



## DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

### KEPLER AND WETZEL ON THE TICKET FOR ASSEMBLY.

Harmony Prevails Throughout the Convention.—A Good Ticket.—Impeachment of Gov. Stone Demanded.

The Democratic County Convention met in the court house, at noon, Tuesday and in congratulatory remarks by chairman Johnson was called to order. Dr. F. K. White, of Phillipsburg, was elected chairman by acclamation, and in a happy address congratulated the Democracy upon its bright prospects for victory.

The organization of the convention was then completed by electing the following officers by acclamation: D. R. Foreman, Potter, and W. F. Smith, of Millheim, appointed to escort Dr. White to the chair.

Secretaries: H. N. McDowell, D. R. Wilson.

Tellers: G. W. Rumbarger, D. R. Foreman. Reading Clerk: W. F. Smith. Committee on Resolutions: J. C. Rowe, L. D. Orndorf, J. T. Merriman, D. W. Zerby, D. E. Robb, Jr., W. H. Fry.

Walter Garrity read the order of business, which was adopted by the convention and followed as below.

Nominations for assembly being in order, the gentlemen named and vote of first ballot, were as follows:

J. W. Kepler, --- 58  
Robert Foster, --- 21  
J. H. Wetzel, --- 80  
J. W. Conley, --- 9

Messrs. Wetzel and Kepler having received a majority of votes cast, were declared the nominees for assembly.

For Jury Commissioner, D. W. Harter, of Haines, and Fred Robb, Jr., of Curtin, were named. Result of first ballot, Harter 25, Robb, 59. Mr. Robb was declared the nominee.

Mr. H. E. Fenlon nominated Hon. J. K. P. Hall, for renomination for congress, with the following congressional conferees: R. M. Foster, S. M. McQuiston and A. J. Graham. Carried unanimously.

For Chairman Wm. G. Runkle and John Bower were nominated. Upon which the following letter of withdrawal, by Mr. Runkle, was read:

To the Democracy of Centre County in Convention assembled:

About five or six years ago I was a candidate for County Chairman and withdrew in the interest of harmony. This year with the belief that I was fairly entitled to this recognition, having stepped aside before and without any intimation that my rights to the office would be disputed, I expressed a desire to receive this honor.

Relying upon an unbroken party custom to select a Chairman upon the judgment of the delegates sent to the Convention, I made no efforts to secure instructions and an expression of the voters. In view of the fact that my further candidacy may be misconstrued and disavowed any purpose of creating the semblance of party discord or factional spirit and thanking my friends for their generous offers of support, I now withdraw from the contest for County Chairman.

Very sincerely,  
W. G. RUNKLE.

There being no opposing candidate, John Bower was chosen Co. Chairman by acclamation.

The committee on resolutions reported a ringing platform, sound in every sentence, covering the wrongs and abuses, robbery by the Trusts, and astounding thefts, by officials under the National and State administrations. They were drawn by a master hand.

The work of convention having been finished, Senator Heinle was called upon and made a rattling speech, under repeated applause.

Mr. Fred Kurtz being called upon spoke briefly, closed by expressing a desire that the Democracy of Centre county have the credit of being the first to make a stand for the impeachment of Gov. Stone, offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, By a recent opinion unanimously pronounced by the Supreme Court of this Commonwealth, Wm. A. Stone, Governor of this State, has been guilty of a willful and flagrant violation of the fundamental law by his veto of the resolutions for an amendment to the Constitution providing for an honest registration and fair count of the votes; and

Whereas, The said Governor William A. Stone, in appointing M. S. Quay to a seat in the United States Senate by a certificate in violation of the Constitution, as repeatedly declared by the United States Senate; and

Whereas, The said Governor William A. Stone has by eminent legal authority been adjudged guilty of a violation of the Constitution, in that he has by veto cut down the appropriation to the school fund one million dollars; therefore,

Resolved, that we demand the impeachment of Governor William A. Stone by the next Legislature, as provided for in Article VI, Section 3, of the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

#### LIST OF DELEGATES.

Belleville—W. Wm. Barnhart, Harry B. Kern, Thom. Caldwell.  
Belleville—W. Wm. Miller, Jos. McMahon, Al. Baum.

## MEETS HIS DOOM.

### HUMMEL HANGED IN THE WILLIAMSPORT JAIL YARD.

Execution of the Murderer Was Very Successful and He Was Hanged Tuesday.—Meets His Death Bravely.

William Hummel, who murdered his wife and three step-children at his home near Montgomery, Lycoming county, was hanged in the jail yard at Williamsport on Tuesday morning, and the murderer went down to his doom with a nerve and bravery which was astounding.

