

THE BEAVER RADICAL.

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BEAVER, PA.

Friday Morning, February 14, 1873.

FEMALE SUFFRAGE.

The subject now which draws the largest audience and excites the most enthusiasm, is that of granting the elective franchise to women. It has recently called out an earnest debate in the Constitutional Convention, but has not yet been put to a vote in that body, though an effort was made to do so. There is no disguising the fact that female suffrage is becoming to be a vital question of politics.

The idea is made prominent in almost every lecture from the rostrum, it comes to the surface in a thousand ways; in social circles it is the easy and inexhaustible topic of conversation; on the street it breaks out in heated discussions; in Congress it disturbs the repose of committees; it occupies the columns of the press; it agitates churches and conventions, and now it is rapidly passing from the sphere of thought to that of action.

There must be force and vitality in the idea to have accomplished the change in public opinion that already has been wrought in regard to it, and since revolutions never go backward, its conquests over prejudice and sentiment in the community, so rapid and remarkable, give some evidence that the agitation will go on until female suffrage is adopted by the majority of the people and made a part of the law of the land. Some of the very best men in the country, both in private and public life, who ten years ago felt no sympathy for the cause and gave it no voice, now are earnest champions of the movement, and in the pulpits, on the rostrum, in the halls of legislature, on the bench, before a jury and through the press, are proud to advocate this new doctrine. Not men only, but parties begin to be moved by the rising tide of the agitation. In this State the question is now before the representatives of the people and will gain strength by discussion, but we do not think the masses are quite ready for the fundamental changes which it would inaugurate. We are in sympathy with the movement, but fear, as in New York some years ago, the question is pushed too soon, and if referred now to the decision of the people without distinction of sex or to the women separately it probably will be defeated. The women themselves generally do not desire or demand the privilege of voting, and are so educated as to prefer the subordinate position in which they have so long been placed. The question would fare better if submitted to the men alone. The current arguments raised against female suffrage have been pretty thoroughly exploded, and it is difficult to give a good sound reason why women should not vote the same as men. The physical strength necessary to do so is but little, not any more than is exerted in depositing a letter in the post office. Voting is chiefly a mental and moral act, with the moral element predominating. The ballot, polls and surroundings are external means. The free choice, more or less enlightened, of the individual, in regard to who shall make or interpret or execute the laws of the land, is within the capacity of all sound and matured persons, whether male or female. The wisdom of the selection depends more upon the heart than the head and the emotional or moral faculties of women are acknowledged to be superior to men. Voting is an act that implies a high moral purpose, for it relates to the good of the whole community, and in itself therefore is ennobling and honorable. What woman could exercise the privilege without bringing her heart into sympathy as never before with the great questions that affect the welfare of the people? There certainly is nothing indelicate or degrading to women in enjoying this privilege of directly exercising that choice which more than anything else represents the natural rights of citizens. Does the privilege degrade men? Then why women? The associations are the same as in other public places where men and

women congregate. Women are subjects of Government and amenable to law, why not give them a voice in determining the law? They pay taxes why not allow them a vote in fixing the amount and directing the use of it? They are deeply interested in the stability and prosperity of the nation, why not impose upon them the responsibility of assisting in securing these blessings? The elevation of women to the elective franchise is necessary in order to widen her sphere of usefulness and utilize her transcendent moral power. The condition of society demands that women take a more active part in public affairs. The great reforms of the age lag for want of her assistance. She does not yet realize the full scope of her grand mission. We shall hail the dawn that ushers in the day of woman's emancipation.

POSTAL TELEGRAPHY.

The vote in regard to this in the State Senate, on the passage of the resolutions of instructions was twenty-nine in favor, to one against, instructing and requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to oppose the measure.

There is not a leading newspaper, nor a prominent public man, except one or two, in the country, so far as we know, that favors postal telegraphy, and yet the *Argus* and one or two other papers of like character insinuate that those who oppose the scheme, are actuated by unworthy motives. The motives of the editor of the *Argus*, and the little sheet from which he quotes, and sometimes steals, are too well understood to mislead anyone. To show what sort of consistency the editor of the *Argus* maintains, it is only necessary to state that he supported a candidate for President who was the champion of opposition to postal telegraphy, and ran on a platform of which opposition to all such schemes was the main characteristic. The whole Democratic and Liberal party to-day are bitterly hostile to postal telegraphy, and yet this *wise* and *pure* editor with no convictions, no settled opinions, no stability, characteristically changes front, because of his personal hostility to the man who introduced the resolutions. When a man's position on important questions of public policy depend upon the action of another, and is so evidently determined by personal feeling, what a laughing-stock he becomes.

