

THE COLUMBIAN.

Bloom Poor District. At a recent meeting of the members of the Democratic Standing committee for the townships embraced in the Bloom Poor District, Wesley Morris of Greenwood, and Dr. F. W. Redeker of Scott were nominated as candidates for directors of the poor, for this district.

The meeting was called and held in accordance with the custom of the Democratic party, the nominations were fairly and regularly made, the candidates are well qualified for the position, and are therefore entitled to the support of every democratic voter in the district.

The present board of directors is composed of two republicans and one democrat, and while they have conducted the affairs of the district satisfactorily, that is no reason why others will not make just as efficient officers.

The election of two republicans and one democrat was brought about by a split in the democratic vote, and the same result may be reached this year unless the nominations are supported by the party.

The office of Poor director is not, or at least ought not to be a political office, but as the democrats are largely in the majority in the district, they ought to have a majority representation on the board.

The only sure way to accomplish this is to vote for the men who have been regularly named by the party organization and these are Wesley Morris and Dr. Redeker.

Mr. Vandercloof is reported as voting against a resolution providing for longer daily sessions of the House.

The tariff question is taking up a great deal of time in Congress, and as only about twenty days are left for the present session, it is doubtful whether a bill will be passed this year.

Storms, freshets and ice gorges are reported from the west. In the western part of this state the streams rose rapidly, bridges and houses were swept away, and a number of lives lost.

Eight persons have been arrested in Dublin, Ireland, for the assassination of Lord Cavendish and Mr. Burke, some months ago, in the park. The identification seems complete, and great excitement prevails.

The Constitution of this state provides that no railroad shall grant free passes, or passes at a discount, to any person except officers or employees of the road.

The constitution was adopted eight years ago, and the Legislature failed up to this time to pass an act to enforce this provision. Recently a bill was introduced in the House for this purpose and referred to a committee of which Messrs. Vandercloof and Bryson are members, and both of them are reported as voting for a negative recommendation.

As we have not seen the text of the bill, we cannot say whether there is anything objectionable in it, but if not, our members should vote for all measures that are intended to carry out the provisions of the constitution, even if it compels them to pay their railroad fare.

Township elections will be held on Tuesday, February 20th. Among the offices to be filled there is none more important than school director.

The persons selected for this position should be men of intelligence, sound judgment, and who will take an interest in the schools. It is an office that should be kept out of the hands of improper persons so that it may be entirely in the interest of the public, and not be used simply for the purpose of rewarding friends and punishing enemies.

The success of the common schools depends greatly, if not entirely, upon the efficiency of the directors. The appointment of teachers should be made from those best qualified for the work, and not given to those whose chief merit is in the fact that they are the sons or daughters of directors.

As a general rule the directors, as well as the teachers, have been well chosen, as is shown by the flourishing condition of the schools, and the voters should see to it that the high standard of excellence is maintained at the coming election.

Not having been given the county statement to publish, the Journal is awfully virtuous, and has had considerable to say about other papers being kept from showing the "crookedness" in the statement, by a "crusade worth \$40." If there is any crookedness, there is nothing to prevent the Journal from exposing it, but up to this time the only thing it has discovered is that the Commissioners neglected to throw it a \$40 crust, and that the water closet back of the court house cost \$440.

Although the COLUMBIAN has always been given the statement, because of its large circulation, it has never failed to point out crookedness wherever it can be found. It criticized the Commissioners in the new jail business, and in the proposed addition to the court house, when neither the Journal nor any other paper in the county dared to speak, for fear of losing a few dollars' patronage. The law requires the statement to be published in newspapers, and it is puerile for those who fail to secure the publication to accuse others of allowing themselves to be silenced by the receipt of money that is doubly earned at the present low price paid for the statement, by the county.

