

The real issue that affects most of us and the one we all stand on is the "good long green."

By state enactment Colorado will have no more "clocked" horses. The jack-rabbits are evidently enough tail-less quadrupeds in the Centennial state.

The Boers have crossed the Rubicon. They are now on British territory and will stay, no doubt, as long as too many of them don't cross the Styx.

The purple aster promises to be the favorite flower at foot-hall games this fall. Presumably because the color will be much in vogue with the players after the games are over.

What doth it profit the farmer if all the iron furnaces and ore mines in Christendom are in operation and he gets only 60c for his wheat and has to pay an advanced price for every implement he uses.

OOM PAUL might volunteer to mediate between AGUINALDO and MCKINLEY as a mild reminder to our President that he has troubles of his own without getting mixed up in the English-Boer controversy.

The President didn't care enough to go to New York to greet DEWEY, consequently it need not surprise you if the Admiral's suggestion to send MILES and MERITT to the Philippines is not acted upon.

It is almost a paradox that Uncle SAM is working out when he brings the Indians in from the frontier and educates the warlike spirit out of them at Carlisle, then sends them off to the Philippines to educate it into them again.

This is the chestnut season indeed; but not all of them are to be found showering from the spreading branches of forest trees. There are many wormy ones falling from stumps in many cities in the State and the GOBIN propaganda is bumpin' the stump.

It is quite evident that MCKEAN has HANNA on the run out in Ohio. When they are compelled to assess government employes from other States to furnish boodle to hold the old Booney in line it must be looking blue indeed for the boss and his bar!

If foghorn JOE FORAKER had given his wind apparatus to the New York yacht club when the international races begun they would have been over by this time and that statesman would have had plenty left with which to blow NASH's mill out in Ohio.

To say that DEWEY is an expansionist merely because he has failed to say that he is not, is the burden of a recent effort of the Boston Globe. And there is about as much sense in such argument as there would be in the contention that DEWEY wears sea-skin pajamas, simply because he has never said that he doesn't.

OOM PAUL has sent his ultimatum to England and he calls her majesty's attention to a few things that he wants done instantly; principally the immediate removal of the British troops from the Transvaal frontier. There is one thing quite evident and that is that OOM PAUL has his Dutch up and isn't to be cowed by Mrs. Vrc. and her soldiers.

It's beginning to look as if the Yacht race was only a monumental bluff. If more wind is needed there is Teddy ROOSEVELT right at hand, Fire-Alarm FORAKER not far distant, and Cassy GOBIN over at Lebanon. Either are prepared, at a moment's notice, to blow a dozen yachts over any race course. Oh, no, gentlemen, there is no excuse for failing to race in a country full of wind machines such as this one is afflicted with. You must give us some more plausible reason.

DEWEY wouldn't be a Yankee if he wasn't a little fox. He says he prefers a house already built to waiting until one is built to his order. The Admiral knows enough to take the tide at its flood. If he were to wait for the house that would have to be built yet it is a possibility that he would be too old to enjoy it before its completion. And there would even be a possibility of its being like the GRANT monument, which was started with such a rush and is never completed yet.

The glorious war in the Philippines still goes on and every day the policy of the administration regarding it changes. On Tuesday our soldiers abandoned San Francisco de Malabon, after having captured the city at the price of good American blood. How is this, Mr. President? How does it come that the flag is permitted to be hauled down from a place where it has been planted by American valor? You are forgetting the great patriotic play you made some time ago in extension of your course in the Philippines?

When the farmers in Centre county were threshing out enormous crops of grain last fall the Republican spell-binders were throwing up their hats in praise of the MCKINLEY administration for having brought about such a prolific harvest. That was in the fall of 1898. This is the fall of 1899 and these same farmers are barely getting their seed out of their wheat crops. Now who is responsible? If it was MCKINLEY in 1898, when crops were good; why is it not MCKINLEY in 1899, when crops are bad? It has only taken a year for that great campaign roster of hominifal crops brought about by benign Republican administration to get home to roost and we are waiting to see whether it is to be acknowledged as part of the fruit that flew the Republican coop too soon.

