

Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JAN. 5, 1881.

An Honest Man. "Thirteen swore by the book, eleven with uplifted hand and six affirmed."

The singular thing here is that Mr. Cox refused to take this oath. But the singular thing ought to be that thirty men elected to the state Senate took it without wincing.

The object of the law, in requiring this oath to be taken, was to prevent the corrupt use of money in elections.

It was not intended to forbid such legitimate uses as are mentioned by Mr. Cox.

But undoubtedly, it was violated by nearly every one of them, if not, indeed, by all.

We are very glad Mr. Cox has brought this matter so prominently before the people.

Mr. Cox's honorable conduct shows the people the advantage of selecting their representatives men who have demonstrated their intelligence and rectitude in their business relations among them.

There may be those who will incline to sneer at him as over punctilious; but these will be only such as never felt the imperative force of the law.

WHEN people are to be poisoned or suffocated we do not imagine it matters much to them whether the old or new process of making gas is used to do it.

YESTERDAY we read that up in Carbon county, moved by the example of the Northampton people, the mob had well-nigh hanged an alleged wife-murderer.

induced to modify their judgments and to admit that twenty-four hours' investigation of guilt is at least reasonable before the accused is hanged.

It was a wise provision of the new constitution which forbids city councils from making extraordinary increases to municipal debts without consulting their constituents and giving them a chance to approve or disapprove the proposed loan at the polls.

The present gas company undertook to make a saving speculation out of the people of Lancaster by buying out the old gas company, which had received it as long as it had no opposition.

The continued plethora of money in this country receives fresh illustration in the immediate sale of all the Northern Pacific bonds allotted to the American market.

ONE of the strong points in Auditor General Schell's highly efficient administration of his office has been his diligent collection of back taxes from delinquent corporations.

THE opinions of congressmen differ as to how the members should be apportioned under the new census.

It is now taken for granted that Blaine will be secretary of state and Conkling "consent" because he has been told that, at Chicago, when Blaine's case became hopeless his friends made known to the Grant managers that, while Senator Blaine was unalterably opposed to General Grant, he would be willing to support Senator Conkling as a compromise candidate.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin seriously urges the following resolutions for Oliver's senatorial election: "To carry on and complete the great and decisive campaign in Indiana 'the sinews of war' were sorely needed, for the other side were 'flush' and confident. All the weapons of civilized political warfare were furnished from Pennsylvania, and with the aid of the state, local and township committees, a matchless political organization was speedily effected in Indiana. Much of the credit of outflanking the common enemy in the West is due to the tireless energy of Henry W. Oliver."

THE editor of Truth in a letter to Garfield says: "We have traced the Morey letter to its origin, and have ascertained that it is a forgery. This acknowledgment is made voluntarily, and as an act of simple justice. Truth published the letter in good faith, believing that you were its author. While we so believed neither temptation, threats nor force could influence us to repudiate it. Likewise, having now satisfied ourselves of its spurious character, no false pride nor selfish motive of any kind can restrain us from announcing our conclusion, and thereby allaying the doubt that now exists respecting its authenticity."

THE wrath of Death. By an accident on the line of the Sioux City & Omaha division of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad six men were killed outright and a seventh man lost a leg.

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ADDITOR-GENERAL SCHELL.

The Main Features of His Report to the Legislature-Interesting Facts.

In his report to the Legislature Auditor-General Schell says that during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1879, settlements have been made against delinquent corporations for taxes overdue for many years to the amount of \$297,237.78, of which a sum of \$185,990.81 has already been collected and paid into the treasury.

In addition to the settlements already made, the department is in possession of sufficient reports and data to enable it to make a settlement against delinquent corporations to the amount of over one quarter of a million dollars, and to put one million more in process of collection before May 1, 1881.

The collection of delinquent taxes has been strenuously resisted by many companies. Some of these companies claimed exemption from taxation under special chapters of law. Others had escaped taxation for a long time, they imagined that they enjoyed prescriptive rights of evasion.

