

Democratic Watchman

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P. GRAY MEEK, Editor

Crippled Ballot Reform.

In the closing hours of the Legislature which adjourned finally at noon on Thursday, the Baker Ballot Bill, with amendments vitiating its original object, was passed. This question has been made the subject of boss jugglery since the beginning of the session. The Republican managers didn't want any better election laws than exist at present; they were disposed to treat a reform ballot bill as a similar one was treated at the last session; but there was such a strong popular demand for an Australian system that they were afraid to set themselves against the popular current. The scheme they eventually adopted was to pass a bill that would give as little reform as possible, and as a result a bill of that kind was finally passed. There have been such alterations of the measure as originally proposed, some of them very material in their character, that we are at present unable to give the exact provisions of the bill. Mr. BAKER, its author, declares that as amended it does not meet the object of ballot reform.

Robinson's constitutional convention bill, relative to the ballot question, has also been passed. It is a strictly partisan design, placing the control of the convention in the hands of Republican partisans who do not favor a reformed election system.

A Revenue Bill Passed.

The Boyer Tax Bill, as a substitute for the Granger Bill, was passed finally on Tuesday, and is now under the consideration of the Governor. The Boyer substitute does not afford the farmers the relief in the matter of taxation that was intended by the original bill, it being framed more in the interest of those whose possessions consist of money, corporate investments and personal property. The Grangers seem to have been sold out on this question, TAGGART, of Montgomery, who had control of their bill, having betrayed them. He attempted to excuse the Republicans for having promised the farmers one thing and giving them another, but could not hide the fact that the bosses had put the screws on him at the eleventh hour. In the Senate the Senator from this district was the only one that voted against substituting Boyer's Bill for the Granger's Bill.

The State's Interest Involved.

The default of the Keystone Bank at Philadelphia, from its extent and the damaging circumstances connected with it, is equally the cause of surprise and consternation in Philadelphia. The financial interests affected by it are not merely those of Philadelphia, but also of the State. According to the report of the examiner the liabilities of the bank to depositors amount to about \$1,200,000, and to this must be added about \$930,000 of State funds deposited in the name of JOHN BARDSLEY, city treasurer. Here is an aggregate loss of \$2,000,000 to be paid out of the meager assets of a wrecked institution. There is evidence of a systematic and long continued looting of the bank. The mutilated and altered books show that the rascality was deliberate. In a concern of this kind BARDSLEY put funds belonging to the State amounting to nearly a million of dollars. This money has disappeared with the others, and as if such a default could be concealed, BARDSLEY'S account is abstracted from the ledger. The State's interest in this matter demands a thorough investigation and imperatively calls for the punishment of the guilty parties.

"It is a great pity that Secretary BLAINE did not consult Lord SALISBURY about that reciprocity treaty with Brazil—that is, a great pity for English manufacturers, but not for Americans."

This remark is made by a Republican journal. There is something funny in hearing papers advocate a high tariff for the good it will do our manufacturers, and at the same time anticipate great good to those manufacturers from the free trade that will be secured by reciprocity.

After a contest of unexampled length, lasting for a number of months, Senator CALL, of Florida, on Tuesday was re-elected by the Legislature of that State. A combination of capitalists had been formed to beat him, but his success is a triumph over the money interest that is aiming to control the United States Senate. The Senator is a reliable Democrat who has done good service in his senatorial capacity.

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Why They Are Alarmed.

We have no less an authority than CHAUNCEY M. DEWEY that the farmers' Alliance made a fatal mistake in organizing a third party. In Mr. DEWEY'S opinion they could have secured their ends more speedily through either of the old parties, and he does not hesitate to say that the Alliance is simply a side-show to the Democratic circus. But his views are evidently tinged by his interest in the Republican party. He knows very well that the farmers have failed to secure what they want from the party to which he belongs. That party has been in power long enough to have granted all that the agricultural interest has justly demanded, but it has failed to do so, fully demonstrating that the voice of the monopolist is the only voice that the Republican leaders in congress can hear. The farmers and wage-earners have learned from long years of experience that they can expect nothing from the Republican party, and their movement, which may tend to break the power of that party, is naturally looked upon with alarm by such leaders as Mr. DEWEY. That a large number of Alliance men will vote the Democratic ticket is to be expected especially in the South, as well as that many of the Alliance men in the north will vote the Republican ticket. But the more conservative minds will readily agree that if the Alliance shows the strength it claims it will succeed in frightening the party in power into granting it some recognition in the legislative halls where monopolists have controlled legislation for many years.

