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DEMOCRAT FOR SENATOR.

Colonel James M. Guffey Entitled to the Caucus Nomination For Quay's Seat.

HIS CHANCES OF ELECTION.

Three Leading Democrats Aspire For the Speakership, as Fusion Scheme Seems Practicable Only on the United States Senatorship.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, Dec. 20.—Leading Democrats of all elements of the party are gratified over the fact that the conference held here last week passed off so harmoniously. When it was announced that Representative John H. Fow, of Philadelphia, had called a meeting of Democratic members of the legislature, and it became known that he had done so without consultation with the Democrats who are influential in the party organization some anxiety was manifested for the outcome. While the object of the gathering is believed to have been not only to accomplish fusion upon the speakership of the house, but upon the United States senatorship as well, the resolutions adopted by those who participated in the conference simply express a willingness to unite upon matters affecting the organization of the legislature. As State Chairman Garman has said since



CAPTAIN GEORGE W. SKINNER, of Fulton.

the meeting, the United States senatorship is another matter. Democrats generally recognize that they could never vote for John Wanamaker for the United States senate. Wanamaker disappointed the Democracy of the state in the last campaign by his failure to come out in a bold and manly stand for the election of George A. Jenks. Had he done so, instead of giving encouragement to Swallow, Jenks would undoubtedly have been elected, just as Pattison was in the Delamater campaign, when the anti-Quay Republicans burned their bridges behind them and made a brave battle for Pattison and reform. There is but one thing for the Wanamaker Republicans to do now, and that is to stand by a Democrat for the United States senate, regardless of the speakership of the house or anything else. It is conceded by all fair minded Democrats that Colonel James M. Guffey is entitled to the Democratic caucus nomination for the United States senatorship. Colonel Guffey has contributed liberally of his services, time and money in many campaigns, and especially in the recent gubernatorial canvass, for the success of Democratic candidates and the maintenance of Democratic principles.

From a Democratic standpoint the situation presents some complications. As the date for the organization of the house draws near it is becoming more than ever apparent that the agreement of the Republican leaders upon John R. Farr, of Lackawanna, for speaker of the house means that the Republican factional lines will not be as sharply

vote for Farr for speaker, because they believe they will get fair treatment from him, nothing could induce them to vote for Quay's re-election, as in most cases they were elected upon a straight-out anti-Quay platform. The trotting out of Farr as a so-called "harmony candidate" for speaker, after an agreement between Martin and Magee, with the Quay men acquiescing, is recognized as one of those crafty moves at which Quay is an adept. In the opinion of many this has practically blocked the fusion movement for General Kooztz, the Somerset county anti-Quay Republican, for speaker.

Probably, after all, it will inure to the advantage of the Democracy on the main point at issue—the senatorship. Many Democratic members of the house who are interested in legislation which they want to put through this winter have hesitated about committing themselves to vote for Kooztz or any other independent Republican for speaker, as there has been from the outset grave doubts as to whether the fusion program, as far as it affected the organization of the house at least, could be successfully carried out.

While the Republican fight on the United States senatorship is largely a personal contest between the adherents of Quay and Wanamaker, and the latter's followers are determined to be revenged upon the Beaver boss, the corporations and other large monied interests are concerned about the speakership, which involves the control of the house, and they are not apt to allow an important strategic position to be carried off from their control owing to a factional quarrel among the Republicans. For this, and other reasons, the older Democratic members have little hope of electing a fusion speaker, unless he be a Democrat, while they see great possibilities in the senatorial battle, with Millionaire Wanamaker stripped for battle with Quay.

