

# The Centre Democrat.



SHUGERT & VAN ORMER, Editors.

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

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## The Centre Democrat.

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S. T. SHUGERT & J. R. VAN ORM, Editors.

Thursday Morning, February 8, 1883.

MR. KELLEY'S tariff on quinine has been stricken out, and he will probably not be able to resurrect it. It will therefore remain on the free list to gladden the fever-stricken sufferers of the country.

MR. McPHERSON, clerk of the House of Representatives figure up the representation of the text house to be composed of 120 Republicans, 6 Readjusters, 2 Greenbackers, 5 Independents and 192 Democrats.

It is again announced the one hundred and ninety-ninth time that John I Davenport has at last captured the forger of the Morey letter. It is not stated where he keeps the unlucky fellow.

WOOD PULP MILLER, put in a claim the other day in the Senate, that New York was a greater iron state than Pennsylvania. In his travels perhaps the New York Senator never got into Pennsylvania. If he did, it must have been in a sleeping car.

CONGRESS proposes to prohibit the importation of adulterated tea. Since its prohibition in England, the United States is the principal market for the poisoned fraud, and very little, if any of the pure article is now to be had in American markets.

THE detective police force of Washington city who are suspected of furnishing aid and comfort to thieves generally, for a division of their swag, have been abolished, and the President has notified them that their service will hereafter be dispensed with.

THE distinctive difference between the Democrats and Republicans on the subject of the tariff is that the former favor a revenue tariff with incidental protection in favor of the industrial interests of the country, while the Republicans favor protection with incidental revenue.

IN MICHIGAN, the fight for Senator still continues, and every day grows in bitterness. Ferry the Republican candidate never exceeds 49, Stout the Democratic candidate 50, and the balance scattering on seven or eight other candidates. They are now calling for a committee to investigate bribery among the Republicans.

THE present Congress only have about twenty working days to complete its work on the Tariff and other important legislation to make up its history. It has done but little, and that little not of such a character as to meet the approbation of the country, or secure the continued ascendancy of the Republican party.

COL. INGEROLL the other day, says a Washington correspondent, walking down the street from court, a horse standing at the curbstone snapped at him viciously. The Colonel was at first startled, but immediately turned upon the animal exclaiming, "Hello, what court are you a judge of?" alluding to the frequent legal tilts between himself and Judge Willie in the Star route trials.

THE best service the legislature of Pennsylvania can now perform for the people as well as for their own reputation, is to give us a fair, honest, equitable redistricting of the state into Congressional and Legislative districts. In the present temper of the people any attempt at gerrymandering or unwise combinations to suppress the will of the majority in order to give unfair representation to any particular party, will only meet with contempt and disaster. We have had enough of this kind of work, and if there is one thing the people demand with an emphasis not to be disregarded with impunity, it is for honest, faithful representation.

### The Borough Election.

A number of our prominent citizens at this time seem to be earnest in a desire to reform the municipal affairs of our borough, and to do so believe that much may be done in that direction by discarding party in the selection of official representatives, have requested us to ask Col. Hastings to hold the Republican primaries a week earlier, than usual. They also desire a similar request be made of the minority party. This request is just and reasonable, and the party that dares not comply with it, brands its motives as unworthy and purely partisan. The people want time to examine the candidates, and to carefully select the fit and reject the unfit nominees of either party.

The latter years have made almost axiomatic the wise declaration of a living, though venerable, statesman, Horatio Seymour, "the people are more directly dependent for their comfort and happiness upon the government of their township officials, than upon the policy of the President, or the legislation of the National Congress."

In less than two weeks the character of the borough administration will have been determined for another year. The issue of Tuesday's election is of gravest import to the property holders of Bellefonte. That there has been mismanagement in the borough affairs, that there have been numerous and monstrous extravagances that there has been lavish expenditure of the municipal moneys—with nothing to show for it, and that the present council, as well as its predecessors, are lamentably deficient in ordinary business sagacity (we do not make a more serious charge) is evident to all, save those directly responsible. We are not indulging in journalistic extravagance when we say that the condition of the borough is alarming, it needs not a prophet to predict its approaching bankruptcy. Yet no council has evinced even a desire to avert the coming deluge. Though the bonded debt bears 7 per cent, and is up to the limit that can be borne, no one of the city fathers seems to have thought of a sinking fund. Though we pay a street tax large enough to keep in good repair four times our present mileage, would any stranger judge it by their present condition. Though we owe \$25,000 of a school debt, our school accommodations are so inadequate to the increasing swarms of children that another building must soon be erected. Another job for some north ward patriot. Though conservative business men have offered \$50,000, for our water-works, in the wisdom (?) of our leaders, they have been retained to increase the annual deficit. The poor department has been so grossly farmed that it needs no comment.