The hanging of this man with a brutish and leering countenance was the main topic of discussion in the Lumber City. The public interest was manifest, and in all parts the death penalty to be suffered by this murderer was the thought uppermost in the minds of the people. In it all not one had a word of sympathy for the doomed man. He was deserving of even more was the public sentiment.

In his last hours Hummel was apparently the least concerned. His thoughts were of an earthly nature and on his last night on earth he made beaming requests of Sheriff Gamble which were denied him.

The death watch was placed on him Monday. Hummel talked with the two deputies until nearly one o'clock in the morning, when he fell asleep on his couch and slept soundly until 5.40, when he arose, and about six o'clock was served with a hearty breakfast. He swept his cell and talked jocularly with the sheriff, his mind dwelling mostly upon women. The sheriff told Hummel it was about time he got his mind off women and gave more thought to the hereafter. Hummel had been given a new suit of clothes. These he laid out and soon dressed for the hanging. Noticing a gold stud in Sheriff Gamble's shirt front, he requested one like it and to humor him it was given him. He was visited by his spiritual advisers who stayed with him, and about nine o'clock again requested a meal. A substantial meal was brought in from a restaurant and he ate heartily. His pangs of hunger suffered little from the doom he was soon to meet. The thoughts of death had little or no effect on the sensations of his stomach and passions.

Early in the morning immense crowds began to congregate outside the jail walls. The streets and alleys on every side of the jail were crowded with a black mass of people numbering several thousand. No admittance could be had by this crowd, but they were content to be outside when the semblance of a man should be legally put to death.

At the entrance to the jail those having tickets, passed through a line of six policemen, and every pass to the execution was closely scrutinized. Over two hundred were admitted to the jail yard, but these were not all who were witnesses of the execution. The gallows were erected across the north west corner of the yard. Right outside the corner of the yard and almost directly over the gallows was a telephone pole. From the cross arms about ten men looked down on the gallows. At the other corner was another pole and this had its crowd of sightseers. A stable roof to the east of the jail yard had seats erected and were sold at from \$1 to \$3. Almost one hundred took advantage of the roof and looked down upon the scaffold. Every high building and window had its occupant, and outside the jail wall in the alleys thousands had assembled. It was a noisy crowd and bore the semblance of a holiday crowd rather than to witness the death throes of a doomed man. Cameras were in plenty and their click of shutters could be heard all around.

The execution was to take place as soon after ten o'clock as possible, and at 11.15 the procession moved from the cell to the gallows. First came the deputies followed by Hummel's two spiritual advisers. All eyes were then centered on Hummel and Sheriff Gamble. Fifteen steps led up to the gallows. As he mounted the steps he was very nervous and his eyes had a frightened look. His hand trembled as he clutched the rail and his lips were moving as if offering up a prayer. On the trap Sheriff Gamble shook hands with Hummel and left the trap going underneath the stairs to spring the trap.

Hummel wanted to talk, and he faced the crowd below, with the ministers on his right and a deputy on the left. He began an exhortation which was rambling and disconnected. He professed religion, said he was ready to die. His talk was entirely of a religious nature, but not one word did he say of the crime he had committed. At the end of several minutes the deputy tried to stop him, but he kept on until the deputy compelled him to stop speaking and his address was broken off abruptly. He stepped back

upon the trap and the deputies and ministers shook hands with him. The ministers left the scaffold and Hummel was left in charge of the two deputies. He was handcuffed and his arms were also strapped at the elbows. Straps were buckled around his knees and at the ankles.

While the deputies were adjusting the straps, Hummel was standing on the trap with his mouth wide open, his eyes upon the people below. The ministers repeatedly said, "Look up, Hummel," and the man would cast his eyes heavenward for a few seconds, but only to soon be looking over the many faces. As the noose was being adjusted the minister said, "Look up, Hummel, it will only take minute." Not once while he was being strapped did he evince the least nervousness or show any signs of faltering, except when the straps were being buckled around his knees, he lost his balance and would have fallen had he not been caught by the deputies.

The noose was placed around Hummel's neck and the knot adjusted below the left ear. The black cap was drawn over his head and the ends tied at the back. The deputies stepped back off the trap and Sheriff Gamble below touched the spring which released the trap, and Hummel dropped about seven feet. There was a dull thud as the slack in the rope was suddenly taken up. The body quivered and vibrated for a few seconds and was slowly turned around by the twist in the rope. As the body hung there, not the least convulsion or death struggle was seen. A sand bag would have shown as much life.

The trap was sprung at 10.58, and immediately a half dozen physicians began taking the pulse and listening for the heart beats with the ear and a stethoscope. After hanging about twenty minutes the body was cut down and placed in a coffin ready in the jail yard. The coffin was carried through the jail yard doors which were opened with difficulty owing to the immense crowd outside, and placed in the dead wagon, and then hustled off to the undertakers to be embalmed.