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The Necessity of a Full Democratic Vote.

Democrats should remember that a full Democratic vote means a glorious Democratic victory on the 7th of November. When they think of the manner in which the management of both state and county affairs have been conducted; the useless expenditure of the peoples' money; the jobbery that has been resorted to; the increased cost of every department; the way the taxes are running up; and the wild gratification there would be on the part of those who are striving to continue this sort of corrupt and debauching control, it shouldn't be a hard matter to poll a full Democratic vote. Every Democrat who pays taxes is interested in the honest management of state, as well as of county affairs. They know that the only way to have honest management is to put out the ring and its creatures and put in careful and competent Democrats. It is to their interest to do so. Why then should anyone hesitate about getting to the polls.

In the last ten years the cost of running this county under Republican judges, and with Republican commissioners has increased, as the WATCHMAN showed two weeks ago, twenty-six thousand dollars a year. There is that much more taxes needed now to pay the ordinary, every day expense of county affairs than there was when Democrats had control of the courts and the commissioners office. This money comes off the voters. There are about eight thousand of them within the county and the average increase of taxation amounts to about \$3.25 for every man who is upon the tax duplicate.

This would have been saved had we had different management. But the carelessness of voters and their indifference to their own interests kept many from the polls, and they feel the result of that indifference now in the increased taxes they must pay every year. And it will be more hereafter, if they don't waken up and put a stop to it. It is growing worse every year, and Republican taxpayers who should be equally interested in the economical and careful management of county matters seem willing to bear this additional taxation that their party may win at the polls.

The only hope of bettering matters and of getting back to the inexpensive days of Democratic management is in the Democrats of the county wakening up to their own interest and polling the full party vote. This will cure the evils that are upon us, and it will give us all reason to rejoice. It won't take much work to do this. Let each one do his share and it will be accomplished.

"Old man" SPEER is like farmer CREASY; the very embodiment of all that is honorable and upright. Vote for the one for State Treasurer and make the other one county treasurer and you will be certain that the public funds are being properly handled.

How They Are Making Their Campaign Expenses.

If the taxpayers of the county want to continue paying ten dollars and a half each day for the incompetent and wasteful management of county affairs that has run the county expenditure from \$40,000 a year up to over \$60,000, all they need do is to assist Messrs. RIDDLE and FISHER hold on to the office they now have. Badly as these two men want re-election they want the salary they can secure themselves more, and day after day from Monday until Saturday, they put in their appearance at the court house, talking politics and charging the taxpayers for the day.

During this time of year there is no work to be done in the commissioners office that could not, by proper management, be accomplished in one day of each week, but three dollars and a half a week wouldn't pay campaign expenses like three dollars and a half a day does and, to make the taxpayers bear the brunt of their expenses, they come here every forenoon, have their names recorded as present, charge the county for the day, and then strike out to beg votes for themselves. Of the six hours a day that they pretend to serve the county, not twenty minutes of that time is put in in the interest of the taxpayers or attending to the business of the county. Every moment of their time is taken up electioneering, and day, after day, after reporting in the morning and getting their names on the minutes as present, so that the day's salary can be charged up, they disappear and nothing is seen of them again until the following morning. It has been this way ever since the campaign opened, and it will continue this way until the election, and for three years longer, unless the people of the county vote them out of office in November.

For sheriff of Centre county none but the best men should be voted for. CYRUS BRUNGARD is a type of the county's sturdiest and most representative citizens. He will make a creditable officer in appearance and conduct and merits the vote of every good citizen.

An Error.

The WATCHMAN has no desire to be unfair or untruthful in its statements concerning the management of the county's business by the present board of commissioners and voluntarily takes this opportunity to correct a misstatement that appeared in last Friday's edition.

Under the heading of "Taxed \$12,000 to make improvements amounting to \$4,000" it was stated that immediately upon assuming the duties of their office, in 1897, Messrs. RIDDLE and FISHER had raised the millage from 3 to 3 1/2 and in that way had secured an increased revenue of \$6,000 for the year 1897, as well as for 1898, when a 3 1/2 mill levy was laid. The duplicate for those two years, according to our statement, gave them about \$12,000 in excess of what the previous Democratic board had received for a similar period. And with this \$12,000 extra revenue we contended that the matter of making their much boasted of \$4,000 improvements was not a matter to be crowed over at all.

