats in that section as a candidate for Governor. Upon the ground of his having been a brave soldier in the late war that paper holds that his nomination as the Democratic candidate would at least "test the sincerity of those men who clamor for honor for the soldier."

We are afraid that the class referred to do not care much about honoring the soldier unless there is a contingent advantage to the Republican party. The regard of that party for the soldier consists largely of political selfishness, with hounding as a prominent element.

Colonel RICKETTS is an excellent citizen, a good Democrat, and would make a very reputable candidate, but the fact of his having been a brave soldier would draw but few votes from a party whose love for the soldiers is limited to the political use that may be made of them, for which it is willing to give an equivalent in unlimited pensions.

The New York *Sun* ridicules HARRISON's ambition to be his own successor in the Presidency, he being too unpopular with his party to warrant such an ambition. It says he hasn't the element of popularity, but "a President of force and popular sympathy might disgust the leaders of his party and still be too strong with the people to be set aside for any other candidate."—With what accuracy DANA, to whom CLEVELAND is as a red handkerchief to an enraged bull, unintentionally and unconsciously describes in that paragraph the case of the ex-President.

The Boss Reported to Be in Trouble.

There are interesting rumors about QUAY. It is said that he is coming home in haste from Florida to fix up some weak points in the political fence with which he has corralled the Republican party of Pennsylvania. He has heard alarming reports about the danger that threatens DELAMATER even should he be nominated.

This danger does not consist in any Republican having the hardihood to run against him after he has been designated as the choice of the Boss, but in

the threat of the Farmers' Alliance that it will oppose him. This organization of farmers, which is beginning to take an active part in politics in the South, proposes to take a hand in Pennsylvania politics, and pretty strong intimations have been made that DELAMATER, as a corporation man, would not suit them. It would seem that there is trouble ahead for the Boss.

Something More About Bad Roads.

The bad condition of the country roads which prevailed during the entire winter has not been improved any by the mud that usually attends the advent of Spring. From all quarters we hear complaint that they were never so bad. The residents of the country districts are deterred from using their teams for the ordinary purposes of traffic or travel, a journey to town or elsewhere being a task almost impossible to accomplish, and thus business of much importance to the agricultural interest is greatly impeded. The situation affords a forcible illustration of the disadvantage of bad roads, and should serve to induce the adoption of measures that shall furnish the country with roads that can be easily and expeditiously traversed at all seasons of the year.

The loss that has been sustained by the farmers during this season of mud through the interruption of their business in consequence of impassable roads, represents a value in money that would go a great way in making the highways what they should be. Of course, as this loss does not appear in the daily dollars and cents, it is not susceptible of proper appreciation, but in the long run it amounts to the same as that much deducted from the profits of the farmer's business.

The experience of the past winter should mark the beginning of improved methods in the management of the country roads. But it is not necessary that the turning over of a new leaf should be attended with extravagant expenditure. Makeshifts, cheap at the time, but dear in the end, should be discarded, and what is done should be done thoroughly, with a view of being permanent. It has been found that one side of a road macadamized has afforded excellent traveling in muddy weather when the other side was completely impassable. No more than this is necessary, as a clay road in dry periods is preferable to a turnpike, affording a smoother avenue of traffic and travel. Several townships of this county have roads of this character and they answer an admirable purpose. There should be more of them.

Foolish Impudence.

About the most impudent thing that has come under our observation in many a day is the charge made by the Republicans that the Democrats have gerrymandered Ohio. They speak of it as a wrong unparalleled in the political history of the State, and their tone would lead the uninformed to believe that the highly moral leaders of their party would rather sacrifice their precious lives than to do so wicked a thing as to gerrymander. There is an extent to which impudence may go without stultification, but this Republican fuss about the unfair redistricting of Ohio exhibits as great a lack of sense as of shame, in view of the fact that the new apportionment is merely the correction of an outrageous gerrymander by which the Democrats, within a few thousand of being equal in number to the Republicans, were allowed to elect but five of the twenty-one Ohio Congressmen.

Unfair and unequal apportionment should not be resorted to by any party, gerrymandering being a vicious practice that should be abandoned as antagonistic to the principle of popular representation, but when the Republicans show a sample of guilt in this respect such as was presented in Ohio, and exists at this time in Pennsylvania where it has been so managed that 526,091 Republicans elect 21 congressmen and 446,633 Democrats elect but 7, their whining about the Democratic gerrymander in Ohio displays an excess of cheek that is immeasurable.

