

A Good Nominee for Supreme Judge.

We do not know if it is the intention of Judge HEIDRICK, who was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Judge CLARK, to be a candidate for nomination to the position he now holds, or not, neither have we knowledge of the sentiment of the Democracy of the State as to their preference of candidates for this important place. We speak, however, what we know, in saying that the Democrats of this section are deeply interested in the matter of who shall be the candidate for supreme Judge, and as it has been many decades since the central counties have had a Democratic nominee or a Judge upon the bench, an organized effort among the members of the bar of adjoining counties has been started to present Judge D. L. KREBS, of Clearfield, for the position.

Judge KREBS is in the prime of life, having just passed his forty-fifth year, and the eight years that he has so well and so satisfactorily, to the people, presided over the courts of Clearfield county, have proven him to be one of the clearest headed, most expeditious and unprejudiced Judges upon the bench. During that time he has shown an unusual capacity for work and an intelligent idea of the dignity and duties of the place, that have been as beneficial to the public as they have been creditable to the high position he holds. When he went upon the bench, the issue list of his county, one of the largest in the State and one in which many valuable land titles were in the course of litigation, was from three to four years behind. At present the work is not six months back, and of all the cases that have been tried before him, many of them involving large interests, a smaller proportion have been carried to the Supreme court, than of those of any Judge in this section, and of the ones that have been carried up, less than one fifth have been reversed.

These facts show his capacity for work and the correctness with which he determines legal questions, many of which required the clearest conception and most minute knowledge of the land laws—qualifications imperatively necessary in any candidate who may aspire to the Supreme bench.

When Judge TRUNKY died, the western portion of the State, that was entitled to his successor, allowed the nomination to go to the extreme northeast without an effort to secure it. Whether intentionally or not, it gave away its opportunity and claims at that time. Judge CLARK's successor properly belongs to the Allegheny coal and lumber region of Central and Western Pennsylvania; and Judge KREBS, residing as he does, in the adjoining county to that of the late Judge whose place is to be filled, has the location as well as the qualifications to commend him to the people of the State as the proper candidate.

A Bad Subject for the Gazette.

In another column of this issue of the WATCHMAN we publish a candid and intelligent statement, by the Democratic members of the board of commissioners, in reply to the long and misty explanation of Commissioner STROHM, why his name did not appear to the financial exhibit for 1891. We also give place to an article furnished us by a gentleman fully conversant with the county finances, and which we have allowed to take the place, for the time being, of a few facts we proposed furnishing the tax payers, in reference to the charges made against the Commissioners by the Gazette of last week.

Wisdom on the part of the editor of that paper should have inclined him to wish that nothing he said, that would bring up references to the manner in which the county finances were managed under the late Republican board of Commissioners. He seems to lack sufficient sense to appreciate this fact, and if his long tirade against the present Democratic members results in refreshing the memories of the tax-payers as to the reckless and extravagant methods by which his party squandered the public money, he can take the responsibility of it himself.

The mouth piece of a party that, in addition to every cent of taxes collected, got away with a treasury surplus of over \$24,000; robbed the different townships of their land funds to the amount of \$7,633.09; used for county purposes, \$8,358.35 belonging to the State and left the treasury bankrupt and without a cent to pay current ex-

penses with, in a single term in the commissioners' office, as the Republican party did, is not in a condition to invite comparison or to impress a tax paying public with the idea that because its creatures have not the control, the finances of the county are not cared for as they should be.

Mr. Strohm's Real Reasons.

It was not so much a desire to be right, as to try to make a little political capital for the Republican party, that induced Mr. STROHM, the Republican member of the board of commissioners, to withhold his signature from the county statement and then occupy two and a half columns in the Gazette in explaining his reasons for doing so.

Mr. STROHM, if he is fit for the position he holds, knows very well that the item to which he takes exception as not being published as a liability, was not at the time of settlement, nor is it now a liability of the county—and will not be until the work contracted for is completed and accepted by the commissioners. Its proper place is just where it was put, among the estimated expenses, that are to be met this year.