The *Argus* having deserted the Democratic platform, can no longer expect to receive the party support. Poor *Argus!* what will become of it? The *Conservative* is already getting back its old Democratic subscribers, and will undoubtedly be the official organ of the Democratic party in this county. It appears to be taken for granted, in some quarters, that Senator Rutan is responsible for what appears in the columns of THE RADICAL, and we wish to announce to all to whom it may concern, that it is a mistake; that he has no more control of said columns than has the editor of the *Argus*.

THE *Argus* challenges us to prove it a liar. We think that would be a work of supererogation, for it is generally admitted, as a friend at our elbow remarks, "it prefers telling lies on six months time, to telling the truth for cash," so fixed has the habit become. Rather a fallacious and dangerous argument of the *Argus* is that, that a man stands convicted, unless he proves himself innocent. We know of an editor, who, if he had been put to the test of proving himself innocent of charges publicly made against him, would, in that case, have advocated a very different rule of evidence.

If the editor of the *Argus* or any one interested will take the pains to enquire of the Commissioners, or the ex-Sheriff, our statement in regard to the malicious charges of the *Argus*, will be found to be the exact truth.

Three weeks since, the *Argus* promised to give some of the official acts of some of our county officials an "airing." As the *Argus* claims to be beyond reproach for truth-telling, and incorruptible in a pecuniary way, and not to be influenced by any material compensation in the way of printing, we

have been expecting a scowling tempest or a disastrous hurricane. The *Argus* atmosphere has been threatening storm, the elements have been discordant and belligerent, but as yet there is no hurricane, nothing but a tempest in a tea-pot. Is the man who works the bellows absent from home? or why don't it air? This seems to be an unfavorable time for airing; the *Argus* can't raise the wind.

EX-GOVERNOR GEARY, who was recently released from the exacting duties of official life, now rests from all labors in the repose of death. A large portion of his matured life has been spent in public service, in which he has filled with credit a variety of positions, whether as an officer in the army in Mexico, or as first Alcalde of San Francisco, or Governor of Kansas, or a General during the recent Rebellion, or finally as Governor of this Commonwealth. He was somewhat vacillating in purpose, kind-hearted, egotistic, anxious to please all, yet having good intentions and considerable force of character. The services he has rendered his country, both in peace and war, will embalm him in the hearts of his countrymen and his fame will long be cherished while the names of some of his contemporaries, more gifted by nature perhaps, but less patriotic and useful, will sink into oblivion.

THE Constitutional Convention drags its slow length along, and, unless it hurries up faster than it has been going, the members will be overtaken with financial distress, and on their knees to the Legislature, begging for a few more crumbs of comfort. The diarrhea of words, with which the Convention is daily flooded, has weakened rather than strengthened the confidence of the people in the wisdom and ability of that august body to produce any practicable result. It has been long enough at work to have perfected a considerable part of a constitution, but has scarcely as yet done anything. Let the Convention rest its valuable tongue a little and do more work. Shorten the speeches, lengthen the sessions and push questions to a vote. If unpaid bills begin to trouble the repose of the members, unless they do something worthy of their position soon, the dear people will laugh at their calamities and mock when their fear cometh.

THE House has passed a bill increasing the fees of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to ten dollars per day.

FROM HARRISBURG.

Final Adjournment of the Legislature - Local Option - Beaver County Temperance Resolutions - Cross's Bill With the Speaker - Apportionment Bill - Beaver County Bills.

Correspondence of the Radical.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 11, 1873.