Retuses the Fees. The Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia Sunday World writes the following:

"Mr. Cassidy has had a chance to make a clear thousand outside of his salary since he became attorney general, but he could not see how he was entitled to the money, and resisted the temptation which was set before him. Among the counsel of the Standard Oil company in the recent suit of the commonwealth against the corporation was Cassidy. He was considered an able lawyer, and as this great monopoly always employs eminent legal talent, they employed him and gave him a substantial fee. Soon after he took possession of the office he was surprised to be informed that a check had arrived for him amounting to over nine hundred dollars, and that it was from the Standard Oil company, and intended to pay the commission in the case. He would rather have a fixed salary even if it should not reach the amount now received by the attorney general in fees and salary. Gov. Pattison is said to be in accord with the attorney general in his views of the fee system.

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Gov. Pattison's Message.

The concerns of that great body of our citizens who labor for wages are entitled to the most earnest consideration. The law should guard jealously and rigidly their interests and protect their rights. When either is injured or denied they ought to have some recourse in the law to which they can look for assistance. Some provision should be made that when disputes arise between those who pay and those who receive wages, the contention should be settled under the conditions of a law which should administer justice alike to both parties to the controversy.

The courts are open to other citizens to enforce their rights, why should they not be those who toil for wages to enforce theirs? I suggest the practicability in many instances of a provision being made requiring employers to give a certain timely notice to their employees before quitting work on account of a refusal to increase wages, and the employer to give a similar notice to the laborer before reducing pay. This would prevent many of the mischiefs of strikes, and enable both parties to provide in time for changes that by their suddenness often bring want, misery and ruin to many. The bill before you, and the whole subject, ought to occupy much of the best thought of the legislature.

NEEDLESS AND EXTRAVAGANT OFFICES. I have always entertained the opinion that needless and extravagant offices, such as those I have referred to, should be utterly abolished. Some of these places pay their incumbents greater compensation than is received by any officer of the commonwealth, and at least one of them, more than the president of the United States. The legislature should not hesitate about what to do in these and similar cases. The public service should not be made attractive because of its emoluments. Extravagant salaries breed an office holding class, inspired, not by patriotism and public spirit, but by avarice and greed of gain. The youth of the land should be taught to look to official preferment for its honorable distinction as an avowed and faithful public service, and not as a means of money-making and of escape from the burdens of labor. These opinions always entertained and frequently expressed, I will gladly cooperate with the assembly in putting into practical operation by abolishing any needless and retrenching any extravagant offices. I have been gratified to observe the disposition shown, and progress made, by the legislature toward that end. While such office exist, however, the executive deems it his duty to see that they are filled by those in whom he has the highest confidence, and can repose the fullest trust. This is his first and sworn duty if he is to take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

FIXED SALARIES ADVOCATED. The spirit of the constitution is undoubtedly that all officers and employees either of the state or local government, should be paid by fixed salaries and not by fees. This spirit should be faithfully carried out by the legislature, and a law enacted abolishing fees whenever possible, and fixing a definite salary for all incumbents. However it may be discharged, every law authorizing the charging of a fee for an official act is equivalent to the levying of an additional tax. It is an indirect tax, and the public objecting to its uncertainty and the difficulty of ascertaining its amount. All taxes whether fee or otherwise, should first go into the public treasury, that the people may know how much they contribute toward the cost of the government, and the public objecting should afterward be paid therefrom known and fixed amounts for their services.

SALARIES DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE WORK. In abolishing the fee system, however care should be taken that the compensation be not merely changed to a fixed salary equally as exorbitant as the former sum received. Many of the salaries fixed under the present constitution are out of all proportion to the services rendered. The appointment of clerks of courts receiving greater pay than the judges whose subordinates they are, and registers of wills whose salaries are twice as much as those of the court who adjudicate the dead men's estates. By what possible system of adjustment these things were arrived at it would be difficult to determine, but such incongruities should not be permitted longer to exist. They will serve to illustrate, however, the necessity for a careful scrutiny of official salaries with a view to the general reduction of many of the appointments of a joint committee of the legislature to inquire what offices in the various executive departments of the state may be dispensed with in a most desirable undertaking. Diligent inquiry will, I am convinced, enable the committee to recommend a considerable reduction in the force of employees in the departments and the amount of their compensation. I regret the scope of the inquiry was not enlarged so as to include the entire civil service of the state. The results, I am sure, would have been more effective. It is not too late for the legislature yet to empower the committee to so extend its investigation.

