



BLOOMSBURG, PA. Friday, Feb. 19, 1870. Democratic State Committee of Pennsylvania.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 20, 1870. In pursuance of the meeting of the Democratic State Committee, I hereby give notice that the Democracy of the State through their delegates, will assemble at the city of Lancaster on Wednesday, the 22d day of March next, at 12 o'clock, m., for the purpose of electing delegates to represent the State of Pennsylvania in the coming Democratic National Convention, and to appoint electors and do such other matter and things as the said convention may deem necessary and proper.

HELDENB. W. BRIGIT, CLERK. No family or individual ought to be without a newspaper at any time, and much less during the Centennial year of 1876. The Great International Exposition at Philadelphia which opens in May next, and continues for six months, will be one of the most important events in the history of the United States, and it will be conducted on a stupendous scale never before equaled in the history of the world. In addition to this, a very interesting feature to all good citizens will be the Presidential campaign which will open in July, by the meeting of the Democratic National Convention to nominate a candidate. Altogether the year will be one of the most important periods of our national existence. The COLUMBIAN will contain full information of all these things, and in order that every one in the county may be posted on what is going on, we make the following offer: To anyone who will send the names of five new subscribers to our paper, we will send the COLUMBIAN postage paid, for one year. There ought to be at least one person in every Township who will undertake this, and secure for themselves a first class family paper gratuitously.

THE DIFFERENCE. England, notwithstanding her enormous national debt, has an abundance of money for business purposes, and is glad to make loans at from 2 1/2 to 4 per cent.

France, despite her terrible disasters in the Prussian war has restored her credit, and raised up her war indebtedness. The supply of gold in the vaults of the Bank of France continue to increase, amounting at present, in round numbers, to \$235,000,000, said to be the largest amount ever held by any single institution. The French currency is now at par.

Yet in the United States, the largest coin producing country, and with gold commands an average of 114, and through defective legislation the credit of our Government is less than that of most European governments. It is time that the remedy should be applied to this evil.

WHEREFORE? Last week we published an article from the financial columns of the Press showing that in London three months bills were languid at 8 1/2 per cent discount. The Ledger of Monday now says: "The market is light, and the aspect of the market is unchanging here or elsewhere. The banks continue quite troubled to satisfactorily place their large surplus. We still quote first-class loans at 9 1/2 per cent, strictly first-class two name paper at 10 per cent, strictly first-class single name paper at 10 1/2 per cent, do. do. on first-class paper at 10 3/4 per cent, do. do. on second-class bonds and stock at 10 7/8 per cent."

WE would like to know why good paper in the country towns cannot be negotiated at 6 per cent, and why difficulty is raised or some of this surplus capital should be sent to interior for investment.

LEGISLATION OF DOMESTIC INTEREST.—Two bills were introduced into the Pennsylvania Legislature which have a certain domestic interest. They were: An act to punish persons for pointing or discharging firearms at others in this commonwealth. Section one makes it a misdemeanor, whether done playfully or otherwise, and fixes the penalty at not exceeding \$100, and imprisonment not exceeding three years, upon conviction of the offense.

An act relating to certain personal property of the debtor to be sold by the sheriff or sale (supplement to the act of 1849). This bill gives a mechanic or other persons the right to file a lien on the property of a professional man and the necessary provision and fuel for a family for three months, also all pictures maps and family libraries and cemetery lots or rights of burial.

MASSACHUSETTS paid something less than five hundred dollars to the Government of Vice President Wilson's body from Washington, this amount covering the entire expense of the funeral committee going and returning. The Boston journals very naturally cannot understand why it cost Philadelphia nearly seven thousand dollars to have the body lie in state for a few hours en route in its passage from Washington to New England.—Press.

THE reason is plain. In Massachusetts the people have plain, old fashioned ideas about economy. Philadelphia on the contrary is controlled by a set of Republican ringsters, whose principal duty is to rob their city, the State and stuff ballot boxes. The efforts to increase these purposes have been constantly sustained by the Press.