Since publishing that article it has developed that they laid only a 3 mill tax in 1897 and we want to do them the justice of this acknowledgment of our error in saying that it was a 3 1/2 mill levy. But, in 1898, they did levy a 3 1/2 mill tax, which brought \$6,146.21 additional revenue into their hands, derived by increased taxation, and it ought to have been a very simple matter to make \$4,000 worth of permanent improvements; in fact it would have been very funny if something tangible had not been done with it. But what has become of the \$2,146.21, unaccounted for in the commissioner's book.

Contrary to its being a matter for congratulation that the commissioners did make improvements to public properties to the amount of \$4,000, with the increased revenue of 1898, it is a result that any school boy could have accomplished. Had they been able to make improvements of the nature they are now claiming credit for without levying an extra tax at all; with the savings they had effected by a careful and economical conduct of affairs, then there would have been something to command public commendation, but as the matter now stands they have done nothing that the most extravagant and the impracticable could not have done and in acknowledging an inconsequential error in our statement last week it will be seen that the principle involved in the article is not, in the least, effected.

CAL. HARPER's record as recorder of Centre county cannot be improved upon. There are hundreds of men in the county who have reason to be grateful to him for courtesies extended them from his office; little kindnesses that he was actually not obligated to do in the faithful performance of his duty, but which he has never hesitated to extend whenever possible. People remember such things and that is the reason CAL. will be re-elected. He is one of the most obliging men who has ever been in the court house.

One Hundred Dollars Worth of Stone Steps for Ten Dollars.

An illustration of how carefully (?) the present Republican board of commissioners care for the interests of the tax payers was shown in the sale of the surplus stone steps that were taken from the front of the court house last spring, when repairs were being made to the entrance. The job of resetting the old steps was given to Mr. JAMES McCARTHERY, who, by the way, did it well. When completed upwards of one hundred feet of nicely cut lime stone steps, eight inches high, fourteen to sixteen inches wide and varying from six to ten feet in length had been saved. To quarry and dress such stone, masons tell us, would cost from a dollar to a dollar and a quarter a foot, or not less than \$90 under any circumstances. The beauties who are taking care of the county's interests sold the whole lot to a couple of friends for five dollars and fifty cents; one gentleman paying \$3.00 for the larger ones, and another taking the balance for \$2.50. Stone cutters who know the amount of labor there is in getting out steps of the kind, say they would have been cheap at \$75. and that any one who had use for anything of the kind would have had a great bargain by paying \$100.00 for them.

This is but one instance of the incompetency or reckless management that the taxpayers have to stand with RIDDLE and FISHER doing business for them. In the matter of little things they are as incompetent as in larger ones, and it is no wonder that county expenditures have increased to \$60,000 a year under their management. If the taxpayers want more of this kind they know how to have it.

BRUNGARD is not running over the county defaming anybody. He is a clean man, himself, and does not expect to gain strength by flinging mud at others. He is a straightforward, upright gentleman who is not conducting a back alley campaign and if he can't be elected sheriff of Centre county by creditable methods he doesn't want to be elected at all.

A Dismal Failure.

The state ring's great aggregation of treasury manipulators, over-paid office holders, Filipino warriors, political blusters and the rag-tag and bob-tail that hangs onto the public teat at Harrisburg, that is traveling the State hurrying for the flag, with expectation of tightening the clutch of the bosses on the State Treasury, don't seem to be creating the enthusiasm that its originators expected. Under the pretense of illness the chief bugleman, BARNET, has been withdrawn already, the real reason being his flat failure as a political stump and his inability to answer the questions fired at him about the State Treasury.