But this was not what troubled Mr. STROHM. He had been clerk to the Republican board of commissioners that went into office in January 1888, with a surplus in the county Treasury of over \$24,000, and went out of office in January 1891, leaving the treasury bankrupt, the county in debt over \$12,000, the public buildings dilapidated and out of repair, and not a penny in the hands of the Treasurer to meet ordinary expenditures with. He discovered that through the economy and business like management of the present Democratic board, the financial exhibit of the county, for 1891 would make a very different showing from that of 1890, when he and his friends were in control. In fact it would show as it does, that in a single year Democratic management, had paid the Republican indebtedness, made and paid for improvements to the public building, restored public credit, and could claim a small balance in favor of the county.

This was in damaging contrast to the Republican mismanagement with which Mr. STROHM was connected; and to deceive the tax-payers as to the real condition of affairs, in order that so creditable a showing should not be made by the new Democratic board, Mr. STROHM insisted on charging up as a present liability for 1891, the contracted price for office fixtures, etc., that had not been put in place, not been accepted, and were not to be paid for even if the work was satisfactory, until November, 1892.

This was the kernel in Mr. STROHM's political nut. He didn't want a Democratic board to have the credit it deserved for sensible and careful management and insisted on making a false representation of the county's financial condition, for the simple purpose of saving his party from the damaging contrast, an honest and fair presentation of facts and figures made.

A Frank Statement from the Democratic Commissioners.

Mr. Strohm's Long Letter Fully Answered and Explained.

To the Citizens of Centre Co.

In the explanatory (?) letter, published in the last issue of the Keystone Gazette and signed by a member of the Board of Commissioners, we find the facts considerably distorted and ourselves unjustly misrepresented. The tone of the letter apparently attempts to show the "usurpation of power," as practiced by the Democratic members of this board, rather than to justify the stand taken by our esteemed colleague with reference to the classification of our annual statement.

During the one year in which we have been associated in the affairs of this office harmony has existed, and we have tried to show to our colleague the courtesy and consideration which is due to a minority of any board; and in justice to Mr. Strohm we wish to say, that we have found in him a most agreeable and reasonable gentleman, with the one exception in question.

In other business matters during the year, when it became necessary to take a ballot, if it were not unanimous, the member, no matter who it chanced to be who stood alone, in his views, was expected to accept the situation as becomes a man and yield to the majority of the board—reserving of course, the right to have his vote recorded on the minutes as he should dictate. The idea that the majority cannot legally publish the statement, when the minority member refuses to sign in, is ridiculous. Mr. Strohm's protest contained only a partial statement of the facts, and could we have added below the facts complete and an explanation of the matter in full the privilege of publication would have been granted Mr. Strohm; but we will leave to every sensible reader of this article the propriety of taking up the space on the annual statement with the

argument pro and con of this board.

We desire to call attention briefly to the main facts of the matter to which our colleague took exception: In the article of agreement made October 7th, 1891, first: The Office Specialty M'fg Co. agrees to furnish files and fixtures for the vaults of the commissioners and prothonotary's offices, deliver and put up the same in the vaults, the fixtures for commissioners' vault to be ready to put up by the month of December, 1891, and the fixtures for the prothonotary's vault shall be put in February, 1892. Second: The county commissioners agree to pay to the Office Specialty M'fg. Co. the contract price on November 1st, 1892, "provided the work meets the approval of the commissioners' when set up." The above embodies the main part of the article of agreement, which is on file in this office and open to the perusal of those in doubt as to who has quoted correctly. The reader will see that the fixtures for the prothonotary's vault, which is more than one half of the entire order, shall not be put up until the month of February, 1892. Further at the time our statement was published, none of the boxes containing the fixtures were opened. Upon the comparison made in Mr. Strohm's letter between a note given for value received and an article of agreement, the conditions of which have not been completed, we will respectfully ask business men to form their own opinion. The item above referred to is not left out of the statement as his article would have you believe, but is placed where we believe it rightfully belongs, as an estimated liability for the year 1892, and for which we will make provision in our tax levy of this year.