The thousands outside the jail walls were kept fully informed by the men on the telephone poles, of every move of Hummel and those on the death machine. This crowd was made up of men, women and children of every age, phase and condition of life.

An attempt was made to exhibit Hummel's body in the afternoon in the opera house, and an admission of ten cents to be charged. Hummel in the morning, however, made a will bequeathing his body to a minister, and the public exhibition was frustrated. The body will be buried in a grave near the scene where he committed his crime.

The appearance of Hummel was one of a repulsive nature. His countenance wore a brutish cast—sensual and bestial and of a low intellect.

Hummel committed his crime near Montgomery. He was a rag peddler. He murdered his wife, to whom he had been married but a week, and her three children. He used a pole ax, and crushed their skulls as they slept. The bodies of the woman and the two children were found under a straw stack a mile from the house last November. The body of the babe was found buried in the manure under the horse's feet in Hummel's stable. He was arrested a week later, and was tried and convicted last March. Then he made a full confession.

#### Bicycle Tax Not Valid.

Judge Simonon, of Dauphin county Tuesday rendered an opinion in the proceedings instituted by the side-path commissioners to compel the county commissioners to levy a bicycle tax, in which he declares the law creating the side-path commission unconstitutional and refuses to grant the mandamus asked.

The suit grew out of the county commissioners refusing this year to make an assessment of bicycles. They held that the side-path law is unconstitutional because the state constitution plainly provides that no commission shall be created by the general assembly for the purpose of supervising or interfering with a municipal improvement, the commissioners holding that the duties prescribed for the side-path come under this head. The court agrees with them in this respect and it is mainly on this point that the law is declared unconstitutional.

It is likely that the case will be carried into the Supreme Court. The decision if upheld, is a very important one, as it affects every county in the state.

#### Added a Clerk.

The business at the Centre Hall railroad having grown so heavily that Agent Bradford was unable to attend to all the duties himself, a clerk has been assigned by the company to assist him. Will Odenkirk who served his time as a student and of late being serving as extra agent, will get the appointment as assistant here.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

### MEMBERS GLAD THAT END OF CONGRESS IS IN SIGHT.

Republicans Eager to Get Away and Avoid the Robbery Investigations that are Piling Up.—After the Trusts.

WASHINGTON, June 4.—Members of the administration are breathing freer now that the end of the session of Congress is in sight—adjournment will take place this week—with no more investigations of official crookedness provided for. Senator Jones, of Ark., threw administration circles into confusion fits several days ago by his speech demanding an investigation of how the \$50,000,000 voted by Congress to prepare for the war with Spain was spent, and expressing the opinion that Mr. McKinley should be pleased to have an opportunity to clear himself of the fearful stories in circulation. Mr. McKinley was pleased to escape that opportunity.

Senator Morgan got the Senate to agree to take up the Nicaragua Canal bill Dec. 10, and give it the right of way until disposed of. That was the best he could do. The only vote in the House against the Littlefield bill to amend the Sherman anti-trust law, was cast by a Republican, Representative Mann, of Ill.

Representative De Armond, of Mo., told the Republicans some disagreeable truths in his speech against their make believe proposition for a constitutional amendment authorizing Congress to control trusts, which was defeated by Democratic votes. After telling them that the proposed amendment bore upon its face irrefutable evidence that it was not intended to be placed in the constitution to control trusts, but to be placed in the campaign to delude voters, Mr. De Armond said: "To what chapter of your Republican performances can you turn and hope for approval from the people? I do not chide you for trying a last desperate effort as a final resource to get something out of this amendment. If you get anything out of it, it will be because the American people are far more stupid than I think they are, and because delusion is much more attractive to them than plain conduct and honest acts. Can there be anything in the proposition that because you label this anti-trust, we shall not look beyond the label? You have labeled many things other than they are. There is not a package of your political nostrums that will bear inspection. It may be taken by label, but it cannot be by sample, much less by tests of reasonable quantities. The power of the people to meet and overcome trusts would be less if this amendment were in the constitution, than it is today. I am willing to amend the constitution, but I am not willing to amend it so as to take from forty-five states the power they now possess to create and control corporations. You propose to take control of these corporations. You propose to say which one of them you will denounce and destroy, if you destroy any of them, and which you will shelter and protect. I am opposed to that kind of legislation. Trusts have grown within the last three years as they have never grown before. They are mightier, they have invaded new fields, conquered new provinces, made new slaves and are mightier today than ever before. And yet you say to the people wait until we get a constitutional amendment."

To drop into slang, it may be said that Secretary Hay got the "hearse hoot" from the Senate when he asked in the name of Mr. McKinley, that the Spooner Philippine bill be passed before adjournment. The Republican leaders knew that the Democratic senators meant business when they served them with notice that the Spooner bill would not be voted upon at this session, and abandoned their attempt to get the bill through more than a week ago.

