

IS PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING, BY J. R. DUBBORROW & JOHN LUTZ ON JULIANA ST., opposite the Mengel House, BEDFORD, BEDFORD CO., PA.

TERMS: \$2.00 a year if paid strictly in advance, \$2.25 if not paid within three months, \$2.50 if not paid within the year.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

One square, one insertion, \$1.00. One square, three insertions, \$2.50. One square, one month, \$7.00. One square, three months, \$18.00. One square, six months, \$32.00. One square, one year, \$55.00.

Professional & Business Cards.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

JOHN PALMER, Attorney at Law, Bedford, Pa. Will promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care.

J. B. CESSNA, Attorney at Law, Bedford, Pa. Will promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care.

JOHN T. KEAGY, Attorney at Law, Bedford, Pa. Will promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care.

J. R. DUBBORROW & JOHN LUTZ, Attorneys at Law, Bedford, Pa. Will promptly attend to all business entrusted to their care.

J. M. ALSH, Attorney at Law, Bedford, Pa. Will promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care.

M. A. POINTS, Attorney at Law, Bedford, Pa. Will promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care.

KIMMEL and LINGENFELTER, Attorneys at Law, Bedford, Pa. Will promptly attend to all business entrusted to their care.

JOHN MOWER, Attorney at Law, Bedford, Pa. Will promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care.

DENTISTS. C. S. HICKOCK, J. G. MERRITT, DENTISTS, Bedford, Pa.

DENTISTRY. I. N. BOWSER, Resident Dentist, Woodbury, Pa. Will promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care.

HOTELS. BEDFORD HOUSE, Bedford, Pa. Every attention given to make guests comfortable.

U. S. HOTEL, Harrisburg, Pa. Corner Sixth and Market Streets.

EXCHANGE HOTEL, Harrisburg, Pa. Corner Third and Market Streets.

BANKERS. G. W. RUFF, SHANNON & CO., BANKERS, Bedford, Pa.

JEWELER, &c. DANIEL BORDER, Watchmaker and Dealer in Jewelry, Spectacles, &c.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE. JOHN MAJOR, Justice of the Peace, Bedford, Pa.

A LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER, DEVOTED TO POLITICS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE AND MORALS.

BEDFORD, Pa., FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1865. Vol. 38: No. 32

REPORT RELATIVE TO FRAUDS AT ELECTIONS IN CERTAIN COUNTIES OF PENNSYLVANIA MADE BY A SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Kelly, from the select committee, appointed on the 29th day of January, A. D. 1865, in pursuance of a preamble and resolution of the House, made report, viz: That they confined their examinations and deliberations strictly to the objects contemplated by the terms of their appointment, which was in pursuance of a preamble and resolution in the following words, to wit:

Resolved, That a select committee of five members be appointed, to examine and report to this House, whether any prothonotaries or county or district return judges, or any other officers, have been guilty of any frauds or contrivances to defeat the will of the people, and take away from them, or any number of them, the elective franchise, should be exposed and condemned, and a remedy speedily provided to prevent the repetition of such offenses should be provided; and

Resolved, That a select committee of five members be appointed, to examine and report to this House, whether any prothonotaries or county or district return judges, or any other officers, have been guilty of any frauds or contrivances to defeat the will of the people, and take away from them, or any number of them, the elective franchise, should be exposed and condemned, and a remedy speedily provided to prevent the repetition of such offenses should be provided; and

Resolved, That a select committee of five members be appointed, to examine and report to this House, whether any prothonotaries or county or district return judges, or any other officers, have been guilty of any frauds or contrivances to defeat the will of the people, and take away from them, or any number of them, the elective franchise, should be exposed and condemned, and a remedy speedily provided to prevent the repetition of such offenses should be provided; and

Resolved, That a select committee of five members be appointed, to examine and report to this House, whether any prothonotaries or county or district return judges, or any other officers, have been guilty of any frauds or contrivances to defeat the will of the people, and take away from them, or any number of them, the elective franchise, should be exposed and condemned, and a remedy speedily provided to prevent the repetition of such offenses should be provided; and

Resolved, That a select committee of five members be appointed, to examine and report to this House, whether any prothonotaries or county or district return judges, or any other officers, have been guilty of any frauds or contrivances to defeat the will of the people, and take away from them, or any number of them, the elective franchise, should be exposed and condemned, and a remedy speedily provided to prevent the repetition of such offenses should be provided; and

Resolved, That a select committee of five members be appointed, to examine and report to this House, whether any prothonotaries or county or district return judges, or any other officers, have been guilty of any frauds or contrivances to defeat the will of the people, and take away from them, or any number of them, the elective franchise, should be exposed and condemned, and a remedy speedily provided to prevent the repetition of such offenses should be provided; and

