

# Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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### An Unfit Candidate.

ROBERT K. YOUNG, the Republican candidate for Auditor General, has been attorney for the capitol building commission ever since its organization. It was his duty to admonish the commission against the violation of the constitution and the laws. He was morally as well as legally bound to prevent the expenditure of the public money except in the manner prescribed in the statute. He knew the appropriation for the completion of the new capitol was limited to \$4,000,000. Unless he is a born imbecile, moreover, he must have known that spending the full amount of the appropriation for the walls and roof of the building was a violation of the law. Yet he permitted the capitol building commission to commit that folly, though he too had taken an oath to "support, obey and defend" the constitution.

The principal duty of the Auditor General is to safeguard the public funds and prevent the unlawful expenditure of the moneys collected from the people. He holds to the state government practically the same relationship which Mr. YOUNG held to the capitol building commission as its attorney. Would any sane man, uninfluenced by party prejudices, select for that office a man whose misfeasance in a similar position had just been revealed. The chances are that it was his delinquency in the matter in point that recommended Mr. YOUNG to the machine managers for the office of Auditor General. They reasoned that having permitted looting in one office he would not be likely to object to it in another. Men are judged by their actions as well as by the company they keep and having served the looters in one office was a recommendation for another.

The people of Pennsylvania want to get rid of these official misfits. As a matter of fact they have come to realize that there must be reform in the public service or ruin becomes inevitable. As QUAY knew PENNYPACKER and nominated him for Governor because he could fool the public by that expedient, so PENROSE knew YOUNG and hoped the public wouldn't find him out until after the election. But State Treasurer BERRY got on the inside, discovered the iniquity and exposed it. The public now understands why YOUNG, professing to be a reformer, is favored by the machine. He is one of the machine men in disguise. DURHAM couldn't have done better if he had been counsel for the commission. McNICHOL couldn't have served the machine to better purpose.

### Mr. Gompers Wrong Again.

President GOMPERS of the American Federation of Labor is, we very much fear, organizing another defeat. That is to say, if current reports are accurate he is preparing to repeat in Illinois his failure in Maine. In other words having failed to defeat Representative LITTLEFIELD in Maine he now proposes to tackle the infinitely more difficult task of defeating JOSEPH G. CANNON in Illinois. He will fail, of course, for various reasons, and the enemies of labor will say, as they did after the Maine episode, that Mr. GOMPERS' mistake was a vindication of CANNON'S course in opposition to labor legislation. As a matter of fact, however, it will be nothing of the kind.

Mr. CANNON has represented his district in Congress for thirty years. He personally knows every voter in the district and by his free and easy manner with them has made himself immensely popular. At the last election he received 30,550 votes out of a total of 49,273. His plurality over his Democratic opponent was 15,392 and the Prohibition and Socialist vote combined only totaled 3,555. The hopelessness of a fight against such odds must be obvious to any reasoning mind. If the district were an industrial center, it might be different. But it is an agricultural region and the voters take comparatively little interest in legislation in the special interest of labor.

Mr. GOMPERS made a splendid fight against LITTLEFIELD in Maine but as we said at the outset of it, it was hopeless from the beginning. He will probably put up an equally masterful campaign against CANNON in Illinois with precisely the same result. But if he would direct his energies and expend his efforts to the defeat of inconspicuous and unimportant Republican candidates for Congress in close districts where the labor vote is strong he might make certain the overthrow of the Republican majority in the House, defeat CANNON for speaker and guarantee just labor legislation through the medium of a Democratic majority. This district is a case in point and Mr. GOMPERS ought to take notice.

In order that the competition may be purely local the managers of the Great Centre County Fair have decided that in the poultry exhibit only birds grown and owned by Centre county people will be entered for premiums. Of course there will be the usual great exhibit of poultry from some of the large New York poultry farms, but they will not be in competition for the premiums.

