

THE RIGHT MAN FOR GOVERNOR

Why a Palmer and Buckner Leader Supports Mr. Jenks.

A Vigorous Communication From Samuel Dickson, a Leader of the Philadelphia Bar—Facts For All Honest Citizens to Ponder.

The strongest men in Pennsylvania, regardless of partisan, factional or financial views, are rapidly getting into line for Jenks and reform. The Philadelphia Ledger, notwithstanding its large proportion of Democratic readers, has been hitherto very unfriendly to the Democratic nominee for governor, being inspired by this course by certain well known influences which were against the Democratic party two years ago. But the tide of public indignation against Quayism, and the manifest determination of the people to rise superior to party and to overthrow the enemies of honest government, is showing the Ledger the error of its ways, and that journal is now devoting every day a large amount of space to the Jenks meetings, and editorially is pursuing a much more commendable course with regard to the state contest. Our contemporary gives a solid column, on its editorial page, to Samuel Dickson, Esq., one of the leading lawyers of the country, who shows in the strongest language not only why all Democrats of his way of thinking should support Mr. Jenks—and he was one of the Palmer and Buckner leaders in 1896—but all other good citizens as well. Mr. Dickson thus writes:

"As many independent voters are apparently in doubt as to whether to vote for Dr. Swallow or Mr. Jenks, a statement of some of the reasons which will lead many of the sound money Democrats to vote for the latter may be of interest. The first is, that the powers conferred and the duties imposed upon the governor of the state are of such transcendent importance that the question of personal fitness should be given predominant weight in the choice. In point of fact, the office of governor is of singularly little consequence relative to party politics. He has but little patronage, and, in recent years, at least, he has not been a party leader. On the other hand, he has a controlling influence in the making and amending of laws of the state, which really come home to the people. Every one, who knows anything, knows that the laws which govern the tenure of property, by which every man holds his house and his goods, which relate to the effect and enforcement of contracts, taxation, to schools, to roads and all the interests which really enter into our daily life, are state laws. Now, when it is remembered that at the session of 1897 over 400 new statutes were enacted, making up a volume of over 500 pages, it is apparent that the incessant tampering with our laws is an imminent danger to every property owner and to every taxpayer.

"It must be conceded by every one who pauses to reflect that the first and fundamental questions as to the candidate for the high office of governor of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania are those of Jefferson: Is he capable? Is he honest? Tried by this test, there is one candidate and one only who satisfies the requirements of the office. For half a lifetime Mr. Jenks has been known as a leader of the bar of Pennsylvania. His life has been led in the open practice of his profession, and is known to his neighbors and the bench and bar of the state as an open book. It is the common and concurrent testimony of all that he had enriched a vigorous and capacious intellect by unremitting and discriminating study, and the effect of his powerful and logical arguments is reinforced by a character so genuine and open and sincere that the listener gives absolute confidence to every word he utters. He has not only had the leading practice in his own county, but he has been sent for to appear in every court in that section of the state, and his arguments before our own supreme court and the supreme court of the United States and the electoral commission have given him eminence among lawyers in the entire country. In addition to his forensic ability he is an exceptionally calm, wise, judicially minded man—a safe and good counsellor as well as effective advocate. It is impossible that one of such intelligence and character could be deceived by bad advisers or coerced or cajoled into doing what his own conscience condemns. No single voter, if required to select a lawyer to advise or act for him in that part of the state, would fall to consider himself fortunate if he should secure the services of such a man. Now that we are all compelled to choose one as our adviser and representative at Harrisburg, why should we not do collectively what any one of us would do if acting alone?

