

Democratic Watchman

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P. GRAY MEEK, Editor

Democratic County Committee, 1891.

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The Proposed New Road Law.

Elsewhere in the present issue of the WATCHMAN we publish the full text of the proposed new road law, as it was amended and passed by the Senate. It will be noticed that the one feature so generally objected to by tax-payers—the creation of a new county officer under the name of "County Engineer"—has been stricken out and the entire charge of the roads is left to the management of supervisors, just as the present law provides. The only material changes that have been made are the provision requiring road taxes to be paid in money, and the one making it obligatory on the township to expend twenty-five per cent. of the total amount of road tax in the building of permanent roads each year. In case this last provision is not complied with, the township refusing to make the permanent roads, as required, will lose its share of the State appropriation, which it is estimated will amount to one-fourth of the total amount of road tax raised in each township. It will be noticed that cities and boroughs receive no part of the State appropriation, the entire amount going to the country districts.

As the bill will not be taken up in the House for some days yet, there is time for those opposed to the measure to send their remonstrances against its passage to the members. In the absence of remonstrances against this bill they will have reason to believe that the people of the State favor its passage, and will vote accordingly.

Good Appointments.

Governor PATTERSON has made some more good appointments which were sent to the Senate on Tuesday for confirmation. They were ROBERT S. PATTERSON, of Philadelphia, for Harbor Master at that city; Dr. HENRY LEFFMAN, of Philadelphia, for Port Physician, and Dr. EDWIN M. HERBERT, of Berks county, for Lazaretto Physician. The appointees are thoroughly competent and are prominent Democrats. Dr. LEFFMAN, during Gov. PATTERSON'S first term, satisfactorily filled the office to which he is again appointed. Dr. HERBERT'S appointment is a merited tribute to the sterling Democracy of Berks county. Mr. PATTERSON'S appointment is something of a surprise, as he was one of the leading Wallace men in the convention that nominated PATTERSON. In selecting him for so important an office the Governor shows a praiseworthy disposition to harmonize the party.

The judges of the Northampton county court showed good sense in the course they adopted in granting license this year. They required the applicants to appear before them, and previous to the granting of the licenses explained what constitutes a violation of the license law, renders a license liable to be revoked and the party holding it, liable to punishment. Why wouldn't the adoption of this plan throughout the State be well? In some cases the law is unintentionally violated and this course would prevent such unconscious violation.

It is some relief to know that while a Republican congress had the power to authorize such a job as the Postal Subsidy, it can't be carried out without an appropriation from a Democratic congress, and Democratic congresses, as a rule, are opposed to jobbery. Besides, it wouldn't be good politics to allow the Republicans the advantage of so big a boodle fund in a Presidential campaign.

Congressional Apportionment.

In the Senate on Tuesday morning Mr. MEEK, of Centre, introduced a Congressional Apportionment Bill. It provides for ten Democratic, sixteen Republican and four doubtful districts. Under this bill Philadelphia will be given six districts and Allegheny three. Chester and Delaware are the seventh district; Montgomery and Lehigh the eighth; Berks and Lebanon the ninth; Lancaster the tenth; Northampton and Bucks the eleventh; Lackawanna, Pike and Monroe the twelfth; Luzerne the thirteenth; Schuylkill and Carbon the fourteenth; Bradford, Susquehanna, Wyoming and Wayne the fifteenth; Clinton, Lycoming, Sullivan and Columbia the sixteenth; Northumberland, Montour, Snyder, Juniata and Mifflin the seventeenth; Dauphin and York the eighteenth; Perry, Cumberland, Adams, Franklin and Fulton the nineteenth; Huntingdon, Blair, Bedford and Somerset the twentieth; Westmoreland and Fayette the twenty-first; Cambria, Indiana, Armstrong and Clarion the twenty-second; Jefferson, Clearfield, Centre and Elk the twenty-sixth; Toga, Potter, McKean, Forest and Cameron the twenty-seventh; Erie and Crawford the twenty-eighth; Mercer, Venango, Lawrence and Butler the twenty-ninth, and Beaver, Washington and Greene the thirtieth.

It will be seen that in point of party equilibrium, as demanded by the relative numerical strength of the two parties, this bill is a decided improvement on the present congressional gerrymander made by the Republicans. In the vote of the State aggregating a million, there is, at most, a difference of but about 30,000 in the votes of the two parties, and yet the State has been so disproportionately apportioned as to allow but seven certain Democratic districts out of twenty-eight. Ten, as provided by Senator MEEK'S bill, is a very moderate claim for half a million voters.