With reference to the vilification and abuse which Mr. Fiedler and other unscrupulous party leaders heaped upon the Democratic members of the board, in last week's issue of the Gazette, simply because we "dare to be Democrats," (instead of Republicans) and because our record for the first year in office presents so marked a contrast to the one left by three years of Republican management we have nothing to say further than to respectfully refer the public to our annual statement which we consider complete and correct and in every portion of which Mr. Strohm concurred with the exception of placing an item in one account instead of another.

In conclusion we sincerely regret that our colleague's good sense and judgment could not hold its own when brought in contact with the advice of unscrupulous political advisors.

G. L. GOODHART, T. F. ADAMS,

(COMMUNICATED.)

Facts for Centre County Tax Payers.

The Gazette of last week, even surpassed its former well established record for abusing, and misrepresenting democratic officials, in the indecent manner in which it assaulted the democratic members of the present board of County Commissioners. The onslaught it must be remembered, however, is based entirely upon the fact that the republican member of the board refused, for only an imaginary reason, to sign the annual statement which the Commissioners are, by law, required to publish.

Because of this, the whole report is distorted, misquoted and made to say things which do not appear upon its face. Even Mr. STROHM in his very lengthy, but thin article, would leave the public under the impression that the majority of the board garbled the statement, and made the figures to lie.

On February 3rd, the very day on which the copy of the Annual Statement, went into the printers hands, Mr. STROHM wrote out and asked to have this note placed on the statement, as giving his reasons for not attaching his name to it, with the other Commissioners.

Bellefonte, Pa., Feb. 3rd, 1892.

"I concur in the foregoing report except in the Statement of liabilities which in my judgment should contain the item of \$1500 of estimated indebtedness for metallic vault furniture as per contract dated Oct. 7th, 1891. This debt although not payable until November 1st, 1892, is, in my judgment, as much a liability as the note for \$300 held by the Centre County Banking Co., and the other debts enumerated among the liabilities and which fall due as stated in 1892."

J. B. STROHM.

In this brief note we have the fact that the republican member of the board was satisfied with the report, and found it correct as made out by the majority of the board, except in the one item.

Mr. STROHM would have agreed to the statement as made up and published, had he honestly followed his judgment and not sought to take advantage of his associates for political purposes, or listened to unscrupulous and unprincipled vagabonds who tramp our streets and abuse our citizens.

Mr. STROHM, however seeks refuge in the law. That is what ails the minority of the board,—he prides himself on his knowledge of the law.

The 23rd Section of the Act of 15th of April 1834, "makes it the duty of County Commissioners to publish annually, once a week for four successive weeks an accurate statement of all receipts and expenditures of the preceding year, etc."

The 23rd Section of the same Act provides "that such statement shall enumerate the respective sums paid by each Ward and Township within the county, and also designate all sums expended for the support of prisoners, the pay of Commissioners and of their clerk, the repairs of old or the erection of new bridges and the sums paid to individuals for lands over which roads may have laid out, together with such other items as may have a tendency to convey general information of the transaction of the previous year."

Wherein does either of these sections provide for an estimate of funds needed or a statement of liabilities, or what items shall or shall not be set out under either head? When the Commissioners make up their statement they make an estimate, as they did this year and properly so, of the funds needed for the coming year. It is of little consequence how this statement is made, so it states the truth and is so plain that it can be understood.

Under the head of funds needed, there is nothing to prevent, and it would be eminently proper, to set out every item which the Commissioners intend to pay during the year. In the statement of funds needed for 1892, allowing that there were no assets, and the Commissioners were under the necessity of raising funds to pay all outstanding notes and other indebtedness, the proper place to put all these items in the statement would be under the head of "funds needed."

The very item which is the occasion of Mr. STROHM's labors and the Gazette's eruption, is set out in bold figures. Why? because it must be met by the tax levy for 1892. And the other notes and items of indebtedness are set out under the head of liabilities because, when they were made it was intended that the tax levy of 1891 should meet and discharge these liabilities. And this the assets do and leave a balance of \$951.66 in favor of the county.