In view of the astounding financial revelations in Philadelphia, showing a deplorable state of corruption, Mr. WHERRY introduced in the House on Tuesday a resolution declaring the unquestionable fact that "late developments" have shown the business methods of the Auditor General and State Treasurer to be "loose, irresponsible and contrary to law," and providing for a thorough investigation of State finances by a committee to sit during the recess and report to the Governor. If there was ever occasion for such an investigation it is now, yet the Republicans refused even to consider the resolution. They rejected it, as if the corruption which exists in the financial management of the State is something that can be concealed.

A Model Republican Official.

In its political and official management Philadelphia is, and for years has been, the most corruptly governed city on the continent. Another illustration of its monumental corruption has been given by the embezzlement of a vast amount of public money by the officer to whom the custody of its public money was committed. What kind of a character this embezzler is, is portrayed as follows by the Philadelphia Times:

Unknown to the great majority of the citizens; absolutely unfit in any intellectual, social or legitimate commercial connection, and unrecognized even as a leader in politics; distinguished neither for moral courage nor veracity, and with no attractive personal qualities and no record to command confidence, JOHN BARDSLEY has for 20 years exerted an influence in the affairs of Philadelphia that the most eminent citizen never attained, and has directly contributed more than any other man to the inefficiency and corruption of our municipal government.

He was given the office because, as a desperate and unlucky gambler, he had exhausted his friends and wearied his masters, and they had to give him a chance to help himself. And he has done so. He has administered the office exactly as others had done and as he was expected to do; but he has been caught. That is all there is to it. His present position is entirely in accordance with his whole public career, and those who elected him, if they have not got just the kind of treasurer they wanted, have got just what they had every reason to expect.

The Backwardness of the World's Fair.

It was thought that when the World's Fair was given to so hustling a city as Chicago there would be no delay in the necessary preparations. In fact the enterprise and energy of that city were assigned as qualities that should give her the preference over her competitors. But she isn't fulfilling the promise of her pretensions. Ex-Mayor or CREAGER, who was one of the foremost promoters of the fair, in speaking of the progress that has been made, says that he does not see how it can be ready to be opened on the first of May, 1893, the time specified. He declares that "there is not a stick on the ground yet toward erecting the buildings; they are working away on the site." He believes congress will be asked to extend the time of opening to August, 1893, or May, 1894. An August opening would be absurd. Chicago has done excellent work on paper. Its pictures of the fair buildings are magnificent and artistic, only a little too much like castles in Spain. They are in the mind's eye. This, indeed, is a poor showing for the honors that are intended to commemorate the great discovery of COLUMBUS.

Encouraged Dishonesty.

No doubt by this time all of our readers have heard something about the way in which some individuals were fleeced by sharpers who were following in the wake of Wallace & Co's show, which exhibited here on May 19th. One man paid \$350 for some valuable experience, while another contributed something over one hundred dollars.

These men both went into the games with the idea that they were to double their money in a very few moments, and in this action were just as dishonest in their intentions as were the sharpers who intended to fleece them. There is no man living who can lead us to believe that he could enter any such scheme, in which so liberal a return was expected, without dishonest motives. Had these two men doubled their money, instead of losing it, would the law have stepped in to help the sharpers recover their loss? No! most emphatically, No! The men who would have lost would have been "stuck" one time at least, and our two citizens would, no doubt, have chuckled to their friends and blown about their big hauls, and the same would have been the case had they won but five dollars. Why then should our officers be so anxious to arrest the show people when the one party was just as dishonest as the other? This thing of encouraging such people should be stopped.

