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 THE COLUMBIAN, Bloomsburg, Pa.
 THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1908
 THE KRICKBAUM CASE.

The people of Columbia County have received another bitter lesson on the folly of relying upon ante-election promises. When Judge Evans was a candidate for his present office, asking to be elected in a Democratic district, he based his appeal for votes largely upon his alleged freedom from party politics. His agents placarded the whole county with posters proclaiming that he would be an honest, impartial Judge, and not a politician. The vast majority of our people took Judge Evans at his word. When those who opposed him at the election felt that whatever might be his ability as a lawyer, at least we had secured a Judge who was above the schemes of petty politicians, and who would keep the Bench clear of party politics.

But this view has received a shock. On Monday Judge Evans, by a sweep of his pen, disfranchised every democratic voter of the County, overturned the fair, honest expression of the will of the majority of our citizens, deprived a Democrat of his office, to which everyone admits he was honestly elected, and seated a Republican on the bench beside him.

And why has all this been done? Did Krickbaum obtain his election by fraud? Was Hughes deprived of a single vote that he otherwise would have obtained? Was there any conduct by anyone in the whole election, that rendered the vote uncertain, or tainted it with fraud? No. Not a single allegation of this kind is even pretended to be made. But in one of the election districts, two men, each claiming to be Judge of Election, entered into a friendly dispute, both professing that they wanted no trouble made over so slight a matter. One of these men, Mr. Whitney Hess, was allowed to act. The election was duly held, the votes honestly received, the return correctly made, and the rights of neither candidate affected in the least.

And now Judge Evans promulgates the startling proposition, that because Mr. Hess did not possess all the technical requirements of a Judge of election, every Democratic voter in Columbia County must be disfranchised; the whole election overturned; William Krickbaum deprived of his office, and a Republican elected, who himself admits that he did not receive a majority of the honest votes cast at a perfectly honest election.

We confidently assert, after careful consultation, that for this decision there is absolutely no warrant of law. The judicial decisions cited by Judge Evans, when examined and compared, certainly do not support such a conclusion.

In stating the facts upon which Judge Evans bases his decision, he avoids all mention of the important and controlling fact that there was not the slightest fraud, mistake or unfairness in the conduct of the Millin election, or in the return made by the election board. He had before him, in making his decision, a long list of authorities, furnished by Krickbaum's counsel, which established beyond dispute the proposition that the return of an

entire district is never to be thrown out, unless for fraud, or because of some conduct on the part of the election officers which renders their return of the vote cast utterly unreliable and uncertain. No decision of any Court has ever questioned the correctness of this proposition, and yet, with all these decisions before him, Judge Evans avoids even referring to them. On the other hand, he cites a few cases clearly not applicable to the present contest. These are cases in which an election was held entirely outside the limits of the election District. Of course, to advertise an election at one place, and then hold it a number of miles away at another, even beyond the limits of the district, would necessarily render unreliable the vote returned, and would itself be a fraud upon the voters. In addition to this class of decisions, Judge Evans relies upon one or two other cases in which rival elections had been held by rival boards, at different places, and each board had made a separate return. With two elections, and two sets of officers acting, and two separate returns before the Court to determine which should be received, of course the Court decided that the return made by the duly qualified officers should be received, and the other thrown out. Any ordinary layman can understand that a decision in a case of this kind is utterly inapplicable to the Millin Township controversy.

We are honestly sorry for this unfortunate judgment. Casting out of consideration the injustice done to Mr. Krickbaum, it is a matter of deepest regret that we can no longer have confidence in the ante-election promises of Judge Evans.

In speaking of this matter this paper must not be understood as championing the cause of Judge Krickbaum. We have never been counted in that class. But every voter in the state is concerned in the principle of law involved. Judges may make mistakes, and often do. They are but human, and it has never been our custom to criticise the bench. But in the present case, after an examination of the authorities produced by Mr. Ikeler in support of his contention that the vote of Millin township could not be thrown out under the facts in this case, we are forced to conclude that in utterly ignoring those authorities, and basing his opinion on authorities submitted by the other side, which do not seem to be applicable to this case, Judge Evans has been governed more by partisan prejudice than by his legal judgment.

Charles Emory Smith, editor of the Philadelphia Press, former Minister to Russia and Postmaster General, died suddenly at his home in Philadelphia on Sunday morning, aged 65 years. Death was caused by heart trouble.

For that Dandruff

There is one thing that will cure it—Ayer's Hair Vigor. It is a regular scalp-medicine. It quickly destroys the germs which cause this disease. The unhealthy scalp becomes healthy. The dandruff disappears, had to disappear. A healthy scalp means a great deal to you—healthy hair, no dandruff, no pimples, no eruptions.