REFORM IN OFFICIAL ADVERTISING. The advertising of official notices has been a source of considerable and much scandal, particularly in our cities. Much of the official advertising as now done is practically useless and a waste of public money. I would recommend the enactment of some general law upon this subject requiring public advertisements to be inserted in the newspapers of the largest circulation. If there is any purpose to be served by such advertisement, beyond the mere expenditure of money, if publicity is really what is desired, then the most evident means to obtain that publicity should be adopted, and that is the publication of the notice in a newspaper of large circulation. Not only would such a course execute the plain purposes of the law, but a great saving of money could be effected, as there would not then be a necessity for so frequently inserting notices in newspapers of small circulation and much length. Economy and publicity would both be served by the enactment of such a law. In municipal advertising it would be well to invest the control of such matters in the councils of the cities. They are the nearest to the people these matters are spent, best know what is best, and it would be wisest to trust to their discretion. Such provisions as I have indicated with reference to advertising would enable officials to be more independent of party journals, and would have a healthful influence upon the press by enabling that avenue of public information to be more free and independent in its strictures upon officials. The public money should not be used to subsidize the channels through which their servants execute their trusts.

RIGHTS OF LABOR. A measure has been introduced into one of your bodies to provide for the settlement in disputes between employers and employees in certain of the great industries of the state. This is a movement in the right direction. Though limited to but a few of the departments of labor, yet it is beginning upon a subject that ought long ago to have received legislative action.

Ballots to be Presented by Law.

While upon this subject I would suggest the passage of a law similar to that in force in other jurisdictions, that all ballots used by electors shall be printed, their shape, the size, the character of type, and the quality and color of the paper to be used. This would contribute to the secrecy of the ballot and, would be a protection to many in the exercise of their franchise from the knowledge and surveillance of employers and others, upon whom they may be dependent. It would also prevent many deceptions and impositions being practiced upon voters by deceptive headings. To how great an extent this mode of fraud has prevailed is indicated by the fact that so many of the ballots used in the past have been printed thereon. Such deceptions upon the voter would not be possible if the entire character of the ballot was prescribed and regulated by law.

THE STATE APPOINTMENT. You will be called upon to appoint the state into congressional, senatorial and representative districts. It is important that the work should be done at this session. There should be no difficulty in agreeing upon such bills as will give fair and just representation to all parts of the state. So important a matter should be approached without party zeal, and with no design to do anything but to carry out the plain spirit and intent of the law. Any advantages gained by one party over another by partisan apportionment have always proven short lived, and have often been promptly reacted upon their authors. Let the directions of the constitution be observed as to compactness of territory and as far as possible equality of population, and let party and personal interests be subordinated to the public good, and there will be no trouble in promptly making an apportionment that will give true and just representation to all the people. To give one locality more representation than it deserves is to disfranchise other localities that get less than their share, and to bring about a situation in which the interests of the whole are sacrificed to the interests of a particular faith, that its influence may not be distributed into other districts, is to commit a serious wrong against such constituency.

DISCRIMINATION IN RAILROAD TRAFFIC. I recommend that the legislature take steps to enforce by appropriate legislation Article 17 of the constitution. That article provides that all individuals and associations shall have equal rights upon railroads and canals, and that no discrimination shall be made in the rates of charges for facilities to persons or places. It prohibits the consolidation of the stock, property franchises of competing companies. It provides that common carriers shall not engage in any business other than that of common carrying. It seeks to prevent officers of corporations from corruptly profiting by the business of their companies. It prohibits unfair preferences in furnishing cars or motive power, by drawback, or otherwise, between transportation companies and individuals.