### Looting of the Treasury.

When State Treasurer BERRY announced in a recent speech that the new State capitol at Harrisburg had cost nearer ten than four million dollars, he shocked the thoughtful people of the Commonwealth. The amount fixed by law for the completion of the building was \$4,000,000. It was felt by those who had examined the structure that splendid results had been achieved for the money. There could have been no graft, it was reasoned, for the magnificent building was worth every penny of the price, and when finally the building commission announced the covering into the treasury of a considerable balance, the popular impulse was to shout "well done, good and faithful servants." The statement of Mr. BERRY, however, revealed the fact that it was a false and fraudulent pretense.

But what Mr. BERRY said is literally true. Careful investigation exposes the fact that the \$4,000,000 expended by the commission simply paid for the walls and the roof. They are good walls and the roof looks substantial, though there are rumors that inferior materials have been used in its construction. But if the walls had been of the best and the roof of a model of excellence, \$4,000,000 was too much to pay for them. Every member of the commission must have grafted like a pirate to use up the appropriation in the walls and the roof. At least half the amount must have been stolen and the building commissioners may be set down as the monumental public thieves of the age. They have robbed or wasted to an unparalleled extent.

But the building commissioners are not alone culpable. The Commissioners of Public Buildings and Grounds are equally guilty. The board was composed, at the time of the operations, of Governor PENNYPACKER, Auditor General SNYDER and State Treasurer MATTHUES. Each of these gentlemen had taken a solemn oath that he would "support, obey and defend" the constitution of the State. That instrument forbids the expenditure of money "except on appropriations made by law." Therefore in spending nearly \$6,000,000 of the public funds which had not been so appropriated the members of the board not only perjured themselves but committed the crime of robbery. That iniquity fixes the moral standard of Governor PENNYPACKER. His pretense of honesty has vanished.

### The Nomination of Foelt.

The nomination of BENJAMIN K. FOELT for Representative in Congress by the Republicans of the Seventeenth district is an insult to the public conscience. Mr. FOELT represents all that is evil in politics. As Representative in the Legislature he participated in every iniquity of that period and as State Senator his record is equally infamous. He supported the press muzzler, the franchise grab, the various water-snake measures and the atrocious ballot bill, which he hadn't brains enough to prepare but had the assurance to adopt. He was foremost in every legislative iniquity of his time.

The nomination of FOELT is a challenge to the decent element of the district. It is a menace to the integrity of public life. Of course it never would have happened in a district in which the political margin was narrow. But at the last election THAD. MAHON had 9,523 plurality over O. C. BOWENS, a gentleman of the highest character, and that led to the impression, probably, that the voters of the district would stand for anything. The nomination of FOELT put the conjecture to the test. He is about the limit. If they will vote for him they are beyond the hope of rescue from evil.

There ought to be some way of preventing so great a misfortune to the reputation of the State as his election necessarily involves. In the Nineteenth district the opponents of the machine have fused on a decent Republican with practical certainty of defeating the renegade nominee of the organization. If elected he will probably vote against CANNON for Speaker and oppose some of the iniquities of the machine. That will be the half loaf "that is better than no bread." A similar arrangement in the Seventeenth district would certainly avert the shame of the election of FOELT. It ought to be tried.

Centre county farmers will be especially interested in knowing that the coming great fair in Centre county will afford an opportunity of comparing the products of their own farms and gardens with those of another State. The Norfolk and Western R. Co. through its agricultural and industrial agent, Mr. F. H. LaBaume, has decided to make a display of the products of the State of Virginia and has asked for a large section of the exhibition building for that purpose. This will be an especially interesting display because a number of Centre county farmers have already migrated to Virginia and their friends and neighbors here will be glad to see how productive the soil of their adopted State is.

### Disgrace to Columbia County.

It is said that some personal enemies of Wm. T. CREESEY in Columbia county have brought out an independent Democratic candidate for the Legislature in the hope of defeating that champion of the people for re-election to the General Assembly.

It will be remembered that before Mr. CREESEY'S nomination by the Democratic State convention he had been unanimously nominated in Columbia county for re-election to the Legislature. No candidate contested with him for the nomination because every man in the county knew it would be useless. When he was subsequently nominated for Auditor General the State party leaders urged him to remain on the legislative ticket and he reluctantly consented to do so.

