

# The Centre Democrat.



SHUGERT & VAN ORMER, Editors.

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

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## The Centre Democrat.

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

Thursday Morning, March 8, 1883.

### Centre County Democratic Committee for 1883.

DISTRICT.	NAME.	P. O. ADDRESS.
Bellefonte N. W.	J. M. Ketchum	Bellefonte.
" S. W.	Chas. Smith	"
" W. W.	S. A. McQuinn	"
Howardboro	Ira C. Leathers	Howard.
Millsburg	James P. Jones	Millsburg.
Milheim	F. P. Muser	Milheim.
Phillipsburg W.	C. G. Hertzinger	Phillipsburg.
" S. W.	Sol Schmidt	"
" S. E.	A. J. Carpenter	"
Unionville	P. J. Potash	Fleming.
Bonner	Wm. Isler	Bellefonte.
Jogess	Frank T. Adams	Millsburg.
Naradale	Henry Mosker	Pine Glenn.
College	John B. Sop	Lemont.
Carlita	John McShockey	Romola.
Vergruen	J. T. McCormick	State College.
N. P.	L. W. Walker	Rock Springs.
Greene	John Coldron	Spring Mills.
N. P.	Wm. Lase	Farmers Mills.
Haines	E. P. Steyer	Woodward.
" W. P.	Geo. Bower	Aaronsburg.
Half Moon	J. H. Griffin	Starnstown.
Larris	D. W. Meyer	Boalsburg.
Howard	John Glenn	Howard.
Houston	John Q. Miles	Julian.
Liberty	James P. Linn	Blanchard.
Marion	J. J. Hoy	Walker.
Miles	Elli E. Shafer	Madisonburg.
Dutton	Agnes Sellers	Filmore.
Penn	D. H. Meyer	Centre Hill.
Porter	D. J. Meyer	Centre Hill.
N. P.	Samuel Slack	Catsville.
N. P.	William Cullen	Phillipsburg.
Shoop	T. T. Reedy	Sandy Ridge.
Smith	Wm. B. Hayes	Snow Shoe.
Spring	E. C. Wood	Bellefonte.
Taylor	Richard Bower	Boalsburg.
Colton	E. Emmer	Fleming.
Walker	Joseph Emmerick	Hartsburg.
Worth	M. S. Soutter	Port Matlack.

W. MILLS WALKER, Secretary.

HON. SIMON CAMERON celebrated his 84th birthday on Tuesday last.

THE people of Pennsylvania should be thankful that at last we have a Governor whom no unholy influence can awe.

SPEAKER KEIFER got the vote of thanks the last session, that he missed the first session of the 47th congress, but it was a shabby one—86 to 8, less than one-half the whole number of members voting.

PROF. JAMES M'ALLISTER, of Milwaukee, will, in all probability, be chosen Superintendent of Public Instruction in Philadelphia. Educational timber must be scarce in the city of Brotherly Love.

THE record made by the Democrats in the late Congress is a subject of just pride and gratulation. It is clear, patriotic and unstained by any act to be ashamed of. If the same could be said of the Republicans we should gladly publish it.

WHETHER or not the Republican Congress, which has just gone out of existence, is chargeable with betraying the people in not providing relief from the onerous war taxes, there will be no excuse for any neglect on the part of the next congress. Instructions to them were clear, pointed and direct.

LIEUT GOVERNOR BLACK has determined to call a special election in Chester county to choose a successor to Senator Everhart, who has been elected to the 48th Congress. Here is another opportunity for the stalwarts and half-breeds to test their relative strength in the harmonious party.

THE share holders of the Pennsylvania railroad company ought to be satisfied with the splendid management of their affairs. The annual report shows that the gross earnings during the year were nearly fifty millions of dollars the net earnings within a fraction of fifteen millions. The sum of \$6,890,714.95 was divided among the share holders, and after paying all fixed charges and expenses, \$1,850,560.07 was carried to the credit side of profit and loss account, which foots up \$12,195,639.41. The securities held by the company amount to \$112,657,306.50 at par value; but the company puts them on the books as worth \$51,037,698.44. The income derived from them during the year amounted to over three and a half million of dollars—a sum almost sufficient to meet the interest on the entire funded indebtedness. The business of the company has very greatly increased. The gross earnings were larger, as compared with those of the previous year, by about five millions of dollars.