Among those who were in attendance at the Fow conference there was a positive sentiment that it would probably be better to unite upon some well known Democrat and give him the caucus nomination for speaker and let the Democrats support him without getting mixed up in the Republican squabbles. Captain Skinner, of Fulton, took what many believe to be the proper stand, when he said that the resolution adopted by the conference fully expressed the willingness of the Democrats to unite with the Republicans for the advancement of the interests of the commonwealth, but that it now remains for the independent Republicans to come forward and show their readiness to meet the Democrats half way. These remarks led others after the conference to direct attention to the fact that the Democratic members have their own interests and the interests of their constituents to consider. If they should go blindly into a fusion scheme on the speakership and fail, as the wiser heads are afraid they would, those who participated in the move would become absolutely powerless to secure legislation or to exert their influence in other directions, because the Republican governor and the Republican senate would be against them, and their own body, the house, would be organized against them as well. The old timers who have served in previous legislatures are considering the question whether it is not best to hold aloof from any such entangling alliances, as since the defection of Wanamaker men to Farr the chances of winning out on the speakership are becoming more and more remote. In discussing the general aspect of the case quite a number of the Democratic members of the house while here admitted that they had been urged by friends at home, both verbally and by letter, in view of recent occurrences, not to support an independent Republican for speaker, lest the failure of the scheme to elect him would cripple the



CHARLES R. SPATZ, of Berks.

Democratic members as useful legislators. The desire of the Wanamaker interests to capture the speakership for one of their leaders, General Kooztz, can be appreciated by the Democrats, but the query arises whether does Democracy come in, and whether defeat of a fusion scheme on the speakership would not be disastrous to the plans on the senatorship.

Some of the most astute Democratic politicians believe that in view of the almost absolute certainty of failure of fusion on the speakership the chances of recognition by individual members of the house by the Republican speaker, will be greater, and the prospects for the election of a Democratic United States senator will be enhanced by Democrats standing by one of the Democratic candidates for speaker. If the anti-Quay Republicans poll their full strength on the speakership for such a Democrat he will surely be elected. This would be the first point

of vantage in the senatorial battle. Then the intense feeling of the Wanamaker and other anti-Quay Republicans against Quay should make Colonel Guffey, who will surely get the unanimous vote of the Democratic caucus, the logical candidate for United States senator.

It is with this idea in mind that three well known Democrats have announced themselves as candidates for the Democratic caucus nomination for speaker of the house. They are Captain George W. Skinner, of Fulton, one of the most popular men in the state, a veteran Union soldier, who will be serving his sixth term in the house; Robert McCay Foster, of Centre, who made a good record in the last house and was re-elected by a splendid vote, and Charles B. Spatz, of Berks, the editor of the Boyertown Democrat and the Ber Boyertown Bauer, two of the most influential Democratic papers in Berks county.

Spatz has been an outspoken opponent of fusion on the speakership from the outset, and although he and all the Berks county members were in this city when Fow's fusion conference was held, they declined to participate in the meeting. Spatz's supporters are probably most hopeful that the Republicans who are opposed to Farr will prefer him to any of the other Democrats, and that this will influence the Democratic caucus in his interest.

Some of our new citizens in Porto Rico and elsewhere are going to have a hard time learning English. Take the word "fast" for instance. A "fast day" is a day when a person abstains from food and drink; a "fast young man" is one who eats and drinks too much; a "fast horse" is one that can trot in about 2:17 or less; when you speak of anything being "tied fast" you mean that it is immovable, or can't get away, and Pope gives the word another meaning when he says "Fast by the throne obsequious fame resides," meaning near by. There are five different meanings to a little word of one syllable and four letters in each case spelled and pronounced exactly alike. We must be patient with the poor Spaniard brought by force under the protecting folds of the star spangled banner. Don't laugh when he speaks of a steam boat as "El vapor." Vapor means steam, doesn't it?

'Tis now that the bad boy, the boy whose mother fears he will not shine as a star in the social circle, concludes that he ought to attend Sunday School and be good. Some start in a little earlier than this, but the average choose the first or second Sunday of December for the purpose. Very few good people are fooled by the old dodge. They all know why he comes, what he comes for and how long he will stay. Just as soon as the Annual Christmas tree exercises are over and the candy and oranges given away, the Sunday School will see the dear good boy no more until Christmas comes again. Did you ever notice how the attendance at Sunday School falls off after one of the above described entertainments?

As time goes on and strong evidence is introduced by the prosecution against Mrs. Cordelia Botkin, who is on trial for her life at San Francisco, for the murder of Mrs. John P. Dunning, of Dover, Del., the great nerve and affected indifference which she has exhibited all through the trial is leaving her, and the great mental strain, which she has undergone, is showing itself to such an extent as to require the constant services of a physician. Her attorneys after delving in every possible direction which their ingenuity could suggest, find themselves utterly unable to combat with the strong evidence. "Verily, murder will out."