He discovered, during his first speech at Lebanon, that it was not the condition of the Filipinos, so much as the condition of their own State Treasury, that the voters of Pennsylvania were interested in, and as he dared say nothing about the latter, it was deemed best that he should not be kept in a position where perplexing questions could be asked him and he was promptly retired, and will be retired until the election. The rest of the show, including the flag, the uniforms, LATA's whiskers, and GOBIN's never ceasing blow, is still on the road, but at every stand the audience grows smaller and the performance flatter. It may run for a week yet, or possibly until the election, but its influence is proving a most dismal failure, and its effects, if any, are only arousing and solidifying the opposition to ring rule, and disgusting decent voters with the devices that are resorted to to secure their votes.

When you hear a man go round and try to arouse church prejudices; to drag religious beliefs into political contests; and create dissension among Christian denominations, you can be sure that man is unworthy the support of any respectable citizen. This is what JAKE HERMAN is doing, wherever he thinks he can make a vote in that way. By the time he hears the election returns he will discover that churches will not allow themselves to be disgraced by being dragged into politics, and that any decent citizen in the county despises the man who attempts this kind of campaigning.

The Official Organ Admits Riddle's Guilt.

The Bellefonte Republican, the official organ of the Republican party in Centre county, surprised every one yesterday by a frank admission of the guilt of Commissioner RIDDLE, in having overdrawn his account to the amount of \$309.50. The Republican sees the utter folly of trying to bolster up Commissioner RIDDLE's unbusiness like act and speaks of it as follows:

County Commissioner Matthew F. Riddle has overdrawn his account with the county and, according to the records of the Commissioners' office as shown on page 394, Ledger No. 1, he stood indebted to the county for \$309.50, the sum of \$204.50, representing the amount of cash in advance received by him in excess of that due him for services rendered up to that date. On August 14, 1899, Mr. Riddle's overdrawn account amounted to \$309.50. Since that date and October 2nd he has reduced the sum \$105.00. It must be admitted that Mr. Riddle exhibits a disposition to liquidate his indebtedness to the county.

Mr. Riddle makes no denial of the circumstances published in the Centre Democrat and in the WATCHMAN. It would be absurd as well as useless for him to do so in the face of facts which are in black and white in the commissioners' ledger. He offers no excuse in extenuation of his action other than to say that personal financial matters requiring immediate adjustment obliged him to accept an advance of salary, which he did, and with the full knowledge and consent of his fellow-commissioners and his bondsmen.

Mr. Riddle has yet seventy days remaining of his present term of office and in that period it is reasonable to suppose, therefore, that he will be able to pay the county more than cover his "overdrawn account." If after the expiration of his term of office he stands indebted to the county for any amount, large or small, then his honesty can be questioned, his character assailed.

It isn't a case whether Mr. RIDDLE will be able to serve his "seventy days remaining of his present term," it is the principle of the transaction.

What right has he to take \$309.50 of the public money out of the treasury to meet "personal financial matters requiring immediate adjustment?"

The tax payers of the county are bending under their burden of taxes already and why should they be called upon to pay taxes for interest on money borrowed from the banks for Commissioner RIDDLE to use?

Quay and Barnett Mean One and the Same Thing.

From the Altoona Times. It is impossible to separate Colonel Barnett, the Republican candidate for the State Treasurership, from Mr. Quay. They stand together and if the nominee for the office of Treasurer is defeated, it will be a defeat for Quayism. Governor Stone was one of the speakers at the convention of the League of Republican Clubs held at Harrisburg last week. In an address he declared that there were no state issues before the people of Pennsylvania this fall. On this subject, we find that Colonel Barnett is in accord with the Governor. He declared that there are no state issues and that the great question before the people is the war in the Philippines. We perceive why the Governor and Colonel Barnett make such statements. They want to draw the attention of the people away from the vital state issues, a discussion of which would be injurious to their cause. The Governor commends that his illegal attempt to prevent an amendment of the Pennsylvania constitution and his unconstitutional reduction of the amount of the school appropriation are not questions for the consideration of the voters. He would have such things brushed aside as inconsequential.

Barnet Was Not Popular With the Men in the Ranks.