Centre county, in which we are directly interested, is changed somewhat in its district relations by this bill, it being joined with Jefferson, Clearfield and Elk. Its present district includes Forest and Clarion, which are omitted and Jefferson substituted. The proposed one is certainly more contiguous than the present district, and a good deal more compact, the tail composed of Forest and Clarion, which was attached by the Republican gerrymandering process, being omitted. It is a fair and nearly square district and should be included in the apportionment.

The Chicago Tribune, which holds one of the highest places in Republican journalism, resents the charge that those who say that the McKinley law has had the effect of raising prices are guilty of lying. It contends that the lying has been done by those who promised lower prices and higher wages in the event of its passage. If the object of the tariff law had been to lower prices, those who profit by the high price of their commodities would not have favored it, nor would those whose profits are increased by the reduction of their employees' wages have given it their support if its tendency was to increase wages. High prices for their products and low wages for their workmen are the very lifeblood of protected monopolies, and the Chicago Tribune, although a Republican newspaper, is honest enough to admit this fact.

The Chicago Fair Appropriation.

Our State lawmakers are determined to have Pennsylvania out a grand figure at the Chicago Fair if expensive outlay will enable it to be done. The original appropriation of \$150,000 for that purpose has been increased to \$300,000 by the House Committee, and the commission has been enlarged by the addition of one Senator and three members of the House, and the further provision is made that the President pro tem of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall be on the commission. The bill as passed by the Senate limited the expenses of the commission to transportation and \$5 a day for subsistence for each day necessarily employed in the business of the board, but a House amendment authorizes that the expenses incurred by the members of the board shall be paid as debts incurred by the board.

This last provision gives the individual commissioners great latitude of expense. It can't be expected that they will exercise any economy when the expenses they may incur are to be paid "as debts incurred by the board." A very soft snap is involved in that provision and there is in the whole arrangement great possibilities for a large amount of private fun at the expense of the public. The Harrisburg legislators evidently have taken lessons from REED'S billion dollar congress in the art of disposing of the surplus.

Promises Not Yet Fulfilled.

The Republican State Convention which nominated DELAMATER was so greatly moved by a sense of justice to the farmers and by compassion for their tax-ridden condition, that it resolved that "the depression under which our agricultural interests now suffer has made the present system of taxation bear too heavily upon them, and we therefore pledge ourselves to lighten that burden, and, as far as possible, to equalize taxation."

This promise wouldn't have received more attention than the Republican promises to farmers have usually received, if the election last fall hadn't gone so unexpectedly against the "promising" old party. The result in November was a rough reminder to the leaders that the people had become tired of their deception; consequently the present Legislature is hustling the tax bill that proposes to relieve the farmers by equalizing taxation, having passed it through the House on second reading last week, and will probably pass it finally in that branch of the Legislature this week.

But those who favor equality of taxation shouldn't take too much encouragement from the prompt manner in which the House has pushed the tax bill along. The granger influence is strong in that body. It is in the Senate that the money power and the corporations, which object to being equally taxed, are strongly entrenched. It should be remembered that in its passage from the Senate to the executive chamber a tax bill a few years ago underwent a process of jugglery that rendered it of no more account than the paper upon which it was written. It should also be remembered that in the session previous to the present one a grangers' tax bill got swimmingly through the House only to be handed over by the Senate to a commission that was intended to continue the tax jugglery indefinitely. The sharp call from the people last fall has accelerated the action of the Legislature in the tax question, and the work of the House on the subject has been reasonably prompt; but the upper branch of the Legislature has in time past been so surrounded by the shoals and quicksands of corporate and money influence that the grangers can't be sure of their bill going through that body safely until they shall have seen it safely through.

The "Pluck-me's."

There is naturally an opposition to the bill before the Legislature for the suppression of the "pluck-me" store iniquity, but it comes from those who are filching the earnings of honest workmen by the extortion which is practiced in such establishments. It is the experience that men who are compelled to take their wages, or any part of them, in store goods are more or less defrauded, in that they do not get a full equivalent for their work, and when it is considered that their wages are usually low, the loss they are compelled to sustain by such a method of payment intensifies the wrong to which they are subjected. The law should sternly repress the iniquitous system.

