

STRONGEST BANK IN THE COUNTY

Capital \$100,000. Undivided Profits \$30,000. Surplus \$150,000.

First National Bank, OF BLOOMSBURG, PA.

MAKE NO MISTAKE BUT DEPOSIT YOUR SAVINGS IN THE STRONGEST BANK.

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J. M. Staver, M. I. Low, Louis Gross, H. V. Howey.

THE COLUMBIAN.

ESTABLISHED 1866. THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

ESTABLISHED 1837. CONSOLIDATED 1869. PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING, At Bloomsburg, the County Seat of Columbia County, Pennsylvania. GEO. E. ELWELL, EDITOR. GEO. C. ROAN, FOREMAN.

TERMS:—Inside the county \$1.00 a year in advance; \$1.50 if not paid in advance. Outside the county, \$1.25 a year, strictly in Advance.

All communications should be addressed THE COLUMBIAN, Bloomsburg, Pa.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1907

FOR ASSOCIATE JUDGE, W. W. BLACK, of Bloomsburg.

Subject to the decision of the Democratic voters.

FOR ASSOCIATE JUDGE CHARLES A. SHAFFER, of Berwick.

Subject to the decision of the Democratic voters.

NOTICE PRIMARY ELECTION

For the Spring Primary Election to Be Held Saturday June 1st, Between the Hours of 2 P. M. and 8 P. M., 1907.

The Voters of Columbia County:

In accordance with SECTION THREE paragraph FOUR of the UNIFORM PRIMARY ELECTION LAW notice is hereby given that the several political parties in the said county will vote at the various polling places in the said county on Saturday June 1st, 1907, between the hours of 2 P. M. and 8 P. M. to nominate candidates at the Spring Primary election as follows, to wit:— One person for Associate Judge. One person for County Surveyor. Two persons for delegates to the Republican State Convention. Four persons for delegates to the Democratic State Convention. Six persons for delegates to the Prohibition State Convention. One person for Republican Committeeman in each election district. One person for member of the Democratic Standing Committee in each election district. One person for Chairman of the Prohibition party. One person for Secretary of the Prohibition party. One person for Treasurer of the Prohibition party. One person for committeeman from each election district for the Prohibition party.

JERRY A. HESS } County
C. L. POHE } Commis-
E. RINGROSE } sioners.

Attest A. B. BLACK, Commissioner's Clerk

TO THE PUBLIC.

In this issue I announce myself as a candidate for the office of Associate Judge of Columbia county. I have always been a Democrat, and I assure you if nominated and elected to the office which I now aspire to fill, I will be guided wholly by my best judgment, and endeavor to do my duty as I see it, and as I have done it in the past. I promise, if elected, so far as within my power, a fair, honest and impartial administration, with equal and exact justice to all men and special privileges to none.

I will endeavor to see all the Democratic voters in the county before the Primaries in June next, and I will be content to abide their decision at that time. Based upon my pledges as herein stated I will ask the voters to stand by me.

Sincerely yours, W. W. BLACK.

We are prepared to furnish the Woman's Home Companion for 50 cents a year when taken with THE COLUMBIAN. The two for only \$1.50. Send in your name while the offer lasts.

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Special Correspondence.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 1, 1907.

In the disclosures of graft made by the capitol investigating committee the source of the "press muzzler" is easily traced. That Pennypacker wanted to silence the press in order to shield himself can hardly be doubted, for his responsibility for, if not his culpability in, the crimes of the conspirators has been clearly revealed. The influencing reason for the prodigious and long continued venality in the official life of Russia is the absolute importance of the press. Courageous, capable and independent journalism is a perfect security against corruption in public life. When the conspiracy which looted the treasury of Pennsylvania was in the process of formation the greatest fear of those concerned was the newspapers. Pennypacker undertook to remove this danger by muzzling the press. The failure of his purpose has resulted in the exposure of the crimes. If the press could have been silenced William H. Berry would not have been elected State Treasurer and in the absence of that result the grafting operations would still be in progress and the machine, entrenched in power, in uninterrupted control of the official life of the commonwealth.

