

THE COLUMBIAN.
BLOOMSBURG, PA.

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1907

THE PLATFORM.

Adopted by the Democratic State Convention.

The platform adopted by the Democratic State Convention is as follows:

Realizing that the fate of men, commonwealths and nations is guided by the will of an all-wise Providence, and that all prosperity, whether financial, commercial or moral, is finally dependent upon honesty; and convinced that good government is based upon strict compliance with law, we challenge the wisdom of continuing Republican rule in Pennsylvania and for an aggressive Democracy declare these principles:—

Knowing that the framers of the Constitution intended that the Auditor General and State Treasurer should always be checks upon each other in the disbursement of public funds, we ask all honest men to aid that intent by electing as State Treasurer one who is politically in opposition to the present incumbent of the Auditor General's office, so that the work commenced by a Democratic State Treasurer may be continued and finished and so that at least one member of the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings, annually expending vast sums, shall not be of the majority party.

MAIN ISSUE PUNISHMENT OF GRAFT

We declare the dominant issue before the people of this Commonwealth to be whether dishonesty in public place shall cease or be continued; whether graft shall be sustained or rebuked and punished.

Believing this to be the vital question in this State, we are not to be led astray by the perfunctory indorsement of any candidate for President in 1908, or the declamatory laudation of the present incumbent of that high office.

These fraudulent devices in the Republican platform, intended to befog the issue, and the praise of the Fifty-ninth Congress, can only be equaled by the condemnation, so richly deserved, of almost all high officials in the State Government of Pennsylvania.

CASSELL'S RESIGNATION SUGGESTED

We recall with shame and reprobatation the official acts in regard to the building and furnishing of the State Capitol, of Governors, State Treasurers, Auditors General and superintendents of public grounds and buildings, and with special notice condemn the conduct of a Representative in that Congress who, whilst drawing his salary at Washington, was helping to loot the Treasury at Harrisburg. We suggest that his resignation would be a fitting end of his congressional career.

We congratulate the taxpayers of the State that by the election of a Democratic State Treasurer two years ago it was made possible to discover, and thoroughly reveal, the enormous amount of public funds unlawfully expended for the Capitol Building and its trimmings, and ask all independent citizens, who have regard for their financial welfare and the honor of their State, to aid us in completing what has been so ably commenced under Democratic administration.

We hereby pledge the party to an insistence on a searching investigation of the Auditor General's Department, which has been shown to be no less corrupt in management than those now under the searchlight. We condemn the majority in the last Legislature for refusing to pass the joint resolution demanding an investigation of that department, and the failure of the dominant party to assist the demand of an outraged people that all the lids be lifted.

A SECOND BERRY DEMANDED.

Noting that the Republican platform disclaims any responsibility for the Capitol graft, we claim and assume all responsibility for the discovery and complete disclosure of the graft, and further claim that the only means of securing complete restitution of the loot, and punishment of the looters, is to elect a second Berry, a man who knows no party in the performance of his duty except that of honest citizenship, and who, when graft and greed shamefully disgraced the State, is alert to detect and discover wrong doing and capable of punishing wrong doers.

With the proof in hand so clear that all honest men are convinced of the guilt of many in high places, we demand of the present Administration speedy prosecution of the accused, both civilly and criminally, so that the taxpayers may regain their own, the honor of the State be vindicated, and, finally, that no guilty man may escape.

We hold that taxation, in whatever form imposed, is justifiable

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Is the cause of all humors, eruptions, boils, pimples, scrofulous sores, eczema or salt rheum, as well as of rheumatism, catarrh and other troubles. The greatest blood remedy for all these troubles, proved by its unequalled record of cures, is

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only to the extent that may be needful for the maintenance of government honestly and economically administered within the sphere of its legitimate powers; and we insist that a large surplus in the Treasury, caused by unnecessary taxation, has heretofore allowed officials in the various departments to speculate with public funds, and to use the cash of the State with favored banks and individuals for political and personal use and for the gains of favored contractors; and we further declare our determined opposition to all schemes of taxation that bear unequally on individuals or interests, or that tend to increase the profits of one class at the expense of any other.

NO NEED TO VETO PENSION BILL.

We emphatically insist that had it not been for the illegitimate use of public funds by the Republican officials, there would have been no necessity for ignoring the claims of veterans of the Civil War, and for reducing appropriations to charitable institutions.

While we recognize the right of capital, within this Commonwealth, in all legitimate lines of enterprise to combine for the increase of business, for enhancement of profit by enlarging productive capacity, and decreasing the cost of production, thus lessening the price to the consumer, yet when such combinations in its purpose, or effect, creates, or tends to create, a monopoly in its production, to restrain trade, or to stifle competition, to increase cost to the consumer, or to control the market, for the labor it employs, it violates the spirit of our laws, becomes inimical to public welfare and peace and should be so regulated, controlled or prohibited by law as to amply protect the public interests.