The poor old Legislative Record, which has dragged its useless existence through many successions of Legislatures, has been called to account and sharply asked what use there is in its existing any longer? A resolution passed through both Houses last Friday declaring the Record, as now published, a failure, and authorizing a committee to consider whether it wouldn't be well to abolish it. The usefulness of this publication has often been challenged by the Legislature, accompanied with threats of its abolishment, and it has been subjected to continual ridicule on account of its dilatoriness and inferior appearance; but neither threats nor ridicule has had the effect of improving it, and therefore it would seem that the only remedy in the case is to wipe it out entirely.

Instead of becoming unduly excited over the lynching of the Italian assassins at New Orleans and threatening reminding the Americans of the power of the Italian nation and the efficiency of its navy, with dark hints of the revengeful disposition of the Italian character which will require retaliation, the sons of Italy resident in the United States ought to take the lead in condemning and suppressing the Mafia in this country. They know the infamous character of this organization from their crimes committed in their own country, and should be the last to defend it when its offenses here have been punished even by so rough a process as lynch law which, under the circumstances existing at New Orleans, was the only means of punishing the murderous offenders.

A Nice Legislature.

The auction sale of the California Senatorship to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Senator H. EAST resulted in ex-Congressman FELTON securing the commodity. It was generally believed that ESTEE would be elected, as he had a majority of the Republican votes pledged to him, but it is evident that FELTON outbid him.

The successful candidate declares that he didn't spend a dollar in getting the prize, but the bare suggestion of a California U. S. Senatorship being obtained without purchase excites derisive laughter throughout the whole Pacific slope where they know the money value that millionaires place upon that desirable position. The character of the California Legislature precludes the belief that there was not a bargain and sale. The San Francisco Chronicle-Bulletin, an Estee organ, calls it "the most infamous Legislature that ever sat in the capitol," while even the Post, the organ of the successful candidate, speaks of it as "the rotten Legislature at Sacramento." There is no question that both of these organs thoroughly understand the character of that legislative body.

Messrs. BATES, WOODS and MEEK have been appointed a committee on the part of the Senate to investigate the Legislative Record. From the style in which that document has been always printed it was never ornamental, and now it is being questioned whether it is useful.

Defective Reform.

The Press, with its accustomed incorrectness, says that the Democratic press of the State generally urged the passage of a ballot reform law "until it was discovered that it was the intention of the Republicans to pass it and then they began to clamor for something else."

If there has been any clamor on the part of the Democratic papers on this subject it is because the ballot bill which the Republicans intend to pass will but imperfectly effect the object of reform. It will not ensure the complete secrecy which is required to protect the voter. It does not provide for an honest registration without which an Australian ballot law will be ineffective as against fraudulent voting.

A party that takes up a reform measure, not from inherent honesty of purpose, but because it was forced to it by the pressure of public sentiment, is pretty sure to do the work in as lame and defective a manner as possible, and it is because the Republican Legislature is managing the ballot reform bill in such a spirit as this that the true friends of honest elections are protesting.

The last of the great military leaders of the Southern Confederacy was removed to another world by the death of General JOSEPH E. JOHNSON, who died at Washington last Saturday, where he had been a resident for some years. He was a great soldier and played a great part in the drama of the civil war, standing next to LEE in the tactical ability that so long baffled the ablest Union generals. With all his capacity as a soldier he was modest and amiable, and both GRANT and SHERMAN were his warm personal friends after the great struggle was over. The illness that caused his death was brought on by exposure while attending the funeral of General SHERMAN.

If it be true as reports from New Orleans represent, that every one of the Mafia gang killed at New Orleans was "a citizen of the United States" by naturalization, the names of all of them being on the voting list of that city, it can not be seen how interference on the part of the Italian government would apply to the case. Their naturalization made them American citizens, and the authorities of Italy can have no more interest in them than could the government of France or any other European nationality. It is, however, a nice commentary on our naturalization laws that such out-throats can become American citizens.

In the Senate on Tuesday the bid graduating licenses on the basis of population, introduced by Senator MEEK, excited a long discussion, and when it came up on final passage Senator GREEN, of Berks, moved that it be postponed indefinitely. This was defeated by a vote of 25 to 12, when the bill was postponed temporarily.

AFTER MARRIAGE.—He—"My dear, I am a little short of money. Could you let me have twenty thousand dollars of your million for a few days?" She—"I have no million dollars!" He—"Before we were married you said you were worth a million."