If a man is to gamble under the protection of the law how is our law to be made consistent?

We have no sympathy with men who, after being constantly warned, will persist in doing such things, and the action of our officials in securing the return of their money seems exceedingly arbitrary and aims rather to encourage that put an end to the vice.

An Important Church Council.

There will be a great meeting of Methodists in Washington in October where an Ecumenical Council of the Church will be held for the discussion of subjects in which that great ecclesiastical establishment is interested. The most eminent divines and laymen of the church, from this country and from Europe, will be there, and the programme of the proceedings shows the great change in the objects which church gatherings consider as being of the first importance. Some years ago church dogmas, such as "fixed faith, free will, and foreknowledge absolute," chiefly occupied the attention of church councils, but according to the programme of the Methodists at Washington the subjects to be discussed will be popular amusements and the attitude of the Church toward them; the responsibility of the preacher, and the power of the laity in the Church. With the rapid spread of moral and refining agencies, the pulpit is beginning to recognize that a knowledge of truths to live by is more important than a knowledge of dogmas to fight for.

Harmful Immigration.

Immigration is becoming a matter of vital importance. Comparative statistics show that for the ten months up to May 1st, of this year, 401,238 foreigners came to this country in that time, as against 318,615 for the ten months up to May 1st, 1890. Of this number more than one fourth, or 104,828, came from Italy and Austro-Hungary, in nearly equal proportions. From Russia and Poland came 56,350; from England and Wales, 43,107; Ireland, 34,485; Germany, 86,664, and from France only 5596. To the social student and political economist these figures are significant, and to the prudent statesman they call for a wise and carefully framed code of laws regulating immigration, which unfortunately we do not have. Much of the recent addition of population from foreign countries is intrusion that is positively harmful. That kind of immigration should be stopped.

Great political interest attaches to the meeting of the Farmers' Union of Ohio this week at Columbus. The Union is composed of all the farm societies in the State, including the Grange, Farmers' Alliance and Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association. The most important question to be considered at the meeting is whether the Cincinnati platform is to be approved by nominating a State ticket. On this point there is much division of sentiment, but it is believed the result will be a third ticket. If it should have the support of all these societies it will make the contest in Ohio extremely doubtful next fall. The farmers will in all likelihood hold the balance of power in the next legislature, in which event Senator SHERMAN will be retired. The Democratic county conventions are declaring for Governor CAMPBELL'S renomination with much enthusiasm, but he has strong opposition in Cincinnati.

Third parties in this country have on one or two occasions achieved important results. Such division elected ADAMS over JACKSON in 1824, and LINCOLN in 1860, but the conditions were very different from what they now are. The Republican party arose on the fragments of the Whig and American parties, attracting great numbers of Democrats on the slavery issue. But a third party at this time will take the field against two well disciplined and formidable organizations, with millions of adherents, with a decided control of the national government, and one or the other in power in all the States. This is very different from the disintegration of parties in 1856 and 1860 that gave birth to the Republican party.

Compulsory Education.

On Tuesday the Compulsory Education Bill was passed finally. It requires that children between the ages of 8 and 12 years shall attend school at least 16 consecutive weeks each year, and provides compulsory means to enforce the requirement.

The souvenirs of the Presidential trip, consisting of presents received at various points on the route, of more or less value, are said to number four hundred—and it is proposed that they be made one of the exhibits of the World's Fair. Considering the number of federal office-holders there are in the country, who would naturally be disposed to keep on the right side of the President, it is surprising that the number of testimonials did not exceed four hundred. They should by all means be exhibited at Chicago as an illustration that the American office-holder understands his business.

Although the Chinese object to having ex-Senator BLAIR sent to them as Minister from the United States, the purpose of his appointment, so far as his pecuniary interest is concerned, is being carried out by his drawing his salary of \$1000 a month, which he will continue to do without going to China, until his appointment is revoked. He will continue to enjoy this comfortable stipend until he either resigns or the President appoints some one else in his place. For the sake of decency one or the other should be done speedily.

