

Lancaster Intelligencer.

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 21, 1880.

Too Much and Too Slow Election.

The reason given by the majority in the lower house of Congress for wishing to adjourn now, is that no business will be done after the presidential nominations are made and the presidential campaign is opened. The fact is probably so; but the admission of it is not calculated to give us great respect for our political constitution.

MINOR TOPICS.

The summer he bummeth these political days.

The locusts are in blossom. Take off that flannel.

The present Republican state of Beaver county is opposition to all forms of a third term.

It is about this time that the fond husband slips from the upper step to the entry floor, by reason of a bar of house cleaner's soap, put by the careful wife where it will do the most good.

The present United States library consisting of 375,000 volumes, will amount to 2,150,000 in sixteen years, at the present rate of increase, and therefore requires a separate building.

The marked newspapers now sent to us from Washington, D. C., booming Field for president, are directed in the handwriting of the same person who was recently sending us anti-Randall circulars and Hancock documents. The scenes shift too rapidly.

There was a suspicious haste in Gov. Colquitt's appointment of ex-Gov. Brown to succeed U. S. Senator Gordon, resigned.

The people of Columbus, Ga., have had a meeting and passed resolutions regretting the resignation of Senator Gordon, and declaring Conquist deserving the strongest censure in appointing Brown to succeed him; that Brown is not a representative of Georgia nor of the Democratic party.

There seems to be some ground for their objection.

The facts are disgraceful to our democracy. It is disgraceful that our Congress needs to adjourn now, with thousands of measures demanding its consideration, because it cannot give it to them in the coming protracted period of political agitation.

It is an outrage upon the people that their business must be thus neglected. It is a shame that the people themselves must be fretted with a six months' political battle.

They are ready to give their verdict to-day. They will not be any more ready when their minds have been inflamed by months more of political agitation and politicians' badgering.

Our political battles are simply disgusting and disgraceful, and insanely absurd. We have other more important duties in life than to decide whether Tom, Dick or Harry shall rule us. That is an important duty. But there is no manner of need that we shall talk about it, and fight about it, and get drunk over it with excitement, if not with liquor, for a half year before we are prepared to meet the responsibility and discharge the duty.

That we are such idiots discourages any confident belief that we are fitted for self-government. After all our contention we all know that the chances are small that we will select the best men. We need a peculiar kind of candidate to run successfully. He needs to be a hardy sort of a jacksass that can run the gauntlet of all sorts of attacks and have life enough left in him to totter over the goal. He must be an animal who will run kindly under the direction of his trainers, who will mind the bit and take the whip well, and who won't care how much he earns the world's contempt, so that he secures the purse.

We do think that some speedier and more efficient methods should be established of finding and declaring the popular judgment. Good sense commands it, and nothing forbids it that we can see. Afflicted editors cry for it, a disturbed people pray for it, and even perspiring politicians would welcome it. Why can we not get it?

The Star Routes.

Senator Wallace has voted to strike out of the postal appropriation bill the provision inserted by the House, the effect of which was to require the Star routes, which are now let at an extravagant rate, to be re-advertised in October; but giving the present holders the privilege of continuing to hold them at a certain rate which the House thought to be a fair and full compensation. This arrangement seemed to be the very essence of fairness to the contractors and of justice to the government. It is charged that these routes are now let at a price much greater than the service is worth. Whether or not this is the fact would have been determined at the future letting. The present contractors have no reason to complain, since the government has reserved the power to annul the contracts with them. There does not seem to be any good ground for Senator Wallace's position in favor of the contractors. He states none. There is no reason why he should champion them. Pennsylvania pays a full part of the expense of these Star routes and serve the needs of the country. Whatever is necessary should be expended to serve it well. We believe in widely

extended postal facilities. But the question here is not as to the propriety of the Star routes, but simply whether the contractors are not being over-paid. It is charged that it is a big steal. It is widely believed that Assistant Postmaster General Brady and these contractors constitute a select board of thieves, combined together for mutual profit at the public expense. We are very sorry to see Senator Wallace voting so as to promote the success of this conspiracy if it exists.

