

Lancaster Intelligencer.

MONDAY EVENING, SEPT. 17, 1883.

The Mandamus Cases.

A majority of the sub-committee of the law committee of Philadelphia councils have found and reported to their superior body certain facts touching the administration of City Solicitor Collis, which are a very significant feature of the history of municipal government in that city as administered in the old days of reckless carelessness or criminal misconduct on the part of the officials. It seems that in 1875 and 1876 Charles H. T. Collis, then city solicitor, confessed judgments or suffered them to be given against the city amounting to \$1,118,872.95. One of these cases was that of George Holdcraft, and judgment was confessed for \$139.25 for labor in the highway department. Holdcraft had already been paid for this labor and never brought a suit for the money, but he was paid again by mandamus; nor had he ever sold any claim against the city. The real plaintiff was William Armstrong, who said he had "bought it in the usual way." M. M. Coppuck, chief clerk of the highway department, acted as agent for Armstrong in the purchase of about \$300,000 worth of claims. These were bought at ten per cent. discount. In this case General Collis agreed with the attorney for the claim that the decision should bind some thirty others, amounting to about \$50,000. In a number of other cases it has been made manifest that the city has been paying the same claim more than once and some claims that had no foundation whatever.

In the Monaghan and Weeder case General Collis confessed judgment for \$1,038.75, and both men say that they had their pay by warrants and did not authorize William H. Verkes, now judge, to sue the city. Neither did they receive any of the money. The \$1,038 was in addition to the appropriation. Mr. William Armstrong was the real plaintiff. William May, whose suit was for \$12,410.58, said he had never authorized Findlay & Thomas to sue for him nor had he authorized the claims of Assistant Highway Commissioners Haex, Nuttall, Cobb and Gilligan, and ex Controller Hanson bought at 20 per cent. discount. Mr. Armstrong collected by mandamus through his attorney, William B. Mann, prothonotary.

In thirty cases, involving \$34,000, brought through Findlay & Thomas, Mr. Findlay denied that he allowed the use of his name or received any of the fees. Out of these thirty cases twenty seven were paid to S. P. Hanson, city controller, and to Peter Lane, Jr., chief clerk of the city treasurer, and not to the plaintiffs of record. In the case of the Blue Stone company mandamus suits were brought without the consent of the company and the company did not receive the money paid by the city. Then the report speaks of the Miskey case and others. It was shown that the suits were brought by speculators and the money was obtained on suits brought nominally by plaintiffs who knew nothing of them and had no share in the profit.

Gen. Collis maintains and claims to be able to show that in all these cases he acted in good faith and upon representations made to him by the proper city officers, that the city had no defense and it would be a waste of time and money to attempt to make one. Nevertheless, he declined to waive his privileges to make the defense of the statute of limitations in any suits to be brought against him for official negligence or misconduct. And the main committee trusts so far to his innocence as to refuse to order any such suits. This refusal does not, however, relieve Collis from the necessity of clearing up his record which he shows a disposition to do by unloading the responsibility upon some other of those who were in office, in other departments of the city government at his time.

When he shall have succeeded in thus transferring the burden of the fact will still remain that the city was plundered by wholesale in this mandamus business, and the incident will serve as fresh illustration of the course of the Republican party in federal, state and local administration over the whole country in the past twenty years. There is no remedy for it except in the ouster of that party from power, and the way to accomplish this is for the Democrats to succeed there. The most radical opponents of the Democracy are beginning to recognize this, and even such men as Wendell Phillips say: "If I could I would try to rally a temperance party, but the temperance men have always betrayed us at the polls; or I would try to rally a Greenback party, since the Greenbackers have only half done their work. But at present there can be only two political parties. The Republican is one. I distrust and despise the Republicans as hypocrites and time servers, as double dealers, as soulless career masquerading in the grave clothes of their honored predecessors."

For sheer audacity of statement and impudent adherence to it, Chairman Cooper of the Republican state committee takes the palm. After having vainly sought to defeat the Humes bill, which is corrective of treasury mismanagement, Cooper boldly proclaimed the other night at Bedford, that the Humes bill was a "Republican measure." Although Mr. Powell was himself born in Bradford county and his ancestors came to this country in 1712, Cooper shamelessly declared that he was an Englishman. His last mendacious public utterance was the statement to a Times reporter that the "Pattison administration has, in the first year of its power, cost the people and the industries of our state nearly two and a half millions of dollars over and above the ordinary expense of the state government." Of course nobody believes any such gross and unequalled falsehood, not even Cooper himself. The audacity of the fellow proves the despatch of his cause.

ALL over the country people are awakening to the imposition practiced upon the rights of private property by those whose corporate interests are served by the erection of poles for electric wires. They must go.

CONDENSED NEWS.

BOUGHT BY THE MORNING MAILS.

A Resume of Interesting and Late Happenings—Some Miscellaneous Matters from All Parts.

The celebration of the 75th anniversary of Mexican independence was continued yesterday in the city of Mexico. The display of bunting exceeded that of Saturday, when the festivities overlapped those of Diaz's birthday. There was a grand parade of the various societies, schools, government employes and military, with a number of allegorical cars.

