

The Centre Democrat.



SHUGERT & FORSTER, Editors.

"EQUAL AND EXACT JUSTICE TO ALL MEN, OF WHATEVER STATE OR PERSUASION, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL."—Jefferson.

TERMS: \$1.50 per Annum, in Advance.

VOL. 2.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1880.

NO. 4.

The Centre Democrat.

Terms \$1.50 per Annum, in Advance.

S. T. SHUGERT and R. H. FORSTER, Editors.

Thursday Morning, January 22, 1880.

Centre County Democratic Committee—1880.

DISTRICTS.	NAMES.	P. O. ADDRESS.
Bellefonte, N. W.	William Galbraith	Bellefonte.
Bellefonte, E. W.	W. C. Helm	Bellefonte.
Bellefonte, W. W.	William Harper	Bellefonte.
Milroy	Frank E. Bible	Milroy.
Unionville	F. J. McDonnell	Unionville.
Harold	A. J. Gardner	Harold.
Phillipsburg	C. G. Herlinger	Phillipsburg.
Milbath	J. H. Reifens	Milbath.
Boggs	David DeLong	Boggs.
Barre	Wm. A. McClain	Barre.
Barre	William Hepple	Pine Glen.
Carlisle	Sam'l Gilliland	Carlisle.
Carlisle	David DeLong	Howard.
Carlisle	Don't Driebelitz	State College.
N. P.	O. M. Sheets	Stormstown.
Georg	J. M. Rich	Spring Mills.
Boggs	George Keeler	Georg.
Halfmoon	John Ward	Stormstown.
Harris	Samuel Ishler	Balsburg.
Harris	H. G. Christner	Martha.
Liberty	W. H. Gardner	Liberty.
Marion	John Roy	Marion.
Milroy	Sam'l R. Smith	Milroy.
Palmer	W. F. Smith	Palmer.
Perk	W. F. Smith	Milbath.
Perk	D. F. Lutz	Centre Hall.
S. P.	G. W. Spangler	Haworth.
East	William Cullen	Phillipsburg.
Snow Shoe	John G. Uzz	Snow Shoe.
Spring	E. C. Wood	Spring.
Tyler	Sam'l H. Over	Tyler.
Union	J. S. Fredericks	Union.
Walker	Samuel Decker	Zion.
Worth	R. Williams	Fort Matilda.
	J. L. SPANGLER, Chairman.	
	FRANK E. BIBLE, Secretary.	

DEMOCRATIC CO. COMMITTEE ROOMS, BELLEFONTE, JAN. 21, 1880.

There will be a meeting of the Democratic County Committee at the Court House, in Bellefonte, on Saturday, January 24, at 1 P. M.

Business of importance will be transacted. By order of the Chairman, J. L. SPANGLER, F. E. BIBLE, Secretary.

"ANOTHER revolution in Maine" is what it may be called. Backed by the opinion of a partisan Court, Blaine has got a substitute into the Governor's chair at last.

In the last Legislature a bill was introduced and very earnestly pressed, providing for an appropriation from the treasury of the State of four millions to pay the damages of the Pittsburgh riots. It failed, and the liability remained upon Allegheny county. These damages are now compromised, without trouble, at \$2,500,000, and it is not difficult to see where the money was to come from to pay the large and active lobby for procuring the passage of the bill.

By counting out Democrats duly elected, and by counting in votes never cast, on the allegation that they should have been given, because they were negroes, and ought to count whether polled or not, the Republicans stole the Presidency and seated a Fraud. This the Radicals call "Purifying the ballot-box." But, counting out alleged Republican members of the Maine legislature, according to the laws and precedents enacted by themselves, these same consistent radicals denominate "Fraud and scoundrelism."

Our friend Hayes Grier of the Columbia (Lancaster) Herald says in reference to a new election in this Congressional district, that the democracy can make a sure thing of it by nominating a good, sound democrat—one who can unite the whole vote. That is precisely what the democracy intend to do, and the man they mean to place at the head of their column is the Hon. Andrew G. Curtin, and they will send him to Washington, backed by a majority unprecedented in the political history of the 20th Congressional district.