### The Governor's Message.

On the 1st instant, Governor Patterson sent to the legislature his second message. It related chiefly to the charge made by F. B. Gowen, to the effect that E. G. Patterson, employed by the State in the action to recover taxes, which, in the opinion of the Auditor General, were due the commonwealth by the Standard Oil Company, had been paid by that company's officers to suppress the testimony he had collected and thus debarred the State from receiving its just dues.

The message was accompanied by papers giving the facts in the possession of the Governor concerning the charge, and while he did not express an opinion on the subject, he considered it his duty to lay before the legislature the facts as he was able to ascertain them by calling upon the departments, and suggests the appointment of a committee of investigation, with power to send for persons and papers that the State may vindicate its authority and force corporations to obey the laws. The message:

It has been publicly asserted by Mr. F. B. Gowen, a reputable and responsible citizen, in the hall of the house of representatives, that one E. G. Patterson, a person employed by the State in an action to recover certain taxes claimed by the auditor general to be due by the Standard Oil Company to the commonwealth, was paid by the officers of said corporation to suppress the testimony he had collected, and the state thereby was prevented from obtaining its just dues. These charges, as made by Mr. Gowen, are substantially as follows: "In a suit by this great commonwealth against the Standard Oil Company for the collection of taxes which it refused to pay, he had been employed by the commonwealth to collect testimony. He admitted under oath that the Standard Oil Company paid him \$7,500 to suppress testimony. I am prepared to furnish testimony, and I make this charge openly and publicly before the legislature of the commonwealth."

GRAVITY OF THE CHARGE. Though I have had serious doubts as to the propriety of the official recognition of such accusations, I have come to the conclusion, after a careful survey of the subject, that the matter in the present instance is of sufficient gravity to warrant my laying before you the facts I have been able to ascertain. I herewith submit to you the following papers: A paper purporting to be a contract between said Patterson and the state through the auditor general, secretary of internal affairs and the attorney general, by which the said Patterson was employed to procure testimony on the suit against the Standard Oil company; also four letters from the then attorney general to said Patterson; a letter from the auditor general upon the same subject, and a copy of certain testimony said to have been given by Patterson in a subsequent suit by him against the Tide Water pipe lines. It will be seen by these papers that Patterson was employed by the state; and that he subsequently was employed by the Standard Oil company, at large profit. Without expressing any opinion upon the subject, I deem it my duty to lay before the legislature the facts I have been able to ascertain by a call upon the departments. I also suggest that a committee of investigation be appointed by your bodies, with power to send for persons and papers, in order that the truth of the assertions made may be determined, and that the state may be vindicated in its efforts to compel corporations to be obedient to the law. It is justice to have done either by the commonwealth or any individual, it is of the first importance that the fact be ascertained and the guilty punished, and the state enabled to obtain her legal and just dues.

SUGGESTING THE LAW'S REPEAL. I also suggest, while upon this subject the propriety of the legislature considering whether it might not be well to repeal the law giving to the auditor general and attorney general, the authority to employ private attorneys to collect claims due the state at a compensation to be paid by said officers. The law upon this subject was passed April 17, 1861, and is as follows: "That whenever, in the opinion of the auditor general or attorney general, the interests of the commonwealth require it, they, or either of them, shall have the power to employ the services of resident attorneys, to assist in the prosecution and trial of causes and the presentation, as the circumstances will justify, or as may have been agreed upon, shall be allowed by the auditor general.

Such methods as that here authorized are of questionable propriety, and are open to much abuse. In the present case, which calls for this message, Patterson might, if successful, have been paid \$20,000—a sum much greater than the compensation of the attorney general, within the line of whose duties such matter are, or of any other officer of the commonwealth. The whole system is one that ought to receive your careful consideration, with a view to its repeal, or, if possible, its reformation. It seems to me that the attorney general could collect all such claims without other remuneration than that now allowed him by law. ROBERT E. PATTERSON.