From the Milton Record. If the outspoken expressions of the members of the Tenth Pennsylvania regiment may be taken as evidence, Barnett, the commander of the regiment and the nominee of the state machine for treasurer, is not to receive the unanimous support of his command at the coming election. According to the statements of the men, Colonel Barnett was never popular with his men. The spirit of "comradery," as they say, was not a trait of the commander's disposition. He preferred hotel comforts to the hardships of camp life when on the firing line in the Philippines. His men now have an opportunity to resent the colonel's indifference and should manifest it in the only effectual way open to them—vote for William T. Creasy for State Treasurer.

As Others See Us.

From the Bucyrus (O.) Forum. What does our boasted government amount to under such conditions when the bosses and rings and political bribers, tricksters, bulldozers and swindlers of the single city can get judgment. Yes, though this will carry a State or elect a Legislature, or give Congress or the Presidency to a party by fraud. And still the "sovereign people" and "consent of the governed" can look for no change for the better, however, until good people come to their senses and conclude to take charge of affairs.

A Voter's After-Thought.

From the Age of Reason. "The politician is my shepherd; I shall not want any good thing during the campaign. He leadeth me into the saloon for my vote's sake; he filleth my pocket with good cigars; my glass of beer runneth over. He prepareth my ticket for me in the presence of a prettier judgment. Yes, though I walk through the mud and rain for him and shout myself hoarse when he is elected, straightway he forgetteth me; lo, when I meet him in his office, he knoweth me not. Surely the wool has been pulled over my eyes all the days of my life, and I will kick myself forever."

Was it "Daisy" or Was it "Dash?"

We have no desire to accuse the commissioners apologist of being untruthful or of attempting to misrepresent facts, but we must inform our friend up town that "Daisy" or "Dash" won't do as writers for the intelligent people of Centre county. The people want something a little more sensible and without such glaring evidences of ignorance as the following; which, out of charity, we credit to other sources than the editor of the apologist.

In last Friday's Gazette the following paragraph appeared in the article containing the commissioners famous defy:

For example: In 1890, after a Republican board had been in office for three years, it turned over to a Democratic board assets of \$17,571.70, and liabilities of \$5,267.63, or a surplus of \$12,304.07. In 1896, after the Democrats had been in office six years, they turned over to the present board assets of \$31,177.91, and liabilities of \$17,476.21, or a surplus of \$13,701.70.

Instead of leaving a surplus of \$12,604.07 to their Democratic successors, in 1890, the Republican board of commissioners, that went out of office that year, left debts to the amount of \$5,267.63.

"Daisy" or "Dash" or whoever did it, didn't take a good look at the statement of the Republican board's account that was published over the signatures of JNO. B. MITCHELL, E. H. CARR and SAMUEL T. GRAY, auditors, in January, 1891. Put them up again and see if they can't find these lines.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT. LIABILITIES. Total..... \$23,139.33 ASSETS. Total..... \$17,871.70 Liabilities in Excess of Assets, County Indebtedness..... \$5,267.63 This is what your Republican board turned over, in 1890, to their Democratic successors, an indebtedness of \$5,267.63, and those Democratic successors promptly turned the balance to the other side of the account, as the blundering apologist acknowledges.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Plans are in preparation for a large silk mill, to be erected at Lancaster by Stehli & Co., of Geneva, Switzerland, and New York.

Nimrods in Columbia county are rejoicing this year over the abundance of game throughout the county. Rabbits, quail and pheasants are to be found upon all sides.

On Friday night last Mrs. Susan Musselman, of Point, Bedford county, lost a valuable cow. Its death was caused by eating acorns. When the cow was opened about a gallon of acorns were found that were not masticated.

Joseph, the 4-year-old son of George Adams, of West Taylor township, Cambria county, was playing under a heavily laden coal wagon on last Thursday. The team started and the wheels passed over the little fellow, crushing his life out.

Miss Gertrude A. Shields, of Altoona, has been engaged by Democratic State chairman Rilling to accompany farmer Creasy and fellow campaigners over the State as official stenographer. Last year Miss Shields accompanied George A. Jenks in his canvass for Governor.

John Rowe, a well-known plumber of Altoona, met with a serious accident on Saturday last which resulted in his death. While engaged at making a pipe connection in a ditch the dirt caved in, covering him to the neck. He was removed, but not until he had been frightfully squeezed.