For years Representative CREESEY has been contending in the Legislature for certain reforms. The trolley freight idea is his, the two-cent a mile railroad fare is his notion and the return to the counties of certain taxes not needed by the State and which will relieve the people of heavy local burdens is his idea. They have been opposed by the Republican machine heretofore but are promised in the Republican platform now. It is the consensus of opinion among Democratic leaders, however, that the purpose is to enact inadequate measures and they have urged CREESEY to go back to the Legislature in order to force real reforms. Though his election as Auditor General is certain he can serve in the House until the first of May and complete the work in that time.

### Edwin S. Stuart's Delusion.

EDWIN S. STUART formal opened his campaign in a speech in the Academy of Music, Philadelphia, on Saturday. The meeting was managed by the notorious VARE brothers, who as municipal contractors have been looting the city for years. The old "organization" forces were out in the old form and one might easily have imagined that the machine had resumed business at the old stand. Of course DURHAM was absent. He is in California for health and safety, as yet, but hopes for better things. But McNICHOL was on hand and HAMPY MOORE was conspicuous and PETER BOYD was present so that probably it was just as well that DURHAM couldn't "lend his presence" to grace the occasion.

Mr. STUART'S speech was characteristic. It was amiable in tone and promising in the extreme. It endorsed every word of the platform of the Republican State convention and the candidate pretended to take them and himself seriously. He was almost as solemn as PENNYPACKER who four years ago made precisely the same pledges and forgot them before the votes were counted. PENNY fooled the public because his previous record had been to some extent in line with his promises. But STUART never in his whole life has given a word in encouragement of reform either in administration or legislation. He has invariably been obedient to the machine and everybody knows that he always will be.

The administration of PENNYPACKER is an admonition against the election of STUART. No public official had ever been more generous in promises of improvement and we believe that no man ever was more sincere. But he didn't properly estimate the strength of the machine or the weakness of the individual. The State has never had a Governor as subservient to the machine and no candidate for the office was as determined in declaring the opposite purpose. Mr. STUART occupies a precisely similar position. He imagines that after the election his wishes will be respected, but as a matter of fact they will not even be considered except in so far as they are in accord with the plans of the machine.

The many friends of Randolph Breeze in this place will be pleased to learn that he has been appointed assistant master mechanic of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago railroad, with headquarters at Fort Wayne, Ohio. The appointment was entirely unsolicited, being made because the officials believed it merited and that he was the right man for the place. This is the same position that George L. Potter, now third vice president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, first filled with the P. F. W. & C. railroad.

### Quigley Nominated for State Senator.

At the Republican senatorial conference held in Philipsburg, last Saturday afternoon, Henry C. Quigley Esq., of this place, was nominated for State Senator on the second ballot. At the conference on Tuesday of last week it was decided to appeal to the State committee for the appointment of two extra conferees, as provided by the rules of the party, inasmuch as the conference had been deadlocked for more than a month. Consequently Harry Keller, of this place, was appointed the extra conferee from Centre county, and W. L. Snyder was appointed extra conferee from Clearfield county. At Saturday's conference the first ballot stood four for Quigley and four for Alexander but on the second ballot Quigley was nominated by receiving the vote of Snyder, of Clearfield county, and the four votes of the Centre county conferees. His nomination was then made unanimous.

On Wednesday Mrs. Nora McClain, of North Allegheny street, was just eighty-seven years old and the fact is all the more interesting because she is the oldest woman in Bellefonte and still hale and hearty. Owing to the recent death of her son Austin the event was not celebrated but quite a number of her neighbors called to felicitate with her upon her anniversary. It is hoped that the aged lady may live many more years to enjoy such bright birthdays.