The prohibition politicians are not always wise, and their resolutions and candidates often fail to recommend themselves to many people who sympathize largely with them on the main issue. But they hit the bull's eye in their deliriousness against the pardon of the riot bill bribers. They voiced the common opinion of right-thinking people of all parties. When the idea of November came around and judgment is called on this issue the Republican conspirators who would assassinate "virtue, liberty and independence," in Pennsylvania will find that the sentiment against their infamy is deeper and stronger than they measure it.

MINOR TOPICS.

The summer he bummeth these political days.

The locusts are in blossom. Take off that flannel.

The present Republican state of Beaver county is opposition to all forms of a third term.

It is about this time that the fond husband slips from the upper step to the entry floor, by reason of a bar of house cleaner's soap, put by the careful wife where it will do the most good.

The present United States library consisting of 375,000 volumes, will amount to 2,150,000 in sixteen years, at the present rate of increase, and therefore requires a separate building.

The marked newspapers now sent to us from Washington, D. C., booming Field for president, are directed in the handwriting of the same person who was recently sending us anti-Randall circulars and Hancock documents. The scenes shift too rapidly.

There was a suspicious haste in Gov. Colquitt's appointment of ex-Gov. Brown to succeed U. S. Senator Gordon, resigned.

The people of Columbus, Ga., have had a meeting and passed resolutions regretting the resignation of Senator Gordon, and declaring Conquist deserving the strongest censure in appointing Brown to succeed him; that Brown is not a representative of Georgia nor of the Democratic party.

There seems to be some ground for their objection.

The facts are disgraceful to our democracy. It is disgraceful that our Congress needs to adjourn now, with thousands of measures demanding its consideration, because it cannot give it to them in the coming protracted period of political agitation.

It is an outrage upon the people that their business must be thus neglected. It is a shame that the people themselves must be fretted with a six months' political battle.

They are ready to give their verdict to-day. They will not be any more ready when their minds have been inflamed by months more of political agitation and politicians' badgering.

Our political battles are simply disgusting and disgraceful, and insanely absurd. We have other more important duties in life than to decide whether Tom, Dick or Harry shall rule us. That is an important duty. But there is no manner of need that we shall talk about it, and fight about it, and get drunk over it with excitement, if not with liquor, for a half year before we are prepared to meet the responsibility and discharge the duty.

That we are such idiots discourages any confident belief that we are fitted for self-government. After all our contention we all know that the chances are small that we will select the best men. We need a peculiar kind of candidate to run successfully. He needs to be a hardy sort of a jacksass that can run the gauntlet of all sorts of attacks and have life enough left in him to totter over the goal. He must be an animal who will run kindly under the direction of his trainers, who will mind the bit and take the whip well, and who won't care how much he earns the world's contempt, so that he secures the purse.

We do think that some speedier and more efficient methods should be established of finding and declaring the popular judgment. Good sense commands it, and nothing forbids it that we can see. Afflicted editors cry for it, a disturbed people pray for it, and even perspiring politicians would welcome it. Why can we not get it?

The Star Routes.

Senator Wallace has voted to strike out of the postal appropriation bill the provision inserted by the House, the effect of which was to require the Star routes, which are now let at an extravagant rate, to be re-advertised in October; but giving the present holders the privilege of continuing to hold them at a certain rate which the House thought to be a fair and full compensation. This arrangement seemed to be the very essence of fairness to the contractors and of justice to the government. It is charged that these routes are now let at a price much greater than the service is worth. Whether or not this is the fact would have been determined at the future letting. The present contractors have no reason to complain, since the government has reserved the power to annul the contracts with them. There does not seem to be any good ground for Senator Wallace's position in favor of the contractors. He states none. There is no reason why he should champion them. Pennsylvania pays a full part of the expense of these Star routes and serve the needs of the country. Whatever is necessary should be expended to serve it well. We believe in widely

LATEST NEWS BY MAIL.

