

Pennsylvania Democratic State Convention.

HARRISBURG, March 4, 1852.

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At 11 o'clock Wm. Badger, of this city, called the Convention to order, and nominated Gen. Wm. S. Ross, of Luzerne county, as Chairman, who was unanimously elected.

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Secretary Welsh called the roll of Delegates as published, by Senatorial and Representative districts.

On motion of Mr. Rankin, of Luzerne, the disputed Senatorial Districts were taken up in numerical order.

The disputed seat for Erie and Crawford district being first in order, the claimants were each, on motion, first twenty minutes.

Mr. Low, of this city, then presented his claims to Mr. McArthur. Several gentlemen addressed the Convention on the question, all of them showing a most remarkable ignorance, or a most perverse recklessness of facts, when, as it was evident no one inclined with opposition to the "Favorable" could hope to obtain a disputed seat, and also, for the sake of harmony hereafter, Mr. Low withdrew his claims, and allowed Mr. McArthur to take his seat.

On Motion of Mr. Badger, of the city, the following resolution was adopted.

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Convention appoint a committee, consisting of one person from each Senatorial District, to report officers for the permanent organization of the Convention.

After the announcement of this Committee by the chair, the Convention adjourned.

In the afternoon the Convention met, and proceeded with the contested seats. In every case the Buchanan men, whether they had credentials, or not, were admitted, and the opponents of that gentleman rejected.

Mr. Moore, from the Committee to report officers for the permanent organization of the Convention, reported, Hon. Wm. Hopkins, of Washington, President, assisted by twenty-six Vice Presidents, and a large number of Secretaries.

The report of the Committee was ratified by the Convention, and the officers elected took their seats.

Mr. Hirst then submitted the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That the Democratic party of Pennsylvania have caused this Convention to be convened, and have imposed upon it the duty, among other things, of selecting delegates to represent the Democracy of the State in the National Convention, to be held in the city of Baltimore, on the first Monday of June next, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States, and also of nominating electors to be voted for at the next ensuing Presidential election.

Therefore, For the purpose of carrying into effect the object thus specified, and of fully and fairly ascertaining who is the choice of the Democratic party of Pennsylvania for the chief magistracy of the Union, be it

Resolved, That the members of this Convention do now proceed to vote *en masse* for a candidate to be recommended by Pennsylvania to the National Convention, as the choice of the State for the Presidential chair; and that the candidate who shall receive a majority of all the votes in convention shall be declared to be the candidate of the Democracy of Pennsylvania.

The Convention then proceeded to vote, with the following result:

For James Buchanan, 97; For Gen. Sam Houston, 2; For Hon. R. J. Walker, 3; For Gen. Lewis Cass, 33.

Mr. Seagrath moved that the nomination of James Buchanan be unanimously concurred in.

Upon this motion, Mr. Dougherty called the yeas and nays, which were—yeas 102, nays 30.

Mr. Hirst then submitted the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That the candidate of Pennsylvania having been declared in the manner prescribed by the foregoing resolution, the President of this Convention do now appoint a committee of twenty-four, one from each Congressional district, with instructions to report to this Convention, subject to its approbation, the names of delegates to represent the Democracy of the State in the National Convention, to be held at Baltimore, on the first Monday of June next, and for the purpose of advocating, with earnest sincerity and zeal, before the delegates of her sister States, the claims of the "Old Keystone Commonwealth"; the said committee shall report the names of fifty-four delegates to represent Pennsylvania and cast her twenty-seven votes at that convention; that it is the duty of the delegates from the State at large, and of forty-eight representative delegates; and further, that no person shall be reported by the committee, or chosen as such delegates, who is not known to be the firm friend of the nominee of this Convention, and who feels no other preference; and further, that the said committee be instructed to report, subject to the approbation of this Convention, the names of twenty-seven candidates for electors of President and Vice President of the United States, to be supported by the Democratic party at the next election.

Mr. Scott moved to amend by striking out the foregoing, and insert, that the delegates from the different Congressional Districts be requested to report to this Convention one person from each Congressional district, as delegates to the Baltimore Convention; and one person from each District as electors.

Mr. Scott then addressed the Convention, at some length, in opposition to the original resolution and in support of his amendment.

Mr. Reilly also addressed the Convention in opposition to the resolution and in favor of the amendment.

Mr. Clymer made a few remarks in support of the amendment, and in opposition to the resolution.