Platform of the People's Party.

The following is the declaration of principles made by the convention at Cincinnati that last week launched the "People's Party of the United States":

The right to make and issue money is a sovereign power to be maintained by the people, for the common benefit; hence we demand an abolishment of the national banks, as banks of issue, and as a substitute for national bank notes we demand that legal tender treasury notes be issued in sufficient volume to transact the business of the country on a cash basis, without damage or special advantage to any class or calling; such notes to be legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, and such notes, when demanded by the people, shall be loaned to them at not more than two per cent per annum upon non-perishable products, as indicated in the sub-treasury plan, and also upon real estate with proper limitations upon the quantity of land and amount of money.

We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

We demand the passage of laws prohibiting alien ownership of land, and that Congress take prompt action to devise some plan to obtain lands now owned by alien and foreign syndicates, and that all lands owned by railroads and other corporations in excess of such as is actually used and needed by them, be claimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

Believing the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none, we demand that taxation, national, state or municipal, shall not be used to build up one interest or class at the expense of another.

We demand that all revenues, national, state or county, shall be limited to the necessary expense of the government economically and honestly administered.

We demand a just and equitable system of graduated tax on incomes.

We demand the most rigid, honest and just national control and supervision of the means of public communication and transportation, and if this control and supervision does not remove the abuses now existing, we demand the government ownership of such means of communication and transportation. We demand the election of President and Vice President and United States Senators by a direct vote of the people.

Minister Goes Wrong.

CHICAGO, May 25.—Rev. Jeremiah Holmes, pastor of a Campbellite church at Duquoin, Ill., was arrested on a charge of making counterfeit coin, by Captain Porter, of the United States secret service.

About five years ago a gang of counterfeiters was arrested at Duquoin. Four of its members were sent to the penitentiary. A. P. Adkins, a farmer with whom Holmes boarded, notified Capt. Porter last Monday that he had seen a canvas bag filled with what he believed to be counterfeit money in Holmes' room while he was absent conducting a prayer meeting. There was about \$50 in new dollars and half dollars in the bag. Holmes has confessed.

When Walt Whitman was asked to name three or four Americans of absolute greatness he answered by saying, "What would you say to Washington, Lincoln, Grant and Emerson?"

A Deformed Bill.

The Manner in Which the Baker Ballot Reform Measure Has Been Rejected.

The following address has been issued by the Pennsylvania Ballot Reform Association:

To the Voters of Pennsylvania:—The issue between the supporters of ballot reform in Pennsylvania and its enemies is clearly defined, and should be thoroughly understood by every citizen. The Baker bill, as reported by Senate Committee on Elections on May 20, is but little better than at first reported on May 7. It does not provide for proper freedom of nominations, nor for equality of candidates on the ballot, nor for secret voting, nor for an open count. It is not a ballot reform measure, and, if passed, would tend to greatly increase all the evils of our present system.

Besides many minor points in which the bill has been injured, the essential features of ballot reform, as originally contained in the bill, have been destroyed in the following respects:

1. Sections 3, 5 and 33. The number of signatures required for all nominations but those of the existing Republican and Democratic party organizations is based on such high percentage of the entire vote cast as to make such nominations practically impossible, except in the smallest townships and boroughs. It would be impossible to secure 5,000 signatures for a State nomination, or 6,000 for a Philadelphia nomination, the genuineness of the signatures and the qualification of the signers to be sworn to absolutely by ten persons, sixty days before election in the one case and forty in the other, when the slightest error is fatal to the validity of the whole paper, and the signing by persons not strictly qualified is made a crime. All but the "regular" Democratic and Republican nominations are barred out by such a system as this, and the free right to vote is denied.

2. Sections 14 and 23. The arrangement of names on the ballot in party groups places all independent candidates, if there could be any, at a great disadvantage, and the provision that a voter may, which would often mean must, vote the whole party ticket by making one single mark, destroys the freedom and secrecy of the ballot, for the party watchers would always see whether a man who was told to make one mark for the whole ticket did so or not.