Baseball yesterday: At Chicago—Chicago, 3; Cleveland, 1. Providence—Providence, 1; Boston, 0. Troy, N. Y.—Troy, 5; Worcester, 2.

The Presbyterian general assembly met yesterday in Madison, Wis. Dr. William M. Paxton, of New York, was elected moderator by acclamation.

In the Methodist general conference at Cincinnati yesterday the question of electing a colored bishop was taken up, and after discussion, indefinitely postponed, by a vote of 229 to 139.

At California, Ohio, Mrs. Bateman shot and killed Mrs. Stinger, who was cutting grass along the roadside near her house. The murderer was arrested. Great excitement prevails over the affair.

John Johnson, under indictment at Buffalo, N. Y., for passing counterfeit treasury notes, has been arrested at Indianapolis. Three brothers are now serving a term in the Albany penitentiary for the same offense.

At Louisville, Ky., yesterday, the Kentucky Oaks, 1 1/4 mile dash, was won by Longleaf in 2:11; the 1 1/2 mile dash by Warfield in 2:10; the mile dash by Goodnight in 1:43; and the 1/2 mile race over five hurdles was won by Frank Short in 2:24.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States (South) convened in the Second Presbyterian church at Charleston, S. C., yesterday. The opening sermon was preached by Rev. J. R. Wilson, D. D., retiring moderator, before 108 commissioners, representing twelve synods and fifty-three presbyteries. Rev. T. A. Hoyt, D. D., of Nashville, Tenn., was elected Moderator by a vote of 59 to 47.

Yesterday was the last day of the spring meeting of the National Fair association, at Washington, D. C. The first race, a compensation purse for all ages, 1 1/2 mile, was won by Scilla in 2:11; the second, the Willard hotel cup, for all ages, two miles, was won by Checkmate in 3:26; the third, a consolation purse, mile heat, for all ages, was won by Vagrant in 1:44; 1:45, the first heat being taken by Edwin A. in 1:44; and the steeple chase handicap was won by Disturbance.

A fight occurred in Wharton township, Fayette county, in which a man named Seisler was fatally cut by John Rodelaver.

Willie Giles, six years old, of Erie, was drowned by falling from the dock while at play.

John Winkler, who had his leg crushed on the Reading railroad at Conshohocken, died at the Pennsylvania hospital, Philadelphia.

John Mealy, aged 23 years, residing three miles from Tionesta, Forest county, was struck by lightning and instantly killed. He was on a wagon at the time. The storm was heavy.

A chariot belonging to Forepaugh's circus fell over an embankment at Oil City and was smashed to pieces. One of the horses was killed, and it is thought the driver will die.

Mrs. Andrew Bossinger, who lives about five miles from Millin, while getting a bucket of water from a run close to her house, fell into the water and was drowned.

Near Millin Emanuel Wood was killed yesterday in an ore mine by the falling in of the slate roof. When the slate fell it was two feet of slate and dirt on him. He lived only one hour. A Mr. Stine was also severely, but not dangerously, hurt by the same accident.

Hon. John Reilly, says he will not contest Congressman Coffroth's renomination. Gen. Coffroth's course in Congress has been entirely satisfactory, and he is in favor of his renomination, believing him to be the strongest candidate of his party in the district.

In Shade township, Somerset county, a few days ago, a whirlwind crossed a portion of the farm of Anthony Wechenheiser and catching up leaves and dry corn, carried them over a high fence, and in the act where they took fire and were consumed. The wind then disappeared as suddenly as it came.

Henry Aulin, a native of Germany, about 55 years old, committed suicide at 450 N. Market street, Philadelphia, by shooting himself through the head with a revolver. He had served with the United States army in the Mexican war and during the rebellion. Consumption caused despondency.

Judge Williams of Tioga county, and Wm. A. Stone, late of the same place, and of Pittsburgh, are in Washington to make a raid on Mr. McKim's place at the states district attorney in the interest of the latter, and call on Hayes and Devens to tell them that McCormick is a Grant man and ought to slide.