"Without making any invidious comparison, it may be said with entire confidence that no one would engage the services of Dr. Swallow to represent him in any private matter calling for knowledge of the law, or sobriety of judgment, or prudence in action. On which ever side the account between him and Governor Hastings the balance should be struck, the fact is that he was convicted of libel before Judge Simonton, as accomplished a judge as sits in any court of the state; and when called before the committee of investigation, composed of men of all parties, he offered no justification or excuse for his charge of incendiarism in the fire which destroyed the capitol building. It is inconceivable how any business man would be willing to trust one so reckless and incautious to pass upon the revision of our laws, or to use the National Guard to enforce order. He is simply impossible. As to Mr. Stone, it is enough to say that his political life has always displayed the qualities be-

coming a follower—none of the qualifications of a leader.

"The sentimental influence upon national politics, by the election of a suitable person for governor, it likely to be beneficial rather than otherwise; but even if temporarily prejudicial, it is always wise to bear in mind that as true reform can only be worked out through one or the other of the two great parties, it is essential to the safety and welfare of the people that they should be kept as nearly as possible in even balance. Nothing could be more salutary for the Republican party itself than to have its old adversary restored to equal strength, so that each may know that the only hope for preference in the popular vote is in greater diligence for well doing. There is no discipline for official misconduct like defeat, and there is no safeguard for the party in force like a powerful opponent; but no permanent party organization can be effected and maintained in this state or in this country upon only one of the Ten Commandments.

THE STATE DEBT.

HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS COLLECTED BY THE REPUBLICAN MACHINE FROM THE PEOPLE, AND THE STATE DEBT YET REMAINS UNPAID—MANY INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES IN THIS CONNECTION FROM ONE OF THE BEST POSTED MEN IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Before there was a Republican party in the country the Democratic party in Pennsylvania had succeeded in incorporating into the state constitution such adequate provision for a sinking fund and the gradual payment of the state debt that its ultimate cancellation was assured. The credit for payment, therefore, so far as any party is entitled to it, is a Democratic monopoly. The following additional facts from the pen of Hon. B. F. Myers, in the Harrisburg Star-Independent of late date, in answer to ignorant Republican vaporing, will be found interesting:

The claim made that when the Democrats went out of power in this state in 1861 the state debt was \$40,000,000, and since then this debt has been almost entirely liquidated, has done duty in party organs and on the stump for at least two decades. It was first made in the Hoyt-Dill campaign in 1878, and it has been repeated ever since in every canvass in which questions affecting the administration of the state government were raised. Let us accord all the credit for the reduction of the state debt that is due the party which has had almost uninterrupted control of the legislature during the 37 years ending with 1897, and which always had sufficient power in one of the two houses to negative any reforms emanating from the executive office when that was in the possession of the opposing party. But let us ascertain from statistics on the subject of the state debt what credit really belongs to that party. What are the facts involved in this matter? Turn to pages 1063 and 1064 of Smull's 'Legislative Handbook for 1897 and find there a statement of the 'Public Loans of the Commonwealth' from 1821 until 1861. As nearly as can be ascertained the sum total of those loans was, in 1861, in round numbers, \$34,600,000. This sum included the loan of May 15, 1861, for arming the state, which was made by a Republican administration. The state debt, on its face, left by the Democrats when they went out of power was, therefore, \$31,000,000, not \$40,000,000. But against this stood the proceeds of the sale of the public works, effected by the Democrats, which, as nearly as can be ascertained, amounted to about \$11,000,000. Thus it appears that the real amount of debt left by the Democrats when they were turned out was \$20,000,000, not \$40,000,000. Thus is the tale cut in twain. Now, look again on page 1064 of Smull and you will find that the state debt is \$6,815,305. Deduct \$6,815,305 from \$20,000,000 and it appears that \$13,184,695 of the principal of the state debt left by the Democrats in 1861 were paid during a period of 37 years by the Republican party. A careful calculation of the interest on the debt paid during that period shows that it amounted to about \$27,000,000. Add the principal and interest paid during that time and the total payments are shown to amount to \$40,184,695. Add, also, the repayment of the war loan of 1861 (\$3,000,000) and the payments on the debt created by both the political parties sum up to \$43,184,695. Now turn to page 995 of Smull for 1897 and there find a statement of the receipts and expenditures at the state treasury from 1861 to 1897, both years inclusive. Foot up the receipts and you will find that they aggregated \$326,323,000 for the 37 years. Taking the expenditures of the state government for 1860, for all purposes, as a fair average of what the payments at the state treasury should have been per annum since the constitution of 1874 has been in force, and multiplying that average by 37, we find that if the state government had been as economically administered during all the years from 1861 to 1897 as it was in 1860, the payments at the treasury should have been for the 37 years \$252,344,465. Deduct this sum from \$326,323,000 (the amount of the receipts at the state treasury for the 37 years) and there is shown a surplus of receipts over necessary and proper expenditures of \$73,978,535, but of this surplus only \$43,184,694 were applied to the payment of the principal and interest of the state debt. The \$30,793,841 which would have remained in the treasury should have wiped out the \$6,815,305 of the state debt still unpaid, and left \$23,978,536 to be given to the common schools over and above the appropriation made to them on the basis of 1860. How much credit, then, is due to such administration of the state government as, notwithstanding the immense revenues received, at the treasury, has failed to pay off the state debt by nearly \$7,000,000?