### A Bad Practice.

The encouragement given by the committee on elections to the contestant speculation in the last congress made that business unusually lively, and Mr. Calkins, the chairman of the committee, must be well satisfied with the progress he has made in establishing the business upon a solid basis. Most of the cases were so entirely destitute of merit as to leave no excuse for their being present at all, only that there was a fund on hand to pay defeated Republican candidates, who were mean enough to ask it. This system of fraud on the treasury has been fully commented on and condemned. But comment and protest had no effect on the last congress to arrest the base steal, or to adopt any rule to discourage this speculation in the future. The report of the committee in the case of Ball of Alaska, is about on a par with others. There being no territorial organization in Alaska a few of the speculators assembled and proposed that they would send Mr. Ball to Washington as a delegate to represent them in congress. Of course he could not be received. This he knew if he possessed sufficient intelligence to represent a nation, but the precedent was established—he could visit the haunts of civilization, and avail himself of the fraud, established and encouraged by congress, to draw pay from the government to cover expenses. Though the committee of elections refused to admit him they made a report recommending that four thousand, six hundred and seventy-five dollars be paid him out of the treasury. This claim, so totally wanting in merit, has really more justice in it than the thousands of dollars appropriated by the 47th Congress to reward the numerous seat thieves who had no excuse for their raids, and indeed no motive outside of the question of plunder recognized by the Republican congress.

THE "Tax and Tariff Bill" has been signed by the President, and is now the law of the land. It falls far short of public expectation. Little or no relief is given the producing classes. Three fourths of the unnecessary taxation will still be collected. It could not have been passed earlier in the session, and fully nine-tenths of those voting for it did so unwillingly. The people asked for bread and they were given a stone.

### Taking Care of his Friends, in the Dying Hours of Congress.

It did not require the last act of Speaker Keifer to prove that the American Congress, for the last two years was under the parliamentary direction of a very low-grade man. The act referred to by the Washington correspondent of the Phila. Times was the dismissal of one of the official stenographers against whom nothing was alleged and the appointment of his nephew in his place, besides appointing his son as private secretary to draw pay during the summer months. The correspondent says:

"The contract for stenographic work is made for the year at \$5,000, the stenographer to pay his own expenses for as assistance. Of course, in such a contract the stenographer takes into consideration the possible length of session and the probable recess. The money expended by him during the session is made up in the summer vacation. In the case of the stenographer this is the legitimate profit. In the case of Keifer's appointment it is a sinecure, a nine-month salary without any pretension of work to do or meritorious work already done. The speaker simply dismisses a competent employe and puts his hand into the treasury and takes \$4,000 and gives it to his relative.

Keifer is no longer Speaker, but he has fastened three of his family on the Treasury for the summer, with no services to perform. Keifer will get his pay as a member during this time. If the Keifer family by this arrangement pool their issues they will get about \$10,000 for doing nothing. If the late Speaker divides with his relatives he will not suffer any loss of salary by reason of his retirement from the Speakership. This is the way the matter is being commented on to-day, and the general verdict of all parties is that it is an abuse of power."