A good many of our esteemed newspapers delude themselves or deceive their patrons by declaring that Pennypacker was honest but an innocent victim of the bad men about him. In the greatest of his novels the late Charles Dickens created a character, and the helpless victim of vicious and designing associates, who, these journals would incarnate in the person of Pennypacker. But Pennypacker is no more like Dr. Strong than Architect Huston resembles Uriah Heap. He is weak because of an extraordinary vanity but not on account of a confiding nature. On the contrary there is no more cunning or resourceful figure in the public life of the commonwealth at present as there has been none in the past. When the exposure of graft was first made the other conspirators, overwhelmed with consternation, "stampeded." But not so with Pennypacker. He faced the accusation with a positive denial and made the railroads accessories to the crime by organizing the penny-a-mile excursions to fool the public by the splendor of the "Palace of Graft." The thousands who availed themselves of that opportunity to deceive their own eyes couldn't tell whether the glass in the dome was made in France or Beaver county. Not one in a thousand of the most intelligent people can tell by cursory inspection the difference between veneered white pine and polished mahogany. Pennypacker knew this and worked his under-

standing overtime. If the fraud could have been revealed the outraged public conscience would have scourged the conspirators and obliterated their party. But it wasn't and couldn't be and Pennypacker's genius for deception carried the Republican party to victory in the face of the most colossal frauds of modern history.

AMAZING EVIDENCE OF GRAFT.

As the investigation of the capitol graft proceeds the evidence becomes more amazing. Last week several new sensations were brought out. The brother-in-law of the favored contractor, Sanderson, testified that Architect Huston knew that Beaver county glass had been substituted for bacarat glass. The specifications required bacarat glass and the bills rendered were for bacarat glass. But the material furnished was Beaver county glass and the fraud was perpetrated with the knowledge and assent of Huston. The State was robbed of a vast sum by the transaction and the contractor proportionately enriched. Yet Pennypacker protests that there was no fraud and Huston declared that there was no collusion. They must imagine that the people are all fools.

That there was collusion between the contractors and the architect is made clear, moreover, by the relations shown between Sanderson and Payne. Payne didn't get as large a percentage of profits as Sanderson, but his rakeoff was very great. For example he got fifteen cents a foot for the cement floors while the evidence shows that he paid only five cents a foot for them. In his case, however, the culpability is not so much in the overcharges. It is in the fact that he was cognizant of and a participant in the vast overcharges of Sanderson. As a matter of fact in some particulars at least, Payne was the agent for Sanderson and in all cases he exercised a supervisory power over the employes of Sanderson. That relationship could hardly have been in the absence of a partnership.

GRAFT IN SMALL MATTERS.

The testimony taken at the last session of the commission was more amusing than serious. That it is treated of the trifles about the building. But it proved that the spirit of graft run through the operation from beginning to end. The boot-black's stand in the Senate cloak room, for instance, cost Sanderson \$125.00 and the State was charged \$1,619.20, the profit being at the rate of 1195 per cent. On the barber's case the poor fellow was only able to make 902 per cent., which indicates a hard-hearted sub-contractor. The clothes trees and umbrella stands yielded profits of a fraction less than 500 per cent., which could be regarded in no other light than down-right cruelty if it were not for the fact that Sanderson had no money invested at all and the profit was on air. The same is true of the vast profits on the chandeliers. Brother-in-law Salom testified that not a cent of money had been paid by anybody for the stock of the Pennsylvania Bronze Co., which supplied the chandeliers by the pound and the share holders got dividends amounting in the aggregate to 130 per cent. on an investment of absolutely nothing.

But the startling feature of all this is that if William H. Berry had not been elected State Treasurer in 1905 the public would never have known of this colossal fraud. It was the intention of the conspirators to claim that the capitol building had been completed for less than the amount appropriated by law. In fact literature had been prepared for distribution asserting this claim and extolling the Republican party in general and the Pennypacker administration in particular for this splendid achievement. In this matter the culpability of Mr. Pennypacker is emphasized for he was the active leader in that scheme to deceive the people. He knew that the appropriation of \$4,000,000 had been exceeded more than twice over and yet he was preparing to assert the contrary. Such a man is not an injured innocent and if he ends his evil life in prison, as Quay ought to have done, it will be only a fit vindication of justice.

THE QUAY MONUMENT BILL.

Last week was a busy period in the Legislature, not that much was achieved, but that in one respect it was like the closing week of a session which is always run at high pressure speed. Wednesday was the last day for introducing legislation and nearly all the members wanted to get something in with the result that more bills were read in place on that day than on any other except the first day of the session for that order. Most of the bills introduced on that day will die in the committees to which they were referred and a good many of them deserve such a fate. But

there are some among the number of the highest merit. In this group is one introduced by Representative Minehart, of Franklin county, to repeal the act of May 11, 1905, "providing for the erection of statue of the Honorable M. S. Quay, on the capitol grounds at Harrisburg, and making an appropriation therefor." The presence of that measure in the statute books of the State is an outrage upon the conscience of the people of Pennsylvania.