JUDGE McCANDLESS. By a press dispatch we learn that The Senate Committee on the Judiciary have decided to report favorably upon the bill retiring Judge McCandless, of the Western district of Pennsylvania, and it is learned from an authoritative source that Hon. W. W. Ketchum, now representing the Luzerne district in Congress, will be appointed to the vacancy. Judge Scofield is his chief opponent.

RELATING TO INDEBTEDNESS. The following bill has been passed by the Senate: That the existing indebtedness of any county, city, borough, township, school district or other municipality or incorporated district within this commonwealth, evinced by outstanding bonds, certificates or notes issued prior to the 20th day of April, A. D. 1875, may be provided for as the same shall mature by a re-issue to the holders of such outstanding bonds, certificates or notes, if they shall agree to receive the same, or by the issue and sale at not less than par of like bonds and certificates of indebtedness as those outstanding on the said 20th day of April, A. D. 1875, except as hereinafter provided.

RE-issuance of Bonds. The bill provides that the holders of such bonds, certificates or notes shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding 6 per cent per annum, and may be re-issued or issued refundable at the pleasure of the issuer at any time within five years from the date thereof, and it shall be the duty of the proper corporate authorities of such municipality or incorporated district to assess and levy a special annual tax, not exceeding five mills on the dollar on the assessed valuation, the collection whereof shall commence immediately after the passage of this act, to pay existing indebtedness, or the first year after such bonds, certificates or notes are re-issued or issued and sold, and not less than sufficient for and applied exclusively to the payment of the interest and principal of such indebtedness, bonds and certificates, within a period not exceeding thirty years from the date of such indebtedness, and certificates so re-issued and sold; provided further, that the provisions of this act shall not be so construed as to authorize a re-issue of any bonds or certificates which were issued for alleged advances of money in the building of state roads or roads the legality and validity of which is now questioned by legal proceedings in any of the courts of this commonwealth, and provided further that this act shall not apply to municipalities the amount of whose legal indebtedness is limited in their respective charters of incorporation and supplements there to as well as those not limited.

THE bill, whilst general in its terms is really local in its application, and intended for our mining districts. In effect it postpones the payment of creditors at the will of the obligors for thirty years—an average life time, and would bankrupt not only many municipalities, but the holders of their obligations. We trust the House will carefully examine the bill before it is permitted to pass.

THE March Chink Trials. This trial has, in many respects, been a most remarkable one. Not only has a case that may rank at precedent among the cases of murder trials. In the great majority of cases in the United States, murder is committed for the purpose of gain; or as an adjunct to other crimes such as robbery, rape, etc., to avoid detection; or by persons in an intoxicated condition; or through motives of personal revenge. But this case is altogether different. These men were not strangers to the murdered man; they had so far as known, no personal animosity against him; but they were the tools of a lawless organization known in Ireland as the "Black Militia," and in this country as the "Molly Maguires" or "Buckshots." For years this association has been the terror of Schuylkill and adjoining counties. Any person falling under the ban of this gang was speedily doomed. The secret workings at their conclaves of course is not known, but it is supposed that the person selected for the job were drawn by secret ballot from a list made up of strangers to the locality, and a guide detailed to assist them. That this was the case in the present instance is morally certain, as the evidence given goes to show. Herefore the actors in these outrages have escaped, their plans having been well matured and skillfully carried out. There seemed no possible chance of detection. The Catholic Church had thundered its anathemas against them with but little effect. A formal sentence of excommunication has been pronounced, but this, as the association still flourishes. But in this case, probably relying upon the fact that the law is not so strictly enforced as in the case of the "Molly Maguires," a murder was committed in such a bungling manner that no great skill was required to trace the perpetrators, and they were speedily arrested. Money has been lavishly furnished to secure an acquittal, but the facts in the case would seem to admit of any doubt.

THE first blow against this gang of outlaws has been struck, and if followed by swift punishment, will have more effect in preventing a repetition of this order of crimes, than all the gubernatorial proclamations and church anathemas that have been or will be furnished.