The village of Walkerville, composed of twenty or thirty houses, situated within seven miles of Wintburn, Clearfield county, on the low grade division of the Allegheny Valley railroad, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday. The village caught from the fire in the woods, which has been raging in that vicinity for the last three or four days. The houses were still burning fast approaching Wintburn, in which it will destroy some very valuable property if not brought under control.

Honors Here.

The equestrian statue of General Jackson by Clark Mills, which stands on the capitol grounds at Nashville, was unveiled, yesterday, in presence of twenty thousand people. A military procession paraded through the principal streets to the capitol grounds. The ceremonies were opened by T. A. Atkinson, of the Centennial board of directors of Nashville. Bishop McTear, of the Southern Methodist church, offered prayer. Representative House delivered an oration on Jackson, Clark Mills' statue still remains in the streets. The unveiling was a grand affair. The statue was unveiled by Gov. Marks amid the firing of cannon and the singing of "an ode to Jackson." Enoch H. Jones who was one of Jackson's soldiers, assisted in the unveiling. There were present at the unveiling ex-Governor Hendricks, of Indiana; Governor Blackburn, of Kentucky; ex-Governor Brown, the new senator from Georgia; Generals Joseph F. Johnson and D. C. Buell, and Col. John C. Burch, secretary of U. S. Senate.

Aged 10 and Attempting Suicide.

Fisher Van Selven, aged 10, of West Passick, N. J., on Tuesday attempted to commit suicide. He is an orphan and works about the farm of Henry Storms, who has given him a home. For several days he had been moody, and on Tuesday Mr. Storms, hearing a noise in the woodshed, went to ascertain the cause. He found the boy suspended from a beam, life being nearly extinct. Mr. Storms cut him down and sent for a physician who revived him. The lad said he had given up cause for attempting to take his life, and added that he had no desire to repeat the experiment.

Dying With Confidence and Hope.

Yesterday Mr. James Woody, a prominent citizen of Reidsville, N. C., dropped dead while talking to his family about religion. Last Sunday he made a profession of religion, but had not connected himself with any church. He said yesterday: "I would not swap my chances for heaven with any one else, and, with the words in his lips, fell from his chair and died from heart disease."

Gives It Up.

New York Herald.

Mr. Fish and Mr. Washburne, having put themselves beyond the pale of choice, there remains no Republican statesman of sufficient mark to eclipse General Grant and defeat his nomination.

ILLINOIS FOR GRANT.

GEN. LOGAN GETS HIS WORK IN

Exciting and Stormy Session of the Springfield Convention, Which Was Held in the White House in the City of Chicago, May 19, 1880.

The Republican state convention of Illinois began its session at 9 o'clock, with every inch of standing room on the floor and in the gallery of the House of Representatives occupied by an interested audience. The committee on credentials reported they recommended the settlement of the contest in Greene county by admitting four Grant and four Blaine delegates and giving each half a vote. This was approved and the delegates were admitted.

The chair said that the committee would not be able to report on the Cooke county delegates for at least two hours, whereupon a series of motions to adjourn, to take a recess, etc., were made, principally for amusement, with considerable confusion.

Mr. Robbins, of Adams, in behalf of the Blaine-Washburne men, said the only way of getting an early report from the committee was by a majority of two-thirds of its labor. He therefore offered a resolution instructing the committee not to consider the claims of any contesting delegates who booted from any convention which met in the manner at the place and time designated by the proper authorities.

This hit at the Palmer house delegation was received with tremendous cheers by the Blaine-Washburne men, and the motion to table the resolution occasioned loud applause on the part of the Grant men.

The call of the counties resulted in tabling the resolution by a vote of 351 to 251, showing 100 majority for the Grant men outside of Cooke county.

The convention then took a recess of one hour.

The Cooke County Contest.

