

Democratic Watchman

Terms \$2.00 A Year, in Advance
Belleville, Pa., Aug. 28, 1891.

P. GRAY MEEK, Editor

Democratic County Committee, 1891

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DEMOCRATIC COUNTY TICKET.

FOR DELEGATE TO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.
ELLIS L. ORVIS.
Subject to action of district conference.
Jury Commissioner.—GEORGE BOWER.

What Does It Mean?

In making its report as to the condition of the county buildings, on Wednesday last, the grand jury, as has been the custom of all grand juries for years past, recommended the removal or change of the water closets at the Court House, and pronounced them as they now are an "intolerable nuisance." As soon as the report was read Judge FURST proceeded to read the jury, the commissioners and almost every body else, a lecture, and ordering the jury back to its room, instructed the District Attorney to prepare a bill of indictment against the County Commissioners for maintaining a nuisance. That officer promptly proceeded to earn the fees allowed for such work, and in less than time it takes to write it the court had docketed for trial the case of the "Commonwealth vs. the Commissioners of Centre county"—the Court itself and the Commissioner's Attorney, being the prosecutor and principal witness.

To persons unacquainted with the entire situation, and to those knowing the condition of the closets about which this case is brought, there may seem nothing strange in Judge Furst's summary proceedings. That the closets should be changed and rebuilt, all who see them know, and that they are, and for ten years have been, an "intolerable nuisance," every body will admit, but what seems strange to the ordinary lookers on, is the fact that his Honor should patiently wait through three long years of Republican county rule without saying a word about the matter, and before a Democratic board of Commissioner's have been able to provide for the county indebtedness, made by their Republican predecessors, pounce down upon them and attempt to force them into an expenditure of money, the amount of which is far beyond that anticipated by any member of the grand jury who voted to indict them.

Three years ago last January, when Judge FURST's political friends took charge of the county affairs, these closets were in exactly the same condition they are in to-day. There was no debt upon the county and there was \$28,000 of cash in the treasury. The time for his honor to have shown his official authority was then. He could have compelled a change that would have put them in proper condition without fastening a debt upon the shoulders of the tax-payers, or requiring the Commissioners to pay interest to bankers for money to do the work. He saw proper to remain quiet, however, and leave the public believe his board of Commissioners were doing their duty when they were maintaining this "intolerable nuisance," and squandering the Democratic surplus in bad management of the county affairs and in bridge contracts to favorites.

In took Judge FURST's party and friends but three years to empty the treasury and fasten a debt of over ten thousand dollars upon the county. With this condition of the finances, they, for purely political motives, and hoping to deceive the tax-payers, reduced the millage until the total amount of taxes available were less by \$8,000 than the ordinary expenditure of the county. With a debt of over \$10,000 dollars, and a shortage on the

county duplicates of over \$8,000, the county buildings and all the county property out of repair, they turned the county over to Democratic control last January, and before the Commissioners have time to get the new duplicates in the hand of the collectors, Judge FURST attempts to force them into an expenditure of money that will run up into thousands upon thousands of dollars.

If there has been, and is such a pressing necessity for the abatement of this "nuisance," why did not Judge FURST see that it was attended to when there was money in the treasury, to pay the expenses? Why wait until there is neither money or taxes to meet the necessary outlay? Does the Judge want to carry out his long contemplated scheme of getting a new Court House erected, or is his idea to run up the county expenditures and increase the county indebtedness, and then charge it to the extravagance of a Democratic board of Commissioners?

Democratic Leadership.