THE does not appear to be any general feeling of vindictiveness against the prisoners, it is supposed that the majority of people are the guilty ones, and as such they should be held as examples.—Democrat.

INSTEAD of hanging The Scientific American discusses hanging as a mode of capital punishment, and proposes a substitution of electricity for the gallows. It recommends the following as the way in which to have executions conducted: "The battery and coil should be of sufficient strength to deliver an eighteen inch spark. In case of there being more than one person to execute, all of the condemned would be conducted, with all due ceremony, to the place of execution, the left hand of one man handcuffed to the right hand of his neighbor and the connecting wire fastened to brackets on the discharging wire of the battery, if only two to be executed, or to the wrists of the outer men if more than that number are to suffer. The culprits being seated so as to be seen by the legal witnesses, the Sheriff presses the button. The current is instantly established from the coil, and all is over."

SOME of the Ohio papers are hoisting "Hayes and Hartman's" color. It is written in "Hartman and Hayes" we will consider the coalition.—Press.

"What a fall there, my countryman!" As a somewhat illiterate man has no equal. In 1872 when this same Hartman was a candidate for Governor, no paper was more bitter than this same Press. His connection with the Ring was proven. His connection with the Evans scandal was related day after day. His complicity with the notorious Kemble, and "Dear Yerkes" was shown by his own letters. His speculations with State funds, and criminal neglect as Auditor General to collect from certain corporations taxes due the State to the amount of THREE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS were fully exposed. The Press then proved beyond the shadow of a doubt Hartman's connection with the infamous Philadelphia Ring. But now it wants Hartman for President! Four years ago Hartman was elected President who left the man elected President who was formerly proved to be guilty of the worst crimes in our political calendar. Verily, "consistency is a jewel."

WASHINGTON LETTER. Some special exposures have been made in the Senate of the fraud, rottenness and corruption that have characterized the management of this District. When the republicans, unable any longer to withstand the current of public opinion, abolished Boss Sheppard's government, the act appointing the commissioners and board of audit distinctly prohibited the increase of the District debt. In direct violation of the law, the debt has been increased several millions and the people of the United States have these millions to pay. The whole matter was thoroughly ventilated by the democratic Senators, and to their credit be it said, some republicans joined them in the work. But under the act the money must be paid. It seems to be exceedingly difficult to get a government for this District. Suffrage puts power in the hands of a negro rabble, and they elect the worst thieves they can find, and appointments by Grant have only proven that as a detective, he can beat the negro rabble, for he has succeeded always in finding big game thieves to put in office; a new deal will probably be tried this session.

RETIRESMENT AND REFORM. The work of reform goes bravely on in the House. Expenses are being reduced, the fighting the reductions, and it is feared the republicans will not agree to the appropriation bill, and will, by a committee of conference, force them up. While the democrats really desire to reduce the expenses as a political measure they can understand that kind of a movement. That the democrats will force a reduction of at least twenty million dollars is now certain. Had they full power it would be more than double that sum. The efforts at reform are not confined to the financial alone. There have been many and flagrant abuses in the judiciary department of the Government, and the Judiciary Committee is at work trying to correct those.

INDIAN AFFAIRS. Corruption and rascality are being developed that absolutely startle the searchers and almost excite incredulity at the magnitude of their ramifications. From the highest to the lowest, all connected with these affairs are more or less implicated, either in their themselves or concealing thefts of others. The bottom falls will not be arriving at any time, but only those annually favored can hear anything of what is being done and that only upon a promise of secrecy. The committees are absolutely forced to this course, as were their work public, every effort would be made to defeat them and keep witnesses away and destroying papers. Quite a number of witnesses, summoned from Minnesota and the Northwest to appear before the Indian Committee, have arrived this week.

TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILROAD. The advocates of this road have been the Pacific railroad committees of both the House and Senate during the past week, with arguments showing not only the necessity but the economy of the asked for aid, and proving conclusively that the Government will be amply protected in guaranteeing the interest on the bonds of the road, which is all that is asked for. The Hon. John C. Brown, late Governor of Tennessee, is now vice-president of the Texas Pacific, and is here in charge of its interests. He declines to use the lobby, or any disreputable means, to carry the bill, putting it solely upon its merits as a great national project demanded by the people and for their benefit. The Union and Central Pacific oppose the bill as it would destroy their monopoly, and your correspondent last evening held a man, supposed to be in their interest, say these words: "I will spend a car load of money to defeat the bill."

PRESIDENT MAKING. The friends of the various prominent men are "working double time" to secure the nomination of their friends. Senator Bayard is the favorite of the hard core of the opposition, but he is not the vote of his State, and the certainty that it will go for any democrat, weakens his chances and increases those of Tilden, whose friends claim that his selection is necessary to enable the party to carry New York. Sherman's friends make the same argument for him as to Ohio, and claim that he is the only man from the west who can carry both Ohio and New York.

HENDRICKS is most favored by the western men and by all those opposed to immediate resumption, it being admitted that neither Pendleton, Allen, nor any other pronounced greabank man can carry either New York or any of the Eastern States. The Democratic Party of the South is frequently spoken of and he is feared by the republicans than any one else as he represents the conservation of the whole country, and has a record that cannot be attacked. The republicans are at work also, endeavoring to evolve unity out of the claims of a dozen aspirants, the friends of each of whom say he is strongest. Blaine has decidedly the inside track, though Conkling's friends are zealously striving to secure a Conkling delegation from New York, which, if they should succeed in doing, will keep the ex-speaker from ever getting the vote of that State as Blaine and Conkling are bitter enemies. The declaration of Senator Sherman in his Hayes letter, that the renomination of Grant would be "the suicidal folly," about settles the third term question, for that part of his letter has been endorsed by all factions of the radicals, even the National Republican, Grant's home organ, agreeing to it.

THE FOREIGN NEWS of little interest, except that part of it relating to Cuba. The Government denied to the House of Representatives that communication upon Cuban affairs had been sent to any foreign power but Spain, yet it turns out that Secretary Fish sent copies of the same to Great Britain (already published) to our Ministers in England, France, Germany, Austria, and Russia, with instructions to lay it before those powers. This proves that Grant not only violated the traditional policy of the Government—the Monroe doctrine—but, to say the least and use the mildest language possible, equivocated in his answer to the House.

THE work on the Centennial building progresses finely, and in my next I will give some notes of the progress made.

THE RADICALS have a struggle on hand in the State Senate over the appointment of Mr. Lear as Attorney General. The Governor has appointed him, but there is opposition to his confirmation. The reason for this opposition is, says the Doylestown Democrat, that "in the line of his duty as Attorney General he issued a quo warranto against a bogus railroad company known as the 'Continental.'" It is his Mackey's ring that is fighting him. It is his funeral, but the sympathy of the Democrats is naturally given to the officer who is honestly fighting against the unscrupulous combination of his own party.

STATEMENT OF THE FINANCES OF THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA. JOHN SNEYDER, Esq., Treasurer. From January 1st, 1870, to January 1st, 1871.

RECEIPTS: Tax on real estate, 1,000,000; Tax on personal property, 500,000; etc. PAID: Salaries of officers, 100,000; Expenses of courts, 50,000; etc.

COMMISSIONER'S EXPENSES FOR 1870. Miscellaneous expenses, 100,000; Printing, 50,000; etc.

COSTS IN COMMONWEALTH CAUSES. Paid John Moran, plank Fulton bridge, 200; Paid John Moran, plank Fulton bridge, 200; etc.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE. Paid Charles M. Smith, board of jail, 1,000; Paid John Moran, plank Fulton bridge, 200; etc.

ROAD AND BRIDGE VIEWS AND IMPROVEMENTS. Paid John Moran, plank Fulton bridge, 200; Paid John Moran, plank Fulton bridge, 200; etc.

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