Nescopeck is certainly developing into an up-to-date progressive town. The School Board is at present building a handsome \$5,000 school house. It is to be constructed of brick, and will contain eight rooms. Two rooms will be completed this year and two every succeeding year until finished. This course is pursued in order to make the taxes lighter. Beside this the citizens are considering the question of lighting the town with electricity.

Total Eclipse of the Moon.

Two eclipses distinguish this month, one of the sun, last Monday, and one of the moon on the 27. The first, however, was of little importance, only a slight portion of the solar surface being obscured. The lunar eclipse will be visible generally throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Dr. James B. Neal addressed a large congregation on "Mis'ary Work in China," in the Presbyterian church at Northumberland Sunday evening.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

A short session of Court was held Saturday morning.

Auditor's report in estate of Andrew Fowler confirmed nisi.

Samuel J. Schlauch vs. Melinda E. Schlauch, subpoena in divorce awarded.

The Locust Mt. C. & I. Co. vs. John McGinley. Summons in ejectment. Judgment in open Court for lands described in writ for want of appearance.

Bond of C. W. Mensinger and S. C. Hofnagle, as guardian of Myron Folk and Minnie Mensinger, approved. Clem R. Weiss appointed auditor to audit and adjust the public accounts.

C. M. Creveling and D. J. Waller, Jr., Trustees, vs. James Magee, 2d, James Magee, 1st, and W. H. Vanderherchen, Sci. Fa. Sur mortgage. And now, December 17th, 1898, upon motion of counsel for plaintiff, rule is granted to show cause why judgment should not be entered for want of a sufficient affidavit of defense. Returnable December 24, 1898.

Court convened Monday at eleven o'clock, with Judge Herring presiding.

Jacob Harris Exr's. vs. J. H. Creasy. Re-argument granted, plaintiff to have right to present for filing an amended answer. Monday Dec. 19, former decree set aside and amended answer allowed to be filed.

Theodore Doster and wife et al. vs. Elizabeth Johnston et al. Writ of partition awarded.

William Yost of the corner of East and Fifth streets nearly lost his life on Monday. A freight train was standing on the railroad on East street, and he in a hurry to get across the track, crawled under the cars. Just as he got under, the train started, but by a great effort he threw himself out of danger just as the hind wheels of the car passed by, catching his coat and tearing it off of him. It was a foolish act committed in the heat of the moment. He says that hereafter he will walk around the cars even if it is a little inconvenient.

The small-pox, which was last week reported to be raging at Bedford Pa., to the extent of 200 cases, was largely exaggerated, and has now dwindled down to less than a dozen cases. The physician sent there by the State Board of Health was reported to have personally seen 130 cases, and thus the story was "authentic." The Clearfield Republican is of the opinion "that the doctor got too much Bedford water under his ulster before he began his investigation."

Engineer Benjamin Watson, with possibly one exception, the oldest engineer in this country, died in East Stroudsburg, aged sixty-nine. Watson ran the old "Johnny Bull," the first locomotive ever brought to America. In his service, on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, for nearly a half century, he never had an accident.

The Dushore Review, gives the following account of snow falls in the last dozen years. "Twelve years ago on the morning of Thanksgiving 1886, snow began falling and did not stop until fully 20 inches covered the earth. For the past eight years the first fall of snow has occurred on the following dates: 1891, Nov. 28; 1892, Nov. 5; 1893, Nov. 20; 1894, Nov. 9; 1895, Nov. 9; 1896, Nov. 29; 1897, Nov. 23; 1898, Nov. 24.

Elias Driebelbis, an old and respected resident of Mt. Pleasant township, this county, died on Thursday of last week. The deceased was eighty years and seven months old and was the father of A. W. Driebelbis of Bloomsburg, who with seven other children survive. The funeral services with burial at Dutch Hill cemetery, took place on Saturday.