Both Houses of the Legislature went to work in earnest last week, and it now looks as if the Legislature might adjourn the last of March or first of April. The House passed a resolution for final adjournment on the 29th of March, and if the Senate concurs, there will be more work done in the next few weeks than has been in the same time for years. The Local Option bill was reported from the House Committee just as it passed the Senate, but it was not reached, and will not be taken up before Wednesday. As it provides for election in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and other cities where the vote was not taken at the time of the municipal election, it should be passed at once, so that notice may be given and the people have time to prepare for the contest. It seems the temperance committee in your county have been passing resolutions denouncing the bill because it separates cities and counties in the vote on this question. It is very remarkable that the committee should have fallen into this error, especially when a majority, as your correspondent is informed, consists of lawyers. The original act provides for a separate vote, and the supplement introduced by Senator Fitch, is only declaratory of what the law is, it being alleged there was some obscurity, and because of this the enemies of temperance in some of the cities where they held the power did not permit a vote on the question. Senator Fitch, who offered the amendment, is a life long, consistent temperance man, and a leader in every effort for reform in that direction in Susquehanna county. He is one of the purest men that ever occupied a seat in the Senate of Pennsylvania, a perfect model of a man in every particular, and your temperance man can trust him as implicitly as they can any living man. Of course he may err as other men, but with

him mistakes are not intentional. Your correspondent thinks this much due, because he is informed Senator Fitch has been criticized by some of the so-called temperance men of your county, for doing what intelligent friends of the cause desired.

In most of the counties of the State in which cities are located, if the vote was taken together the cities would give a majority for license that would overcome the vote of the balance of the county. The object should be to exclude the traffic from as much territory as possible, and not permit a large county like Allegheny, to be cursed with the traffic in all its boroughs and townships, because Pittsburgh favored it. Temperance men may differ on this question however, but it is possible those who denounce the Legislature for trying to make the bill of last year plain and practicable, are more anxious to find fault than they are for the success of this reform.

In the House on Tuesday, Mr. Cross, of your county, moved to refer the bill giving one million of dollars to the Centennial Celebration, back to the committee, because there was not a full meeting of the committee when it was decided to report the bill. This motion gave rise to a warm discussion, during which the Philadelphia members exhibited much bad feeling. Mr. Cross acquitted himself with great credit and his motion prevailed by a large majority. The committee reduced the appropriation to half a million, and the House by a two-thirds vote refused to pass the bill. It looks now as if this raid upon the Treasury was effectually checked, but it may assume some other form before the session closes.

The apportionment bill will be reported in the Senate this week in all probability. It is now thought your district will be Beaver, Lawrence and Washington, and Butler, Armstrong and Venango. The Democrats will get about eight districts. They should have ten, but the Republicans have the power and will insist on exercising it to the utmost.

The number of bills presented exempting property from taxation is increasing yearly and daily, and it is felt the time has come to adopt a new policy on this subject. Fifty four millions of dollars worth of property in Philadelphia is now exempt from taxation, and every day bills are presented asking for additional exemptions. The Finance Committee of the Senate reported a bill to-day repealing all laws exempting property, excepting only churches, school buildings, hospitals, poor houses and charitable institutions. The bill should be passed and then no special exemptions be subsequently permitted by the Legislature.

The only local bills introduced from your county were in the Senate: a bill to prevent destruction of fish in the waters of Beaver county, by prohibiting seining for five years under penalty of fifty dollars, an act repealing an act of last winter, laying out a State road from Harkin's mill, New Sewickly township, Beaver county, to farm of Henry Rape in Butler county; and in the House repealing the act annexing the farm of D. Ehrman to Baden borough.

Governor Hartranft gave his first reception last night, and the ladies vote it a grand success. It was more largely attended than any reception for years, and the guests were delighted with the Governor and his lady. The mansion was finely decorated with flowers donated by friends in Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Norristown. The collection of bouquets sent by Mr. Joseph Ballock, of Norristown, was said to be worth one thousand dollars.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

Union Passenger Railway - Meeting Called to Protest - Philadelphia Editors - District Attorney Col. Mann - Constitutional Convention.

Correspondence of the Radical.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 8, 1873.

There is considerable excitement in this city to-day over the passage of the supplement of the Union Passenger Railway, authorizing that company to run their cars on Market street from Ninth to Front, over the lines of the Market street company. The merchants between Ninth and Front streets on Market are alarmed lest another track will be laid, and thus the street be blocked so as to interfere with their business. A meeting has been called for this evening to protest against the bill being signed by the Governor. A similar bill was passed one year ago, but the Supreme Court held it unconstitutional on the ground that the title did not express what the bill was, as required by the constitution. The bill was again passed this week through both Houses with little or no opposition, and this is made the occasion of severe attacks upon the Legislature by papers friendly to the Market street line. It is hard to tell which is right in this matter, as it is only a fight between two corporations, in which the stockholders are about the only ones concerned. The Union line wants to run their passengers down to Front street without change of cars, and thus afford passengers greater accommodations, while the Market street line prefers the passengers of the Union should be compelled to get out at Front street, and take their cars, paying an additional fare to ride to Front street. Public convenience would require that the bill asked by the Union company should become a law, unless the merchants are thereby injured by the blocking up of Market street. The Union company propose to run their track over the track of the Market street company,