THE FREE PASS SYSTEM. It also forbids the issuing of free passes to any persons other than officers or employees. In short, article 17 seeks to make transportation companies act justly; to compel them to treat all citizens impartially and fairly; to make them deal honestly, and to prevent harassing or oppressive any part of the community. Such wise and wholesome provisions would seem intended for the common good, and ought not to be rendered abortive by the neglect of the legislative power. I sincerely recommend that a bill be passed to give full effect to the restrictions of the fundamental law, either by imposing penalties for their violation, or in such other way as the legislature may determine. The constitution was adopted in 1873, and up to this time no effort has been made to enforce its just provisions as to railroads and canals. I am glad to observe that a bill is now before you relating to the free pass abuse, which the constitution prohibits. I trust an effective measure will be enacted on that subject, as well as all those referred to in article 17.

THE STATE REVENUES. A commission to consider the revenues of the State appointed at the last session of the legislature has, I understand, completed its labors and reported a bill to your bodies. The executive, therefore, defers any suggestions on the subject of taxation until it has an opportunity of considering the completed recommendations of that commission. He will from time to time, as the constitution directs, communicate his thought to the legislature, as occasion may seem to warrant.

CONCLUSION. No session for many years has presented so important subjects for legislative action. The people look with high expectations to the results of your deliberations, and I entertain the belief that their hopes for wise and wholesome legislation will be realized.

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ROBERT E. PATTISON.

Public Sale!

OF VALUABLE Real Estate. The undersigned executor of the last will and testament of John Danks, late of Greenwood township, Columbia County, Pa., deceased, will expose to public sale upon the premises on

Tuesday, March 6th, '83 at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, the following described real estate situate in Greenwood township Columbia County, Pa., bounded by Green Creek, and lands of A. H. Kilbuck, the heirs of John Danks deceased, Jacob Ferrard, Samuel Albertson and others, containing:

78 ACRES, and sixty-six perches, in or near, on which are erected a large store building in good running order, a new FRAME HOUSE, barn as good as new, and all necessary out-buildings, water at the house and spring creek running along the edge of the farm and supplies the mill with water. A young orchard of choice fruit on the place.

TERMS OF SALE:—One percent of a year's purchase money to be paid at the striking down of the property; the balance to be paid at the expiration of one year, and the remaining 1/2 in one year thereafter with interest from continuation of the day.

A. H. SLOAN, Executor.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. Letters of administration on the estate of Elizabeth Water late of Montour township Columbia County, Pa., have been granted by the Register of said county to Robert Buckingham Esq., Administrator. All persons having claims against the said decedent are requested to present them for settlement and those indebted to the estate to make payment to the undersigned administrator without delay.

ROBERT BUCKINGHAM, Administrator.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. Letters of administration on the estate of Thomas J. Williams, late of Borough of Central, Pennsylvania, deceased, have been granted by the Register of said county to the undersigned administrator. All persons having claims against the estate of the decedent are requested to present them for settlement and those indebted to the estate to make payment to the undersigned administrator without delay.

LAURETTE PETERMAN, Administrator.

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LAURETTE PETERMAN, Administrator.

EVERY LADY.

EVERY LADY. Letters of administration on the estate of W. J. Bunker of Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Pa., deceased, have been granted by the Register of said county to the undersigned administrator. All persons having claims against the estate of the decedent are requested to present them for settlement and those indebted to the estate to make payment to the undersigned administrator without delay.

EVERY LADY. Letters of administration on the estate of W. J. Bunker of Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Pa., deceased, have been granted by the Register of said county to the undersigned administrator. All persons having claims against the estate of the decedent are requested to present them for settlement and those indebted to the estate to make payment to the undersigned administrator without delay.