When the statement for 1890 was made out it showed an actual indebtedness of \$5287.62. Beside this the auditors in making up their report for 1890, in January 1891, say "there is due the several districts for road, school and poor purposes, arising from unseated lands the sum of \$20,173.17. Of this sum the Commissioners drew out for county purposes the sum of \$7,663.09."

The Republican board of 1890 had been trying to run the county on a two mill tax. When they fell short, as every body knew they would, they used the funds belonging to the townships. No money belonging to any district, for the purposes set out by the Auditors, was paid out during 1890. When the overseers of the poor or the Treasurer's of the school boards, or the Road Supervisors called on the Republican board of commissioners the invariable answer was that "there is money here due your township, but it is not distributed yet, we can't pay it because we do not know how much is due you." But when the statement for 1890 came out, and showed that there was \$23,173.09 due the several districts, it was demanded and the present board of Commissioners in all decency had to pay it.

Funds on hands there were none. The republican board started in with a surplus of \$2,406.00 as shown by the statement sent out in February 1888 over the signatures of HENDERSON and DECKER. They not only left a debt of \$5,267.62, but had misused and illegally appropriated \$7,993.09 of funds belonging to the townships. Thus making a deficiency of \$12,990.71. As there were no available assets or funds, the new Commissioners, were of necessity, compelled to raise the money otherwise.

Beside these items, state tax for 1889 to the amount of \$1356.46 remained unpaid, as well as \$7091.89 for 1890. It was not only a gross neglect of duty but a clear violation of law on the part of the Republican Commissioners not to have paid these amounts to the State during the years of 1889 and 1890. The first amount was placed in the hands of Attorney Gen. HENSEL, in a few days after he came into office, and because their old board had neglected their duty, it cost the tax payers of the county \$35.39 interest and \$67.89, commissions on the collection to the Attorney General. The State tax for 1890 unpaid amounted to \$7091.89. These sums with interest and attorneys commissions amounting to \$8,462.17 had to also be met before the tax levy of 1891 or any part of it could be made available. To do this the Commissioners were bound to raise the funds upon the credit of the county. Adding these sums (\$11,933.71 and \$8,462.17) together, we have a deficiency of \$21,392.88, and nothing but the tax levy of 1891 with which to meet it. The statement "conceded" in by Mr. STROHM shows, that on the first of January last there remained uncollected, of this levy \$16,378.25. The reason that there were outstanding notes to the amount of \$10,500, in the face of the fact that the tax levy of 1891 was increased one mill, is very plain, and the necessity for increasing the levy is just as plain.

James Grove hanged himself without apparent reason at Brogueville, York county.

One of the Most Daring Robberies in the Annals of Crime.

Ticketed the Express Messenger, Was Called Down, Then Jumped on a Freight Engine and a Wild and Exciting Race was the Consequence.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., February 21.—The shooting of an express messenger on a Central Hudson train, the riding of a valuable safe, the flight of the robber on the engine of another train; from which he drives the crew at the point of a revolver, a running fight from the engine cab for miles, chased by another engine filled with railroad men and the final capture of the desperado by a sheriff's posse in a swamp after a wild pursuit across the country, are some of the sensational features of the most desperate attempt at train robbery in the history of the Central Hudson railway and which cast in the shade as an exhibition of coolness and nerve the famous exploits of the Jesse James band or other outlaws of western fame.

Train No. 31, on the Central Hudson, is known as the American Express company's special. The express company pays the Central Hudson many thousands of dollars yearly for the use of this train. The train leaves New York at 9 o'clock each evening and is due in this city at 7.05 o'clock in the morning. One car is known as the "money" car and in it is sent the specie from the United States treasury for western banks, as well as the money in process of exchange between the banks of New York and the west. The load of wealth sent out from New York on this train is usually greater on Saturday evening than on other days and often amounts to more than a million dollars, in addition to jewelry and other articles.