SCARCELY any man in civil life has done the American people greater service than John Sherman, but he is doing at this moment perhaps the greatest of all his services in standing forward as a Presidential candidate against Grant and Blaine.—Springfield Republican.

Perhaps he is doing good service in the manner indicated, but he has done greater service to the country during his public service—rising from very moderate means on a very moderate salary to immense wealth. It is the Democracy, however, who are expected to do the great service to the country by "standing forward" and defeating the victor of these stalwart rivals for the Presidency.

The Election of President.

The proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States in regard to elections of President and Vice President, recently introduced into Congress by Hon. Geo. A. Bicknell, of Indiana, has received a favorable report from a sub-committee of the select committee to which it was referred by the House of Representatives for consideration. It is expected that at some time during this week the amendment will come back to the House with the endorsement of the entire committee. It proposes a radical change in the manner of ascertaining and declaring the number of electoral votes that each candidate for President shall receive in each State in which votes are cast for him, and prescribes the manner of counting the votes and determining questions of contest. In another column will be found a synopsis of the changes to be made, and from it we copy the following in relation to the way in which the number of electoral votes that each person shall receive is to be ascertained:

"The electoral votes and fraction thereof of each person voted for as President in any State shall be ascertained by multiplying his entire popular vote therein by the number of the State's electoral votes, and dividing the product by the sum of all the votes given in the State for President, and the quotient shall be the number of electoral votes and fraction thereof to be assigned to such person, using for such fraction three decimals only."

It is to be the same for Vice President, and to explain this proposition as we understand it, we will take the result of the last Presidential election in Pennsylvania. The total vote cast for President in 1876 was 758,910, divided among four candidates as follows: Mr. Hayes received 384,184 votes; Mr. Tilden, 366,204; Mr. Cooper, 7,204, and Mr. Smith, 1,318. Of course under the present system Mr. Hayes received the entire twenty-nine electoral votes of the State. By Bicknell's method of computation, what would have been the result? Taking the vote of Hayes (384,184) and multiplying it by 29, we have for product 11,141,336. This product divided by the entire vote (758,910) gives us a quotient of 14, with a fraction in decimals of .680. Tilden's vote of 366,204, treated in the same way, gives a quotient of 13, with a fraction in decimals of .995. Cooper's vote, by the same process, makes the quotient a fraction in decimals of .275, and Smith's vote a fraction in decimals of .050. The result may then be stated as follows:

Hayes receives	14.680	Electoral votes.
Tilden	13.995	" "
Cooper	.275	" "
Smith	.050	" "
Total	29	

This appears to be a somewhat complicated method of computing the vote, but still it may be a better system than the one under which we now elect the highest officers of our government. For years there has been a growing dislike to the present electoral system, and strong reasons against it have been urged by many wise and thoughtful statesmen. Some object to it on the ground that it is too far away from the people, and gives a majority party in a State absolute control over all the electors, either through the power to select them by the legislature, or by electing them on a general ticket, thus practically disfranchising the minority, however large it may be. Another objection is, that the political party controlling the legislature of a State, instead of acting from motives intended to promote the general welfare and basing changes upon principles of public policy, may at each succeeding Presidential election, with the aid of a sympathizing Executive, change the manner of choosing electors exactly as party necessities may require, and just as the Republicans now propose to do in the State of New York. This looks like a dangerous power to trust to a State legislature, and the abuses that may flow from it are clearly exemplified in what is now

threatened in the Empire State. A bad precedent there will certainly be followed by others elsewhere just as bad.

Whether the remedy found in the proposed amendment of Mr. Bicknell is the best that can be devised we will not pretend to assert; but surely the subject is one that should command the serious attention of the public as well as of law makers, and we trust it will receive it, to the end that when a new system is actually adopted it will be the result of mature thought and calm deliberation upon some plain, practical measure that will meet the ends for which it is intended, rather than of hasty and inconsiderate action upon crude and speculative theories that may only increase existing evils.

Curtin vs. Yocum.

