

The Columbian. BLOOMSBURG, PA. FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1890.

Laws Passed Hastily by the Legislature Give the Counties Trouble. A DISPUTE OVER THE LENGTH OF TERMS TO WHICH THE CONSTABLES WERE ELECTED IN 1889, UNDER THE NEW STATUTE.

Chambersburg, Jan. 12—On the 14th of February last, Governor Bly signed two bills which had been rushed through both houses of the Legislature in the earlier days of the session and were intended to make important changes in the terms of certain officers then almost at hand.

One of these acts on account of the hasty and imperfect way in which it was drawn is likely to cause considerable trouble and confusion in every county in the state at the coming Spring elections. These bills provided for the extension of the terms of all the constables and registrars and assessors in a township in the State both real estate assessors and registration assessors, from one year to three years.

The intent of the assessors' law was very plain, but there was great disagreement all over the State as to the interpretation of the constable's law, whether under it, the first election would be held in 1889 or 1890.

The bill was signed by the Governor only five days before the Spring elections of February 19, 1889, and there was no time to obtain any judicial decision upon the matter.

Here in Franklin County Judge Howe, who had just retired from the bench, and Judge Stewart, who had succeeded him, were both of the opinion that the constables elected last Spring would serve for three years.

This opinion was published but the time before the election was too short to permit of the law being known in the remote election districts of the county and the result was a great jumble, some districts voting for a three years' term and others for a one year term.

The meaning of the word "next" was the same trouble occurred in most of the counties of the State and a year was passed without the matter being settled.

The whole difference comes from the word "next," and the dispute hangs upon the question whether the word "next" qualifies the word "February" or whether it qualifies the whole phrase "on the third Tuesday of February."

In the first instance the word would mean "next February," and the first election under it could not be held until 1890, while in the second instance "the third Tuesday of February next" would mean February 19, 1889, and constables elected last year would hold office for three years.

Now that the Spring elections are approaching, the matter is again being agitated. The question is very important one as it concerns perhaps several thousand officers, the constables being in many instances, tax collectors also.

The State Department at Harrisburg, during the past week has been deluged with inquiries from all parts of the State asking for an interpretation of the law, but this week the State has refused and all applicants referred to the statute.

An application was also made to Attorney General Kirkpatrick from Fulton county, last week, for an opinion upon the subject, but the Attorney General replied that the matter had not come before him in such a case as to justify him in expressing an official opinion.

So far as is known, Judge P. R. Schuykill, is the only judge in the State who has had the question before him. The case is not reported, but his decision is said to be that the constables of last spring were elected for a term of one year, and that constables must be re-elected at the coming election. This opinion is not concurred in by the leading attorneys here.

Ex Judge Row is emphatically of the opinion that the constables elected last year will serve for three years. Judge Stewart was of the same opinion last year, but now that he is on the bench declines to express any opinion until the matter comes before him in a test case.

In most of the townships in this county the old constables will be allowed to serve a three-year term; but in others there will be contests and the law will come before the court for interpretation when the newly elected constables present themselves to be sworn in and to have their bonds approved and commissions issued.

The same difficulty is likely to occur in every county in the State.

Council Proceedings. Bloomberg Pa., Jan. 9, 1890. Regular meeting of Town Council met at usual place at 8 p. m.

Present: President Harman and Messrs. Fetterman, Ringler, Schwin and Yost.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and upon motion approved.

Mr. Yost moved that Commissioner of Highways House be notified to suspend all work upon the highways until further directed by the President, except the keeping clean of crossings, and such other work as can be done by one man, which work can be done by himself.

Seconded by Mr. Fetterman and agreed to.

The agreement between President Harman and the building committee of the first part and David Hensinger of the second part, for the erection of a Town Hall was presented and upon motion approved.

Mr. Yost moved, seconded by Mr. Schwin that the following resolutions be adopted:

Resolved, That whereas the resolutions of the Town building did not appear to make an estimate of the work done by contractor in December 1889, and the President and Secretary drew an order for five hundred dollars, Dec. 28, 1889, upon the recommendation of the building committee, that the said action of the Town building committee, President and Secretary, be approved, and it is also hereby further directed that hereafter upon failure of architect to make an estimate at the proper time the President and Secretary are authorized to draw orders in accord-

GRAND JURORS. The following is a list of Grand Jurors for February term 1890.

TRAVERSE JURORS. The following is a list of Traverse Jurors for February term 1890.

ROSTER'S NOTICE. Notice is hereby given to all legatees, creditors and other persons interested in the estate of the late John C. Roster, deceased.

SHERRIFF'S SALE. By virtue of a writ of Levari Facias issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Columbia County, Pa., to me directed, there will be exposed to public sale at the Court House, in the Sheriff's office, Bloomberg, Pa., on SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1890, at 10 o'clock a. m.

A DWELLING HOUSE. Notice is hereby given that the following premises, situated in the town of Bloomsburg, Pa., are for sale by public auction.

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WINTER AND FALL CLOTHING FOR MEN, BOYS AND CHILDREN. UNDERWEAR, HOSIERY, GLOVES, HATS AND CAPS, at I. MAIER'S.

The mild December weather is the cause for making a clean sweep before stock taking. As is generally known, ours is the LARGEST and CHOICEST STOCK of MEN'S WEAR in Columbia and Montour counties.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS, I. MAIER.

B. F. Savits, PLUMBER AND GAS FITTER. DEALER IN KEITER'S, BLOOMSBURG, PA. STOVES, PUMPS, FITTING, &c.

CLEARING SALE. REDUCTION IN CARPETS, Tapestries, Velvets and Body Brussels. During the next 30 days I will sell at the following reduced prices.

ROSCOE CONKING: HIS LIFE AND LETTERS. By his nephew, Alfred H. Conking. This work will shortly be issued by us and sold singly by subscription.

AGENTS WANTED. PARKER'S HAIR BALM. Cleanses and beautifies the hair, promotes a luxuriant growth, and cures itching humors.

ARTICLES FOR RENT. A firm of 100 acres, well watered, new house and barn, and a good water supply.

THE HOTEL EASTMAN, HOT SPRINGS, ARK. The largest and most comfortable HOTEL in America, with first class accommodations.

THE BOY'S HOLIDAY. THE BEST REMEDY FOR ALL CHILDREN'S AFFLICTIONS. Cream Balm.

SALES MEN WANTED. CHASE BROTHERS COMPANY. BONE MEAL FOR FLOUR.