3. Sections 23 and 27. The secrecy of the ballot is made voluntary, and therefore destroyed, by not requiring the voter to mark his ballot alone, and specifically permitting him to take another man into the voting compartment with him in all cases.

4. Section 29. The secret count of our present system is retained, but with greater risk of fraud. The votes are to be counted by the judge alone, and the party watchers are allowed to be present.

5. Sections 16, 17, 21, 26 and 36. "Sample ballots" are required to be printed in great numbers, to be given to any voter at his request, all check on the destruction of the ballots provided is removed, and, by the omission of Section 36 it is not unlawful for any one to have ballots in his possession outside the voting room, although the absolute presence of such an occurrence is essential to the secret ballot system.

When the bill, in this worse than useless shape, was before the Senate on second reading, on May 22, every attempt to correct these glaring evils was voted down. If it passes third reading, it must go to a conference committee.

If that committee do not virtually restore the original provisions of the bill in all the above particulars, or if they do this and the Senate refuses to pass the bill with these restorations, it ought to be voted down.

Should the bill finally pass both branches of the Legislature without change in all these points, it would be the Governor's duty to veto it, for if it became a law it would be a fraud upon the rights of the voters of Pennsylvania.

In any event, every voter should recognize that a genuine, honest, constitutional ballot reform bill was changed by the Senate Committee into a measure full of danger to the freedom and purity of the ballot, and that the majority of the Senate has so far sustained this change. "Ballot reform" means "true ballot reform" and if this be not now granted to the voters of Pennsylvania every Senator who voted with the majority must be held answerable.

H. E. Foster, Chairman; Edward P. Atkinson, Charles C. Binney, Henry Budd, George Burnham, Jr., Alfred N. Chandler, F. Hazen Cope, James G. Francis, George Peirce, Henry D. Wireman, R. Francis Wood, Stuart Wood, Executive Committee.

Philadelphia, May 23, 1891.

In a Double Grave.

New York, May 25.—When Margaret Mulhoney used to wobble through the streets everybody stopped and stared at her. She was 55 years old and weighed 650 pounds. Her husband was dead and she at one time lived with an only daughter. She had a falling out with her child and went to live with a cousin. Three months ago her flesh was accumulating at such a pace that she was unable to move about. Heart disease set in and on Saturday morning Mrs. Mulhoney died. The funeral took place yesterday. A large crowd gathered in the street expecting serious difficulty in getting the body out of the house, and they were not disappointed.

An ordinary coffin is sixteen inches wide and thirteen inches high. A plain cloth covered box, thirty-seven inches wide and twenty inches high, enclosed the corpse. The hallway of the house being only thirty-five inches wide, the box had to be carried sidewise, while twelve brawny men strained every muscle to carry it through the hallway. The task lasted thirty minutes. No horse was big enough to accommodate the coffin, and an undertaker's wagon carried the body to Calvary cemetery, followed by five carriages of mourners. A grave is ordinarily dug twenty-four inches wide. Ground had been bought for two graves, giving the width of forty-eight inches. Sixteen of the cemetery employes lowered the coffin into the grave.

Read the WATCHMAN for political and general news.

Maryland Peaches.

CHESTERTOWN, Md., May 25.—Every preparation in Kent county is being made for a heavy peach crop. The Baltimore and Delaware Bay railroads will build an extension from Worton to Nicholson's station, a distance of over four miles, thus penetrating one of the finest peach sections of Kent, from one station where fourteen cars of fruit were shipped per day during the great crop of 1886.

Daniel Webster's grave is on a knoll nearly in the center of the little graveyard at Mansfield, Mass. It is marked by a simple headstone that bears only the name "Daniel Webster."