It would perhaps be expecting too much to look for an honest, truthful discussion of any matter of public interest in the columns of the Philadelphia Press. It has been gradually but surely falling from its high estate as a newspaper until it has now reached such a degree of journalistic degradation as to render its opinions on any subject absolutely worthless. Its editor has the reputation of being a great statistician, and he certainly did much to enhance his fame by the skillful and dexterous manner in which he made figures lie in his article on the Curtin contest in the Press of the 19th instant. He was cautious enough to preface his remarks by the statement that the testimony was so voluminous and complicated as to be unintelligible, except to the immediate counsel in the case. Thus fortified he proceeded to demonstrate his dense ignorance of the whole matter by stating that there were 335 illegal votes cast for Governor Curtin and only 29 for Yocum, thus making the latter's majority 379. Warming up to his work, the ex-chief of the Bureau of Printing and the present compiler of election figures in Jay Gould's Tribune Almanac boldly plunges into the unregistered vote, and airily asserts that it was alleged by both sides that there were a large number of unregistered votes cast, but that neither party offered any evidence to show for whom these unregistered voters cast their ballots. And this in the face of the fact, that Gov. Curtin qualified every such unregistered voter in the districts which gave him a majority, where the voter could be reached by a subpoena. The law in regard to unregistered voters is so plain that he who runs may read. It is not directory but mandatory. It does not seek to deprive the legal voter of his right of suffrage because his name has been omitted from the roll of registration, but it clearly and decisively marks out the manner in which he shall prove his legal qualifications to the board holding the election. Wherever this necessary proof was wanting in precincts giving Gov. Curtin a majority the voter himself was placed upon the stand and his qualifications established. This was not done by Mr. Yocum and hence a large unregistered vote was not accounted for before the Committee. The number of illegal votes proven to have been cast for Mr. Yocum was largely in excess of those shown to have been polled for Gov. Curtin, a preponderance in fact, which would have wiped out Yocum's majority twice over. There is not the slightest doubt that the Committee would have seated Governor Curtin on the equities of his case, instead of remanding the matter to the sovereign power of the people for adjudication, had he so wished. But his counsel in the final argument actually suggested a new election as the best and most satisfactory solution of the vexed question. The Press further stultifies itself by making an obviously unfair and unjust comparison between the vote cast for Mr. Dill and Governor Curtin in the six counties composing the 20th district. It does not see fit to remember that Mr. Dill ran largely

ahead of his ticket in his own county of Union and also in Clearfield county where he has influential Republican relatives. It is to be hoped, that hereafter when the Press assumes to pass upon the merits of a controversy it does not understand, the editor will call into consultation his invaluable "office boy" and thus prevent a repetition of the stupidity and ignorance which marked Mr. McPherson's effort on the Congressional contest of the Twentieth District.

The Congressional Contest.

The arguments on the contest from this Congressional district before the House Committee on elections, were concluded last week and all the evidence went to the sub-Committee for its consideration. It is understood the Committee has agreed upon a report declaring the seat of Mr. Yocum vacant; but at this writing, (Wednesday noon) no official advices have been received from Washington that the Committee has reported its conclusions to the House. Of course, so far the nature of the report is only a matter of conjecture, but the best informed newspaper correspondents at the National Capitol, all agree in inferring that a new election will be ordered, although a special to the Pittsburg Commercial-Gazette, of the 21st, indicates a different view. It is probable, however, that before this issue of the DEMOCRAT reaches all its readers in Centre county the committee will have submitted the report, and of its speedy adoption by the House, there is little question.

Should it be decided to declare a vacancy, an election to fill it will be necessary, and it is probable that the proclamation will be issued for it to be held on the 17th of February, the regular day for holding the borough and township elections. The time being very short, prompt and efficient action upon the part of the Democracy of the various counties of the district will be indispensable. In this county the Chairman of the County Committee has issued a call for a meeting of the Committee for next Saturday, in order that he may be fully empowered to act with the expedition the exigencies of the case require. Under our party rules and the precedents of many years standing it will be necessary to reconvene the County Convention of last September to make a nomination. An early day will no doubt be named for the assembling of the Convention, when our candidate will be placed in nomination. So far as we can learn in our county there is but one sentiment, and that demands the re-nomination of ex-Governor Curtin, should the action of Congress as above indicated require a candidate to be placed in the field. We are also informed that this sentiment is re-echoed in every portion of the district, thus placing the nomination of Governor Curtin beyond a peradventure.