The committee on credentials met at 8:30 a. m. and resumed the consideration of the Cooke county contest. Mr. Kirk Hawes presented a written statement of the position of the Farwell hall delegation relative to the pledge required by the convention to abide by its decision as follows:

"The delegates from the county of Cook from the regular convention held at Farwell hall, denying for themselves and their constituents any lawful power in the convention or in this committee to impose on any contestant any conditions whatever prior to the rendering of justice according to law and equity as well, do hereby submit, under protest, to the resolution, as we understand it, of the unorganized convention in which we were not permitted to take part, as the only means left to prevent the election of a disfranchisement of the Republicans of Cooke county and the probable loss of the state to the Republican candidates."

Mr. Hawes, in explaining the position of the delegation, said: "By appearing here as we do and according to the terms imposed upon us, we wish it distinctly understood that if you shall be pleased to seat a portion of this delegation and shall reject a portion, it is left entirely to our option whether that portion will go into the convention or stay out. We may rescind that resolution; we may not. We expect, however, that we shall stand together, and we understand it, no of course, if you reject us all, then there is no difficulty. As we do not intend to create any disturbance, as has been circulated here, but simply to do our duty as members of the Republican party, and do what our constituents require us to do.

The committee then excluded all outsiders, reporters included, to consider the sufficiency of this response.

The committee on credentials decided, by a vote of 11 to 1, that the statement of the Farwell hall delegation was sufficient. One hour was allowed each side to present evidence and arguments, which concluded at 1 p. m.

The committee then went into secret session.

Afternoon Session.

The convention reassembled at 3 p. m. State Senator Fuller, of Boone county, offered a resolution providing for the giving of credentials to delegates to the national convention elected by the district conventions. Senator Logan objected to the resolution, and the matter was withdrawn.

Logan then offered a resolution limiting debate on the Cooke county contest to one hour for each delegation. Carried—388 yeas to 212 nays.

The Committee's Report.

After a long delay the report of the committee on credentials was submitted; it says: "We do not object to the admission of the bodies calling themselves the Cooke county convention was either regular or legitimate, or that their action as such could be of any validity in compelling this convention to treat them as such. We find that the senatorial districts are entitled to just and proper representation, and that each of them is entitled to the same standing and position here as a county in any other portion of the state. The honest voters at the primaries are presumed to have desired representation in this convention in a proper manner. This representation they are entitled to and should have. Stripped of all technicalities the will of the honest Republican voters at the primaries should be effected. Under existing circumstances this can only be arranged by giving as nearly possible the representation due to the delegates actually elected in the various wards and districts, and paying no regard whatever to the action of any county convention. We recommend that the following named persons be accorded seats in this convention.

The list accompanying this report gives the names of 36 Grant delegates from the First, Third and Fourth senatorial districts and 56 anti-Grant delegates.

A second report, signed by three of the committee on credentials, states that as the delegates known as the Farwell hall delegation had not complied with the resolution requiring contestants to agree to abide by the decision of the convention, their cases should not be considered, and recommends that only delegates holding credentials from the Palmer house convention be admitted. The First, Third and Fourth senatorial districts, he admitted from Cooke county.

A third report signed by nine of the eighteen members of the committee sets forth the claims of Blaine and Washburne delegates from Cooke county to admission as a body.

The Presentation of Cases.

Kirk Hawes, of Chicago, presented the case of the Farwell hall delegates, and Emory Storms, of Chicago, that of the Palmer house delegates. Both addresses were loudly cheered by the adherents on each side. General Hulbert, of Boone, related the delegates from three senatorial districts which the Grant men did not contest be allowed to vote on this question, but the chair ruled the motion out of order. A motion to adopt No. 3, which recommended the seating of the entire Farwell hall delegation was defeated—10 yeas 285, nos 320. The adoption of the first report, which seated 36 Palmer house and 56 Farwell hall delegates, resulted—yeas 341, nos 261. The temporary organization was then made permanent. The convention then adjourned till 8 p. m.

The Convention Instructs for Grant.

A resolution declaring Grant the choice of the convention was adopted by a majority. A long discussion then ensued as to the manner of selecting delegates.

Mr. Crosby of Du Page moved that the various congressional districts select delegates and alternates to the national convention, and that said delegates and alternates be declared the choice of the convention.