Mr. Hirst then addressed the Convention in support of the resolution, until the hour of six o'clock, when he moved that the Convention adjourn until half-past seven o'clock; which was agreed to, and the Convention adjourned.

At seven o'clock the Convention resumed the consideration of the resolution of Mr. Hirst.

The first question pending being the amendment of Mr. Scott.

Mr. McArthur spoke in opposition to the original resolution and in support of the amendment.

Mr. McGraw also spoke in support of the amendment, and in opposition to the resolution.

After some remarks by Messrs. Leech, McFarland and Lamberton.

Mr. Barclay moved to amend the amendment by striking out and inserting, that the delegates from the different Congressional districts shall nominate two delegates from each district, to be subject to the decision of the Convention.

Mr. Barclay spoke at some length in support of his amendment.

Mr. Sanson addressed the Convention in support of the original resolution.

The amendment to the amendment was then discussed—yeas 53, nays 23.

Mr. Reilly moved to postpone the question for the present, which was agreed to.

The amendment was then discussed—yeas 40, nays 92.

The original resolution was then adopted—yeas 91, nays 41.

Mr. Scott read the following protest against the action of the majority of the Convention in the adoption of the resolution, and moved it be entered upon the journals.

We solemnly protest against the resolution just adopted as a wanton disfranchisement of the Congressional districts which we in whole or in part represent. We denounce it as a fraudulent usurpation of power, as a desperate alternative restored to by a tyrannical majority to menace and silence a large minority in this Convention upon a vital question.

It is a transparent device of an unscrupulous faction, to deprive the Democracy of its rights in the Conventions for the last seven years—it is not only a violation of usage but it is a sacrifice for a temporary purpose of a cardinal Democratic principle.

While the Democracy of other States are bringing the election of Delegates to the people of Pennsylvania to this action of the majority of the Convention, removing it further from them and displaying a humiliating distrust of the popular will.

The whole proceeding is an usurpation of our rights, and the rights of the people whom we represent,—directly branding them and us, as unfit to choose their electors and Delegates to represent them in the National Convention. It is justifiable by no exigency—it can be justified by none—it is pregnant with the seeds of discord and dissatisfaction in the ranks of the Democratic party of Pennsylvania.

We protest against the right of the majority of this Convention to deprive the Congressional Districts of their suffrage in the election of delegates and electors. We utterly repudiate the act by which it has been done. We came here clothed by our constituents, by virtue of the power inherent in them, and by virtue of the time-honored usage of the party, with the right to select electors and delegates, subject to the approval of this Convention; and of that right we recognize no power but that of our Democratic constituency as sitting enough to divert us.

The violation of that right is a violation of a part of the vitality of part of our organization, and we refuse assent to its resolution. We decline all further participation in the selection of District delegates. We assert the right of the delegates from the several Districts and the right of our constituents themselves to disregard the selection of Delegates and Electors, made by an outrage upon party law, and to select them in accordance with party usage. We therefore protest against this act as unjust, unnecessary, and in disregard of repeated usage, as it is with every principle of Democracy; as an act of disorganization, fraught with anarchy and dismemberment of the Democratic party; and we ask that this, our earnest protest against it, be entered upon the journals of the Convention's proceedings.

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Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 13, 1852.

DEMOCRATIC STATE NOMINATION.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER.

WM. SEARIGHT of Fayette County.

ERIE, Pa., March 13, 1852.

We are indebted to Hon. S. A. Douglas, and Hon. C. H. Pease, of New Hampshire, for Congressional favors.

The examination of the students of the Erie Academy will take place on Friday next. The rhetorical exercises will be in the afternoon. The Teachers currently hope that the patronage of the School will interest enough in it to encourage them and their pupils with their presence.

The Commercial comes to us this week with the salutary of the new Editor, A. H. CANNON Esq. It is brief, well written, and why enough for all practical purposes—in fact, the Editor tells us he is "a whig in the fullest sense of the word,—by birth, by education and by principle." Having been there at the important epoch alluded to, we presume our new contemporary is sure of his whigry "by birth," his readers, therefore, can rest assured the origin of his politics is no more guess-work.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—We regret to learn that Mr. T. L. PATTON, a very respectable and worthy citizen of Greene, came to his death on Wednesday last from the effect of a hurt received by a saw-log rolling upon him the day previous.