Edward P. Pardo, and Mrs. Allie M. Woods were married at the home of the latter's parents at Derr's, Jackson township, on Saturday. The bride is the mother of Miss Ida Woods of this town and widow of James S. Woods, who lost his life a few years ago in a mine accident at Mt. Carmel.

S. B. Boyer, the veteran member of the Northumberland County bar, was called before Judge Savidge last week, reprimanded and fined \$5. During the trial of a case in which Boyer was the attorney for the prosecution, he took occasion to inform Judge Savidge that he knew too much. The reprimand and fine followed.

Hundreds of fine Slippers, 75c. to \$2.50. SAVE MONEY On Your CHRISTMAS GIFTS



By buying them at Giddings'. Every dollar's worth of their immense stock is being sold at and below cost. The holiday line embraces

Gloves, [lined or unlined], Handkerchiefs, (Silk or Linen, with or without Initial), Sweaters, Roll or Sailor Collar, Plain or Stripe,

Neckwear, All the new and rich colorings,

Skating Stockings, Heavy Wool, in new combination colors,

Mackintosh Coats, Box Fashion, or with Cape. Blue, Black, Grey and Tan.

Brownie Caps, For children, in all the new colors.

Boys' Waists, In wool or flannelette, plain or blouse.

Boys' Reefers, Astrachan, Chinchilla, 3 to 8, with large sailor collar, 9 to 15, with velvet, or large storm collar. Blue, black, brown, olive or mixtures.

SHIRTS.—Plain white, or the new and fashionable colored fronts.

Underwear, Hosiery, Collars and Cuffs, Night Robes, Dress Shields, &c.

Suits, Overcoats, or Storm Coats.—We believe our assortment is still larger than any in town, notwithstanding our large sales. Buy now, and save from \$1 to \$4 on a Suit or Overcoat, or from \$2 to \$8 on both.

GIDDING & CO. Visit our Shoe Department.



The Leader Store Co., Ltd.

We frequently hear things which show us that we are on the right track.—Giving the best value for the least money. Take this from one of our appreciated customers. "I wish I had come here first! I bought a doll-baby up town and had to buy shoes, etc., extra when you are selling a dressed doll for what I paid for a bare one." That's one of the best advertisements we know of. We do not expect to make all our profit out of you the first time; we want your steady trade. We would rather make a 10c. profit out of your business 10 times than \$1.00 profit in a single transaction.

We have picked our stock with care. Lots of things elsewhere are low in price, but are not cheap; quality is of more consequence than price. Here's an illustration from our

Grocery Department.

We are selling Grenoble walnuts at 15c. per lb. You can buy walnuts for 12 1/2c. per lb., and we could have sold these same ones for 11 1/2c. and made money, but you are not buying shells! We are positive that when you take the kernels from the 12 1/2c. nuts, throw out the bad and strong ones and then compare with what you get from the 15c. goods you will find ours cheaper, and they'll taste sweeter too. Full line of grapes, oranges, lemons, citron, currants and raisins. Sugar and spice and all things nice.

Our Toy Department.

You'll find the reason for our selling so many dolls in our opening remarks. And we have everything for the dolls, Chairs, beds, tea sets and books by the dozen. The cutest black wooley dogs, come and look at them even if you don't want to buy. Have you seen our Baby Grand Sewing Machine? It will make a perfect seam, price \$1.00. Doll sofas, to close out 3 remaining ones we put the price at \$3.98. We have about 25 fancy mirrors, price is plainly marked on them, but ——— come and make us an offer, we have too many. Same case with pictures, lamps and tabourettes, we want to move. Low prices will do it.

Fancy Rockers.

Are being picked over each day, fancy tables we have in all the newest shapes and finish and at hard time prices. Buy the baby a rocker, it will add beauty to your room to have the little rocker in it. Baby is like the rest of us, she want's something distinctly her own. Look us over and compare prices before buying elsewhere

The Leader DEPARTMENT STORE.



ROBERT McCAY FOSTER, of Centre.

drawn on the speakership as at first supposed. Farr voted for Wanamaker for United States senator against Penrose, and on this account will be apt to get the votes of many of the members who stood by Wanamaker in the last legislature. Though these men will