

The Bedford Inquirer

IS PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING. BY R. B. BURBROW AND JOHN LUTZ, PROPRIETORS.

RELIABLE AND ACCURATE INFORMATION OF THE MONGOL HOUSE BEDFORD, PENNA.

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PHILIP & KEAGY. We have formed a partnership in the practice of law.

JOHN CESSNA. Counsel for Hon. Wm. H. Koons, before the Committee on the House of Representatives.

JOHN LUTZ. Will attend promptly to all business entrusted to his care.

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

BEDFORD, Pa., FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1866.

The Bedford Inquirer.

ARGUMENT OF HON. JOHN CESSNA.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee: I regret very much that other duties have engaged my attention so completely for the last few days that I have not been able to prepare an argument in this case.

My first proposition, to come to the merits of the case, is this: I am not going to attempt a definition of what is termed a prima facie case.

Mr. Coffroth presents a certificate signed by four gentlemen, one of the four being one of our five—a certificate which upon its face is shown by the authority on which it is based to be a certificate of the kind which is required by the law.

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Fulton county, having gone into this board and discharged his duties as such judge, met with another assembly of judges, and signed the certificate of Mr. Coffroth.

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RATES OF ADVERTISING.

Table with 2 columns: Rate per line/day and Total rate for various durations (1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year).

to get into this House, is against that construction for the Governor, through his Attorney General, has declared the certificate of Mr. Coffroth to be insufficient, and his return is not returned at all.

You will, no doubt, now understand what in my view constitutes a prima facie case. The action of the Clerk of the House might have made one.

The proclamation of the Governor would have made one. That, too, has failed. The action of the district judges might have made one.

As already remarked, the great object of the law is to secure the right of suffrage, and to ascertain fairly the will of the majority.

In the Philadelphia case, page 361, the Court in speaking of return judges says the following language: "The duties of these gentlemen are simply under the present certified copies of company returns, to inquire if before them have been delivered to them by the Prothonotary of the Common Pleas."

When the certified copies of company returns, and these alone are presented to the board of return judges, they must simply open them and compare them, and having thus ascertained the correctness of the returns, they must certify to the fact that the returns are correct.

The gentleman in his argument says, add the vote of Somerset County and he will be content. We do not concede that if his board had obtained the vote of Somerset County, had counted it, that would have made a return.

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