Resolved, That a select committee of five members be appointed, to examine and report to this House, whether any prothonotaries or county or district return judges, or any other officers, have been guilty of any frauds or contrivances to defeat the will of the people, and take away from them, or any number of them, the elective franchise, should be exposed and condemned, and a remedy speedily provided to prevent the repetition of such offenses should be provided; and

had Mr. Meyers with him from an hour to an hour, until the whole business was completed. He absolutely refused, even after demand in writing, to make copies of those returns, or any returns, and made out only a general table of all the returns in his own way, leaving nothing whatever for the judges to do. He added up all the returns, and extracted such as in his view were not "such returns," and made one general certificate for the aggregate. Not satisfied to stop here, but disregarding or forgetting every sense of propriety, he went before the board of return judges in person, and made a speech of some length to prevent them from receiving the two returns which he had rejected, (certified copies of which were sent by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and signed by Oliver B. Shannon, Esq., the prothonotary. He acted as both judge and jury. At an early hour of Friday morning, (return day,) he notified Mr. Cessna, attorney for General William H. Koonz, a candidate for Congress, that B. F. Meyers and George H. Spang, Esq., attorneys for General A. H. Coffroth, the other candidate for Congress, had notified him, (Mr. Shannon,) not to certify certain soldiers' returns, and that he had consented to bear their arguments at ten o'clock, A. M., of that day, where Mr. Cessna would appear for General Koonz, if he saw fit. The hearing took place. Mr. Cessna protested against the jurisdiction of the court, and the whole question was argued for a period of two hours. Mr. Shannon rejected two returns, containing one hundred and thirty-nine votes, and giving a majority of forty-five votes. The board of return judges of Bedford county subsequently, by a vote of thirteen to six, sustained this action. They then, by the same vote, counted the other soldiers' returns for the county, to the number of four hundred and seven. Every one of the thirteen judges signed this return. The six judges not agreeing to this return then made out and severally signed a separate return for Congress, embracing every vote of the four hundred and seven counted by the majority, and also including the one hundred and thirty-nine votes rejected or withheld by the prothonotary. The ground upon which these two returns were rejected was, that there were names upon the list of voters returned of citizens, who, when at home, did not reside in Bedford county. It appeared in evidence, that one of these returns contained the names of thirty-seven citizens of Bedford county, who were not on the list of voters returned for Bedford county officers, but whose names were on the list, and it was admitted and proved that Fulton county was a part of the same Congressional district as Bedford county. It was also proved and admitted that these thirty-seven persons were duly qualified voters of Fulton county, and that their votes had been returned to Fulton county, for either Congress, Judge or Assembly.