### Death of Alexander H. Stevens.

At 3:15 o'clock in the morning, March 4, 1883, the immortal part of the subject of this sketch winged its flight to the great unknown. He was born on February 11, 1812, in that part of Taliaferro county, Georgia, which was then known as Wilkes county. He graduated from Franklin college at the age of twenty. For the following eighteen months he taught school, devoting all the time he could spare from his duties to the study of law. He pursued his legal studies so industriously that in 1834 he was admitted to the Bar at Crawfordsville. He at once entered upon the practice of his profession and was soon known as one of the cleverest young lawyers in Georgia. He took a deep interest in politics, and in 1836 was elected to the Legislature of his native state as a representative from Taliaferro county. In 1842 he was elected State Senator from the same district. He was identified with the Whig party, and in 1843 was sent to Congress. In February, 1847, he submitted a series of resolutions as to the Mexican War, which afterward formed a plank in the platform of the Whig party. The breaking up of the Whig party in 1855 resulted in his adherence to the Democratic party. He represented his district in Congress until 1859. At the close of the Thirty-fifth Congress he declined to be a candidate, and on July 2, 1859, made a speech at Augusta in which he announced his intention to retire from public life. He opposed secession, but when his native state went out of the Union he continued to serve her. He was elected a member of the Confederate Congress which met at Montgomery, Alabama, and was made Vice President of the newly-organized Government. In February, 1865, Mr. Stevens was one of the three representatives of the Confederacy who met President Lincoln on a steamer in Hampton Roads, when the situation developed by the war was discussed earnestly, though to no purpose. When General Lee surrendered, Stevens retired to his home. There, on May 11, 1865, he was arrested. He was brought North and confined in Fort Warren, in Boston harbor, where he was kept for several months. He was placed in a damp dungeon, where he contracted rheumatism, which disabled him from walking for the last twelve years of his life. On October 11, he was released on parole. Stevens favored President Johnson's policy of recognition. In 1866 he was elected to the Senate of the United States, but was prevented from taking his seat because Georgia was considered not to have complied with the conditions of reconstruction. He was elected to Congress in 1872, and he retained his seat in that body until last year, when he announced his intention of retiring from public life. He was induced, however, to become a candidate for Governor of Georgia, and was elected by a large majority. In 1870 he published "A Constitutional View of the War Between the States." Physically Mr. Stevens was very frail, being small of stature and light of weight. He was gentle and sympathetic and noted for his generous hospitality, as well as for his force of character and remarkable eloquence. He was never married.

### Money in Elections.

Whatever may be thought of the doctrine taught by Mr. Henry George in his "Progress and Poverty," he has done good service by the thoughtful article he contributes to the March North American Review on "Money in Elections." There is no gainsaying Mr. George's assertion that the use of money in elections tends to destroy our institutions by poisoning the source of the stream from which they draw their nourishment and sustenance. The evil is one of comparatively recent growth, and its extension is alarmingly apparent to even superfi-

cial observers. As Mr. George argues, the tremendous levies made on capitalists and Government employes are rather a result than a cause of political corruption. The election being the initial point in our political system, so long as it is to be gained by the use of money, and so long as it cannot be gained without it, no subsequent precautions will prevent corruption.

Mr. George points out that in various parts of this country only rich men can be elected to office. The election contest between Astor and Flower in New York is cited as an example, in which over \$110,000 was spent, though the winner only spent twenty-odd thousand. The beaten candidate was consoled for a canvass that ought to have covered him with disgrace by being made Minister to Italy. What is this but a public recognition of Mr. Astor's course as honorable, and what must the lesson drawn therefrom by the voters of that district who had seen his unblushing efforts to buy a seat in Congress? All who are familiar with the subject know that the degradation of constituencies where this progress is once begun is rapid. The number of itching palms increases with fearful rapidity. Unfortunately this wholesale corruption of the suffrage is not confined to the cities. Sparsely settled Nevada and Colorado are notoriously rotten boroughs, and there are rural constituencies all over the country where the poison is rapidly spreading. The consolation offered to Mr. Astor was a public recognition that the use of great sums of money in a Congressional election is legitimate, where there ought instead to have been punishment and disgrace for the men who thus polluted the source of political morality. Very naturally Mr. Flower, though successful this time, was not anxious to continue to contest so costly a district.