INCIDENTS OF THE CIVIL WAR

THAT TELL WHY P. DE LACY, NOW A NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, CARRIES A MEDAL OF HONOR.

Let all real friends of the soldier take heed of the following story that came into our possession accidentally, and that is a very interesting story of itself:

Nautillus Sluter was a member of Company A, One Hundred and Forty-third Pennsylvania volunteers. He now resides in Lehigh township, Lackawanna county, Pa.; postoffice address, Thornhurst, Pa. He says: "I enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Forty-third Pennsylvania volunteers, on the 18th of August, 1862. I was personally acquainted with P. DeLacy, who was in the same company at the time I joined it. I served under him as drill sergeant, and his influence and wonderful control of the men made him a remarkably conspicuous figure. In the battle of Gettysburg I was one of the sharpshooters on the first day, and was shot through the right arm, near the McPherson barn, and the regiment was hotly engaged along the Chambersburg pike. I went into the barn about the time that the rebels drove a part of our force back, and the One Hundred and Forty-third changed front to the left and rear, I witnessed the attack on their left, and I witnessed the color sergeant and colors of the One Hundred and Forty-third go down. At the moment I saw and heard Sergeant DeLacy call out to Major Conyngham to rally the regiment on the colors, which was done, and the colors were saved. At the time I fired with my left arm my last shot at a rebel, who was rushing at Lieutenant Nicholson with his uplifted sword to strike the wounded officer as he lay on the field mortally wounded. After my wound was well I again returned to the company down in Virginia.

"The fall and winter campaigns were severe; not much fighting, but much exposure and hardships, hard marching, almost continually moving, and during all this time Comrade DeLacy was ever with us, always cheerful and happy, and by his example he kept the boys' spirits up and in good cheer. We entered the Wilderness on the 4th of May, 1864, and on the morning of the 5th of May the battle commenced. My company, A, was deployed on the skirmish line, and we opened the Wilderness fight. The woods were so dense that it was impossible to preserve our charge to the left of the first position, where the regiment became hotly engaged, and fought until dark. Just before dark Sergeant Hub-Nogle was shot through the right breast. Comrade DeLacy rushed to him, picked him up and carried him off the field. On the morning of the 6th of May the battle was renewed with terrible impetuosity, and DeLacy was with us, urging the boys on, and holding them steady under the terrible fire at the boys' fall back, owing to its flanks being turned on the hill in the rear of the first position. Comrade DeLacy rallied the regiment, or that portion of it that fell back, across the swale. Soon after that time the regiment all fell back to the field, where we reformed, and the brigade soon after made a charge to the left of the first position, where the regiment became hotly engaged, and fought until dark. Just before dark Sergeant Hub-Nogle was shot through the right breast. Comrade DeLacy rushed to him, picked him up and carried him off the field. 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