We believe that by wise legislation, rigidly and impartially enforced against such combinations, their evil tendencies can be prevented without needless destruction to the capital upon which labor must depend for employment and compensation; that in this matter the path of safety lies in rigid, honest and impartial regulation, control and prohibition, rather than in ruthless destruction which may involve the greatest loss upon the innocent.

FAVOR INVESTIGATION OF TRUSTS.

Within these principles we favor the most rigid regulation of trusts and combinations that wisdom can devise under laws of universal application and impartial enforcement.

We demand an honest ballot for honest voters and condemn the party in power for refusing to so amend the ballot laws that the true intent of the voter may be registered without intimidation or interference, and the ballot so simplified that all opportunity for fraud or coercion be taken from the political boss or his henchmen.

FOR POPULAR VOTE FOR U. S. SENATOR.

Recognizing the growing demand of the people for the registration of their choice for United States Senator, we condemn the Republican leaders for the defeat of the McCord bill, which permitted the voters thus to express their preference at the primary election by a popular vote.

The party in power deserves no credit for its tardy repentance in the passage of legislation demanded by the Democratic party and enforced by popular indignation, but

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note with dismay that in spite of the earnest efforts of Democratic Senators and Representatives, railroads are prohibited from acquiring competing trolley lines under a penalty of only \$5000, and that competing railroads, which consolidate, in violation of the Constitution, are punished by the ridiculous fine of \$1000, and further, that discrimination in freight charges, or facilities for transportation, prohibited by section 7, article 17, are misdemeanors punishable by a fine of \$500.

PUNISHMENTS CALLED LUDICROUS.

A servile and obedient Legislature has made the violation of the Constitution a matter of ludicrous price and punishment.

Demanding, as we always have, equal rights for all, and special privileges for none, we condemn the dominant party for this violent breach of faith to the public, and insist upon effective legislation in this regard.

Knowing that two years of honest Democratic administration in the Treasury Department of this State have done more for true reform than all the specious promises of reform within the party, by so-called Republican leaders, we again call upon all, irrespective of party lines, to aid the cause of civic righteousness and honest administration, by the election of a Democratic Treasurer for this great Commonwealth.

We believe and submit to the people of Pennsylvania irrespective of party, that in the present state of affairs no man owing allegiance, or indebted for nomination to the Republican Organization should be elected to the office of State Treasurer.

EVERY DOLLAR MUST BE REPAID.

There must be no step backward: the good work begun by Treasurer Berry should go forward until every dollar, dishonestly taken from the Treasury is returned to the Commonwealth, until every mystery connected with the Capitol fraud be fully cleared, and until every criminal involved in the scandal be prosecuted, convicted and imprisoned.

The conviction of the guilty and the recovery of the money of which the State has been defrauded are both likely to be defeated if the books and records which, surreptitiously and at midnight were recently sought by a former State Treasurer, should now, by the ballots of the people, be turned over to representatives of the Republican Organization.

Sponges up to Sixty Dollars

Sponges are supposed to be out of fashion among women, particularly since the microbe scare came into being. But such is not the case. Women still use them for the bath, and, moreover, they pay anywhere from 50 cents up to \$60 a sponge. According to a man who deals in them the sale has increased rather than diminished.

More care, however, is exercised in their selection than formerly for women do not want to run the risk of buying a cheap article or of getting hold of what are called "hospital" sponges—those discarded from the various hospitals of the city, which are taken and cleaned and resold by unscrupulous dealers.

"A reliable druggist imports his sponges direct from Europe," said a dealer, "the best coming from Turkey and being called Turkey cup sponges from the shape.

"These are round, or nearly so, much more uniform in size than any others, and of the finest quality and texture. They get their name from the round cup shaped opening in one side of the sponge.

"They are found in deep, quiet pools of water off the coast of Turkey, and the quality results from the fact that they grow outside of any current. Mediterranean sponges come next in order.

"They are coarse grained and full of holes by reason of the swift currents which affect their shape and quality. A few sponges are grown off the coast of Florida, but owing to the Gulf Stream, which is particularly swift at this point, they are of very little value commercially. A good Mediterranean sponge retails for about \$3 or \$4."

Increase in Rice Lands.

Horace Groely to-day might be tempted to amend his advice and suggest to the young man to go South, says Country Life in America. According to the government reports, the rice industry has increased marvellously since 1880.