Williamsport has proven the costliness of repudiation. What shall we do?

LATE reports from Washington indicate that the tariff bill will fail of passage at this session for want of time. Judge Kelley who has charge of the House bill says the outlook is not encouraging, and Senator Morrill who engineers the Senate bill is much discouraged, while Messrs Read and Carlisle representing respectively each side of the issue, say "it is physically impossible to pass a tariff bill this session." Unless Mr. Kelley's proposition to rail-road the important appropriation bills, yet to be considered, though under a suspension of the rules without consideration, which is not likely to meet with approbation, it is safe to predict that the tariff bill is doomed for the present Congress. This is unfortunate. The question should be settled. The subject of tariff revision, has long been urged, was as important at the commencement of the Forty-seventh Congress as it is in its expiring days, and why the important work was put off to the last moment, the Republican majority will have to account. The Democrat cannot be held responsible.

### Congressional Apportionment.

Among the Congressional Apportionment bills prepared for the consideration of the Legislature, none seems to possess more the merit of fairness than that read in place by Mr. Parcells, of Millin, in that it avoids as far as possible the division of counties, and perhaps with one exception, places them in convenient contiguous districts. It places our neighboring county of Clinton in very good company, but scatters them north and northwest on a pretty long line of travel besides severing old genial friends who would regret to part company. Mr. Parcell's bill gives Philadelphia the same district as at present, taking a contiguous portion from Montgomery, principally settled by people doing business in Philadelphia, to form the sixth district. The other twenty-two districts are made up as follows:

- 7th—Bucks and the balance of Montgomery.
- 8th—Chester and Delaware.
- 9th—Lancaster.
- 10th—Berks and Lebanon.
- 11th—Lehigh, Northampton and Carbon.
- 12th—Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike and Wayne.
- 13th—Luzerne, Wyoming and Sullivan.
- 14th—Susquehanna, Tioga, Bradford and Potter.
- 15th—Schuylkill and Columbia.
- 16th—Lycoming, Northumberland, Montour, Union and Snyder.
- 17th—York and Dauphin.
- 18th—Adams, Cumberland, Franklin and Perry.
- 19th—Fulton, Bedford, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Centre.
- 20th—Clearfield, Cambria and Blair.
- 21st—Westmoreland, Somerset and Fayette.
- 22nd—Greene, Washington, Beaver and part of Allegheny.
- 23rd—Pittsburg and part of Allegheny.
- 24th—Allegheny City and balance of Allegheny.
- 25th—Armstrong, Indiana and Butler.
- 26th—Lawrence, Mercer and Crawford.
- 27th—Clarion, Jefferson, Cameron, Clinton, Elk and McKean.
- 28th—Erie, Warren, Venango and Forest.

The adoption of this bill would probably divide the party representation of the state about equally, giving perhaps a majority of one or two members to the Republican party.

THE Republicans during the last week indulged in a little cheap gratulation over a supposed discontent on the part of Democratic Senators with the state administration, and an imagined unhappy state of mind of the Democratic party in consequence. Some fanciful correspondents employed to prepare material for the sensational press gave out that the Democratic Senators held a secret caucus to denounce Governor Pattison and Attorney General Cassidy. This was a sweet morsel for the *Times* and the Republican press generally, and the lusty manner in which they howled their satisfaction over the prospective downfall of the administration, and the Democratic party generally, was earnest and gleeful. But, it turns out that the writer drew entirely upon his imagination—was wholly at fault in his statements and led his employers into the blundering falsehood. The thing was scarcely worthy of denial, but the Senators have given the story a flat contradiction. The consultation had no such object as antagonizing the administration, and was a mere consultation of Senators to arrive at an understanding of the course to pursue on legislation to come under their own immediate action. But the sensational press had its bow, all the same, and is incapable of any shame for the lie.