A Democratic Council.

At a meeting of prominent Democrats of Pennsylvania drawn together last week in Philadelphia to consult on the political situation, matters pertaining to the good of the party and the exigencies of the coming campaign were considered. It was an assemblage of counsellors and not of bosses, consisting of congressman MUTHLER, of Northampton county, Hon. Wm. L. Scott, of Erie, State Senator Ross, of Bucks, ex-State Senator ECKLEY B. COXE, of Luzerne, W. U. HENSEL, of Lancaster, ex-Postmaster HARRITY, of Philadelphia, BENJAMIN F. MEYERS, of Harrisburg, and JOHN B. READ of Philadelphia. The subject of the nomination of Governor was considered without any disposition to dictate the choice that should be made.

Ten or twelve names were mentioned in this connection, but no one of the gentlemen present was committed to any particular candidate. Looking so far ahead as 1892, there was a remarkable unanimity in regard to the Presidential candidate, all being in favor of GROVER CLEVELAND. In respect to the Democratic State Convention this year, the prevailing sentiment was favorable to calling it at an early date.

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Starving Miners.

More Tales of Suffering and Destitution from Scranton.

SCRANTON, Pa., March 24.—A shadow blacker than anthracite is extending its phantom projections through all the coal regions of Pennsylvania. It is the shadow of want, and its baleful influence is felt in hundreds of homes throughout the mining valleys of the Keystone state.

Mr. B. G. Morgan, of Hyde Park, a prominent member of the relief committee, says that the destitution is beyond description. He tells of a man who went to a storekeeper and begged to be trusted for a sack of flour. The storekeeper said he could not afford to give any more trust. When the man was going away he seized and carried off one of the sacks of flour which he found outside the door. The storekeeper was informed of the occurrence a few minutes later and hastened to the man's home. There he saw a sight which touched him to the heart. The sack of flour lay open on the floor and the poor man's children were sitting around it helping themselves to its contents with spoons.

Stories of distress all along the mining hamlets of the region are numerous and well authenticated, and the worst feature is that there does not seem to be a silver lining to the cloud which hangs over the coal trade.

A Tramp's Good Fortune.

He Received a Legacy of \$10,000 and Returns to the Tramps' Retreat.

WEST CHESTER, Pa., March 25.—Jessie Matlack is a well-to-do farmer living about four miles from this place. On his farm is a large stone barn, which is the rendezvous of many tramps, who make it a sleeping place. A few nights ago Mr. Matlack was called to the door by a loud knock. He answered the summons and found two men there, who asked if there was a large barn in the neighborhood in which tramps slept. Mr. Matlack answered that his barn was probably the one meant. The men said they were looking for a tramp named Jack Murphy. Mr. Matlack lighted a lantern and went with them. They went to the haymow, and after calling several times for Murphy a ragged, miserable looking fellow crawled out from under the hay. "Are you Jack Murphy?" asked one of the men. He was. "Then come along with us. Your uncle in Philadelphia has died and left you \$10,000."

This announcement made Murphy open his eyes to their widest extent and brought out of the hay a half dozen more tramps as ragged as Jack himself. Jack went with the men, who proved to be lawyers' clerks, and true enough got his \$10,000. But he did not desert his companions at Mr. Matlack's barn. He roosts with them as usual.

Mothers of Soldiers.

The Woman's Relief Corps of Pennsylvania wish to ascertain as soon as possible how many widows and mothers of soldiers, sailors or marines of the late war, or disabled veterans with their wives, are inmates of charitable institutions of the State, or receiving aid from poor boards in counties where there are almshouses, so that they may gather into the Pennsylvania Memorial Home at Brookville all who are eligible to be received into that institution. If these reports are made to the nearest Corps of W. R. C. they will at once be forwarded to the proper authorities and receive attention.

What the Deficit Will Be.

When ex-Speaker Carlisle's statement was published recently that the appropriations which the Republicans of this Congress intended making would cause a deficiency in the treasury at the end of the next fiscal year, Mr. Cannon, chairman of the House committee on appropriations, stated that it was a misrepresentation made for political effect. Now as good a Republican as Senator Hawley states on the floor of the Senate that the appropriations to be made for the next fiscal year aggregate \$523,000,000 against an estimated revenue of \$450,000,000, making a deficit of \$73,000,000. Certainly Mr. Hawley was not talking for political effect.