Judge Strickland, of the West-Chester Republican, says that his proposition to abolish the Canal Board, and substitute therefor a Department with one head, to be elected for three years, appears to meet with considerable favor. The Harrisburg Patriot, Wilkes-Barre Farmer, the Berks County Press, Hollidaysburg Standard, Easton Argus, and other democratic papers are out for it. The fact is, no man who has a proper regard for the interests of the State, can be in favor of continuing the present irregular, irresponsible, inefficient and money-squandering system as it has been and is now working.

Good.—We are pleased to record the fact that our County Commissioners have determined to build a new Court House. Our town has been the joy of "all the world and the rest of mankind" long enough, on account of the "ditch oven," by courtesy called a Court House, that disgraces our public square.

The Conestoga Courier wants to know if Erie County is "willing to do any thing towards the Pittsburgh and Erie road?"—If so, how much? We are certainly not in the confidence of the Commissioners, but presume them to be men of sense, hence we have no hesitation in answering the Courier that Erie county, in her corporate capacity, is not willing to put a dollar into that road.

A person cannot spend a quarter to more advantage than in buying a number of Patmen's semi-monthly Library. If you have the blues, buy No. 2, containing Hood's Whimsicalities. If you are in the social vein, buy No. 1, containing Home and Social Philosophy. If you are a traveling mood, buy Nos. 3 and 4, containing Walks and Talks of a Farmer in England, and The World Here and There. They are only 25 cents, and are to be had at the Cheap Book Store, No. 5 State St.

Hon. Alexander Duncan, for many years a member of Congress from Hamilton county, was accidentally drowned last week. He was in pursuit of game at Red Bank, on the Little Miami, about eight miles from Cincinnati. He fired and killed a dipper duck in the centre of the stream. Being without a dog, he diverted himself of his clothing and plunged into the stream. After reaching the duck, he made an effort to reach the shore, but failed, and was drowned. His body has not yet been recovered.

THE MAINE LAW DEBATED IN NEW YORK.—A long debate on a law similar to the Maine Law of 1845 was concluded in the New Jersey House of Representatives yesterday. Finally the question was put and the bill defeated—yeas 13, nays 46. The Trenton American says the law "was amply discussed, but was finally decided to be unconstitutional, impracticable, fraught with mischief and out of its latitude."

Sunbury and Erie Railroad.

The committee appointed for that purpose are now canvassing this county for subscriptions to this, to Erie, all-important improvement. The city and county, and their corporate capacity, have done well—very well, and it now devolves upon our citizens to transfer their words into deeds, and say, in dollars and cents, how much "material aid" they are willing to contribute towards the completion of this great work. The first question every person should propound to himself is, Do I want the road? If in the affirmative, as the answer must certainly be, the question then is answered in. How much can I afford to contribute towards it? If a land owner in the country, or an owner of improved or unimproved real estate in town, the answer ought to be in five, ten, fifteen or twenty shares, or more, according to the extent of possessions. We know men in the city who can well afford to put their names down for fifty shares, and we hope they will do so. The rise in their real estate will more than compensate them, even should they never realize any thing for their stock. But no man is as soon as can doubt but the stock will bear its face as soon as the road is completed, and in five years therefrom be ten or fifteen per cent above par. Almost every business man can take five or ten shares, and there are none, be his business what it may, but that can take one. Every little helps besides it is the small subscriptions that give confidence and urge those richer to hand over theirs. What would be a hundred dollars paid out in ten per cent instalments if one could be certain that sixty miles of this end of the road would be let within a couple of months? Nothing, absolutely nothing. Now we have every assurance that if Erie county comes up to the mark made for her, say \$25,000 in individual subscriptions, the first sixty miles of the road from Erie out will be put under contract as soon as the engineers can prepare the ground. Let every one put his shoulder to the wheel, then, and give this thing an impetus that will render the completion of the road a "fixed fact" beyond contingencies.

Another Vote Message.