She—"Why, you often told me I was worth my weight in gold, and I thought one hundred and forty-two pounds of gold was worth about a million; that's all."—Judge.

A Great Spring Tour to Florida via Pennsylvania Railroad.

By reason of the enormous popularity accorded the Pennsylvania Railroad's personally-conducted tours to Florida during the winter and spring of 1891 the company has decided the sixth and last on March 31st. It will differ in many points from the others. Going south the tourist will travel in a special train of Pullman Sleeping and Dining Cars similar in every respect to the trains used on previous excursions. The excursion tickets, which will be sold at a rate of \$50 from New York and \$48 from Philadelphia, will include Pullman accommodations and meals en route on the south-bound trip, and railroad transportation only on the north-bound trip. They will be valid for return trip on regular trains up to May 30th, 1891. Fifteen days from the date they leave Jacksonville will be allowed tourists to reach Philadelphia or New York, and during those fifteen days they can stop off at points designated on the tickets.

A Tourist agent and Chaperon will accompany the party south. The unusual limit of the tickets and privileges accorded will afford an excellent opportunity of a lengthy visit in the South.

Jeff Davis Was "Willin'."

The following extract is from Jeff Davis's memoirs: One girl, whose sweetheart was a gallant soldier in the Fifth South Carolina Regiment, and who had fought bravely all through the Seven Days battles, made the following earnest appeal: "DEAR MR. PRESIDENT. I want you to let Jeems C., of company oneth, 5th South Carolina Regiment, come home and get married. Jeems is willin' I is willin', his mammy says she is willin', but Jeems' captain he ain't willin'. Now when we are all willin', ceptin' Jeems' captain I think you ought to let up and let Jeems come. I'll make him go straight back when he's done got married and fight just as hard as ever."

Mr Davis wrote on the letter: "Let Jeems go." Jeems went home, married the affectionate correspondent of Mr. Davis, returned to his regiment, and did fight as well as ever.

The ravages of the gripe in widely separated parts of the country seem to be quite as serious a menace to health and life as its original incursion. It seems to have settled in the country to stay. The tendency of the disease to bring on serious throat and lung troubles should operate as a cautionary warning against undue exposure in the blustery and inclement weather usual in March.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

FOUND DEAD IN BED.—On Sunday morning, March 22, Miss Jennie Solt was found dead in her bed. She had been keeping house for her uncle, who lived about midway between Snow Shoe and Moshannon town. The sad occurrence was caused by the rupture of a blood vessel leading from the heart to the stomach. The funeral took place at 2:30 o'clock on Tuesday, March 24th, Rev. Cade officiating. The Star school, of which Jennie was a student, went in a body to the funeral and marched, two a breast, from the house to the place of burial.

The following resolutions were adopted by the school: Whereas it has pleased the wise creator to call from our midst one who was much loved by this school and surrounding community, be it resolved that we be reconciled to our loss, as it is her gain, and that we, as a school, wear a badge in token of the deceased until this term of school is ended. J. F. Leathers, Minnie Quick, Lillie Adams, committee.

RENOVO'S POST OFFICE JOKE.—"Who's postmaster here?" asked a nervous little man as he stuck his face up to the delivery window at the Renovo postoffice one day last week. "What's the postmaster's name?" he inquired before there was any time to answer the first question.

"Chestnut," answered the young lady in charge of the delivery window. The man grew red in the face and almost fell on the floor, but managed to say: "Excuse me, madam, but I want to know the postmaster's name." "Chestnut," replied the lady. "All right," said the little man as he made a break for the door, "all right, but if you were a man I'd dare you out into the street. As it is I will make it my business to report to Washington the kind of people the postmaster of this town keeps to answer questions. I'll take none of your slang cuts without some kind of notice, and even if you are a woman it will not be my fault if you are not bounced."

The Renovo postmaster's name is W. K. Chestnut.—Williamsport Republican.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.—Andrew Bior and Miss Agnes Hollas, both of Enterprise.

N. H. Zeigler and Miss Maggie Carpenter, both of Linden Hall.

F. Delesier and Miss Jennie Straub, both of Holidaysburg.

Charles S. Hilton, Snow Shoe and Miss Sara Lucas, Union twp.

W. H. Snavely, Penn twp., and Miss Nora Mowery, of Aaronsburg.

David Gingery, Martha Furnace, and Miss Cecilia Bullock, of Julian.

Samuel Segal and Miss Sarah Abramson, both of Phillipsburg.