The other rejected return contained the names of thirty-eight voters, eight of whom were citizens of Bedford county, sixteen of whom were citizens of Huntington and Cambria counties, and one of Huntington and Cambria counties. No more than forty-eight votes were returned to Bedford county, and only forty-eight votes were returned to Huntington and Cambria counties. The other voters, about fifty-four for Judge, fifty-two for Congress and fifty for Assembly. The other votes, about six, were returned to Huntington and Cambria for the respective candidates in those counties. It is but proper to state here, that these sixty voters were all members of the same militia company, belonging to the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211th, 212th, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311th, 312th, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411th, 412th, 413th, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511th, 512th, 513th, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 587th, 588th, 589th, 590th, 591st, 592nd, 593rd, 594th, 595th, 596th, 597th, 598th, 599th, 600th, 601st, 602nd, 603rd, 604th, 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th, 609th, 610th, 611th, 612th, 613th, 614th, 615th, 616th, 617th, 618th, 619th, 620th, 621st, 622nd, 623rd, 624th, 625th, 626th, 627th, 628th, 629th, 630th, 631st, 632nd, 633rd, 634th, 635th, 636th, 637th, 638th, 639th, 640th, 641st, 642nd, 643rd, 644th, 645th, 646th, 647th, 648th, 649th, 650th, 651st, 652nd, 653rd, 654th, 655th, 656th, 657th, 658th, 659th, 660th, 661st, 662nd, 663rd, 664th, 665th, 666th, 667th, 668th, 669th, 670th, 671st, 672nd, 673rd, 674th, 675th, 676th, 677th, 678th, 679th, 680th, 681st, 682nd, 683rd, 684th, 685th, 686th, 687th, 688th, 689th, 690th, 691st, 692nd, 693rd, 694th, 695th, 696th, 697th, 698th, 699th, 700th, 701st, 702nd, 703rd, 704th, 705th, 706th, 707th, 708th, 709th, 710th, 711th, 712th, 713th, 714th, 715th, 716th, 717th, 718th, 719th, 720th, 721st, 722nd, 723rd, 724th, 725th, 726th, 727th, 728th, 729th, 730th, 731st, 732nd, 733rd, 734th, 735th, 736th, 737th, 738th, 739th, 740th, 741st, 742nd, 743rd, 744th, 745th, 746th, 747th, 748th, 749th, 750th, 751st, 752nd, 753rd, 754th, 755th, 756th, 757th, 758th, 759th, 760th, 761st, 762nd, 763rd, 764th, 765th, 766th, 767th, 768th, 769th, 770th, 771st, 772nd, 773rd, 774th, 775th, 776th, 777th, 778th, 779th, 780th, 781st, 782nd, 783rd, 784th, 785th, 786th, 787th, 788th, 789th, 790th, 791st, 792nd, 793rd, 794th, 795th, 796th, 797th, 798th, 799th, 800th, 801st, 802nd, 803rd, 804th, 805th, 806th, 807th, 808th, 809th, 810th, 811th, 812th, 813th, 814th, 815th, 816th, 817th, 818th, 819th, 820th, 821st, 822nd, 823rd, 824th, 825th, 826th, 827th, 828th, 829th, 830th, 831st, 832nd, 833rd, 834th, 835th, 836th, 837th, 838th, 839th, 840th, 841st, 842nd, 843rd, 844th, 845th, 846th, 847th, 848th, 849th, 850th, 851st, 852nd, 853rd, 854th, 855th, 856th, 857th, 858th, 859th, 860th, 861st, 862nd, 863rd, 864th, 865th, 866th, 867th, 868th, 869th, 870th, 871st, 872nd, 873rd, 874th, 875th, 876th, 877th, 878th, 879th, 880th, 881st, 882nd, 883rd, 884th, 885th, 886th, 887th, 888th, 889th, 890th, 891st, 892nd, 893rd, 894th, 895th, 896th, 897th, 898th, 899th, 900th, 901st, 902nd, 903rd, 904th, 905th, 906th, 907th, 908th, 909th, 910th, 911th, 912th, 913th, 914th, 915th, 916th, 917th, 918th, 919th, 920th, 921st, 922nd, 923rd, 924th, 925th, 926th, 927th, 928th, 929th, 930th, 931st, 932nd, 933rd, 934th, 935th, 936th, 937th, 938th, 939th, 940th, 941st, 942nd, 943rd, 944th, 945th, 946th, 947th, 948th, 949th, 950th, 951st, 952nd, 953rd, 954th, 955th, 956th, 957th, 958th, 959th, 960th, 961st, 962nd, 963rd, 964th, 965th, 966th, 967th, 968th, 969th, 970th, 971st, 972nd, 973rd, 974th, 975th, 976th, 977th, 978th, 979th, 980th, 981st, 982nd, 983rd, 984th, 985th, 986th, 987th, 988th, 989th, 990th, 991st, 992nd, 993rd, 994th, 995th, 996th, 997th, 998th, 999th, 1000th.

By this action, every soldier of the five hundred and forty-six, whose names were returned to Bedford, were denied the right of participating in the choice of a president for the next year, and it is entirely necessary for your committee to add, that this manner of electing judges was hardly contemplated by the framers of the Constitution and the laws; and that a judge obtaining his commission in this way would not be very likely to command the respect or confidence of the people. It is entirely necessary for your committee to add, that this manner of electing judges was hardly contemplated by the framers of the Constitution and the laws; and that a judge obtaining his commission in this way would not be very likely to command the respect or confidence of the people. It is entirely necessary for your committee to add, that this manner of electing judges was hardly contemplated by the framers of the Constitution and the laws; and that a judge obtaining his commission in this way would not be very likely to command the respect or confidence of the people.

At a meeting of the Legislative district return judges, the twenty-five, out of fifty-one soldiers' votes which had been counted by the return judges of Fulton county, were actually omitted or rejected, by two of said three district return judges, Mr. James Lynch, of Fulton county, who had helped to make the return just one week before, and who had signed the same under oath as a correct and true return, being a party to the making of the return. The return from Bedford county was also thrown out; the home vote of Fulton and Bedford counties and the whole of Somerset county being counted, and thus electing Messrs. Meyers and Findley to the Legislature, by majority of fifty-one and seventy-one, respectively. Mr. Joseph Elder, the return judge from Bedford county, who had aided in making this return, who had signed it, under oath, as a true return, actually voted with Judge Lynch, of Fulton county, to reject his own return, although without it he had no other commission to be present at that meeting of district return judges. By this action of these two men, Joseph Elder and James Lynch, aided by the prothonotary of Bedford county, not one single soldier's vote from Bedford county, nor one from Fulton, was counted in the election of members of the Legislature. Five hundred and forty-six voters of Bedford county, and fifty-one voters of Fulton county, all absent in the service of their country, were thus disfranchised by this unequal and inexplicable infamy. It is but proper to remark here, again, that up to this hour, it is not even pretended that of all these five hundred and ninety-six soldiers, there was a single one who was not a lawful voter, or who had not the right to vote for members of the Legislature in that district.