It seems now to be settled that a River and Harbor bill amounting to \$8,000,000 is to be urged for passage at this session of Congress. In the early days of the session it was announced that no bill would be presented, but as congress approaches its end, and many of the members are about to disappear from the stage forever, they naturally desire another turn at the annual thieving bill before they retire. As usual this bill of plunder will be the closing work of the session.

### Governor Pattison.

The remarks of Gen. Ennis of the Doylestown Democrat in reference to the hasty war made upon the Governor, is pertinent and proper. The Democrat referring to the inauguration on the 16th of January, says: "His administration, therefore, is just three weeks old. In fact, it is hardly in good working order yet; for an incoming Governor requires more time to take up the reins of power his predecessor laid down. Of course, the position is new to him, and he is new to the position; but he is no exception to the rule in similar cases. The wisest man feels the newness of a change of employment. He has not had an opportunity even to inaugurate, much less to carry out, a single measure of reform to which he stands pledged, or which the people need. Nevertheless few Governors, less than a month in office, have been more severely antagonized. Herein his enemies have made a mistake. They have begun their attack, and denunciation, too soon. As he has not had an opportunity to merit their assaults, their arrows fall harmless. The people of Pennsylvania love fair play; in fact, it is part of their social being. They will never strike a man while he is down, nor condemn him unheard. When Governor Pattison breaks faith with the people, they will be quick to condemn him; but they will not do it themselves, nor sanction it in others, until this time shall arrive. The attacks of the stalwarts and their allies have too much system in them not to have a purpose. They fear Governor Pattison's strength, and hope to break him down before he can inaugurate the reforms promised. They are likewise jealous of his growing strength with the people. The appointment of Mr. Cassidy is a mere pretext for their hostility; a weak invention of the enemy. They admit his fitness for the office of Attorney General, and acknowledge the Governor's unquestioned right to select his own confidential advisers. Their opposition, in reality, has no ground to stand upon; for they cannot place their finger upon a single act of the Governor which impeaches his integrity.

The duty of the Democrats is plain; they should stand by the Governor and his administration. He can hardly expect sympathy, or support, from Republicans. They antagonized him at the ballot box, and will continue to do it. We hope no Democrat will embrace the mistaken policy of opposition to the Governor he helped to place in office. Governor Pattison will vindicate himself before the people, and his strength will be the party's strength.

THE Republicans of the House and the Dakota lobby made a vigorous effort on Monday to place the rotten borough in position to be forced into the Union at this session, but Mr. Randall and the Democrats were alert and gave the attempt a final quietus for this and the next Congress at least. The question came up on a motion to divide Dakota into two territories, in which a suspension of the rules was demanded to consider it. This was an adroit piece of strategy, but was promptly met by Mr. Randall who is not easily deceived in the effect of such ploys. The two third vote required to consider it, was conspicuously missing, and thus were the Republican preparations for 1884, in the addition of two more rotten states to the Union that has no preparation or right to admission.

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### Governor's Message.

Governor Pattison yesterday sent a message to the Legislature which if its suggestions are heeded, will serve to keep that body down to very hard work during the remainder of the session. The recommendations of the message are all in the line of governmental reform and are of an eminently practical character. The governor begins by recommending the repeal of the act of 1878 reorganizing the office of recorder of Philadelphia, and continues by arguing for the abolition of the offices of independent tax collector, sealer of weights and measures and boiler inspector. He then proceeds to the consideration of the salary question, taking the ground that "extravagant salaries breed an office holding class" and that "the public service should not be made attractive because of its emoluments, but official preference should be desired for its honorable distinction and not as a means of money making and escape from the burdens of labor." The governor therefore recommends that all needless offices be legislated out of existence and all extravagant salaries be reduced to sums fairly compensatory. He also takes strong ground in favor of fixed salaries as against fees for all public officials. In his opinion the spirit of the constitution is undoubtedly that all officers of the state and local governments shall be paid by salaries and not by fees. The governor then passes to the consideration of the subject of official advertising, referring particularly to the abuses which have grown up in the large cities under existing laws. He suggests as a remedy that the advertising be given to the papers of the largest circulation. This rule would work well, except in the case of gift concerns and sheets published as advertising specialties. A law embodying such a provision should be carefully guarded.