The Philadelphia Bulletin, a stalwart organ of the most pronounced type, thinks the Republican party has reached a crisis in this State, and its future may depend on the November result. After an elaborate warning to its own party, it devotes some attention to the effectiveness of the Democratic organization in Pennsylvania, and talks in this strain:

The Democratic party in Pennsylvania has not been led more shrewdly at any time than the best days of BUCHANAN and BLACK than it is to-day. It has ceased to be officiated by senile Bourbons and worn-out hacks. The reins of party authority have come to be concentrated almost entirely in the hands of the men who compose the gubernatorial administration. There are not three cleverer Democratic partisans in the State than Governor PATTON, Secretary HENRY and Attorney General HENSLER, and, working together, they present a combination of uncommon strength. Therefore the Republicans in this State need not calculate on Democratic blunders. It will be much wiser for them now to over-estimate rather than under-estimate the strength of the enemy. They will need face in the young secretary of state an antagonist who has the craft and skill of a GORMAN or a HILL. They can no longer afford to laugh, as they formerly did, with a certain, good-natured contempt at the stupid tactics of their opponents year after year.

The Bulletin omits all reference to the chief element of Democratic strength. Our captains are not QUAYS or CAMERONS, and our methods of administration not those of BARDSLEY, McCAMANT and BOYER. All is true the Bulletin says of the sagacity of the young men at the front in Democratic leadership, but they are stronger because of their capacity, aggressive honesty and fidelity in public trusts than by the "craft and skill" the Bulletin attributes to them. The Quayites have the latter qualities in abundance, but they lack the others.

The committee appointed by the last Legislature to investigate the management of the State Treasury commenced its investigations on Tuesday. In the absence of the chairman, Hon. GEORGE HANDY SMITH, who had not yet returned from Europe, Mr. FOW took the leading part in the proceedings. It is to be hoped that the committee may succeed in uncovering whatever rottenness may exist in the financial department of the State government.

The Law Should Take Its Course.

The fiend, FRANK ALMY, who murdered pretty CHISTIE WARDEN, of Hanover, N. H., has been captured and is in the hands of the law. This is a case where the indignant neighbors of the murdered girl would have been almost justified in appealing to Judge Lynch, were it not for the bad example it would have set for the future. As the crime was one of exceptional cruelty, punishment of exceptional swiftness in reaching the murderer, would seem to have been in order, but for the reason we have stated. In a civilized community there is but one safe way in dealing with crime and criminals, and that is to let the law take its course. If any other rule were adopted, innocent men might be punished in place of the guilty, and bare suspicion, even, might consign men to the rope. With the great provocation the neighbors and friends of the murdered girl had to take the law into their own hands, their consent that the law might take its course reflects great honor upon them. While such respect for the law prevails the country is safe.

Great Britain derives the revenue for running her government mostly from the duty on liquor and tobacco, wisely recognizing that it is better to tax the vices and luxuries of her people than the necessities. Last year the revenue collected from tobacco exceeded \$48,500,000, an increase of \$2,500,000 over the year previous, which the English authorities regard as indicating increased prosperity among her working people who are the chief consumers of the weed.

An Inconsistent Demagogue.

JOHN B. ROBINSON, State Senator and Congressman-elect, of Delaware county, who is fast coming into prominence as a demagogue, and whose ambition leads him to aspire to the leadership of the Republican clubs, assumes to be a critic of Governor PATTON because the latter vetoed the compulsory education bill. At the recent Republican State convention he read a resolution condemning the governor for this veto, yet he is himself on record as having made a very strong speech against the enactment of the compulsory education bill. This speech may be found in the Legislative Record, pages 2684 and 2690. Here is an extract from it: "I would never vote to introduce any system, no matter whether all the other States of the Union have adopted it, that would desecrate the privacy of a home. Education is a good thing, but we do not want to employ people to go around to penetrate into the sanctity of a man's home and to take his child out and compel it to be sent to school."

It didn't require such an argument as this from JACK ROBINSON to sustain the correctness of Governor PATTON'S veto of a bill that would have encroached upon the personal liberty and private rights of the citizen, and it also didn't require ROBINSON'S resolution in the convention to prove that he is as inconsistent as he is demagogical.