It may be as well for the Lancaster Intelligencer, and the officious papers outside the 20th Congressional District to know first as last, that the Democrats of Union, Mifflin, Clearfield, Elk, Clinton and Centre counties, are fully equal to the nomination of an acceptable candidate for Congress, without dictation or advice from newspapers foreign to the district. We think Lancaster county a sufficiently prolific field politically to engage all the great abilities of our contemporary without slopping over with unasked suggestions as to party action elsewhere. The animus of the Intelligencer is easily understood and very lightly considered. If it becomes necessary to nominate a candidate for Congress, our people have no second choice. The mantle of the nomination will fall upon the shoulders of the man who demonstrated to a Congressional Committee that the election held on the 6th of November, 1878, was illegal.

As it is understood that we are likely to have a special election for a member of Congress from this district, there are many inquiries in regard to the law governing such elections. The election, if one is held, will be governed by the act of July 2, 1839, which provides as follows:

Sec. 39. Every writ which shall be issued by the Governor of this Commonwealth in pursuance of the Constitution of the United States, to supply a vacancy in the representation of the people of this Commonwealth in the House of Representatives of the United States, shall be directed to the Sheriff of the county or counties composing the Congressional district, and shall particularly express the day on which the election shall be held to supply such vacancy.

Sec. 40. If such vacancy shall happen during the session of Congress, or if Congress shall be required to meet at some time previous to the next general election, the Governor shall appoint a time as early as may be convenient for holding such election; otherwise, he shall direct the election to be held at the time appointed for holding the general elections.

Sec. 41. Every writ for holding a special election as aforesaid shall be delivered to the Sheriff, to whom the same may be directed, at least fifteen days before the day appointed for such election, who shall forthwith give due and public notice thereof throughout the county at least ten days before such election, and shall send a copy thereof to at least one of the inspectors of each election district therein.

It will be seen from the above that should a vacancy occur in our district at any time within a week or ten days, by reason of the pending contest, the election can be held on the 17th of February, the same day on which the borough and township elections are held, provided the Governor will issue his writ fixing that time and deliver the same to the Sheriffs of the counties fifteen days before the day he designates.

CONGRESS does not appear to have put in any very active work yet. All parties seem to shrink from approaching the disturbing questions of finance. The resolution of Mr. Bayard to deprive the greenbacks of their compulsory legal tender character was reported adversely from the finance committee—the minority also making a report. The whole question will probably come up for discussion next week on the adoption of the report, when we may expect to obtain much information on this dark subject from the views of the Senators who participate. Although the laws relating to finance have been agitated in every hamlet and political parties run on the crude views of individuals to obtain selfish results, still the bearings of the laws upon the prosperity of the country and to what extent they accord with our institutions, are but little understood, and we look forward to the honest official views we may expect from such men as Bayard, Wallace, Thurman, and other statesmen, to dispel the cloud overshadowing the subject.

A PETITION was presented in the House last week by Speaker Randall, signed by Gov. Hoyt, Auditor Schell, and Treasurer Noyes, asking the passage of a bill for the recomputation of the accounts between the United States and the several States and the City of Baltimore, growing out of moneys expended in the war of 1812 with Great Britain.

The Reading Eagle has a story that Reinholdsville, Lancaster county, is very much excited over the strange and mysterious death of the wife of Henry Fisher, who resides a short distance from that place. The family reside in a small house, and the dead body of the woman is now laid out in one of the lower rooms. The husband is emphatic in his statements that his wife died from the effects of being bewitched, and an old woman is named as the person who bewitched Mrs. Fisher. The old witch has quite a reputation in the neighborhood, and is said to perform the most mysterious things. She does business with quite a large number of people, who come from all directions. It is asserted that an enemy of Mr. Fisher visited the witch, paid her money and had certain spells cast over her which resulted in death. Mr. Fisher died in violent spasms.

Certain sections of McKean county being afflicted with wolves, which are killing the sheep in great numbers, Charles Jones, of Kane, an old and successful hunter, offers to clean out the varmints for \$50 a head for old ones and \$28 a head for young ones.

General Grant is expected to sail from Havana for Mexico February 13.

GENERAL NEWS.

Extensive purchases of iron ore fields in West Virginia have been made by the Cambria Iron Company.