The Ever Growing Burden.

Think of this, ye tax-payers, says Pomeroy's *Advocate Thought*, "thirteen years after the war of the Rebellion ended, the pension list required for one year was \$26,000,000. The coming year \$36,000,000 are to be taken from the people to be given to the army of pensioners who appear to be increasing each year. And yet the poor farmer who cannot get out of debt, and the mechanic who is at the mercy of the usurer, goes right down hill to his grave, leaving his children in bondage. How strange it is that American sovereign citizens, each of whom is a king in his own right, should prefer the taxation, dishonesty, poverty, bondage and death, to organization and protection of all who live by honest industry."

Harrison's Southern Policy.

Nashville American.

The appointments made in the Southern States have, to a great extent, been such as would never have been made in any community north of Mason and Dixon's line. The most disreputable and notorious rascals, men without intelligence, without character—except bad character—without the respect of any decent man in the community, have been chosen to fill offices of great importance and responsibility. Federal judges, United States marshals, postmasters without number, have been chosen without any other reference to their fitness, except their unfitness. A judge and a marshal who conspire to pack juries to secure convictions without regard to law, who prostitute the machinery of the law to hound and persecute their personal and political enemies, would not be tolerated anywhere in the North; nor would the President dare to outrage public sentiment by such appointments.

Solid for Cleveland.

Lock Haven Democrat.

As we mentioned yesterday the conference of Democratic leaders in Philadelphia was solid for Cleveland as the next Democratic nominee for the Presidency. This, we think, is the general sentiment of the masses everywhere, although it may possibly not suit some of the politicians. But the man who led in the attack upon the high tariff and struck such a vigorous blow that the whole edifice of high tariff wickedness rocked and trembled, is the man to whom ought to be confined the task of finishing the great work for the emancipation of the people from the tyranny and outrage that have been practiced upon them. Let the entire Democratic host, mighty in number and powerful in sentiment for effectual and permanent tariff reform, stand for Cleveland from one end of the country to the other, and in 1892 there will be no difficulty in restoring to his proper place in the White House the great President who was only displaced by the corrupting use of hundreds of thousands of dollars and the basest treachery of pretended friends. Let the Democratic masses avenge this outrage upon them and him.

Don't Borrow Presidential Troubles.

Philadelphia Times.

It is intimated that the contest for the Democratic nomination for Governor in Pennsylvania is likely to be a contest for the supremacy of the friends of Cleveland or the friends of Hill, as a preliminary skirmish for the Presidential nomination in 1892.

It is intimated also that Democratic political leaders are making the gubernatorial battle with the view of controlling the patronage of the next President, if a Democrat, rather than with the view of electing a Governor.

It would be well for leaders who are involved in any such movements not to borrow Presidential troubles just now. Besides, there couldn't be any greater waste of time and effort. If an avowed Cleveland man were nominated for Governor, it wouldn't put Cleveland a whit nearer the nomination in 1892, and if an avowed Hill man were nominated, it wouldn't give Hill the shadow of a chance for the national nomination.

The next Democratic candidate for President won't be decided by the success or defeat of any faction in Pennsylvania. If the occasion shall call for Cleveland, a solid delegation against him from this State wouldn't make a rump in the strife; and solid de'ations for Hill from both New York and Pennsylvania wouldn't make him seriously thought of as a national candidate.

Don't borrow Presidential troubles. It is bad policy for any party, and it would be next to certain to defeat any candidate for the nomination for Governor, and would be absolutely certain to defeat him at the election. When the people of Pennsylvania went to elect an honest reform Governor, they won't want a mixture of Presidential monkeying in the effort. Look to the election of a Governor this year and don't borrow Presidential troubles.

Senator Voorhees Scores the Thieves' Tariff.

Last Monday in speaking on his resolution for an inquiry into the cause of the existing agricultural depression, Senator Voorhees, of Indiana, spoke of the deep, strong current of anxiety, discontent and alarm prevailing in the farming communities, and said that he proposed to aid them in the inquiry as to the causes of the existing depression.