### Gang Exclusive Property.

Exceedingly bad taste was displayed by the state capitol commission when it extended an invitation to Mr. Stuart to be a guest on the occasion of the dedication of the state house, while Mr. Emery was entirely ignored. It serves to give the impression that the capitol, instead of being the property of the whole people of Pennsylvania, is reserved exclusively for the Republicans, or that portion denominated as gangsters. For a good many years this class has regarded not only the offices of the state, but the state property as well, as their exclusive prey. They have been in complete control and there is no gainsaying that they have made the best of it. But since the gang has made a profession of a change of heart and an outward show of righteousness and a regard for the rights of those not embraced in its exclusive coterie of conscienceless rascals, it should have carried out the farce to the extent of acceding Mr. Emery the same consideration that was accorded Mr. Stuart.

The intention is to make the dedication of the capitol serve the political purposes of the machine. It furnishes another opportunity of getting a whack at the public treasury, for the state will bear the expense of the celebration. Mr. Stuart will be there and so will Penrose, McNichol, and all the other big and little machine bosses and hangers-on. Mr. Emery won't be present, at least officially, for he might, perhaps, say something that would disturb the peace of mind of those who are engineering the job. It would be very embarrassing if in the presence of the assembled multitude, some one might inadvertently refer to the six millions of dollars that have been concealed in the edifice, after the statement was made that the expenses had been kept within the appropriation of \$4,000,000.

Mr. Emery need not worry over the slight. All the signs indicate that he will have an office in the imposing pile next year, and then he can look around to his heart's desire. This may be Mr. Stuart's last chance to have a look-in officially, and he may make the most of the opportunity.

### A Changed Issue.

There is certainly something very funny about the Maine election. In the "good old days" our antiquated political parents are so fond of referring to, it was always considered that the union would follow the example set by Maine in elections. This has gone out of style in these later years yet when Maine is to vote all eyes are turned in that direction, and the balloting is watched with great interest. In the campaign that has just closed, most of the "big guns" of the Republican party were called on for assistance. Their eloquence and logic were on tap for the g. o. p., and they made the pine woods ring with their oratory. There were Taft, Lodge and Cannon, Beveridge and a host of others. The burden of the song of all these was that the only issue in the campaign was the administration of President Roosevelt. The voters were told over and over that the President was on trial before the people and they ought to give him a rousing endorsement. The oratory ceased and the balloting came on. The ballots had not all been counted until it was discovered there had been a very decided slump in the Republican vote, although the number of votes cast was much larger than four years before. The funny part of it now came to front. It would not do to let it be said the people had gone back on the President, so his friends at once discovered that prohibition was the issue and not the President, and that it was prohibition that had caused the great loss to the Republicans.

### Focht's Claim on the Gang.

Mr. Focht's principal achievement, while a member of the State Senate, was the perpetration of the present confusing ballot upon the voters of the State and the retention of the cause in the Quay ballot law which permits indiscriminate assistance to the voter under cover of which bribery can be committed in the election booth. He is, no doubt, an ideal candidate for the machine.

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### Spawls from the Keystone.

—One Schuylkill valley farmer has already gathered 7,000 heads of cabbage from his patch.

—The assessors of Perry county have concluded their labors and have discovered that there are 6,465 voters in that county.

—For the sum of \$8,000 Josiah B. Hoffman has purchased the entire village of Hillages, Montgomery county, excepting one double house.

—Ex-Councilman Samuel Coklin, of Cumberland county, has been sent to jail for two years and sentenced to pay \$400 fine for embezzling \$400 in tax money.

—Dr. J. H. Funk, of Boyertown, declares that his peach crop, instead of being a failure, is twice as large as at first anticipated and that it will reach 3,000 bushels.

—Charles Williams, tax collector of Gibson township, Cameron county, was waylaid Wednesday and robbed of \$600, which he was carrying to Emporium to deposit in a bank.

—George Daugherty, of East Liverpool, Perry county, a student at Juniata College, Huntingdon, fell from a freight train Sunday and was instantly killed. His body was terribly mangled.

—The chestnut crop in Clinton county this year promises to be large and will bring hundreds of dollars into the pockets of those who make a business of gathering them each autumn as a means of profit.