George W. Ronian, of Lock Haven, has purchased from Mrs. Agnes Plummer the St. Cloud Hotel, at Houtzdale, and is now in control of the same.

LITERARY AT UNIONVILLE.—The

Unionville Literary Society still continues to flourish. On Friday evening last the house was filled long before the exercises began, notwithstanding the stormy evening and muddy roads. Instead of the regular debate, a mock trial was conducted by the leading members of the Society. Subject for trial was a man indicted for the killing of Cyrus Calhoun's valuable dog, which was killed on the 13th of January last. The prisoner pleaded "not guilty" and the Court proceeded to convict him on circumstantial evidence. His Hon. P. J. McDonald presided, with Associates John Rich and George Sensor. Attorneys for the plaintiff, Thomas McCoy and G. H. Hubbard. Attorneys for the defendant, Charles Potter and O. J. Spotts. A jury was then drawn and sworn to give their verdict according to the evidence, and after the careful examination of seven or eight witnesses the attorneys proceeded, in regular order, to argue the case before the jury. It made a very animated and interesting discussion, the attorneys dealing largely with real facts in the case—the prisoner representing the man who actually did kill Mr. Calhoun's valuable dog. Mr. McCoy, prosecuting attorney, made an earnest appeal for the conviction of the prisoner. He was followed by Attorney Potter and Spotts who spoke in behalf of the defendant, manifesting much interest for their client. Mr. Hubbard then addressed the jury and in making the closing speech he pleaded earnestly for the prisoner's conviction. His Hon. P. J. McDonald then gave his charge and the jury retired, returning in a short time with a verdict of guilty as indicted. The Judge then sent the prisoner to six years confinement and labor in the Western Penitentiary and to pay a fine of one hundred dollars. John Rumberger acted as court crier for the occasion, and provoked much laughter in calling out parties who were wanted before the Grand Jury. Unionville Literary society has been one of the attractive features of the town this winter, being both edifying and instructive, and the people of Unionville know how to appreciate a good thing when they have it.

A FLOAT ON A SAW LOG.—Eddie Mc-

Clain, a Renovo boy, aged twelve years, had a thrilling experience Wednesday afternoon riding a distance of two and a half miles down the river on two saw logs. The News says the lad was playing at the river shore and conceived the idea of forming a raft of two logs and taking a ride. He had a small piece of wood upon the logs and pushed from shore. A companion of McClain's named Michael Sullivan, saw the lad's peril and started after him with a flat boat. The little float bravely clung to the logs and was swept through the eddies at a rapid rate, on more than one occasion being entirely submerged in the water. When the stone wall at Paddy's Run was reached Sullivan made another attempt to rescue his companion but was again unsuccessful. He kept the boat as close as possible to McClain and thus they floated until a more favorable current was reached about two miles below Renovo, when McClain found an opportunity to get upon the raft. He was much fatigued. The boys drifted down the river until they reached Hammersley's Island, half a mile above North Bend, where they rested awhile and then started for the shore, which they reached without much trouble. As they were stepping ashore the flat got away from them and was carried down the stream. The boys walked home, arriving about 6:30 o'clock in the evening. It will be some days before McClain tries such a rafting scheme again.

A MUSICAL TREAT.—The song services held in the Reformed church on Sunday night last was entirely worthy of the many complimentary expressions we have heard of it. The choir, under the leadership of Mr. W. T. Meyer, rendered the anthems in a way that showed the perfect harmony and expression of well trained voices. The quartette—Mrs. J. C. Meyer, soprano, Miss Jennie Lukenbach alto, Mr. A. Lukenbach baritone and tenor and J. C. Meyer bass—sang a selection which for beauty we have seldom heard an equal. The solo by Mrs. Meyer, with violin accompaniment by Miss Bernice Moore, was excellent, and when she finished we actually heard subdued applause. One feature which does much to make the Reformed choir what it is, is the church orchestra which accompanies all the pieces. It is composed of excellent musicians and nothing could more forcibly impress one with this fact than the way in which they played "Nazareth" for an overture on Sunday. Mr. Meyer is certainly to be congratulated on his success at training a choir, and the Reformed church on their good fortune in possessing so many musicians.

ADJOURNED UNTIL SATURDAY.—

The sale of the real estate of Samuel Walker, dec'd., late of Worth township, has been postponed until Saturday, March 28th. It will therefore take place to-morrow, at one o'clock, at the Court house in this place.