The best kind of a testimonial—
 "Sold for over sixty years."
 Made by J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.
 Also manufacturers of
 SASSAPARILLA,
 PILLS,
 CHERRY PECTORAL.

The Republican Revolt.

The Republican party in Pennsylvania is responsible for its leadership. The leadership has been so corrupt in the past and has become so contemptible at present that it breeds discontent within the State lines and invites derision without. It would be a calamity to impute to three-fifths of the voters who make up the rank and file of the party any active sympathy with the selfish designs of the pirates and plunderers in control of its organization. Under such circumstances the ordinary means of political housecleaning and readjustment is to turn out the party in power and try the other party. But this is not easy to do in Pennsylvania. There is a large preponderance of white voters in Pennsylvania who prefer to take the chances of corrupt rule at the hands of the Republican party to running the risk of reform at the hands of any other party. This white preponderance is made further impregnable against any reformative assault by a solid, unassailable, unthinking support from the army of 50,000 black voters in the State.

This is the political situation in Pennsylvania to-day, set down without malice, extenuation or exaggeration. There is no hope for improvement unless it shall arise from a moral awakening within the ranks of the great majority party. In the division of the party lies the salvation of the State. For this reason the revolt led by ex-Senator Flinn, involving the control of the next Legislature and the defeat of the present corrupt leadership, is a most welcome occurrence. Flinn, himself, is not the issue. He has wisely chosen to make his light under the banner of reform, not for the destruction of his party, but for its redemption, and for the restoration of decent administration of the State affairs. The movement, concurrent as it is with the sifting of the State Capitol fraud in the Courts and with industrial tumult and depression, cannot fail to become impressive. It ought to receive the hearty encouragement of all good citizens.

The Democrats of the State, who are the saving remnant and solid nucleus about which all reform movements necessarily must centre, cannot look upon the prospect of disruption among their opponents except with favoring and expectant eyes. They have everything to gain and nothing to lose. Even if the battle between the Philadelphia and Pittsburg Machines were nothing more than a falling out of the rogues there would be a gain for honesty. There may be here and there a trading-post contingent among the Democratic following which might miss the crumb thrown to them by Republican bosses, but their deprivation is a private grief. No attention need be paid to their outcry. The wolves of all parties howl when there is actual or prospective hunger.—*Phila. Record.*

"Keep Your Head Cool,

your conscience clear and your bowels open." There is a ton of common sense in it. Constipation is death in life. The intestines are clogged with matter. You must move it or be sick—fever possibly. Take Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy until the bowels are clear and natural. Write Dr. David Kennedy's Sons, Rondout, N. Y., for a free sample bottle. Large bottles \$1.00, all druggists.

Bloomsburg Souvenir Books, 48 half tone pictures, 25 cents, at the COLUMBIAN office.

Who Stole the \$6,000,000?

When the new Pennsylvania capitol was built \$6,000,000 was stolen. That it was stolen has been proved beyond any possibility of a doubt. The only thing which remains to be established is who were the thieves?

There has been no hysterical haste in pushing this case to its present state of incompleteness. Preliminary probes and investigations were elaborate almost to the point of tediousness.

But now the matter comes right down to the point of trying to fix the crime upon certain individuals connected with the building. If they are innocent a prompt and speedy trial will set them free. If guilty, just as swift punishment will be demanded by the 7,000,000 people of this Commonwealth.

The one thing that would be hostile to all interests is delay. Justice may be blind and may also move with a leaden heel, but it should not be bound to a rock and helpless.

Let us know who stole that \$6,000,000 of the people's money.
 —*Phila. Press.*

THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

(Special Correspondence.)

Washington, D. C., Jan. 22, 1908

Congressman John G. McHenry lets no day pass without doing something for his constituents. His assignment to the Committee on Banking and Currency was a rare compliment, as I said at the time, but it has involved vast responsibilities and much labor. Most other committees meet once a week and the members of them imagine that such meetings take a good deal of time from their routine duties. But the Banking and Currency Committee has been meeting every day, since the re-assembling of Congress after the holiday recess, and this week begins holding two sessions a day, in order to give financiers an opportunity to express their views at public hearings. A member of the Committee must attend all these meetings in order to fulfill his duties but he is not absolved from his other obligations as a Representative of the people in the Congress of the country.