Your committee is forced to the conclusion, that at least, one of the candidates for the Legislature, B. F. Meyers, Esq., of Bedford, was a party to this gigantic fraud. He appeared before the prothonotary Shannon and advised and argued against the rejection of certain returns. He visited Mr. Shannon after the argument and remained with him until his work was complete. He procured, in his paper, before the meeting of the district return judges, that the work would be done. He was with Judge Lynch on the morning of the meeting of the district return judges, who remarked, that "Mr. Meyers was fixing the papers." The papers were fixed, and the work done, as Mr. Meyers had predicted, and in every court in Pennsylvania, in which the question was raised, it was held that the duties of the prothonotary and of return judges were purely ministerial, and in no way partook of a judicial character or nature. That it was the duty of the prothonotary to certify, and of the judges to compute, all the returns received. If there were errors or illegalities, all such questions could be raised, tried and decided by the tribunals constituted for the trial of contested elections. These decisions were made before the passage of the law of 1864. As already seen, the twenty-seventh section of this law expressly declares that no more formality shall justify the rejection of any return of soldiers' votes. The latter portion of the twentieth and twenty-eighth sections of the same law, provides distinct and separate for the trial of contested elections, and in every other case known to your committee, in every court in Pennsylvania, in which the question was raised, it was held that the duties of the prothonotary and of return judges were purely ministerial, and in no way partook of a judicial character or nature. That it was the duty of the prothonotary to certify, and of the judges to compute, all the returns received. If there were errors or illegalities, all such questions could be raised, tried and decided by the tribunals constituted for the trial of contested elections. These decisions were made before the passage of the law of 1864. As already seen, the twenty-seventh section of this law expressly declares that no more formality shall justify the rejection of any return of soldiers' votes. The latter portion of the twentieth and twenty-eighth sections of the same law, provides distinct and separate for the trial of contested elections, and in every other case known to your committee, in every court in Pennsylvania, in which the question was raised, it was held that the duties of the prothonotary and of return judges were purely ministerial, and in no way partook of a judicial character or nature. That it was the duty of the prothonotary to certify, and of the judges to compute, all the returns received. If there were errors or illegalities, all such questions could be raised, tried and decided by the tribunals constituted for the trial of contested elections. These decisions were made before the passage of the law of 1864. As already seen, the twenty-seventh section of this law expressly declares that no more formality shall justify the rejection of any return of soldiers' votes. The latter portion of the twentieth and twenty-eighth sections of the same law, provides distinct and separate for the trial of contested elections, and in every other case known to your committee, in every court in Pennsylvania, in which the question was raised, it was held that the duties of the prothonotary and of return judges were purely ministerial, and in no way partook of a judicial character or nature. That it was the duty of the prothonotary to certify, and of the judges to compute, all the returns received. If there were errors or illegalities, all such questions could be raised, tried and decided by the tribunals constituted for the trial of contested elections. These decisions were made before the passage of the law of 1864. As already seen, the twenty-seventh section of this law expressly declares that no more formality shall justify the rejection of any return of soldiers' votes. The latter portion of the twentieth and twenty-eighth sections of the same law, provides distinct and separate for the trial of contested elections, and in every other case known to your committee, in every court in Pennsylvania, in which the question was raised, it was held that the duties of the prothonotary and of return judges were purely ministerial, and in no way partook of a judicial character or nature. That it was the duty of the prothonotary to certify, and of the judges to compute, all the returns received. If there were errors or illegalities, all such questions could be raised, tried and decided by the tribunals constituted for the trial of contested elections. These decisions were made before the passage of the law of 1864. As already seen, the twenty-seventh section of this law expressly declares that no more formality shall justify the rejection of any return of soldiers' votes. The latter portion of the twentieth and twenty-eighth sections of the same law, provides distinct and separate for the trial of contested elections, and in every other case known to your committee, in every court in Pennsylvania, in which the question was raised, it was held that the duties of the prothonotary and of return judges were purely ministerial, and in no way partook of a judicial character or nature. That it was the duty of the prothonotary to certify, and of the judges to compute, all the returns received. If there were errors or illegalities, all such questions could be raised, tried and decided by the tribunals constituted for the trial of contested elections. These decisions were made before the passage of the law of 1864. As already seen, the twenty-seventh section of this law expressly declares that no more