making their line to correspond with the line of Market street cars, so as not to interfere, and pay half the expenses of laying the track. This should be accepted and would be satisfactory, but unfortunately it effects the profits of the Market street company and the stockholders, among whom are the merchants and editors, and they are up in arms; so there is a great hubbub, and the Legislature is getting it right and left in some papers, while others indorse their action. The Philadelphia delegation in both Houses were almost a unit in favor of the bill asked for by the Union, only two out of eighteen opposing it in the House. Col. McClure voted against it in the Senate because he lived in West Philadelphia on the Market street line, but he made no opposition and was understood to be really in favor of the bill. With the Philadelphia members all for the bill, the country members of course were compelled to favor it and the city delegation take the responsibility. On all merely local questions this is the rule, and it is right because only the immediate representatives can decide what should be done in their district on bills of this character. If the Philadelphia delegation misrepresented their constituents hold them responsible, and send better men in their places the next time. In this case the same men who voted for the bill last year were returned, and this would indicate they did faithfully represent their constituents on this question.

This is a fair sample of the kind of editors we have in Philadelphia, and the reasons they have for abusing the Legislature as they do on all occasions. When their private interests are involved they at once set about denouncing everybody as corrupt, without discriminating between the guilty and the innocent. In nine cases out of ten it may be taken for granted that the Legislature is denounced without cause, and by editors who are influenced by interested and corrupt motives in doing so.

There is a time little scheme on hands with some of our politicians to remove the Eastern Penitentiary and sell the grounds in the city on which it is located. If the bill passes in the shape it now is some one will pocket a large fortune at the expense of the public. The Penitentiary should be removed, and the ground can be sold for a sufficient sum to buy a farm and put up new buildings if it is properly done. Let the sale be made publicly by the merchants' exchange after due notice has been given and after the buildings have been erected. If sold now a fair price could not be realized, and that is the reason the parties having the bill in charge desire to sell at this time.

Public sentiment forced the District Attorney to try one of the gamblers, arrested by the Mayor, a member of the Council by the name of Lively. In selecting the jury the gamblers were fortunate enough to get one of their friends chosen, and the result is the jury has been out four days, standing eleven for conviction to one for acquittal from the first, and no prospect of an agreement. The gambler's friend is doing good service, and promises to remain out forever rather than agree to a verdict, although the evidence of guilt is overwhelming.

It is high time Col. McClure's jury bill and other reform bills were passed, and the courts and public offices cleaned of some of the rascals that fill and run them. Philadelphia is almost as bad as New York ever was, and reform is as badly needed. The Mayor is doing his duty, but he is thwarted at every step by the District Attorney Col. Mann, whom the Mayor boldly charges with being in league with the gamblers and furnishing them protection, for which he received thousands of dollars yearly. Col. Mann filled the office for years, and finally the people rose in rebellion against him and compelled him to retire for a time. He was again nominated under promise of reform and was returned as elected, although running thousands of votes behind his ticket, and being largely out in the best wards and among the respectable citizens of the city. His administration is, if anything, worse than before, and he can never be elected again to any office.

The Constitutional Convention is still dragging its slow length along. From present appearances it will remain in session until 1874, and perhaps until the Centennial Celebration. A number of the members were urging an increase of pay when a leading member interposed an objection. He said he wanted to die at home, and if the Legislature increased their pay the Convention would never adjourn. The objection is so forcible that the Legislature will be apt to sustain it. All of this week has been spent in listening to long windy speeches in favor of woman suffrage. It is an able Convention, but the disposition to talk cannot be restrained, and so far nothing practical has been done. Gen. White is abused for holding two places, yet he is one of the most practical and useful members of the Convention and would be greatly missed if he would resign. The news of Governor Geary's sudden death created a profound sensation, and the Convention adjourned out of respect.

OCCASIONAL.

