

THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1907

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Special Correspondence.

Harrisburg, Pa., June 17, 1907.

The feature of the meeting of the Democratic State committee on Thursday last was the confidence of those who participated in its deliberations. There was a militant atmosphere in the hall and absolute faith in the future. Chairman Donnelly inspires freedom of speech and independence in action. In calling the meeting to order he sounded the keynote of the occasion. He had favored a late convention for various reasons but in the light of new developments altered his mind on the subject and frankly announced the fact. "We want to meet the enemy at the outset of the campaign," he said, "and should put our ticket in the field and muster our squadrons for the battle before our opponents have entrenched themselves."

The meeting was as harmonious as it was hopeful, moreover. With nearly all the seats occupied there wasn't a discordant sound. It was a talkative body and the chairman encouraged the loquacity. It wasn't a combative discussion, however. Earnestness of purpose and determination were revealed in every speech and the common enemy was the target of every shaft and they were sharp and penetrating. The effect was both encouraging and illuminating. No Democratic meeting of recent years left a better impression on the minds of those present whether as participants or spectators. No political meeting of recent years accomplished more good. It has set the party on its feet squarely for the contest which will soon be on.

There wasn't much discussion of candidates, of course, but there was a settled impression that when the time comes the man will be ready for the occasion. It was recalled that two years ago when the convention met the leaders were begging for a candidate when somebody suggested Mr. Berry. It was an inspiration and something like the same feeling spread over the crowd on Thursday when the name of Hon. John G. Harman, of Bloomsburg was mentioned. There was nothing like an effort to urge Mr. Harman's name on the committee. But it was incidentally remarked that Columbia county had instructed her delegates for him and the response was instant and unanimous that he would make an ideal candidate. Mr. Harman may have other plans but it looks as if he will be the choice of the convention for State Treasurer.

A STARTLING INCIDENT.

By a single chance the most startling incident of the capitol investigation occurred the night before that meeting. For several days previously the testimony inculcating former State Treasurer William L. Mathues had been particularly strong and direct. Mr. Mathues had come to the capitol or the purpose of offering his testimony and had notified the commission of his purpose. About midnight of Wednesday, however, he was found in the State Treasury with a clerk who had been employed during his own term of office and was continued by Mr. Berry, ampering with the books. His purpose is, of course, a matter of conjecture, but the circumstance is suspicious.

During the afternoon of Wednesday Mr. Scott, Secretary of the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings, and during Mr. Mathues' term as State Treasurer, Corporation Clerk in that office, was seen in mysterious conference with the clerk in question. That influenced some of the Democratic employees of the department to keep watch. Shortly before midnight Mathues and the clerk clandestinely entered the office. The watchers followed and found them with the books. In the greatest confusion they pretended to be examining the ledgers in an innocent way, but the insincerity was transparent. Subsequently Mathues claimed that the clerk who was his personal friend had invited him in to show him the character of the work he was doing.

If that had been the purpose daylight would have been a more appropriate time for the inspection. If he had wanted proper information regarding the business of the office another time and another person would have served the purpose better. In fact, viewed from any point, the episode was a sinister appearance. Documents have been abstracted from other departments which have since been needed in the investigation and it is not unlikely that if the plan had not been defeated there would have been some papers missing from the Treasury. In any event the affair has assumed the character of moral burglary and in the absence of a better explanation than any that has yet been offered, any construction is justified.

BERRY'S OPINION CORROBORATED.

Some days ago Mr. Berry observed that the only guarantee of integrity in the administration of the affairs of the State is to keep a "polarized" Democrat in the office of State Treas-

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urer. This singular episode of Mr. Mathues corroborates that idea. Probably the clerk who has forfeited the confidence of his chief had no intention to commit a crime. But Mathues is his friend and Mathues' liberty is in jeopardy. He took the hazard of something like a burglarious entry, therefore, not to subvert any personal interest but to promote the interests of his friend. If Sheatz had been elected and installed in office what would have been the result? Sinister or otherwise the scheme would have been "pulled off" and nobody would have been the wiser. Mathues would probably have been safer in the immediate future and the chances of a complete exposure of the frauds materially diminished. But there would have been no exposure.