The number of rice mills has increased 264 per cent.; of capital 362 per cent., and value of products 178 per cent. Land on the Gulf coast of Texas and Louisiana, which fifteen years ago sold for \$1.50 an acre and was sometimes held at 25 cents, today is worth \$12.50, some lands being worth \$30 or \$50 an acre.

The use of machinery adapted to rice production, the perfection of irrigation, the study and application of the Japanese methods of rice growing and the use of the Japanese rice have made rice growing an exceedingly profitable undertaking, and one that will undoubtedly be increasingly lucrative with the rapidly growing population.

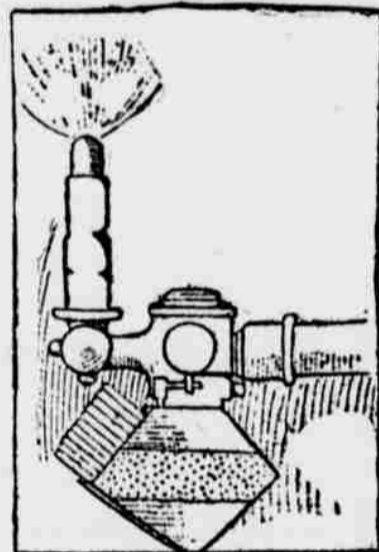
PACKWOOD TURNED TO COAL.

Action of Turbine Duplicates Processes of Nature.

A curious case of transformation of packwood into coal has been reported by G. Arth to the French Academy. A Jovval turbine was running with its steel point on a pivot of packwood. It was a 12 horse-power turbine making 113 revolutions per minute, and the mass in motion weighed nine hundred-weight. The packwood was not exactly under water, but it was always wet; it was a wood of best quality. After six months' running the turbine was dismounted, and it was observed that, while the lower part of the block of wood was apparently unchanged, the upper portion, on which the turbine shaft had been rotating, was turned into a black mass, full of fissures, and brittle. The fracture was brilliant, as in coal. The mass was analyzed in the wet and dry states, and it proved that the charred packwood occupied by its composition as well as by its heating power a position intermediate between lignite and coal. It gave 7394 calories, against 8000 of an average coal. The observation is interesting on account of the short time which the change had required. The pressure and friction were, no doubt, considerable, but the temperature cannot have risen to a high degree. The author of this paper believes that this observation should modify our views on the length of the geological periods generally considered necessary to explain the formation of our coal beds.

Handy Match-Box.

Undoubtedly the proper place to put anything where it will be most convenient and handy to reach. Such was the reasoning employed by a New Jersey man when he designed a match receptacle in combination with the gas key on the gas bracket, illustrated below. When the gas bracket protrudes from the wall it becomes an easy matter to hang up a



Match Always in Reach.

match receptacle close by, where matches can be readily procured. When the bracket hangs from the centre of the ceiling, this is, of course, impossible, but is easily overcome by the use of the receptacle shown here. The gas key, used for controlling the supply of gas is suitably enlarged and formed with an inner compartment large enough to hold a dozen or two of matches. There is also no necessity of searching for a place on which to strike the match, one being provided by roughing part of the surface of the gas key.

High Jumping at Sea.

"The most stupendous of all leapers of the sea," says a writer in *Outing*, "is the whale. I have seen a monster weighing hundreds of tons, possibly eighty feet in length, rise slowly and deliberately out of the water until it appeared to be dancing on the surface, entirely clear of it, then sink slowly back.

"Such a leap is on record in the annals of the British Navy. A large whale cleared a boat, going completely over it, an estimate leap of twenty feet in air—how many in a lateral direction was not known.

"Exactly how high a tuna can leap it is difficult to say. I have seen the water beaten into foam by them four miles distant, and have a photograph showing a fish—a black streak at least a mile distant high in air—a jump of certainly ten or fifteen feet; and it is my opinion based on what I have seen, that is not impossible for a lusty tuna at full speed to project itself twenty feet into the air and thirty or forty feet in a horizontal direction.

"I judge the latter possible from the leap of a big tuna which cleared the kelp and landed high on the rocks at Santa Catalina. I have often stood in the centre of a school of leaping tunas and watched them, but the situation is not one suggestive of repose or peace of mind."

Result of Earthquakes.

Lord Kelvin, the well-known British scientist, foresees that as the world grows older earthquakes will grow bigger, until it is to be supposed that Jamaica and Sumatra—latest of earthquake victims—will sink into the sea. In the distant time, when the central fires of the earth are burning themselves out, Lord Kelvin believes that earthquakes will occur only at intervals of a few million years. But even when the earth has been cooled down to a uniform temperature throughout and all further disruption by shrinking has ceased, a new terror looms on the Kelvin horizon—a shattering and remelting of the earth by collision with some other large body.

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