Daniel T. McQuery, of this city was in charge of the money car on the trip Saturday night. The train was made up of eight express cars and one day coach for the accommodation of the regular train crew. Only one messenger was assigned to the money car, as the work of billing was light. The other cars had two messengers. The train left Syracuse at 5 o'clock this morning. When the train was near Weedsport, the conductor, who was in the coach with his two trainmen, thought he heard the air whistle sound very faintly. It was enough to arouse the belief that something was wrong in the car. Going out on the platform of the coach he climbed on the rail and, looking through the hole which the bell cord comes through, he saw the upper part of a man whose face below the eyes were concealed by a red flannel mask. The messenger he could not see. He went back, set the air brakes and called his two men. The three stood leaning out from the platform looking forward along the sides of the express car. Suddenly a man's form appeared at the side door of the express car. Revolver bullets whistled past their ears and a voice was heard calling on them to signal the engineer to go ahead or take the consequences. The trainmen were unarmed. The conductor told one of his men to jump off and run back to Jordan and telegraph along the line to Rochester that they had a train robber on board. This was done and the conductor signalled the engineer to go ahead at full speed, thinking that the robber would not dare to jump and would be captured at the next stop.

The train went to Port Byron. Here brakes were set again and the conductor and the trainmen went to the express car. The car showed signs of a desperate struggle. Money, packages and jewelry were lying scattered around. Everything in the car seemed stained with blood and Messenger McQuery was lying bleeding from several wounds and almost unconscious. The robber was nowhere to be seen and was supposed to have jumped and made good his escape. McQuery wanted to be brought on to Rochester and the train went on to Lyons, the next stop. The news had spread along the line by this time and the station at Lyons was alive. Among the crowd was a well dressed young man wearing gold eye glasses and carrying a satchel. Now it happened that a trainman had noticed this same young man at the station at Syracuse before the train pulled out and they had not seen him since and the question of what he was doing at Lyons and how he got there at once suggested itself. An attempt was made to seize him but he pulled out two revolvers, held the crowd back and backed across the yard until he reached a coal train, the engine of which had steam up ready to pull out for the west. He pulled the pin holding the tender to the first car, climbed into the cab, drove the engineer and fireman out with his revolvers and started the engine. The conductor of the express train and one switchman procured a shot gun, freed the engine of the express train and with the fireman and engineer started in pursuit of the fugitive.

It will be remembered that the Central Hudson is a four tracked road and the two engines, though both going north, were not on the same track. The express train soon overtook the robber, who suddenly reversed his engine and left his pursuers pass him, pouring a perfect trail of pistol bullets into the cab as his pursuers went by. The pursuers stopped and the pursued went ahead. Another artillery duel ensued, the shot gun taking a part this time. No one was hurt. About two miles beyond the robber found that his engine's steam was giving out. He jumped off at a cross road and started across the country, going south. He managed to terrify a farmer into letting him have a horse and rode on about two miles further south. Here he procured a horse and cutter, persuading the owner, a German farmer, to entrust him with them by bringing him.

The party on the express engine had returned to Lyons, where the sheriff of Wayne county had organized a posse, which under command of Deputy Sheriff Collins, started in pursuit. Meanwhile the farmers along the robber's line of retreat had also turned out, fully armed, in pursuit. The runaway was sighted about five miles south of Newark. The roads are very bad and he had made poor speed. He abandoned his rig and ran across the lots to Benton's swamp. But the swamp proved too full of water to be penetrated and the fugitive took his position behind a stone wall and faced his pursuers. After some parley he surrendered to Deputy

Sheriff Collins.

He was taken back to Lyons and lodged in jail. He gave the name of W. M. Cross, said he was from New Mexico and had been boarding in Syracuse for some time. He admitted that he was the man who had attempted the train robbery to Chief of Detectives Den of this city, who had been wired for. He is believed to be the much-wanted Oliver Curtis Perry, who robbed Express Messenger Moore near Utica last fall.