Millie.—I don't mind marrying you, Clarence, but I hate the idea of giving up my \$15 a week job at the store. Clarence.—Then don't give it up, dearest. I'll give up mine. I'm only getting \$10.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

Part I of the report for 1890, of the Pennsylvania State College, is out and contains handsome illustrations of the principal State College buildings.

THE PROGRAMME FOR TO-MORROW.

Gregg Post will commemorate the death of their brothers in blue to-morrow by fitting services. The parade to the cemetery will include the Post with drum corps, Company B, the Zion Band and Logan Steam Engine Co., and the Undine Hose Company.

Col. Spangler will deliver the memorial oration, and if the weather permits a platform in the cemetery will be used. A male octette will furnish music for the occasion.

All persons are requested to send contributions of flowers to the Post rooms in the morning, so that they can be gotten ready by afternoon.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.—Issued during the past week:

- Geo. B. Johnston and Lillie M. Aiken, both of Bellefonte.
- Thos. B. Apple, of Cambria Co., and Eva S. Ardrey, of Worth township.
- Geo. H. Gilmer and Minnie A. Stover, both of Boalsburg.
- Geo. H. Musser, of Fillmore, and Maria C. Marshall, of Bellefonte.
- James Toner and Clara Tuff, both of Bellefonte.
- John Soper and Mary Lesho, both of Snow Shoe.
- John Knapp and Sevena Thomas, both of Harris twp.

DIED NEAR SNOW SHOES.—On Saturday, May 23rd, there passed from this earth the spirit of Mrs. Oscar, the wife of a son of Representative Holt, and a resident of Burnside township. Mrs. Holt was a daughter of the late Captain White and was very much esteemed by all who knew her. Had she lived until the 23rd of June she would have reached the 35th milestone of her life, but death came to claim her too soon. A family of four boys and a baby girl are left to comfort a bereaved father.

For many years Mrs. Holt was a consistent member of the M. E. church in which she was always active and her patience, unselfishness and thoughtfulness for others, even when dying, were exemplary. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord: Even so, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors."

A GYPSY THIEF.—On Sunday night a band of gypsies who had been camping near Howard, broke camp and left. On Monday morning Mr. Jonathan Shank discovered that a buggy, harness and robe had disappeared from his stable and concluded that the "gypsies" had taken them along. He accordingly swore out a warrant for the arrest of the thief, and constable Neff and Hayes Shank started after him. He was caught at Frogtown, a small village near Coburn, and the stolen articles recovered. During the trip across, the fellow, who gives his name as Lanver, of York, Pa., had traded several times, but claimed that he had purchased the rig for a gold watch and fifteen dollars. Sheriff Ishler is entertaining him now.

Resolutions of Condolence.

STORMSTOWN, Pa., May 25, 1891.

At a regular meeting of W. R. C. No. 96, held in their hall at Stormstown, Pa., May 22d, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, We are called upon to do honor to the memory of one of our beloved sisters, who has found the gentle end of human sorrow and labor, and who has passed beyond the shoals of time into the peaceful seas of eternity. On the afternoon of May 14th, 1891, it was whispered beneath the ocean waves, Maggie died, and all that was mortal of sister Maggie Loner has passed from earth.

"God's finger touched her and she slept."

Resolved, That we recognize in this sorrowful bereavement the sovereign will of an all wise providence, and it fills our hearts with sadness; we know that we cannot better honor the spirit of our departed sister than by reverently saying, they will, not ours, be done.

Resolved, That her amiable disposition endeared her to all who knew her, and commended our admiration and regard for the interest she manifested for the success of the order of the W. R. C.

Resolved, That we offer our most tender sympathy to the home circle in which her loving and noble disposition cast such a glow of sunshine and happiness, cheering the hearts of all within, and that we commend the members of the family to the kind care of him who alone can ever give consolation for the broken ties of earth.

Resolved, That we drape our charter for the space of thirty days in honor of our departed sister.

Resolved, That the secretary be instructed to send a copy of these Resolutions to the family of the departed sister.

MARY J. HIGLOW,
EMILY BELLETT, } Com.
LOUISA BARR, }