In allowing the claim of Mr. Clark and Mr. Maginnis for a seat in the Senate, to go over to the next session, the Senate Committee on Elections really turned the matter over to the people of Montana for settlement, as the legislature which will fill the vacancy will be elected this year, excepting twelve hold-over Senators, will meet next January, only a few weeks after the reassembling of Congress.

Notwithstanding the promotion of Gen. Otis for ending the war in the Philippines, and numerous denials that troops were needed over there, Secretary Root now acknowledges that regular troops are to be sent to reinforce Gen. MacArthur, who has been asking for them ever since he succeeded Otis. By pooling their issues, those two personal enemies, Gen. Miles and Gen. Corbin, won their long fight for promotion. That is, they will win, if the House doesn't kick on the Senate amendment to the Military Academy Appropriation bill, providing for the promotion.

## LOCAL ITEMS.

Cullings of More than Ordinary Interest from Everywhere.

### Ye Ugly, Hairy Caterpillar.

Marching on,  
Marching on,  
Ye frisky Caterpillar,  
In silent throng,  
Ye greedy leaf and bud killer.

Bombarding you with shot guns,  
A heating you with coal oil,  
Ye hairy Caterpillar,  
For yer travlin' an takin' toll,  
On evry twig and blossom roll.

You don't keer where you creep  
Nor if one wake or sleep,  
You just get aboard,  
You ugly, hairy, crawling lord,  
And make the ladies shriek.

You drop right down,  
On rich and poor,  
And creep right up a lady's gown,  
Without leave or permits,  
An' scare 'em into awful fits.

What are you for, oh fie,  
Nasty, hairy caterpillar?  
Why not at start be a butterfly,  
Gaudy garb and gay in wing,  
Yet start as ugly, creeping thing?

—Case.

Cool since last week's rains.

Silent is the Valentine furnace.

On hand: ye festive strawberry.

Accoming: the huckleberry pie.

To open about July 1: Irvin's new hardware; sooner if building is ready.

Fruit, of all kinds, thus far, has suffered no harm.

A sprinkle last night with indications for more today.

Band festival on J. C. Stover's lawn, Aaronsburg, Saturday evening.

Wood for fuel is beginning to get scarce in this county.

Low Sunday was putting some finishing touches on Hoffer street.

The caterpillar is ahead, he get here two weeks before the organ grinder.

Last Friday night we had the first good, soaking thunder shower for this season.

James Thompson has added some new Jersey breeds to his stock farm up by the College.

Town authorities did right in not permitting Hummel's body to be put on exhibition. Too indecent.

Louis Tobias while at work on John Stoner's stove mill, had a thumb badly lacerated by the bolter.

Haines township wheat fields are considerably more promising than in other sections of the county.

Clover will be short for want of rain, but timothy may be a full crop if there come timely rains.

Ex-sheriff Spangler and our busy lumberman Colyer, are slightly ill, yet able to be about.

The soon to be shut down iron works known as Valentines, is rumored are to be started by a new party.

Two fishermen from down east got lost at Poemills and are now doing duty in Delong's lot as scare-crows.

We have reports from all over the county and all mention that the fruit crop is safe, and potatoes doing well.

No company in the state can "right face" a finer looking set of young men than Captain Taylor's Company B, of Belleville.

At the sawmill of Moyer & Sheesley in the mountain north of Pennhall, on Monday afternoon, the boiler exploded, but nobody hurt.

Three or four parties, names may be given later, may open for business in this place, if a survey of the field has an inviting look.

All the Democratic county nominations were settled by the people at the primaries, leaving no chance for jangle and wrangle in the Convention. The people should always have it thus.

The clover having suffered for want of rain it is feared that Friday night's copious thunder shower will cause a second growth of clover, which is not greatly desired by farmers.

One half the world don't believe that in the Bear Meadows, eight miles west of this place, there is a forest of trees on which grow the most delicious huckleberries. The State should own this as a preserve.

Wood offals at the mills, that in past years was considered of no account, is now being utilized for lath, and other purposes, caused by timber becoming scarcer each year. This stuff was put on heaps and burned simply to get rid of it, and thus thousands of cords were disposed of which now would be gladly used for fuel and other purposes.

Capt. Taylor's arrangements for the Centennial Military parade, at Belleville, July 25 and 26, will be the largest military display ever witnessed in the central counties of the state. An entire regiment of the National Guard, a troop of cavalry, from 2000 to 3000 G. A. R. men, Spanish-American war veterans, Sons of Veterans, and many other organizations, are arranged for to be present. All the other features of the Centennial will be upon the same grand scale.