If Plummer had been elected State Treasurer two years ago the people of Pennsylvania would never know that they had been robbed of five or six million dollars in the construction and trimmings of the capitol. After his introduction into office if Mr. Berry had turned every incumbent out, the incident of Wednesday night never would have occurred. No man commits burglary in the open. No public official will take the chances of grafting if a representative of the minority or opposition party is looking on. Pennsylvania is governed by boards and commissions. The Governor, State Treasurer and Auditor General have executive functions to perform individually. But their important work is members of this board or that and if all the boards which control the fiscal affairs are made up of men of both parties there will be no grafting. For that reason Mr. Berry's successor ought to be a Democrat and of the polarized variety.

CLOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION NEAR.

The attorneys who are conducting the investigation of the capitol scandals expressed the opinion that the hearings may be completed this week. The reports can't be prepared short of a month or two, it is safe to predict, and even after they are completed the burden of the labor will remain. The legislative commission will have nothing further to do with the matter, probably but the courts will then be invoked and long if not tedious trials will follow if the Governor continues in his present frame of mind. Present indications are favorable to that result, unquestionably, but there is nothing certain except death and taxes.

For example, as the Democratic State committee declared on Thursday, "the investigation will neither be complete nor satisfactory" if it fails to disclose who shared the hoodie with the contractors. That will be exceedingly difficult of achievement. Nobody pays bribes with checks made payable to the man who is bribed. Besides the bankers as a rule don't follow the money they receive or pay out to discover whence it came and whither it goes. A check made payable to self and endorsed on the back by the drawer may be deposited by any Tom, Dick or Harry, and nobody is the wiser. I don't say that it will be impossible to sift the matter to the bottom but it is certain that it will be difficult.

The Boards of Public Grounds and Buildings which perpetrated the robberies and the contractors who conspired with them can be held to account by judicial process, however, and this ought to and probably will be done. In view of the fact it may be said that the investigation though incomplete will be satisfactory if it results in the imprisonment of the direct perpetrators of the crimes though others equally guilty may escape.

G. H. D.

G. A. R. COMMANDER

Jas. S. Dean, Gen. Grant Post, Rondout, N. Y.

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Commander Dean writes: "As Chief U. S. Mail Agent of the U. & D. R. R., good health is indispensable. I found myself, however all run down with Dyspepsia. I doctored and doctored, but I grew worse. I suffered misery night and day, for fully two years. My case was pronounced incurable. I chanced to meet Dr. David Kennedy about that time, and told him of my condition and he said, try a bottle of

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take it morning, noon and night, and it will cure you. I took the medicine as directed, but had no confidence in a cure, as my case had been tried by so many. After using it a week I began to feel better, and in a short while after that I was entirely cured. That terrible distress, everything I ate breaking up sour in my throat, had all gone and I have not had a moment's discomfort since. To-day there isn't a healthier man and my appetite is excellent."

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NEW PENNSYLVANIA PURE FOOD LAW.

The Tustin Bill, approved June 1, 1907, and popularly known as "The New Pennsylvania Pure Food Law," makes some important changes. Its general provisions, as to adulteration of foods, are substantially the same as those contained in the former Act of June 26, 1895. Its provisions are substantially in accordance with the Federal Pure Food Law, approved June 30, 1906. It gives relief to retail dealers when they protect themselves by a guarantee of the quality of goods purchased in writing, procured from the vendor, and provides that the manufacturer, wholesaler and jobber selling food products shall be responsible for violations of the law. The penalty for violations of the law has been changed from fifty to sixty dollars, and the procedure is by summary convictions, while under the old law the remedy was a prosecution for a misdemeanor. The new law is much less drastic than the old. It is intended primarily for the protection of the public and its provisions shall be rigidly enforced. The Commissioner asks the cordial co-operation of manufacturers, wholesale dealers, jobbers and retail dealers in the enforcement of the law.

In order to give the retail dealer the protection intended to be furnished by the statute, it is important, as already stated, that he shall protect himself by the written and signed guarantee of the vendor. Rules and regulations have been formulated and will be printed at length in the *Monthly Bulletin*, and a copy can be had by addressing the Commissioner at Harrisburg. The importance of the guarantee to the retail dealer must not be overlooked. The rule relating to the guarantee is as follows, to wit:

GUARANTEE.

The guarantee referred to in the New Pennsylvania food law, approved June 1, 1907, should in all cases be a written or printed invoice guarantee upon each bill of goods purchased, signed by the vendor and substantially in the following language, to wit:

I (or we) the vendor of the articles mentioned in the foregoing invoice hereby guarantee and warrant the same to be in full conformity with the Federal Act of June 30, 1906, popularly known as "The Food and Drugs Act" and also further hereby guarantee the same to be in full conformity with the Act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, popularly known as "The New Pennsylvania Food Law" approved June 1, 1907, in that the said articles are not adulterated within the meaning of the aforesaid Act of Congress, or the aforesaid Act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, and that the said articles are not misbranded within the meaning of either of the said Acts.