The Democrats of Huntingdon county, at their convention on Tuesday, resolved that "the Democracy of Huntingdon county, with feelings of pride and satisfaction, congratulate the people of Pennsylvania on the triumphant re-election of Hon. ROBERT E. PATTON as Governor of this Commonwealth. His administration has been eminently creditable and well calculated to promote the best interests of the people irrespective of party in every section of the State."

The Speakership.

The question of the speakership of the next House of Representatives is of great importance and it gains more of the attention of Democrats as the time for the meeting of congress advances. Congressman SPRINGER'S candidacy for speaker is warmly backed by the Detroit Free Press, which presents him as the choice of the Northwestern Democracy. It has equally good words for Congressman BYNUM of Indiana. What it wants is a distinctive Northwestern man. Either SPRINGER or BYNUM, it says, will represent the newly aroused Northwest: "It was north and west of the Ohio river that the Democratic tidal wave of 1890 reached its highest mark. It is this same Northwest that will be the royal battle ground of 1892. It is the section which is most promising for the future of the Democratic party. There is but a single State in the northwest that has a Republican legislature. The Northwest is the fairest and most inviting harvest field of the Democracy."

In the last congress the Democrats had 27 members and the Republicans 71 from the 11 Northwestern States. In the next congress the Democrats will have 66 representatives from these states, the Republican 28 and the Alliance 3.

In his speech opening the campaign in Ohio last week, MCKINLEY, in taking a stand against free silver, endeavored to strengthen his position on that question by referring to Mr. CLEVELAND'S opposition to the free silver policy. But the silver question is a minor one with GROVER CLEVELAND, who sees a far greater issue involved in the question of tariff reform. We would advise the Major to quote CLEVELAND'S anti-monopoly tariff sentiments, which are of infinitely more value to the people at this juncture than his anti-silver views, but it wouldn't do for the Major to preach tariff reform at this particular time.

Great Britain, the greatest of the world's commercial powers, has already interposed to prevent the United States gaining exclusive privileges from the countries with which deals have been made. Canada having complained against our treaty with Spain concerning trade with Cuba, the British colonial office has indorsed the protest, and notified the Spanish government that all special trade privileges granted to the United States in Cuba will be claimed by Canada, and by England also. France, Germany and Italy will take similar action, for all have commercial treaties with Spain, and all these treaties contain a "most favored nation" clause.

Superintendent PORTER, having exhausted the \$7,500,000 appropriation for the taking of the census, will apply to the next congress for \$2,000,000 to finish his very indifferently performed job. He is likely to find, however, that the next congress will not be a billion dollar one.

A Disturbing Factor.

Wool is going to be a disturbing factor in the Ohio election this year. It is well known that the Ohio shepherds were promised great results from the increased duty on wool furnished by the McKinley bill. It was believed that the price of their product would be advanced thereby, but like most of the doctrines of the protectionists this proved to be fallacious. Instead of going up, the price of wool has declined.

One of the largest wool raisers in Medina county, Ohio, J. M. CRAWFORD, says: "I just delivered my clip last week at 27 cents per pound. Last year I received 32 cents for wool from the same sheep." This is, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5 cents less per pound than was paid previous to the passage of the McKinley bill. In every wool-growing county of Ohio the Major is getting little booms like this every day. Ohio produces about 25,000,000 pounds of wool a year. At a loss of 5 cents a pound, since the McKinley bill passed, the farmers are out of pocket \$1,250,000; but on a great portion of the clip the decline in prices will be as much as 8 or 10 cents a pound.

The coolest thing that has appeared in a party platform in many a year is the Republican denunciation of Governor PATTON'S "unscrupulous partisanship" in vetoing the congressional and other gerrymandering bills. Those bills were of such a character that in vetoing them the Governor prevented the consummation of most outrageous partisanship.

They Were Sat Down On.