The Montrose Republican says: Tioga county voted on the question of license or no license, January 24th. The result was a majority of between 1500 and 2000 against license. That's the way the people look at the question. As Bradford and Tioga have decided, so will Susquehanna on the 21st of February.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Radical.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 10, 1873.

The debate in the British parliament on the award of the Geneva Tribunal has excited some attention here in official circles and the opinion is expressed that the British Government will execute faithfully the stipulations of the treaty of Washington, notwithstanding the opposition manifested by Mr. Disraeli and the Earl of Derby.

THE CREDIT MOBILIER INVESTIGATION.

The select committee appointed by the Senate to consider the evidence taken by the Credit Mobilier Committee affecting members of the Senate held a preliminary meeting on Saturday, to discuss informally what is the exact scope of the duty with which they are charged.

It met again on Monday morning, but nothing was done, for the reason that no complete copies of the testimony had been furnished the committee, and it is probable several days will be occupied in examining the evidence when submitted before a further plan of action is determined. Oakes Ames, who has been home raising money to meet his notes, has returned, and will appear before Judge Poland's committee to-morrow with his memorandum book. Mr. Colfax will be allowed to offer the testimony which he declares will show where the \$1,200,000 deposited in the First National Bank, came from.

On Friday, Job Stevenson made another effort to catch the Speaker in something that would be discredit, but only succeeded in putting himself in a most unenviable attitude.

On the question of jurisdiction, the committee seem disposed to decide the House cannot proceed against those involved. One member, however, is strenuously arguing that any Congress can punish one of its members for grave offenses committed during the previous Congress, provided the offense was not discovered and made known until after the election.

Gen. Negley is fighting with might and main to defeat the bill to create a new judicial district in the Northern part of the State, which would be mostly taken from the Western district.

PATENT OFFICE STATISTICS.

Commissioner Leggett, of the Patent Office, reports the receipts of his Bureau during the calendar year 1872 as \$689,726; expenditures, 665,595; and balance now in the Treasury to the credit of the office, \$794,111. Eighteen thousand two hundred and forty-six applications have been filed, and thirteen thousand five hundred patents issued during the past year; the number of applications being fewer and of patents larger than in the previous year, as the Commissioner says, "in consequence of the more thorough diffusion of patent office intelligence and regulations, which has made the applications, through less in number, much better in quality. The proportion of patents to the population ranges from one in eight hundred and twenty-nine persons in Connecticut, to one in every forty-five thousand nine hundred and thirty seven in New Mexico.

APPROPRIATIONS.

The House Committee on Judiciary have reported, through Mr. Butler, the following annual salaries to be hereafter allowed:

President	\$50,000
Vice President	10,000
Chief Justice	10,000
Justice	10,000
Cabinet Members	10,000
Speaker of the House	10,000
Members of Congress	8,000

The River and Harbor bill, contains the following among the principal items for the West:

Chicago harbor	\$ 50,000
Fox and Wisconsin rivers	300,000
St. Mary's canal	200,000
Toledo harbor	100,000
Des Moines Rapids	400,000
Rock Island	50,000
Improvement of Mississippi, Missouri and Arkansas	100,000
St. Louis and Alton harbor	100,000
Ohio river	200,000
Falls of the Ohio	100,000
Upper Monongahela	100,000
Month of Mississippi	100,000
Upper Mississippi	250,000
Illinois river	50,000

The Philadelphia members have agreed upon a provision, which Mr. Myers has presented to the committee, asking for \$200,000 to spend in improving the channel of the Delaware river, under the supervision of the Secretary of War.

The friends of Secretary Delano are expecting him to be made Secretary of the Treasury after the 4th of March.

The March Fourth procession will be interesting to see, but when Nye leaves, who will remain to raise a laugh in the Senate, and when Cox goes, what ray of sunshine will enliven the dullness of the House. Both these witty fellows will be sadly missed by the next Congress; the House can fall back on Ben Butler, but what is to become of the "grave and reverend Senators?"

A Tribune correspondent in Tallahassee, Fla., writes: "After a bitter and exciting struggle of eight days, the Senatorial contest in Florida has been ended by the election of Hon. S. B. Conover to succeed T. N. Osborn. Senator Conover is a lifelong Republican, and was elected by a combination of Liberals, colored Republicans, and Conservatives. In his election the 'ring' power here meets its death, and the State receives a champion whose honesty and integrity all parties acknowledge."