As a consequence of these manifold delays and contests, many accounts remain unsettled, and possibly it will require one or two years of patient work on the part of the department to clear up all the delinquent cases. It is firmly believed that the total amount of these taxes which have been and may be recovered will be about \$1,000,000.

The total amount of taxes overdue on December 31, 1879, collected during the fiscal year, is as follows, to wit: Amount of delinquent corporation tax collected during the year, a portion of which was collected in the twenty-five years, \$150,000.00

Amount of tax on capital stock paid by the Pennsylvania railroad, \$7,222.81

The number of building and loan associations registered in this department in the fiscal year ending November 30, 1879, was one hundred and eighty-eight (188); in 1880 the number was two hundred and twenty-nine (229), making in all one thousand and seventeen (1017), of which number only one hundred and forty-four (144) have reported for taxation.

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IN reference to state personal tax the auditor general says that the revenue commissioners have certified to this department the amount of the value of the property of the several cities and counties of the commonwealth, as adjusted and equalized by them.

THE board declined to increase the amounts of the valuations as returned to them by the commissioners of the several counties on account of the decision of the courts that they had no authority under the law to increase the valuations of any county unless the objects of taxation on which such increase was based were shown to be in existence. This board were unable to do; hence their action.

THE total valuation of personal property for purposes of state taxation, as fixed by the board, is as follows: Amount of property subject to a tax of one cent per hundred, \$9,063,512.00

THE auditor general says that if the decision of his department relation and affirmed by the attorney general's, that the law should be repealed, and that a year, and that the mere creation of an office and the designation of a salary therefor are not sufficient to constitute an appropriation, were sanctioned by the Legislature there would be no friction in enforcing the constitutional provision on this subject.

THE auditor general makes a statement of the claims for which there are no appropriations and for which appropriations are necessary.

Under the law of 1849 the auditor general collects all receipts for moneys paid into the treasury by banks, corporations and the names of the banks, corporations, firms or individuals with whom the moneys of the said fund are deposited, with the various amounts of said deposits, &c., under the act of 1876, by reason of the failure of such depositaries to make the monthly reports required by law.

THE number of corporations registered in this department on November 30, 1879, was 3,392. There have been registered during the fiscal year just ended 275. Total number of registered corporations, 3,667.

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ex-treasurers allege a full legal defence to claims of the commonwealth.

The governor has appointed B. M. Nead, T. M. Mahon and Jeremiah Cook commissioners, under the third section of the act of 1871, whose duty it shall be to prosecute the collection of border claims.

The auditor general speaks of the establishing of his office as a matter of information, gave a brief statement of the original powers of the office, and traced the gradual encroachments on these powers down to the present time.

MR. COX'S STATEMENT. Why He Declined to be Sworn in as a Senator. HARRISBURG, Jan. 4.—To my constituents I feel it my duty to state to you simply and clearly the reason which forced me to refuse to take the oath prescribed by the constitution as a necessary prerequisite to entering upon my duties as senator, knowing as I do that this refusal would be no less a violation of the law than if I had solemnly sworn and affirmed that I will support, obey and defend the constitution of the United States and the constitution of this commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity; and that I have not knowingly violated any provision of the constitution, either directly or indirectly, any money or valuable thing to procure my nomination or election, or appointment, except for necessary and proper expenses expressly authorized by law.

I did, however, determine twice to retire from the field, but upon reflection I resolved to fight it out on the line of spending money, or anything else, to secure the success of the whole ticket, as not to endanger its defeat by my withdrawal, and to decline to take my seat if, upon careful consideration of the subject in the nine weeks that would elapse between election day and the meeting of the Senate, I should decide that any part of the money was used for expenses not expressly authorized by law.

Having made this full and frank statement of the facts, I wish to say that if I had done anything that I considered wrong, or anything that would tend to hide, I could have resigned before the meeting of the Senate, giving as a reason my business engagements, or something of that kind; but such is not the case. I have nothing to conceal, nothing to be ashamed of, and nothing to hide. The honest man should be, to suffer the consequences of his actions. I make no claim to having been deceived and kept in ignorance. What I did I did with my eyes open.

