

Democratic Watchman

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Bellefonte, Pa., Sept. 17, 1897.

P. GRAY MEEK, Editor.

The Democratic State Ticket.

For State Treasurer,
MICHAEL E. BROWN,
of Indiana county.
For Auditor General,
WALTER E. RITTER,
of Williamsport.

The Democratic County Ticket.

For County Surveyor,—J. H. WETZEL.
For Jury Commissioner,—J. J. HOY.

The Humanity in It.

Laying aside the question of the right of striking miners to assemble and march along the public highways, as did the little company of foreigners, up in Luzerne county, last Friday, there is a question of humanity arising from that bloody killing that every man's heart will settle for itself and he who gatheth the lives that were so ruthlessly taken will be the one judge over all.

The truth of the story will probably never be told to the public, for those murderous deputies must have been so frenzied and bloodthirsty that no explanation of theirs could be accepted as wholly credible, while the survivors of that pitiless rain of bullets are naturally saddened and inflamed so that their statements must necessarily be warped. Fortunately there were two disinterested, intelligent witnesses, nearby, whose story of the shooting reads as if they had been reporting some of WYLLIE'S butcheries of Cuban patriots. Mr. GUSCOCK and Miss COYLE, teachers in the public school within 200 yards of the scene, tell the following sad story of the occurrence. This is their version, after describing the position of the deputies, who were drawn up in the form of a crescent:

"The strikers made their appearance soon after, marching down the road toward the Lattimer breaker. They were in orderly array, six abreast, carrying a small American flag. Two small boys, one seven and the other eleven, sons of one of the strikers, were in the van, walking hand in hand several feet in advance of the rest. After the shooting I found these two little fellows lying side by side, dead. They were pierced by at least a dozen bullet wounds, and had probably been instantly killed, as they lay side by side on the spot where they were last alive.

I thought one volley would suffice to disperse the strikers. It did, but it was not sufficient to satisfy the ungovernable rage for blood which the deputies exhibited. They no longer fired in volleys, but one after another, taking careful aim and bring to kill and with deadly effectiveness, until a man after man dropped as he ran, screaming with fright, for a place of safety.

A bullet crashed through our school house window. Then one of the deputies, the strikers, with blood streaming from his arm, ran toward us to gain the shelter of the building. He had almost reached the corner when he was shot between the shoulders and fell dead almost at our feet.

I saw men who had hidden behind trees and fences during the first fusillade leave their places of concealment, only to be deliberately shot down. One poor devil, whom I afterward found was shot through both legs at the knees, had crawled some distance from the deputies, and sitting upright, was shot through the back and killed.

I wish I could describe to you the delicate bloodthirstiness of the shooters, but I cannot find words sufficiently strong to tell the story. It was horrible.

The shooting occurred for ten or fifteen minutes. I am sure it was more than ten, and when it had ceased Miss Coyle and I went to help the wounded. One man passed who had been shot through the stomach and held his protruding intestines in the hollow of his hands, clasped together about the blood mass. Miss Coyle, brave girl, did not recoil at this sickening sight, but asked the man if he could go into the school house and lie down until help arrived. "No," he replied, "me want see my wife before die." He staggered on down the road. He never saw her, for we found him dead against the fence near the school soon after."

With the light that this story throws upon the bloody encounter it resolves itself into one of humanity, not of law, not of right, not of justice. Reading of riot acts ought to have no effect on men who are not riotous and the strong arm of the law should protect their lives and liberty, instead of becoming their impetuous destroyer.

The Quay-Hastings Rupture.

No one who had observed the surface indications of the trouble between the Republican factions had reason to be surprised by HASTINGS' declaration of war against QUAY, as manifested by the sudden and unceremonious dismissal of secretary of the commonwealth REEDER from his place in the HASTINGS administration. Although the Governor has displayed an appearance of submission to the ruling boss since he was so badly whipped in his rebellion against QUAY'S sovereign power in the first year of his administration, there were causes that kept alive his feeling of animosity and excited in him that spirit which will make even a worm resent being trodden upon.

The spectacle which the Governor presented after he was run through the QUAY threshing machine was anything but creditable to his reputation for political manhood and strength of spinal column. It was evident from his conduct under that humiliation that he was anything but satisfied with his subservient position, his general demeanor indicating his desire to break loose and be, or at least appear to be, his own master. There were frequently repeated symptoms of a break, and reports that he was about to antagonize QUAY were periodically circulated, but failed to materialize, and no doubt would have continued to fail if the Governor's resolution had not been stiffened by the counsel and support of bolder spirits who are interested in the overthrow of the dominant boss. At last a sufficient amount of courage was mustered for the rupture,

the first positive indication of hostilities appearing in his precipitately kicking QUAY'S man REEDER out of his cabinet, which amounted to a direct and unmistakable declaration of war to the knife.