At the Franklin county Democratic convention this week, a few disgruntled parties, headed by the proprietors of the Harrisburg Patriot, attempted to get an expression condemning Governor PATTON'S administration. Why there should be such a condemnation is something that can't be comprehended by Democrats anywhere, and those of Franklin county could not be persuaded nor coerced into catering to the personal spleen of a few disappointed place-hunters by condemning a wise and honest administration. They therefore sat down on the discontented gentlemen of the Patriot by adopting the following resolution:

Resolved, that the wise, resolute and statesmanlike administration of Governor PATTON commends itself to the people of Pennsylvania and has attracted the attention and won the applause of the friends of pure and honest government throughout the nation. His disapproval of measures of needless extravagance in the General Appropriation bill, his able and firm opposition to unfair and partisan appropriation bills and other injurious legislation; and the measures instituted to recover for the State the moneys stolen by dishonest Republican officials, furnish abundant cause for congratulation that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is once more reaping the advantages of an honest and faithful Democratic administration.

People who attempt to cut a swath wider than their ability or importance will warrant, must expect to meet with rebuffs of this kind.

Farm profits this year in the United States, it is estimated, will be \$1,000,000,000 greater than usual. This fact strikes the Indianapolis Sentinel as fortunate, "for the people will now know how we are going to meet the expenses of Mr. REP'S congress." It is always the case that when the country is put in a hole the farmers are called upon to do the largest share in pulling it out.

The Boston Transcript gives the following graphic picture of what has resulted from forty years' prohibitive legislation: "There was an accident on one of the Maine railroads and some persons were hurt. There was a call for liquor as a restorative for the injured, and immediately 'a drummer passed out a neat little flask of old bourbon, another drummer followed his example, and soon there were hands stretching forth from all directions with pints and half pints, round bottles, flat bottles and square bottles of all dimensions, from a gill to a quart, and containing everything from imported brandy to Portland rum. There was enough there to start a drugstore, and the only man in the crowd who didn't have a bottle ran off to a farmhouse, and soon returned with a two-gallon jug of some mysterious liquor."

We have before stated that the Republicans of Ohio have chosen the eagle as the designating symbol on their ballots, under the Australian ballot system, while the Democrats have chosen the rooster. A plover and harrow is the device selected by the People's Party, and the Prohibitionists have chosen the rose. With all these pictures the Ohio campaign is going to be quite a picturesque contest.

The time not to call—When the other fellow holds four aces.

There was never a President

who displayed such a consummating desire to extend his tenure of office as is displayed by the present incumbent. Fortunately the people don't appear to be equally desirous that Mr. HARRISON should have a second term.

A Tale of Horror.

Entire Villages Starving in Russia. Grass and Leaves Their only Food.

LONDON, August 24.—The Pall Mall Gazette to-day says that the Prince of Wales is taking great interest in the matter of persecution of the Jews in Russia, and condition of immigrants of that nationality coming to England. The prince, the Gazette says, has devoted considerable time to a thorough study of the question. Though he has not taken any direct measures to assist the needy Jews, fearing that such action might wound the feelings of the Russians, he has indirectly given assistance to the Anglo-Jewish committees. The Princess of Wales, who is a sister-in-law of the czar, is co-operating with the prince, and is rendering much valuable aid in his efforts to ameliorate the condition of the poverty-stricken Hebrews.

A clergyman residing at present in the province of Kazan, Russia, has written a letter to the Pall Mall Gazette in which he gives a harrowing description of the sufferings of the unfortunate peasants of that province, brought on by the failure of the crops. Large numbers of them, he says, are in an absolute state of starvation. Many have been unable to obtain bread for weeks, and in their efforts to sustain life have been compelled to eat grass and leaves.

In one of the villages of the province consisting of 140 houses, the clergyman visited all the peasants. Here were found sixteen persons in a terribly emaciated condition, and slowly and painfully dying from starvation. Of all the residents only twenty were found eating ordinary food in a quantity sufficient to keep them alive. Visits made to a number of other villages revealed a similar state of destitution and distress.