This would have resulted in the choice of Blaine delegates in several districts, and opened the great contest before the convention.

The motion was opposed by Senator Logan in a speech of considerable length, in which he advocated the right of the majority of the convention to send to Chicago a solid delegation instructed for Grant.

The position hooded and hissed, but the Senator proceeded with his remarks and was vociferously applauded from time to time as he cited precedents for the proposed action of the Grant men in the case under consideration.

Gen. Hulbert followed Senator Logan in favor of the resolution, and warned the convention that it was a dangerous experiment to take from the people of the districts their right of selecting their own delegates.

Senator Logan moved the appointment of a committee of one from each congressional district to report a list of delegates to the national convention, four to be selected from the state at large and two from each congressional district.

Great excitement followed, and a number of delegates declared that they had already been selected by their districts as delegates to the national convention, and they intended to go there.

The discussion continued at great length and the disorder finally became so great that the convention could be considered nothing less than a mob.

At 12 o'clock indications were that nothing could be accomplished last night, and there may be a serious bolt at any moment.

Why He Wants the Grant.

More than once Abraham Lincoln sat in the White House in Washington, watching the progress of the effort to save the American republic, as he held in his hand the lightning pulsations that throbbled from the heart of General Grant. Where in those bitter days were the gentlemen now clamoring for the Republican nomination for the presidency? There is not a private Union soldier working at his trade as a mechanic, a farmer, or a merchant, that did not do more for his country than James G. Blaine, John Sherman, Elihu Washburne, or George F. Edmunds; fifty times more, judged by the facts, than any or all these politicians, each of them trebled and quadrupled. Woe to the people, malediction to the nation, that in so short a space of time can forget such service as that of Grant, and prefer such soft and easy apprenticeship as that of contriving politicians.

A Terrible Situation.

Jack Long was in the hands of a mob at Moberly, Ala. They had placed a noose about his neck and were completing the arrangements to hang him. The delay was painful to the poor fellow, who had borne up until then with remarkable bravery. His brother, who had stealthily approached, seeing that the ordeal, while it was breaking down Jack's courage, could only end in his death, drew a revolver and shot him dead.

Chicago Endangered.

It is stated that Senator Blaine will go to Chicago and undertake the management of his forces at the national convention in person. Arrangements will have to be made to quarantine that town against sunstroke.

Fighting His Second Inaugural.

"Has Windom got the presidential fever?" somebody asked Bill King, of Minnesota. "Bad!" responded William with infinite scorn, "I should think so; he is already engaged in preparing his second inaugural!"

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE POLITICAL POT.

It Boils Furiously—New Ingredients Mixed in Every Pot.

The present political campaign will long be noted as remarkable for its kaleidoscopic changes. A new deal is made every twelve hours. The lines no longer run with the old Bull Ring and Hog Ring distinctions. They cross at right-angles. Every politician is interested in some particular fight and is willing to sacrifice everything else to make that one point Johnson will combine with anybody to elect Johnson; McMullen will sit down to a feast of crow between Sensenig and Mentzer to elect Davis; Hay Brown will go arm-in-arm to the polls with Warfel to beat Smith; Tom Cochran would link arms with Amos Groff to beat Reinohl, and Ed. Martin and Fred Smith keep step to the Herr Smith music.

There is no regular warfare. It is bushwhacking.

In such a contest any result is possible and the least probable to-day may be the certain of to-morrow. The count-in of Saturday night may be the count-out of Sunday morning.

The contest of to-morrow will be the bloodiest ever battled in this county. Its issue is more doubtful than that of any of its predecessors.

It may be very close. It may be one-sided and the shrewdest politicians say that on which side that singleness will depend on influences not yet determined and which may not be set in motion until the return tinkers have begun their work. CAS!

Mylin's friends are sanguine; so are Griest's; so are Davis's. The brag is all on their side. In fact, they pipe one tune. There is a combination between them in the lower end.

Smith's friends laugh at the politicians' fuss over Griest, and say that it is only intended to get a couple of townships for Mylin and Davis.