The Railroad Consolidation.

Last week we published by request an article from the Philadelphia Times on the Reading and Lehigh Valley railroad combination side of the question. Herewith we give two articles, forwarded us with the request to publish, and which the reader need not be told is from those opposed to the late deal. These, as was the article inserted last week, are given as the opinion of others—not the WATCHMAN.—Ed.

THE COAL COMBINATION.

From the Evening Herald, Philadelphia.

The great combine of the coal carrying railroads so skillfully engineered by President McLeod, of the Reading, is to be investigated by the New Jersey authorities. Despite the assurance of those in the deal that there will be no raise in prices there is a feeling that the deal is contrary to public interest and should not be allowed to hold. In this connection the New York World, under the bold caption of "Break It Up," says:

"The coal combination is a conspiracy of capital against industry, of wealth against poverty, of greed against need."

It is meant to make every poor man use less coal and pay more for it. It is meant to levy a tax upon every industry that uses coal, and the tax will be taken in the end out of the earnings of the men employed.

The people need more and cheaper coal. The conspiracy is intended to give them less and dear coal.

Production has already been curtailed in order that the price may be maintained. The price will inevitably be advanced in order that the conspirators may the more rapidly absorb to themselves the earnings of other men.

Under conditions of healthy competition surplus production would be reduced, not by stopping the work and wages of miners, but by a reduction in price sufficient to induce the people to use more coal. The conspiracy is intended to destroy healthy conditions, preclude competition, and decrease production, while increasing the profits of the monopoly in control.

It is a conspiracy against good morals and against the public welfare. It violates the spirit of the law. It sets at naught every principle of equity, it threatens the people in their homes and in their workshops. It is unjust, iniquitous, and very cruel. It must be broken up if there be law enough in this free land to protect a free people."

We commend the foregoing article from the World as in the right spirit. These are days of monopolies against the people, and the need now is for thorough work active resistance in defense of the people's rights and against the power of combined money.

Our Constitution condemns this deal. Its language is plain to be obscured.

The Reading and the Lehigh Valley were and are competing lines, and the prohibition is plain. The case of Coxe Brothers, fresh in the memory of all, only need to be referred to in order to demonstrate the conditions violated. They fell out with the Lehigh Valley and went to law with it. Did their works stand? Were their collieries idle? No; but an arrangement was made at once with the Reading and it did the work that the Lehigh had before been doing. Coxe Brothers had two carriers ready to carry their coal. They broke with one and favored the other. It is too plain for argument that the two lines were bidding for the same work. If bidders, then competitors. If competitors, then their merger or lease is forbidden.

GOVERNOR PATISON AND THE CONSPIRACY.

From the New York World.

Pennsylvania law created the corporations which have entered into the coal combination. It is the duty of Pennsylvania to protect the people against the wrongs which its corporate creatures have set out to do.

The combination is a conspiracy against the people, against public policy; a conspiracy to tax comfort, to levy tribute upon industry, to oppress and rob the poor for the benefit of the enormously rich.

This conspiracy is in plain violation of the Constitution of Pennsylvania. The elected officers of Pennsylvania are under every bond of duty and justice to break it up.

To Governor Patison especially the public has a right to look for early and vigorous action. He is the chosen defender of the constitution. But Governor Patison has relented the matter to the Attorney General, and intimates that he will await that official's initiative. The Attorney General in his turn declines to do anything unless some directly injured person or interest shall make complaint.

This seems to mean that nothing is to be done; that Pennsylvania corporations are to be permitted to levy fresh tribute from the grate of poverty and the furnace of productive industry; that the Constitution is to remain undefended, and the people to be left in subjection to a monopoly as odious as it is powerful.

The World hopes that this seeming will prove false. It has learned to regard Governor Patison as an energetic conscientious officer, a relentless foe of wrong, a fearless champion of the rights of the people against all forms of fraud, lawlessness and oppression. Only he can clear that opinion of his character.

Fine job work of ever description at the WATCHMAN Office.