It has been said by the apologists for Quay's iniquities that Minehart's bill would put a hardship on the Commissioners appointed under that act to put its provisions into execution. But that is not true. There never was a legally organized commission to execute that law. In the first place there is no provision in the title of the bill for the appointment of commissioners and even if there were and the law itself measured up to the legal requirements, the commissioners were never legally authorized to act and whatever they have done is upon their own responsibility and necessarily at their own expense. Section 8, Article 4 of the constitution of Pennsylvania, empowers the Governor to "nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of two-thirds of all the members of the Senate," appoint such officers of the commonwealth "as he or may be authorized by the constitution or by law to appoint. The Senate has never advised or consented to the appointment of commissioners to erect the Quay statue. One complete session has been held since the law providing for the Quay monument was enacted and three months of another are passed, yet the nominations of the Quay monument commissioners have not been confirmed. Therefore if they have purchased a monument or gone to any other expense in order to disgrace the State by the erection of an effigy of the most notorious corruptionist of his day and generation, let them pay for it themselves.

THE TWO-CENT-A-MILE RATE.

The two-cent-a-mile passenger rate bill passed the Senate on Tuesday and is now on the hands of the Governor. There were only three votes against it, those of Grim of Bucks, Roberts of Montgomery, and Sproul of Delaware, who were frightened at the shadow of a threat to cut out the commutation tickets for suburban residents. Of course there was no danger of such a thing, as future events will show, and State Senators ought to be less credulous. But in justice to the gentlemen it should be said that their constituents were overwhelmed against the bill so far as expression to their sentiments was given. I saw Senator Grim's mail for a day or two before the vote, for example. He had advertised in the local papers for an expression of public opinion on the subject and out of a bushel basketful of letters, more or less, there was but one asking him to vote for the bill. Of course such situations are perplexing. The platform of his party pledged him to vote for the measure and I believe his own inclinations were in that direction. But he reasoned that he is the representative of the people of the district rather than of his own views and the information he had after diligent effort to get the truth, compelled him to vote against the bill.

It is practically settled that the Legislature will adjourn finally on Thursday, May 16. At least Speaker McClain announced, after a conference with some of the Republican leaders, on Thursday evening, that such would be the case. A joint resolution will be passed, the Speaker states, that the Investigating Committee shall report to the Governor, on the completion of its work, and that he shall be authorized to take any steps in the direction of criminal proceedings he deems advisable.

Meanwhile the reform legislation is moving forward though it must be confessed that "celerity is contempered with cunctation." In other words the Creasy trust buster which passed the House finally is now in the Senate committee where it will probably die and the Railroad commission bill only passed the second reading stage in the House on Thursday. It will not likely get much further and for that matter it is hardly worth worrying about.

G. D. H.

TOWNSEND

WE DON'T MOVE

For Two Weeks Yet.

You can see a nice line of

SPRING GOODS

at our old store.

1/4 OFF CLOTHING.

A beautiful line of Spring Overcoats.

TOWNSEND'S

Are You Ready for Easter?

Do you realize that Easter is only a few days away—that every hour and minute counts now?

FOR THE WOMEN—We have added many new things in Fabrics, Suits, Wraps and Gloves and the "little things" that make the Easter Costume—to our splendid stock of Spring things.

We have assorted them so that choosing will be easy and pleasant.

We have priced them so that you may bloom like the Spring flower at Easter time—for little cost.

Suppose you come and see all the new and modish fashions—spend an hour or two with us—to your pleasure and profit.

The following descriptions and prices will give a hint—a slight one—of what you'll find.

EASTER GLOVES.

Misses' Kid Gloves in tan and brown \$1.00.

Ladies' Kid Gloves in Grey, Tan, Pearl, Modes, Navy Blue, Green and Black at \$1.00.

White Kid Gloves 75c and \$1.00 and others.

EASTER FOOTWEAR.

New Spring style Shoes and Oxfords. The greatest variety we have ever shown. All of the newest lasts and toe shapes in Gun Metal, Vici Kid and the various shiny leathers for all the family.

See the snappy new styles in the Walk Over oxfords for men.

Splendid variety of oxfords for women from \$1.25 to \$3.50—Patrician a strong favorite.

For children, the celebrated Lenox, Educator and Moloney are here in profusion.

WOMEN'S HOSIERY.

Some Specials. All dependable—every grade from the modestly plain to the elaborate lace stockings.

Mercerized Gauze, the new hose for Spring 25c a pair.

Special. Black Lisle Hose, 39c a pair, 3 pair for \$1.00.

Black Gauze Lisle Hose, garter knee 50c. Many patterns of lace and embroidered hose, 50c, 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.25 the pair.

Silk Plaited Hose, \$1.00. All Silk 1.50.

Special. Children's fine ribbed Cotton Hose, last black, sizes 5 to 9, 18c, a 25c value.

F. P. PURSEL.

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