With respect to goods now in the possession of retail dealers, they should immediately take the precaution to obtain a guarantee from the vendor in the form above designated upon the invoice now in their possession, or obtain from the vendor a duplicate invoice of the goods with the guarantee stamped, written or printed thereon and signed by the vendor from whom the goods were purchased. If this is not attended to the retail dealer will be held responsible for any adulterated goods sold by them.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD Bulletin.

LOW-RATE NIAGARA FALLS EXCURSIONS.

"It soothes, while it awes the mind," is the phrase used by the great American author, Nathaniel Hawthorne, in writing of Niagara Falls, and its many phases of beauty and grandeur.

To those who have never viewed this magnificent spectacle, it will prove an enthralling revelation of majestic beauty, and power that must remain forever a delightful memory.

Those who have once visited Niagara Falls and wandered amid its historic environments or viewed its varied scenes of wonder, delight to return to gather new impressions of the falling waters, the dashing rapids, and the great gorge.

This year the Pennsylvania Railroad will run a series of attractive personally-conducted excursions to Niagara Falls on July 3 and 24, August 7 and 21, September 11 and 25, and October 9.

Tickets will be sold at very low rates for the round trip and will be valid for return passage within ten days.

A special train in charge of an experienced tourist agent, will be run on each date from Washington, via Harrisburg, Williamsport, and Emporium Junction, carrying parlor cars, dining car, and high-grade coaches.

Tickets will be good going on the special train and to return on any regular train within the time limit, permitting excursionists to stop off at Buffalo and view the beautiful metropolis of Lake Erie.

Full detailed information of this attractive series of summer outings may be had on application to Ticket Agents.

6-20-27-21.

Judge Denies Satire in a Murder Trial

Declares the Court Reporter Must Have Caught His Comment Mistakenly.

In an argument yesterday at Sunbury for a new trial of William Whitaker, who killed his wife in Mt. Carmel, counsel for the defense frequently referred to Judge C. R. Savidge's humor in the case, and for that reason counts a great deal on a new trial.

The Court was reminded that he had asked a witness whether the prisoner's lopsided ear could not have been caused by wearing his hat too much on one side, and whether the strange conduct of the murderer consisted in climbing the stairs on his hands and knees or swinging the cat by the tail at the dinner table.

Counsel for the defense continued to read the Judge's humorous remarks from the testimony, in which his Honor defined Jacksonian epilepsy as that which Andy Jackson had when he licked the British at New Orleans. Phlychic epilepsy his Honor defined as that which a man has when he moves in cycles, turns somersaults or goes through similar performances.

"Did I say that?" asked the Judge.

"You did, your Honor," replied counsel.

"I never made any such statement," said the Judge with great positiveness.

"It's in the Court records, your Honor," replied the defense's lawyer.

"Then the reporter must have taken it down wrong," answered the Judge. "Continue the case."

The July Woman's Home Companion.

A novel by Anthony Hope is an event in literature. The three most popular writers of fiction in English are Hall Caine, Marion Crawford and Anthony Hope, and many, many thousands of readers who recall "The Prisoner of Zenda" and "The Dolly Dialogues" believe that Hope is not the least of the triumvir. Anthony Hope's latest story, "Helena's Patch," begins serially in *Woman's Home Companion* for July. It is most interesting, and thoroughly wholesome, and embodies all the delightful romance of the Zenda stories. The *July Woman's Home Companion* is usually strong in fiction, there being in addition to the Anthony Hope serial, short stories by Owen Oliver, Juliet Wilbor Tompkins, Jean Webster, and Robert C. V. Meyers, also a two-part story by Herbert D. Ward. Dr. E. E. Hale writes of the pleasures of outdoor life in his monthly editorial page, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman describes the domestic progress of women. Other special articles are contributed by Samuel Armstrong Hamilton, "When the Garden Looks Shabby," and A. G. Richardson, who gives plans and instructions for building a suburban cottage for \$1,700. Grace Margaret Gould, the foremost writer of fashion topics in this country, contributes several pages which undoubtedly will prove of deep interest to the feminine readers. In addition there are departments conducted by the National Child Labor Committee, Margaret E. Sangster, Sam Loyd, Anna Steese Richardson, Evelyn Parsons, Dan Beard and "Aunt Janet" Porter.

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