—The Reading Coal and Iron company has determined to clear all the mine workings in the Heckscherville valley of water to make available large coal deposits which have been covered in drowned-out workings for years.

—While addressing a jury in the court room at Smethport, on Saturday, Eugene Mullen, one of McKean county's most prominent citizens, was seized with a sinking spell which terminated in his death on Sunday afternoon.

—Recent sales of farms in Montgomery county show a remarkable depreciation in value. One farm of eighty acres, having a grist mill and other buildings on it, which brought \$33,000 twenty years ago, has just been sold at public sale for \$8,000.

—Mount Joy lays claim to be the home of the oldest and heaviest twin teachers in the State. They are Mame and Louisa Kuhns, born fifty-three years ago, teaching in the Mount Joy schools for thirty-six years and weighing an aggregate of 501 pounds.

—C. Curtis Snyder, a Williamsport carpenter who fell twenty feet off a roof over a year ago, and broke his back, has so far recovered that he can get around in a wheeled chair. His limbs are paralyzed but he expects to walk with the aid of crutches. At first it was thought he would die.

—At a special session of the Gallitzin school board held Thursday evening it was decided to close the schools until the question of whether or not there were cases of diphtheria among the pupils had been decided. It was reported that several of the scholars were ill with the disease.

—On Wednesday last Irvin Winkelman, of Flemington, Clinton county, left his home on a fishing expedition. He had been missing ever since until last Saturday morning, when his body was found in Bald Eagle creek, near Mill Hall. A number of relatives of the deceased live in Centre county.

—Chief of Police Cassidy, of Mt. Union, shot and killed Edgar Smith, a negro of Huntingdon, last Friday, in Mt. Union. Smith was charged with threatening the life of a citizen, and when the officer attempted to arrest him Smith drew a revolver, but before he could use it Officer Cassidy shot him. The coroner's jury exonerated Cassidy.

—Residents of Cumber's Heights, a small village between Harrisburg and Highspire, awoke Tuesday morning to find that 26 houses had been entered and looted between midnight and 3.30 in the morning. The robbers broke into cellar windows and jimmied their way to the upper floors, where they secured money in every home, but in no case over \$10.

—In the barn of a hotel at St. Clairsville, Bedford county, E. H. Willhide, a stove agent, found a wallet containing checks for \$6,000 and \$1,700 in money of all denominations, amounting, all told, to \$7,700. In the hotel office he found the owner, a Hollidaysburg man. Willhide turned the money over to him, but the only reward was an invitation to visit him in Hollidaysburg.

—The annual meeting and reunion of the Thirtieth Pennsylvania Cavalry Association will be held in the court house at Huntingdon, Thursday, October 18th, at 2 p. m., to be followed by a camp fire at the same place in the evening. Captain P. D. Brickner, of Jersey Shore, Lycoming county, is president of the association and Lewis McMakin, of Philadelphia, is the secretary.

—Warren is preparing to entertain the three hundred persons who will visit that city October 9th to 11th for the purpose of attending the thirty-second annual convention of the directors of the poor and charities of Pennsylvania. Many delegates are likewise expected from the children's aid societies. The meetings will be held in the court house. Some very interesting papers will be read.

—Coal has been struck in the third opening at the Broad Top Coal and Mineral company's mines at Jacobs, in the Rock Ridge field, Huntingdon county, after two months' work on the drift. Side tracks, a tippie and scales are being placed so that shipments can be made from the new opening at once. The company is now mining and shipping from 175 to 190 tons of coal daily and expect to soon increase their daily output to 250 tons.

—Papers were filed in the State Department at Harrisburg, last Friday, merging the Susquehanna Central, Tioga and Clinton and the Pittsburgh, Binghamton and Eastern railroad company, and providing for the construction and operation of a line in Clearfield, Clinton, Centre, Lycoming, Elk, Tioga and Bradford counties, in Pennsylvania, starting at Hyner, Clearfield county, and extending to Binghamton, New York. The capital stock of the company is \$20,000,000. The papers name F. A. Sawyer, of Canton, Pa., resident.