Vincent B. Bell, until recently Collector of Customs for Detroit, Mich., committed suicide by shooting himself through the head.

A Coroner in New York is blamed with neglecting to investigate the case of the death of an infant until five months after the occurrence, the body meanwhile remaining unburied.

Judge John V. Painter, of Kittanning, Pennsylvania, died on Wednesday of last week, after an illness of several months. He won considerable prominence at the bar and on the bench.

James Cain, millwright at the Vesuvius Iron Works, Allegheny, while adjusting a belt on a pulley fell sixteen feet, alighting on his head on a pile of metal, breaking his neck. He was 45 years of age and left a family.

The Farrandville fire brick works a running night and day, with orders enough ahead to keep them going for a year or more. They intend to enlarge their dry house sixty feet the coming spring, which will make room for more employes.

Walter E. Brown, 19 years old, the son of an opulent citizen of New York, shot himself through the heart on the step of his father's house on Friday night. No cause for the tragedy is known, except that he had suffered somewhat from morbid melancholia.

The new Senator from Alabama, Mr. Pryor, had never been to Washington before last week. On returning from the Capitol on Thursday he lost his way in the magnificent distances of Washington and had to ask somebody to show him the way home.

On the 15th instant His Holiness Pope Leo XIII approved the appointment of the Right Rev. Dr. Elder, heretofore Bishop of Natchez, to be coadjutor, with right of succession, to the Archbishop of Cincinnati, and to be administrator of the archdiocese.

Richard G. Alexander, of Delaware City, New Castle county, Delaware, who was bitten by a dog about six weeks ago, died of hydrophobia on Friday night, after an illness of five days. The strength of six men was required to hold him, and he had afterward to be bound to the bed. In lucid intervals he begged to be killed.

Samuel Brunner fell dead on Maine street, Bethlehem, Friday evening, of apoplexy. He had been Coroner of the county for fifteen years, a Justice of Peace for the same length of time and Town Clerk for nearly thirty years. Though seventy-three years old he had been in good health.

Sunday morning a fire broke out in the engine room of the Russel Paper Company's mill, at Lawrence, Mass., and quickly communicated with the cutter, drawing and finishing rooms. The loss on the building, stock and machinery is estimated at \$8,000, which is covered by insurance. The fire throws sixty hands out of employment. The works will be repaired at once.

The eleventh annual report of the Railroad Service in Massachusetts shows that during the year ending September 30 last only 11 miles of additional railroads were completed in the State. The gross income for the year of all the corporations amounts to thirty million dollars. The whole number of persons injured during the year, including the accident at Wollaston, was 405; fatal injuries, 45.

In the New York Assembly a communication was received from the Governor, covering the report of the agent of the State relative to infectious diseases among cattle. The Governor says expenses amounting to \$15,000 have been incurred, for which there was no appropriation; and, notwithstanding the recommendation of the Secretary of State, he had directed the work to be stopped until the Legislature took further action.

It was recently ascertained that the Rev. Ezra D. Winslow, the Boston forger, had been living at Buenos Ayres, but when his identity became established he left and his whereabouts are now unknown. While there he became the publisher of a newspaper, obtained a subordinate position under the government, was a Sunday-school teacher and a leading member in the Methodist Episcopal church. He left behind him a number of unpaid bills.

James Ellis and his son John were drowned in the St. Lawrence River at Morristown, N. Y., on Saturday night. Ellis had been across to Brockville, where he purchased some goods, which were brought over in a rowboat, and left on the edge of the ice. Ellis returned home for his son, who put on his skates, and pushed his father before him on a sled. In this manner they proceeded until they reached the water when both fell in. Cries were heard, but when assistance arrived father and son had disappeared.

Riast furnace slag, that most hopeless of all waste substances, is now utilized to a great extent. It is converted into sand, mixed with a certain proportion of siliceous lime, and manufactured into bricks which possess many advantages over the ordinary bricks of commerce. By reducing the slag to a fibrous condition a material is produced which is usefully employed as a non-conductor of heat in clothing, steam pipes and boilers. It is used in the manufacture of glass bottles and glass railway sleepers. But the most recent invention in slag utilization is in the production of a pure, white cement of greater strength than the best Portland cement.