Though this sudden hostile movement has created an excitement in political circles there was no reason why it should surprise the public. A rupture between two corrupt factions that have acted together in schemes of plunder is so sure to come in time that its occurrence should be no cause for surprise. QUAY and HASTINGS are but the representatives of two factions into which the spoilsman of a hopelessly corrupt party are divided, and that such characters should fall out is but a verification of the old adage about honest men getting their dues when a rupture of that kind happens.

The Governor's declaration of war against QUAY does not imply an intention of better political methods. Its only meaning is that one set of Republican spoilsmen want to succeed another in running the party machine. It promises no relief to the despoiled taxpayers and no greater safety for the state treasury which Republican ringsters have habitually raided. When HASTINGS, in his uprising against QUAY, selects a character like DAVE MARTIN to fill the place in his administration made vacant by the expulsion of a QUAYITE, the extent to which the interest of good government is advanced by the change is not perceptible.

And yet there is a chance that the cause of good government may be promoted by this fight between the Republican factions which divides the alliance of corrupt elements that contributed to the strength of the Republican party as a whole. With the leaders of that party divided against each other by factional antagonism the honest people of the State should be able to administer at the polls this year a rebuke to the spoilsmen by whom they have been so long plundered.

It is the wheat famine in India and the crop failure throughout Europe that has raised the price of wheat to the figures that now delight the hearts of the American farmers. The present price of wheat, with which we have been blessed, has given us the little prosperity that is now rejecting our people. In no way, in no place in the entire country is there the least evidence of any other prosperity, save and except that which comes as a consequence of the increased price of wheat, than we had this time last year or this time two years ago. And yet, in the face of this fact, MARK HANNA publicly proclaims that the Republican party is responsible for the increased prosperity of the country. If the Republican party is responsible for the short crops in Europe and the famine in India and the bounteous harvest gathered in this country, then it can claim credit for all the prosperity in sight at this time. There are fools, possibly, who will believe as HANNA would have them, but fools' beliefs do not change facts.

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HAZLETON, Pa., Sept. 14.—Despite a variety of alarming rumors and a morning movement by a body of miners which looked formidable, to-day passed off without serious disturbance in the strike region. Matters still wear such an uncertain aspect, however, that General Gobin declares that the removal of the troops or of any portion of them has not been contemplated. The strike itself is spreading with great rapidity. Exact estimates of the number of men who have quit work are hard to obtain, but conservative figures place it close to 10,000, with indications that within a short time every colliery of importance in the region will be idle. Although some disposition has been shown by small bodies of strikers in the outlying districts to make demonstrations, they have been of a feeble character, and the great majority of the men are docile.

These mines are now idle: Coxe Brothers & Company, Eckley, Beaver Meadow and Onondaga, about 2,000 men; Lehigh and Wilkesbarre coal company's Honey Brook and Audenreid mines about 2,500; Frank Pardee's Cranberry and Crystal Ridge, 1,000; Lehigh Valley coal company, Hazle mines, Yorktown, Jeansville and Audenreid, 3,000; Calvin Pardee & Co.'s Lattimer and Harwood, 2,000. The collieries still working are the Deering, Tomhicken and Shepton, of the Coxe company; Weston, Dodson & Co.'s Beaver Brook mine, and J. S. Wentz's Silver Brook mine.

The First City Troop, of Philadelphia, which was dispatched at an early hour this morning to the scene of the reported outbreak at Eckley, found nothing for it to do when it reached that place, about 1 o'clock this afternoon. Several hundred miners from Buck mountain marched on the Eckley mines last night and brought out the men there. A few of the men who showed a disposition to continue work were roughly handled, and the mine superintendent, fearing trouble, wired to General Gobin for troops. He also sent word to Drifton, and 70 deputies from that place and Roan Junction, nearby, were sent over. They kept themselves under cover at Eckley, however, awaiting developments. Nothing further happened, the men at Eckley joining the ranks of the strikers. Meanwhile the cavalry troop was sent by General Gobin and had a wearisome march over the mountains only to find everything at Eckley peaceful.

MORE ANNOYING STORIES.

The day had scarcely opened before another annoying story came to brigade headquarters by telephone. It was that a gang of miners from Drifton had marched on Colliery No. 5 at Jeddo with expressed intention of bringing the men out. Upon reaching the colliery, John Markle, the superintendent, met a committee of the miners, and succeeded in turning them off without trouble. This was the incident of the day which partook of the nature of a demonstration.

At Lattimer this afternoon a largely attended and decisive meeting of strikers was held to receive the answer of the company