During the past week about sixty-five ear loads, a total of 32,500 bushels, of potatoes were shipped to market from points along the Schuylkill and Lehigh branches of the Philadelphia and Reading railway. The crop in northern Berks and the western part of Lehigh has not been so large in years.

Jack Campbell, the hero of the "Fighting Tenth" regiment, who swam the river in the Philippines with his gun in his hand and his cartridges in his mouth and made the capture that Gen. Funston got the credit for, is an old Hontzlake boy. He is now located at Greensburg.

Small-pox has broken out in Punxsutawney. The 14-year-old daughter of Wm. Stathers was taken to the hospital, supposed to be ill with typhoid fever, but the ailment developed into small-pox. In Bell township, Jefferson county, five members of one family are ill with small-pox.

A syndicate of New York capitalists has purchased the property producing kaolin and white clay, heretofore operated by the Philadelphia Clay company, on the Philips land, one mile west of Hunter's Run, Cumberland county. The new company has started in on the work of erecting an immense establishment.

The barn of W. H. Broughton in Granville township, Mifflin county, a short distance west of Lewistown, was destroyed by fire Friday night. The live stock was saved, but all the crops were burned, this year's grain not having been threshed yet. The loss was at least partially covered by insurance.

A syndicate composed chiefly of Philadelphians have contracted for the purchase of the entire capital stock of the Bonnevill Cement company, whose mills are located at Siegfried, Northampton county. The purchasers expect to have an output of 1000 barrels of Portland cement and 500 barrels of Rosedale cement daily.

At Williamsport Saturday John Gressinger, with the assistance of a companion, was unloading a heavy barrel from the rear end of a wagon. The horse started suddenly as the barrel was balanced upon the tail-board of the wagon, and both men were thrown prostrate to the ground. The barrel tilted from the wagon and fell upon Gressinger. His back is injured and he is hurt internally.

Governor Stone is interested in the movement to preserve the State's forests, and in a conference with Dr. J. T. Rothrock, State forestry commissioner, he assured him he would do all he could in the matter of acquiring more land for State reservations. Something, it is admitted, must be done quickly to preserve Pennsylvania's woodlands. A meeting of the board of public property will be called shortly to consider the purchase of more land.

Some weeks ago when county physician B. E. Leopold was attending the colored small-pox patients in and about Clearfield, he wore a certain suit of clothing; on all visits, and upon returning home would repair to a room in his stable, divest himself of that clothing, use proper disinfectants and don another suit in an adjoining room. When all the small-pox patients recovered Dr. Leopold left the small-pox clothing in the barn and there it remained until last week when some thief entered and stole the whole suit.

The employees of a coal mine at Grass Flat, near Peale, Clearfield county, recently found a monster snake in a petrified condition imbedded in a coal bed. They proceeded carefully to remove it. About ten feet have already been taken out. The head is about eight inches in diameter. Some of the sections taken out are from 18 to 20 inches long. The indentations in the hardened mass plainly indicate the scales of the reptile. The sections taken out look like stone, yet they are as heavy as pig iron. Efforts will be made to take the remainder of the reptile out without damaging it in any way. The finding of the petrified specimen opens a vast realm of speculation as to the age when the reptile was alive.

Great excitement prevails in Selingsgrove, owing to several children having been bitten by a dog which investigation has proved to be a victim of hydrophobia. About six weeks ago a dog showing symptoms of the rabies bit several dogs, among them being a valuable Gordon setter pup owned by Dr. A. R. Potteiger, a veterinary surgeon. Dr. Potteiger kept his dog chained, but as it showed no symptoms for several weeks he allowed his and his neighbors' children to play with it, and it is known that seven or eight were bitten. The dog acted strangely on Saturday and the doctor, who had also been bitten, took the animal to New York city for examination. On Monday Mrs. Potteiger received a telegram from him stating that the dog had hydrophobia in its worst form. The entire family, four in number, accompanied by several of the neighbors' children, left for New York at once. It is known that several other dogs have been bitten and there will be a number shipped to New York for examination.