There is said to have been a new deal yesterday. The well-authenticated report of it is that a large portion of the Bull Ring quit Eberly for Davis; the trade was made to save Mylin. The hotter the New Era gets for Reinohl the more desperate the Bull Ring becomes against him, and to make his defeat certain they—with the exception of Sensenig, Eschman and Hiestand—are reported to have sold out Eberly for Davis, the consideration: being that McMullen & Co. shall go for Mylin. Such a trade would be bad for Reinohl, but it may consolidate Johnson's and Reinohl's forces and make a clean fight in the lower end between Smith, Reinohl and Johnson on one side, and Griest, Mylin and Davis on the other.

Such a division might let in Gatchell.

In view of that trade Johnson becomes a leading candidate again.

Indications for to-morrow's political warfare: Squalls and uncertain thunder and lightning along the furnace hills and showers at intervals over the northern district. Hot weather in the city and a fair field and free fight in the south.

THE CITY FATHERS.

Special Meeting of Councils—The General Appropriation Ordinance Passed—The \$15,000 Loan Postponed.

A special meeting of select and common councils was held last evening for the purpose of considering an ordinance creating a loan to pay street deficiencies, and also the ordinance making the annual appropriations.

Select Council.

The following members were present: Messrs. Doerr, Franklin, Judith, Sales, Shenk, Zecher and Evans, president.

The president having stated the objects of the meeting, Mr. Zecher arose to inquire whether the proposed loan of \$15,000 could be legally contracted by the passage of an ordinance.

The president said he thought the money could not be legally borrowed in the way proposed. That was his decided conviction, but it was for councils and not for him to determine the matter.

Mr. Zecher moved that council proceed to second and third reading of the ordinance appropriating the public moneys to the several departments for the ensuing fiscal year.

The ordinance was read a second and third time and passed item by item, Mr. Shenk objecting to the amount appropriated to the sinking fund as too large, also to the state tax on loans, and to the distinction made between laborers and contractors in the item appropriating \$5,000 to pay for work done by the former, while the latter are left without an appropriation. He thought all the creditors of the city should be treated alike, and while he wanted to see the laborers paid, he believed an appropriation should be made to pay the contractors also.

After some further remarks the ordinance was passed by a unanimous vote, years 7, says none. The text of the ordinance will be found in our advertising columns:

An ordinance creating a permanent loan of \$15,000 was received from common council.

Mr. Shenk moved that select council proceed to consider it.

Mr. Zecher presented the following opinion of the city solicitor on the subject, which was read:

Lancaster, May 20, 1880.

Geo. W. Zecher, Esq., Chairman of Finance Committee of the City of Lancaster.

DEAR SIR: In answer to your request for an opinion as to whether the councils of the city can legally increase the city indebtedness to the amount of \$15,000, I would respectfully say:

That the new constitution, article 9, sec. 8, and the act of 20th of April, 1874, sec. 1 and 2, provide that the debts of municipalities shall never exceed seven per cent upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein, and that no new debt or increase shall be made to an amount exceeding two per cent of such assessed valuation without the assent of the electors at a public election.

A calculation will show that the seven per cent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property has not been reached by the city, but it will also show that the proposed loan will increase the debt contracted since the adoption of the constitution beyond the two per cent mentioned above.

It therefore cannot legally be made without a vote of the people and majority at such election in favor of the increase.

Nor can the sums paid into the sinking fund be deducted from the amounts borrowed by the city to reduce this indebtedness. The sinking fund is separate and distinct from the ordinary treasury fund, and is invariably pledged to the payment of the bonded debt, and it can neither be diminished nor abolished by the councils. See act of April 7th, 1855, sec. 3. Also new constitution article 9, sec. 10.

The act of Assembly and the constitution both contemplate a period at which there shall be a final extinction of the entire indebtedness, which period would never arrive if the sinking fund could be constantly deducted from the liabilities. It seems to me that there is but one recourse and that is to the people.

Yours respectfully,
GILAS I. LE