Gov. Bigler has voted the bill entitled "An Act relative to certain School Districts—to authorize corporations to subscribe to the stock of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and for other purposes." His principal objection is to the clause which allows corporations to subscribe to the stock of the O. & P. R. Co., and "pay for the same in money or otherwise"—this opening a way to subscriptions and payments in all sorts of bonds and certificates of stock of one corporation to the capital of another. He is also opposed to an extension of the principle of allowing one corporation to subscribe to the stock of another, and he signed the application to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, allowing it in their case, with much reluctance—the importance of the work as a State enterprise, and the peculiar circumstances of the case leading him to look with peculiar favor upon it. He is fearful of an abuse of the principle recognized in this bill, which would authorize banks, etc. to subscribe to a corporation whose works he mainly in another State. He enters upon a lengthy, and we think conclusive argument to sustain his views, pointing out the dangerous tendency of a union of numerous corporations for private gain: the risk to the elective franchise and to personal rights and enterprises from their influence; the danger from the creation of new fictitious capital and the risk from a tendency to a concentration of corporate power. He suggests that in all future measures of the kind, the corporations should be specifically named; the amount of subscription limited to a moderate per centage on their property; and the cash payment of all subscriptions. One or two other provisions of the bill, which is of the "emancipator" character, are objected to, and the Governor points out the impropriety of those bleeding through a discredited and incongruous subjects in one bill.

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HARRISBURG, March 4, 1852.

We have transferred to our columns, in an extended form, as we could possibly make room for, the sayings and doings of the Democratic State Convention. It will be seen that Mr. Buchanan has come up through much "trial and tribulation," and actually carried his own state; but in doing so, we as firmly believe he has done the best and the most for the Presidential aspirations as we believe this Baltimore Convention will meet in June next. The vote in the Convention, when it was proposed to make his nomination unanimous, is significant of this fact. The man that cannot get the unanimous vote of his own State, a country usually concerned in after a vote of preference has been taken, cannot hope to carry with him a moral force to the final triumph at Baltimore, even though he may, as was done at Harrisburg, by overriding previous party usages, secure a unanimous delegation to press his claims. It is evident, too, from the vote upon the motion of Mr. Reilly, of Franklin, that the delegates to the National Convention be instructed to vote for Mr. Buchanan upon the first and every subsequent ballot, that they had little hope of his nomination, and were only holding on to his strength as capital to trade upon. This motion was negatived, it will be seen, and by the Buchanan men themselves. Now, unless it be the intention of his body-guard to trade him off at Baltimore, in order to secure party peace and place for themselves with the fortunate candidate,—if they really believe their favorite can be nominated—why vote down a proposition to hold them to their professions,—why not be willing to be instructed to vote for him first, last and every time? The reason is obvious.—Mr. Buchanan has no chance at Baltimore, and the political leeches who have fastened upon his name and fame, know it, and are only striving to make him the stepping stone to their own private ends. Were there no other evidence of this, the fact that political bankrupt, Ex-Gov. Porter, stands at the very head of the delegates to Baltimore would be sufficient. But we wander from our original purpose. The protest of the minority against the action of the Convention, in disfranchising the several congressional districts of their inherent right to designate their own delegates to Baltimore, merits no serious approbation, and we record with pleasure the fact that our delegates, Messrs. Jackson and Buchanan, are among the protestants.

In the selection of delegates to the National Convention it has heretofore been a rule of the party that the delegates from each Congressional district, as represented in the State Convention, select and name the man for their respective district. This usage was observed in 1840 '44 and '48. It is true, in 1848 an attempt was made to set it aside, but salutary a law of the party was then considered, that all efforts to do so failed as it ought. There certainly can be nothing plainer than that in order to have a fair and just representation of the entire State, the men selected as the agents of the party, should be chosen by each Congressional delegation. It is a right which the Democracy of each Congressional district have, to be represented by their own men. It is just that they should be so; and thus, the right and just usage embraced in this rule has been the cause of its adoption and continuance until it has become as sacred and as salutary a law and usage of the party as any known to it. The delegates from each Congressional district looked for the exercise of this right, and their constituents expected this justice. The usage of the party has fostered both the right and justice, and thus has been the cause of greatly advancing the success and welfare of the Democracy of Pennsylvania. But they were disappointed. Party usage, justice, right, every thing the Democracy of Pennsylvania cherished, were as nothing in comparison to the end had in view by the majority of this convention. The minority could do nothing but protest, and this they did, and we honor them for it.

In the selection of a candidate for Canal Commissioner the Convention has been truly fortunate. Wm. Seagrath, Esq. of Fayette, is the most exceptional man, both personally, politically, and on the score of qualifications, any candidate presented to the people for that office for some years. He was a candidate before the convention a year ago, and was supported with a great deal of enthusiasm by his friends. Intimately acquainted with our public works, their construction, capabilities, and their wants, he will go into the Canal Board with more experience, and hence better fitted to serve the interests of the Commonwealth, than most of his "illustrious predecessors." The present system of managing our public works is fast losing the confidence of the people, and if there is a man in the State that