formality shall justify the rejection of any return of soldiers' votes. The latter portion of the twentieth and twenty-eighth sections of the same law, provides distinct and separate for the trial of contested elections, and in every other case known to your committee, in every court in Pennsylvania, in which the question was raised, it was held that the duties of the prothonotary and of return judges were purely ministerial, and in no way partook of a judicial character or nature. That it was the duty of the prothonotary to certify, and of the judges to compute, all the returns received. If there were errors or illegalities, all such questions could be raised, tried and decided by the tribunals constituted for the trial of contested elections. These decisions were made before the passage of the law of 1864. As already seen, the twenty-seventh section of this law expressly declares that no more formality shall justify the rejection of any return of soldiers' votes. The latter portion of the twentieth and twenty-eighth sections of the same law, provides distinct and separate for the trial of contested elections, and in every other case known to your committee, in every court in Pennsylvania, in which the question was raised, it was held that the duties of the prothonotary and of return judges were purely ministerial, and in no way partook of a judicial character or nature. That it was the duty of the prothonotary to certify, and of the judges to compute, all the returns received. If there were errors or illegalities, all such questions could be raised, tried and decided by the tribunals constituted for the trial of contested elections. These decisions were made before the passage of the law of 1864. As already seen, the twenty-seventh section of this law expressly declares that no more formality shall justify the rejection of any return of soldiers' votes. The latter portion of the twentieth and twenty-eighth sections of the same law, provides distinct and separate for the trial of contested elections, and in every other case known to your committee, in every court in Pennsylvania, in which the question was raised, it was held that the duties of the prothonotary and of return judges were purely ministerial, and in no way partook of a judicial character or nature. That it was the duty of the prothonotary to certify, and of the judges to compute, all the returns received. If there were errors or illegalities, all such questions could be raised, tried and decided by the tribunals constituted for the trial of contested elections. These decisions were made before the passage of the law of 1864. As already seen, the twenty-seventh section of this law expressly declares that no more formality shall justify the rejection of any return of soldiers' votes. The latter portion of the twentieth and twenty-eighth sections of the same law, provides distinct and separate for the trial of contested elections, and in every other case known to your committee, in every court in Pennsylvania, in which the question was raised, it was held that the duties of the prothonotary and of return judges were purely ministerial, and in no way partook of a judicial character or nature. That it was the duty of the prothonotary to certify, and of the judges to compute, all the returns received. If there were errors or illegalities, all such questions could be raised, tried and decided by the tribunals constituted for the trial of contested elections. These decisions were made before the passage of the law of 1864. As already seen, the twenty-seventh section of this law expressly declares that no more formality shall justify the rejection of any return of soldiers' votes. The latter portion of the twentieth and twenty-eighth sections of the same law, provides distinct and separate for the trial of contested elections, and in every other case known to your committee, in every court in Pennsylvania, in which the question was raised, it was held that the duties of the prothonotary and of return judges were purely ministerial, and in no way partook of a judicial character or nature. That it was the duty of the prothonotary to certify, and of the judges to compute, all the returns received. If there were errors or illegalities, all such questions could be raised, tried and decided by the tribunals constituted for the trial of contested elections. These decisions were made before the passage of the law of 1864. As already seen, the twenty-seventh section of this law expressly declares that no more formality shall justify the rejection of any return of soldiers' votes. The latter portion of the twentieth and twenty-eighth sections of the same law, provides distinct and separate for the trial of contested elections, and in every other case known to your committee, in every court in Pennsylvania, in which the question was raised, it was held that the duties of the prothonotary and of return judges were purely ministerial, and in no way partook of a judicial character or nature. That it was the duty of the prothonotary to certify, and of the judges to compute, all the returns received. If there were errors or illegalities, all such questions could be raised, tried and decided by the tribunals constituted for the trial of contested elections. These decisions were made before the passage of the law of 1864. As already seen, the twenty-seventh section of this law expressly declares that no more formality shall justify the rejection of any return of soldiers' votes. The latter portion of the twentieth and twenty-eighth sections of the same law, provides distinct and separate for the trial of contested elections, and in every other case known to your committee, in every court in Pennsylvania, in which the question was raised, it was held that the duties of the prothonotary and of return judges were purely ministerial,