

LANCASTER INTELLIGENCER.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEB. 1, 1882.

THE COUNTY AFFAIRS.

EX-COMMISSIONER MONTGOMERY

Presenting Some Important Considerations for Taxpayers.

EDITORS INTELLIGENCER: In a recent issue of the INTELLIGENCER an editorial article begins by saying that the last board of commissioners was unpopular as a whole.

But why associate me with this nefarious business? I had no hand nor part in its consummation. True, you implicitly except me from participation in the payment of the last batch of bills that were clamorously paid, after the office had been finally closed for the term, by mentioning the names of Coble and Bushong in connection with that transaction, but you leave it to be inferred that I co-operated with them in the payment of the multitude of other iniquitous bills that were paid during our term of office.

I am aware that I acquired a good deal of unpopularity when commissioner, but I have the consolation of knowing that I incurred it by my persistent opposition to the payment of all extravagant and unjust bills. Now I have no objections to your parading my unpopularity in your columns, but in justice to me you ought to have told whence it emanated. I think it was confined to the comparatively few of our people of the cormorant species and their satellites, who had taken offense at my vigilant efforts in warding off their foul attacks on the public treasury. You know this to be the fact about as well as I do, and therefore you ought to have qualified your declaration by saying that Coble and Bushong were unpopular because they paid bills that were unjust and ought not to have been paid, and Montgomery was unpopular because he opposed the payment of all such bills.

I think you make a mistake in denominated the \$7,130 a "floating debt." It is a part of the bonded county debt. The persons to whom it is due hold the county bonds for it, and some of them are not due for a number of years yet, and some of them are over-due. Those we would have paid at maturity, but the parties wanted to keep them, and besides we considered that if our successors made a levy of twenty-five cents on the hundred dollars of valuation, the county would be in a better shape in the future to pay them out of the surplus that would accrue, as there is no part of the other bonds due until April 1884 to absorb it.

I was astonished to see the following statement taken from the "New Era": "The last management a large floating debt has been incurred, and the result is that additional taxation must be laid to meet it, and the commissioners have just fixed the rate for the present year and have increased it from twenty-five cents to thirty cents on every hundred dollars of valuation." Or, in plain English, they propose to increase the tax for this year in the neighborhood of forty-five thousand dollars to pay this alleged floating debt. So far as I know there was no unpaid debt except the bonded debt at the expiration of our term; and I have reason to presume that there was none from the fact that persons having claims against the county always were prompt in presenting them, and all that were presented were paid. Therefore, I feel safe in saying that less than a thousand dollars would pay all the floating debt the county owes. But if the commissioners propose to force the payment of what is due of the above mentioned \$7,130 of bonds, it will have the same effect on the finances as the paying of a like amount of floating debt, but surely it would be bad financial policy to assess forty-five thousand dollars of additional tax to pay \$7,130. It may be said that the balance can be applied to the payment of the other bonds, but they must bear in mind that there is no part of the other bonds due for over two years yet and it would be still worse financial policy to take money out of the taxpayers' pockets now to pay a debt that will not be due for over two years hence. Three years' experience in the commissioners' office convinces me that a levy of twenty-five cents on the hundred dollars valuation is amply sufficient to meet all the current expenses of the county, including ordinary improvements and repairs, and leave a very considerable balance each year to pay the bonded debt. With the practice of that rigid economy that it is the duty of all public officers to enforce, I feel safe in saying that the entire county debt could be paid in less than ten years without increasing the rate of taxation one cent. If our county business was managed with the same economy that all frugal men manage their private business, \$100,000 a year would be sufficient to pay all the necessary expenses of the county, instead of \$200,000 as is contemplated by a levy of thirty cents on the hundred dollars valuation. And there is no conceivable reason why it should not be thus managed. The county pays cash for all labor and material furnished it, and therefore ought to get it at the lowest market price, instead of, as is too often the case, paying double that amount.

Right here the question may be very pertinently asked: "Why did you not, when commissioner inaugurate and practice this retrenchment and economy that you are talking about?" The answer is, I did so far as could be reasonably expected of one in the minority, but failed in very many instances for want of that support and co-operation for which I am personally accountable to my colleagues which the taxpayers had a right to expect me to receive; and if I had received it we would have been enabled to have paid at least \$20,000 more of the county debt than we did pay. Unfortunately they had too great a proneness to follow in the footsteps of our immediate predecessors. However, if the present board of commissioners are determined to impose an additional tax of forty-five thousand dollars upon the people to produce an overflowing treasury for an army of cormorants to feed upon, I cannot

prevent them nor do I propose to try; but I have a right in common with all taxpayers to say that they ought not to do it under the false pretense of paying a large floating debt that has comparatively little or no existence, nor even of paying a bonded indebtedness which does not mature for two years from next April.

ROBERT MONTGOMERY. QUARRVILLE, Pa., Jan. 31, 1882.

skill in the Workshop. To do good work the mechanic must have good tools. Hours of confinement in close rooms have enfeebled his hand or dimmed his sight, let him at once, and before some organic trouble appears, take plenty of HOP BITTERS. His system will be rejuvenated, his nerves strengthened, his sight become clear, and the whole constitution be built up to a higher working condition.

Incredible. F. A. Scratch, druggist, Buffalo, Ont., writes: "I have the greatest confidence in your HOP BITTERS. In one case with which I am personally acquainted the result was almost incredible. One lady told me that a bottle did her more good than hundreds of dollars' worth of medicine she had previously taken." Price 25c. For sale at H. L. Cochran's drug store, 137 North Queen St., Lancaster.

Second Edition of Job. Mrs. Orden, N. Division street, Buffalo, says: "I cannot be too thankful that I was induced to try your Spring Bitters. I was one time afraid I should never be able to get out again. I seemed to be a second edition of Job without its patience; my face and body were one collection of boils and pimples; since taking one bottle of your Spring Bitters an eruption of other iniquitous bills that I feel better than I have in a long time." Price 25c. For sale at H. L. Cochran's drug store, 137 North Queen street, Lancaster.

HOSTETTER'S CELEBRATED STOMACH BITTERS.

A remedy with such a reputation as Hostetter's Stomach Bitters deserves a fair trial. It is a part of the bonded county debt. The persons to whom it is due hold the county bonds for it, and some of them are not due for a number of years yet, and some of them are over-due. Those we would have paid at maturity, but the parties wanted to keep them, and besides we considered that if our successors made a levy of twenty-five cents on the hundred dollars of valuation, the county would be in a better shape in the future to pay them out of the surplus that would accrue, as there is no part of the other bonds due until April 1884 to absorb it.

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Table Linens, Towels and Napkins in Great Variety.

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