This deadly leprosy of the body politic will not be fully diagnosed without keeping in mind that its infectious growth has been coincident with the amassing of enormous wealth by the holding of corporate franchises. It is only a phase of the millionaire evil to find a refuge from which grangers, and green-backers, and anti-monopolists have been so anxiously groping. Mr. George offers a remedy, which we can at least see would be a palliation, but what certainty is there that the money power will let go any of the machinery which it has found so useful? Mr. George would make it possible for even a poor man to run for any office by having all the necessary expenses both of primaries and elections paid for by the Government. Among other things he would have the Government print all ballots, to have on a separate slip the names of all recognized candidates for a particular office, and let the voter scratch out the names of those he does not want elected. He would otherwise arrange by statute to give no excuse for spending money. We concur entirely with Mr. George in this. The people cannot too soon take steps to stop the purchase of offices. The rising flow of corruption threatens to swamp the Republic. It is now in many vital respects in a condition analogous to that of Rome just before the death struggle between the rich oligarchy and the corrupted proletariat, which ended in the triumph of Caesarism, and finally in the overthrow of the once great race itself by the barbarians and the submergence for centuries of both the Hellenic and the Latin civilizations.

THE legal fraternity generally will be pleased to know that Ovid F. Johnson, Esq., of Philadelphia, has been induced to attempt to re-write his treatise on the law of mechanics' liens, a subject upon which he has become oft-quoted authority. The original manuscript was destroyed, just after its completion, in the disastrous fire on Library street, recently.

### The House Appropriation Bill.

Referring to the work of the House Appropriation Committee the Patriot has this to say complimentary of its work: "During the two months which have passed since the organization of the legislature the appropriation committee of the house has accomplished a splendid work."

There have been referred to that committee bills appropriating in the aggregate \$9,722,346. Of these the riot bill amounting to \$2,500,000 and the border raid bill aggregating 50 per cent. of \$2,625,915.95 were negatively reported. The other bills referred to the committee appropriated \$4,579,307.31. Measures appropriating an aggregate of \$2,915,393 were reported affirmatively, having been reduced in committee from the originals to the extent of \$832,700. The bills reported negatively, in addition to the two above named, aggregate \$728,214.31. The committee has in its possession yet bills appropriating money to the amount of \$103,000.

There is much to commend in this record. The committee has labored wisely and well to retrench when appropriations were deserved and to lop off entirely when undeserved. The demand upon the treasury was importunate and prodigious, but the committee has stood firmly in defense of economy. It only remains to add that the larger portion of the bills affirmatively reported are for proper and deserving charities."

### Sharp Collections.

Mr. Sharpe, of Franklin, has introduced a bill in the House, providing that all corporations now indebted to the State for taxes on their capital stock or any other taxes accruing prior to June 7, 1879, must pay the same into the State Treasury within sixty days of the passage of this act or else a penalty of ten per cent. will be added as well as interest at the rate of twelve per cent. from thirty days after the tax became due. The bill makes similar provision for the payment of bonus on capital stock. Sworn statements of the receipts and expenses of the Eastern Penitentiary, the House of Refuge, the Deaf and Dumb Institute and the Northern Home, all of Philadelphia, were received among similar reports from other institutions, in accordance with the new rule requiring such information before appropriations can be passed.

MUCH has been said lately against the fee system of compensation for public officers, and the conclusion seems to be pretty generally reached, by those discussing the subject, that all fees should be abolished, and fixed salaries for all officers, whether county or state, to be paid out of the public funds. The question may have another side, and the experience of Cook county, Illinois, it would appear by the following extract from the Chicago Times is developing, to some extent, that phase of the conundrum:

When in Illinois it was found that several county officers were enjoying immense emoluments from the fees of their offices, the efficient remedy, it was thought, was to establish a fair salary and require that the surplus of fees be turned into the county exchequer. What was the result? The officer, no longer zealous to keep down the expense, or collect fees which were not specially beneficial to him, saw his office become a charge upon the county. With a single exception no Cook county office is now self-sustaining. The special trouble does not arise from the failure to collect in full, but in the distribution of the service that has been performed by a few low priced men among a great many subordinates receiving high salaries.

HERR MOER is not meeting with the success he expected. The American workingman, artisan or laborer is too content with his lot to be influenced by the idle braggadocio of that communist. It is well for our institutions that this condition exists.

JOSEPH MYERS & SON, clock manufacturers, Philadelphia, have suspended. Liabilities, \$150,000.