In all of them numbers of persons were found either dead or dying from starvation. There was no immediate prospect of any betterment in the condition of the peasantry, and it is feared that, driven on by the pangs of hunger, they will attempt to gain food by any means, lawful or unlawful. Strong men look upon their wives and children slowly dying for want of bread, and it is not to be expected that under such conditions they will be amenable to any law save that which dictates to them the preservation of the lives of their families. There is much excitement throughout the province among the poorer classes and an outbreak may occur at any time.

The War Cloud in Europe.

Preparations Going Forward Looking to the Armament of the Soldiers.

LONDON, August 25.—The report that France and Russia had virtually agreed that, in the event of a victory over Germany, they would have Schleswig re-annexed to Denmark, has caused considerable comment in Berlin, where the war feeling has been mounting high for some days past. This rumor, however, has called to public attention other rumors of a similar nature regarding the triple alliance. It was stated recently, on high authority at Vienna, that one of the unwritten agreements of the triple alliance was, in the event of success in a continental war, to disable Russia forever by divesting the empire of Poland, Finland and the Baltic provinces, and compelling the czar to abandon St. Petersburg for Moscow. France, at the same time, to be compelled to give up Nice and Corsica to Italy. These arrangements are understood to be merely provisional, but the fact that they are talked of shows the deliberate way in which European nations are preparing for the gigantic struggle.

The Russian rifle factories are running night and day on the new breech loading repeating rifle, with which it is proposed to arm all the infantry, both of the active army and the reserve. But although the greatest diligence is shown in the manufacture, it is believed that at least two years will elapse before the whole military force of the empire will be provided with the weapon. This would not prevent Russia from going to war in the meantime, as not less than 400,000 men will have their rifle within this year.

Pennsylvania's Population.

Some of the Counties Show a Falling-Off While Others Have Jumped Upward.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25.—A census office bulletin issued to-day shows that the population of Pennsylvania in 1880 was 4,222,891, and in 1890 the population of the state was 5,258,014, an increase of 974,123, or 22.77 per cent. during the decade. There are sixty-seven counties in the state, of which only twelve show decreases. In no case is the decrease greater than nine per cent. The counties showing decreases are as follows: Armstrong, Clarion, Crawford, Fulton, Juniata, Mercer, Monroe, Perry, Pike, Snyder, Susquehanna and Wayne. The counties showing increases of more than 50 per cent. are as follows: Allegheny, Clearfield, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Luzerne and Potter. Philadelphia and Allegheny counties show the largest numerical increases. Philadelphia county shows an increase of 199,794, or 23.58 per cent., while Allegheny county shows an increase of 195,000, or 55.10 per cent. The largest percentage of increase is found in Forest county, where there has been an increase of 93.43 per cent. since 1880.

Milwaukee is said to be more dirty and healthy than before.

Game Laws.

Elks and deer, Oct. 1 to Dec. 15; but owing to an error, it is illegal to have deer in possession after Nov. 30. The killing of fawns when in spotted coat, and the killing of deer when in water prohibited. Squirrels, Sept. 1 to Jan. 1. Hares or rabbits, Nov. 1 to Jan. 1. Hunting or killing of rabbits with ferrets prohibited. Wild turkeys, Oct. 15 to Jan. 1. Plovers, July 15 to Jan. 1. Woodcocks, July 4 to Jan. 1. Quails, Nov. 1 to Dec. 15. Ruffed and pinated grouse, commonly called pheasants, Oct. 1 to Jan. 1. Rails or reed birds, Sept. 1 to Dec. 1. Wildfowl, Sept. 1 to May 1. Insectivorous birds protected, except English sparrows. Pigeon nestings protected against firearms to a radius of one-fourth of a mile from roosting or breeding place, and penalty for disturbance in any manner while nesting, and snaring or netting for the purpose of killing during the nesting season prohibited. Snaring, netting or catching game birds by torchlight prohibited. Sunday hunting and shooting prohibited. Shooting of wild fowl limited to use of shoulder piece only. Sea Salmon, Apr. 1 to July 1. Speckled trout Apr. 15 to July 15; under five inches length protected. Lake trout, Jan. 1 to Oct. 1. Black, green, yellow, willow, rock, Lake Erie and grass pike, pickerel, and wall-eyed pike or Susquehanna salmon, June 1 to Jan. 1. Bass less than six inches in length protected. German carp Sept. 1 to May 1. Artificially stocked streams protected, for three years after stocking. Hook and line fishing only allowed; use of nets or traps of any kind, poisons, etc., prohibited.