Passing from this topic, the governor draws the attention of the legislature to the bill for the better government of cities, prepared by the commission appointed several years since, and allusions in the request made by Governor Hoyt in his last message that the legislature consider the measure submitted to a commission of experts for the regulation of institutions for the insane. He then warns the legislature against attempts to enact special legislation for the several classes of cities under the guise of bills of an apparently general character, commends the bill introduced by Senator Wallace providing for the settlement of disputes between employers and employes, recommends the state depositories be designated by law, advises that a uniform system of voting at elections be established throughout the state, and to this end the passage of a law prescribing how all ballots shall be printed, of what size they shall be and on what kind of paper, proposes a general salary bill for the judges of the commonwealth, insists on the passage of apportionment bills at this session of the legislature which shall be fair and equitable, suggests that the legislature repeal outstanding charters of incorporation kept alive by a fictitious organization and makes a strong appeal for legislation enforcing the Seventeenth article of the constitution. It affords the *Patriot* profound pleasure to endorse the ideas presented in this message. The legislature will do well to adopt the suggestions of the governor and endeavor to give them practical effect in appropriate legislation.

THE republicans in congress have frittered away the time of the session until they are obliged to attempt to pass important appropriation bills without discussion or even consideration. Because the democrats prevented an attempt to rush through the legislative appropriation bill, involving millions of dollars of the people's taxes, without any opportunity for examination, republicans charge that the tariff bill is being obstructed by the Democratic congressmen. This is merely a shabby excuse for the failure of the republican majority to take up the tariff commission bill at the beginning of the session.—*Harrisburg Patriot*.

THE message issued by the DEMOCRAT this week containing the report of the county Commissioners was printed at the office of the *Centre Hall Reporter*.

### 837.

The above amount of money was illegally extracted from the treasury of Centre county for an alleged bill of printing which was never authorized by anybody. This matter is respectfully referred to Reformer Tuten.

COLORADO, it is said has furnished \$50,000,000 in gold, and about \$90,000,000 in silver, aggregating \$150,000,000 to the world's stock of precious metals.

THE ice floods of last Saturday and Sunday have been very destructive of property, in Western Pennsylvania. Pittsburg and Allegheny city suffers severely, large districts in both being submerged. At Meadville, Titusville, Oil city, and Bradford, much damage has been done and many people have been rescued with difficulty, while their houses are swept off, with all their contents.

ONE of the most profitable industries encouraged by the present Congress is the business of Stealing Seats of members duly elected. It requires small capital to prosecute the business, and less character, while it yields handsome returns reaching in most cases to thousands of dollars. The advantages of this business over others is, that whether the thieves are seated or not, the pay is the same.

A BILL has been presented by Senator Stewart, by request, to prevent candidates soliciting votes, or from employing others to solicit votes for them, is about as wild and useless a proposition as it is possible to conceive of. This bill we believe does not presume to interfere with the usual modes of holding public meetings, or placing candidates in the field, but aims to dignify the candidates by statute and penalty. If a law could be devised to encourage respectable men to be candidates when called upon by their fellow citizens without forcing them into competition with the infernal hordes who annually traverse the country importing and annoying the people it would be hailed with great pleasure. But this is one of the evils of politics that law cannot reach.

WE see the announcement made that there is to be a new Democratic paper established in Philadelphia, with ample capital to insure its success. It is also said this paper will be under the editorial management of W. U. Hensel, of the Lancaster Intelligencer. Such a publication has long been a necessity, and under the management of the energetic and brilliant young chairman of the State Committee, cannot fail of extensive circulation and advantage to the Democratic party.

THE Philadelphia *Press* is an editorial headed "Governor Pattison's mistake" starts out by saying:

"Governor Pattison is unquestionably an honest, well meaning, straight forward public officer. His integrity of purpose and elevation of aim cannot be successfully impugned."

That's enough! The very man the people wanted. If he should make a slight mistake now and then, it will not be forgotten that "to err is human."

### To Place Grant on the Retired List.

WASHINGTON, February 6.—The house committee on military affairs at their meeting to-day practically agreed upon the terms of the bill to place General Grant upon the retired list of the army with the rank of general. The chairman was instructed to prepare a report in favor of the bill to be submitted to the committee at their meeting on Thursday. A minority report in opposition to the proposition will probably be signed by two or three members.

MINNESOTA SENATOR.—After a protracted contest for Senator from Minnesota, ex-Secretary Windom was defeated by a vote of 81 to 30.