REGRETTING that I cannot, as I had originally hoped, be of some service, however slight, to Luzerne and Lackawanna counties in the Senate.

I am yours, very respectfully. ECKLEY B. COXE. Late Senator-elect for the Twenty-sixth District.

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penes not expressly authorized by law, yet not one cent spent with my knowledge or consent, for any improper or fraudulent purpose.

OF course I do not pretend to say that, when my name passed through not a dozen hundred hands, some small part of it may not have been diverted to improper uses, but if it were I have never heard of it.

THE words to which I object are "expressly authorized by law." A law entitled "An act to define the necessary and proper expenses of members of the Senate, House of Representatives, and county officers, and to authorize the payment of money or other valuable thing for the vote, or influence of any elector." I did not lay out one cent of my money in any way to procure my nomination or election, or appointment, except for necessary and proper expenses expressly authorized by law.

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ing in an unfinished building adjoining the premises he had plundered. While escaping he had fallen through the skylight and thence through the stairs to the parlor floor, crushing his skull and breaking both his arms and three of his ribs. When discovered his body was scattered all around. The name of "T. Garvey" is imprinted on his arm.

IT is now believed by a large number of people in the community that Anton Kloefel killed his wife, Maria, near Weissport, Carbon county, accidentally, or at least unintentionally. Kloefel did not know the gun with which he killed his wife was loaded. He cleaned the gun and set it away, intending to return it to a person in Mauch Chunk of whom he had borrowed it. During his absence from the room a younger brother of Mrs. Kloefel loaded the gun. Kloefel is still in jail at Mauch Chunk, and is said to be almost crazy with grief.

THE "Happy Home" Wrecked. The bark Happy Home, of Hantsport, N. S., struck Trinity ledge, twelve miles from Yarmouth and capsized. The captain's wife, daughter and one man perished. The rest of the crew were frozen, the captain and mate seriously injured. The wreck is less than two miles from the shore. The carpenter's wife was washed to the quarter and heavily covered with cloaks and other clothing. She had seemingly lately died, as her body was warm. A girl about seven years old was embraced in her mother's arms.

THE Microscope in the Study of Rocks. At the regular monthly meeting of the Lancaster Microscopical Society, last evening, a paper was read on the use of the compound microscope in the study of rocks, by Dr. Crumbaugh, the president of the society, of which we present a brief abstract. Petrology is the name given to this branch of science.

THE means at the disposal of the older petrologists for identifying the mineral components of fine-grained or minutely crystalline rocks were so primitive that we wonder not so much at the little that has been ascertained as at the amount of information amassed by such simple methods, and at the truth or comparative accuracy of many of their statements. The pocket lens was their most important instrument in their work, and was indeed the only means they possessed for distinguishing minute structure.

THE following is the relative grade of pupils, in attendance at the boys' high school during the month of December. Two hours' home study is expected from each pupil:

Table with 3 columns: Name, School, and Grade. Lists names of pupils and their respective schools and grades.

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DEADLY GAS.

PAYING FOR POISONING.

WHENCE IS THIS NOXIOUS ODOR?

Complaints About the Gas-Foul Odors and Poison in the Chambers were made in the Gas Bill.

In many parts of the city last evening there was loud complaint about the insufficiency of the light furnished by the gas, the foul odors arising from its consumption, and the suffocating and painful sensations occasioned by its inhalation.

Since the consolidation of the two gas companies of our city, the people who have taken occasion to have noticed that at times the gas is very foul, a large portion of the flame bluish, in other words the gas is much poorer than before this unfortunate event occurred.

With the attempt of the present organization to make that gas as possible at the least expense (not to mention the cost to the manufacturer), two decided evils have become apparent. First, the enfeebled flickering injurious to the eye; and second, the passage through the burner of the gas, leaving in the room a disagreeable gas that is exceedingly noxious to the consumer as well as expensive.

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