But Mr. McHenry does more than this. He is one of the most useful members of the Committee, because as one of the veterans of the House expressed it the other day, "he has ideas that are helpful to his associates." Therefore he attends every meeting, participates in the deliberations of the Committee and keeps his routine work up better than most of his colleagues, besides. That is to say he has found time to prepare and introduce several of the most important measures of general interest, referred to hitherto, besides a great number of special bills providing for pensions, correcting military records, and kindred subjects of local interest. No member has given more time to such matters than he and no new member has ever accomplished more. If he were less energetic it would be impossible for him to achieve the results.

Since my last letter Mr. McHenry has introduced another bill of general interest and much value. It will be remembered that during the last Congress a bill was passed providing for a pension for all soldiers who had served three months or more and were honorably discharged. It is known as "The Act of February 6, 1907," because it was approved on that date and provides that at the age of sixty-two years veterans are entitled to a pension of \$12 a month; at seventy years, \$15 a month and at seventy-five years, \$20 a month to the end of their lives. Mr. McHenry reasoned that few, if any of the veterans are now under sixty years of age and that equally few live to be over seventy. Therefore he has introduced an amendment to the Act of February 6, 1907, providing that at sixty years the veteran is entitled to \$12 a month; at sixty-five to \$15 a month and at seventy and as long thereafter as he lives, the government ought to pay him \$20 a month.

This change in the bill will add little, comparatively speaking, to the aggregate of the pension fund but will contribute vastly to the comfort of many a veteran who has lived beyond the Scriptural age of three score and ten. Most men at that age are totally incapacitated for any kind of work and though the difference in the amount is small it will help a great deal toward the maintenance of those heroes who offered their lives for the preservation of the Republic. Money is spent freely, not to say profusely, for less worthy purposes. For example there are bills pending for "the beautification of Washington," that will involve the expenditure of probably fifty millions of dollars. I don't object to these ambitious schemes and I don't believe that Mr. McHenry does. But I believe with him that money spent to relieve or avoid suffering of veterans of war, is more wisely appropriated.

The public hearings by the Committee on Banking and Currency, which begin this week, will be both interesting and illuminating. Mr. McHenry has arranged for a hearing of State Treasurer Berry of Pennsylvania. No time has been fixed, as yet, for this event, but it is likely to be in the near future. Mr. Berry has some strikingly original ideas on the currency question and I predict when he addresses the committee some of the "banking barons" will sit up and take notice.
 G. D. H.

TOWNSEND

Wool Hose

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A REAL BARGAIN

DOMET SHIRTS

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TOWNSEND'S CORNER.

Pursel's Clearance Sales.

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'Twill do your eyes good to see them. They make such splendid gifts. Children's Rockers—a host of them, 75 cents to \$2.75.

MISSION FURNITURE.

Mission, Weather and Golden Oak Morris Chairs, broad arms complete with Velour, Corduroy and Leather cushions \$5 to \$15
 Mission Rockers with broad arms and panel backs—solid wood seats \$4.75 to \$6.75.

Mission Rockers with leather seats and panel and inlaid backs \$7.00 to \$13.

Mission Rockers with leather upholstery on back and seat, \$8.00 to \$15.

Mission Arm Chairs and Rockers complete with loose leather cushion \$10 to \$15.00.

Golden Oak Saddle Seat Rocking Chair, panel back and shaped arms from 1.75 to \$11.50.

Wisconsin roll seat Rockers in Golden Oak and Mahogany finish, the very picture of comfort, bolted and riveted—built for service, \$2.50 to \$10.00.

Elegant Mahogany Rockers and corner chairs—same with plain veneered seats, others upholstered in leather or green hair cloth \$4.00 to \$14.00.

Polished Golden Oak Rockers—luxurious leather seats—high and low panel-

ed or upholstered backs, \$3 to \$15.00.

Antwerp Oak Rockers—back and seat—shaped arms, splendid, upholstered in plain and embossed Mexican leather, \$14, \$14.50 and \$15.00.

Mission Screens filled with plain burlap and heavy tapestry, also wood panels, \$5.00 to \$9.50.

Mission Library Tables, drawers and shelf, for magazines—plain and quartered oak stock, \$5.00 to \$10.

Mission Writing Desk (for men) complete with pigeon holes and drawers, \$10.00 to \$16.50.

Mission magazine and book shelves, \$1.98 to \$6.00.

Mission weathered oak hanging hall racks with beveled plate mirror \$3.75.

Women's Mission Desk Chairs \$3.00 to \$3.50.

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Umbrella Racks, Tabourettes, Dinner Gongs, Smoking Sets, Pipe Racks, Foot Stools, and numerous other items in Mission Furniture that go to make up the perfect Den.

F. P. PURSEL.

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