Firemen's Tournament at Atlantic City, N. J.—Half Races via Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Firemen's Tournament to be held at Atlantic City on September 29th, 30th, October 1st and 2d, promises to be one of the most interesting events of its kind ever held in this country. Invitations have been sent to all the prominent fire companies of the East to be present and enter the lists, and the number of entries already registered assures a brilliant success. The programme of events is a most elaborate one and includes everything that pertains to the fireman's art. Horse races, team races, steamer trials, prize drills, and other firemen contests, together with concerts, torchlight procession, and a grand parade. Besides this, the arrangements for the entertainment of the visitors are very elaborate.

For the better accommodation of visitors and contestants the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets to Atlantic City from all principal stations on its system at a single fare for the round trip. The tickets will be sold September 25th to October 2d, valid for return until October 6th, 1891. The facilities presented by the Pennsylvania Railroad for reaching Atlantic City quickly and comfortably are too well known to need comment.

The Oldest Man Dead.

Jacob Steel's First Vote for Jefferson and Last for Patton.

PITTSBURG, Pa., August 25.—Jacob Steel, the oldest man in Pennsylvania, died at Uniontown last night, aged 108.

Mr. Steel was born October 19, 1783, in Springhill township, Fayette county, and has lived near Masontown nearly all his life. He has always been a Democrat. He cast his first ballot for Jefferson and his last ballot for Governor Patton.

He will be buried to-morrow in the Masontown cemetery. Mr. Steel had always been a church-goer, and for more than seventy years had been a member of M. E. Church. His habits were simple, and he was careful as to his eating.

He never used tobacco, but used whisky in a moderate degree. He was an early riser, and was noted for the evenness of his temper. On the day of Washington's second election Steel can remember that he was gathering hickory nuts. When Jefferson resigned from Washington's cabinet to lead the new Democratic party Mr. Steel was a boy of 10.

A Youthful Bigamist.

Only Eighteen Years of Age and He Has Three Wives.

BUFFALO, N. Y., August 23.—Harry Thorne, son of Millionaire Dr. Thorne, is locked up here on a charge of bigamy. He is only 18 years old, and is said to have three wives in different parts of the country, one in Buffalo, one in Philadelphia and one in Boston.

It is said that he and his latest wife boarded with Dr. Robinson, of Niagara Falls, for four weeks, and one dark night they stole away, getting out of a window, taking their baggage with them.

Perhaps the most notable case was his hasty courtship and marriage with Maude Westcott, a young and decidedly pretty girl in one of the leading dry goods houses in this city. He wooed and won her under the alias of Harry Hamilton, having assumed the name of the Delaware millionaire. Under this name he beat boarding-house proprietors, and the girl soon found out her mistake, and in three weeks she had secured a divorce.

At Gannistake, in England, in Bridgman's Circus, Lion Tamer Bridgman had made four lions march into another cage, following his whip. The fifth, an evil-minded beast, crouched in the corner and refused to move. Bridgman incautiously turned his head away and took his eye from the lion. In a moment he had leaped on him. The tamer defended himself for some time. On his cries for help the other lions came back and attacked the beast which was tearing him. Unfortunately, the circus men beat among them with iron bars and neglected to open the door of the cage for Bridgman. He was torn to pieces. The lion was shot the same day.