The steamer Delaware, at New York yesterday from Charleston, reports that on the 11th inst., eighteen miles from Cape Hatteras, a violent wreck of the three masted schooner Charles F. Hever from Apalachicola for New York. The schooner was waterlogged and abandoned and is in the direct track of coasting steamers.

The equal representation denied the Democrats is almost everywhere already the parliamentary treatment of the Senate minority.

JAY-EYE SEE'S great mile trot in 2:10 on Saturday clearly indicates that the present generation will have to see the record of Mand S. eclipsed by many of our fast flyers of the turf.

With the approach of the season the scientific newspapers are again trying to disabuse the popular mind of the delusion that frost robs the leaves and opens the chestnut burrs. It does not.

A TYPE setting machine recently invented, it is claimed, will soon drive out the animated compositor. The enterprising inventor should go a step further and devise a machine for grinding out editorials suitable to occasions as they arrive.

The Pennsylvania railroad is agitating the adoption of a new "time standard" by which the hours after midnight would simply be added to 12, so that 11 o'clock in the morning would be 23 o'clock, and noon would be 24 o'clock. Great advantages in the simplification of time tables are claimed for the new system.

PARISIAN morals are illustrated by the following advertisements clipped from daily newspapers in that gay metropolis: "A lady with a lot on her back, wishes to get married. The marriage to be celebrated without delay. Address, A. B. C."

The incendious of Philadelphia journalism was never more signally illustrated than in the fact that it pays the Jo. Howards of the New York newspaper offices something like a dollar a square inch for such brightness as this about New York politics:

Harmony looks as if it would be Hibernized, for everybody appears willing and ready to barn-ony other man who stands in the way.

FEATURES OF THE STATE PRESS. The Altoona Tribune has made up its mind that we need in this state and country more independence in public life.

The Philadelphia Record is pained to observe that the nation is becoming a race of candy eaters.

L. E. Gleifer, formerly a type of this city, is now conducting a weekly publication called the Labor Herald in Pittsburg.

The Reading Times believes that butter milk will ere long supersede beer as the national beverage.

The Harrisburg Independent sagely observes that the negroes of the South need more religious training and less political intrigue.

THE COUNTY FAIR.

A BUSY DAY AT THE LANCASTER FAIR.

Arranged the Exhibits—Rooms Filled and Overcrowding—Grounds Covered With Machinery and Implements—

This has been a busy day at the Lancaster county fair. It is the opening day of the independent state fair, and exhibitors have been hard at work since early morning preparing the places assigned them for their exhibits and arranging the number of horses to be shown. The sound of the hammer and the saw, the hatchet and the plane, are heard on all sides. Hundreds of wagons, loaded with goods for the show have been rumbled all day along the pike leading to the park.

The main building will present a very attractive appearance. The south room down stairs will be filled principally with pianos, organs, bellows, horse collars, and other manufactures of leather. The north room will be devoted to agricultural implements, plants and vegetables, natural, raised and preserved, and many other articles not yet arranged.

The first building north of the main building is devoted to a display of poultry of which there are many fine specimens of all the approved varieties.

The next building is set apart for the exhibition of agricultural implements, of which there is a very fine display.

The races promise to be a leading feature of the fair. Every class for which prizes are offered has been filled.

Wednesday, Sept. 19—3:00 Class. Sam. J. Daniel, Lancaster, Pa. 1st. 2nd. 3rd. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. 8th. 9th. 10th. 11th. 12th. 13th. 14th. 15th. 16th. 17th. 18th. 19th. 20th. 21st. 22nd. 23rd. 24th. 25th. 26th. 27th. 28th. 29th. 30th. 31st. 32nd. 33rd. 34th. 35th. 36th. 37th. 38th. 39th. 40th. 41st. 42nd. 43rd. 44th. 45th. 46th. 47th. 48th. 49th. 50th. 51st. 52nd. 53rd. 54th. 55th. 56th. 57th. 58th. 59th. 60th. 61st. 62nd. 63rd. 64th. 65th. 66th. 67th. 68th. 69th. 70th. 71st. 72nd. 73rd. 74th. 75th. 76th. 77th. 78th. 79th. 80th. 81st. 82nd. 83rd. 84th. 85th. 86th. 87th. 88th. 89th. 90th. 91st. 92nd. 93rd. 94th. 95th. 96th. 97th. 98th. 99th. 100th. 101st. 102nd. 103rd. 104th. 105th. 106th. 107th. 108th. 109th. 110th. 111th. 112th. 113th. 114th. 115th. 116th. 117th. 118th. 119th. 120th. 121st. 122nd. 123rd. 124th. 125th. 126th. 127th. 128th. 129th. 130th. 131st. 132nd. 133rd. 134th. 135th. 136th. 137th. 138th. 139th. 140th. 141st. 142nd. 143rd. 144th. 145th. 146th. 147th. 148th. 149th. 150th. 151st. 152nd. 153rd. 154th. 155th. 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