

The Centre Democrat.



S. T. SHUGERT & E. L. ORVIS, 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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WE notice that Mr. Benj. L. Forster, of Harrisburg, has been appointed to a clerkship in the Attorney General's office. Mr. Forster is an intelligent and well informed Democrat, deserving of recognition in a department supposed to be Democratic.

THE meeting of the Democratic National Committee which met at Washington on Friday last, 22d Feb., appointed Tuesday, the 8th of July next, as the time for the meeting of the convention in the city of Chicago, to nominate candidates for President and Vice President of the United States.

THE ring power in Philadelphia has again resumed its old sway, and reform and the Committee of One Hundred have been broken and smashed to smithereens. The ringsters and corruptionist of either party will now join their forces as formerly, and restore the city government to its former methods.

THE Harrisburg Independent thinks Col. Quay put his foot in it, when he published his letter about selecting delegates to the National convention. The rank and file do not follow his instructions enthusiastically, and the Independent thinks the boss had better get out of sight and stay out for some time, if he desires to preserve something of his old popularity.

THE Pittsburgh Post says: The place of the late lamented Eliza Plankston, in the affections of John Sherman, has been taken by another sooty female, one Mrs. Violet Keeling, whom honest John had before his Danville Committee. She swore if ever her husband dares vote the Democratic ticket she will quit his bed and board, if she has to work for a quarter a day and find herself.

A LETTER has been published purporting to have been written by Senator elect H. R. Payne, of Ohio, in which he is represented as saying "it would be sufficient for me to say that I am not and shall not be a candidate for the Presidency." The only novel thing in the paragraph is that it comes from an Ohio man, and declines the office of President of the United States.

GOV. ABBETT, of New Jersey, in his inaugural address, intimates to the legislature that before making appropriations to increase the expenditures of the state, it will be necessary to provide means in the treasury to meet the appropriation—that he will decline to approve bills necessitating expenditures by the state until proper means are adopted to raise the necessary funds for that purpose. This is good sound sense, proving that New Jersey has a good sound Governor who means to place the credit of his state upon a basis that will not only astonish the natives, but afford an example of decent expenditures that others may imitate with profit.

MR. GEO. H. ELY, who is largely interested in the Lake Superior ore monopoly, appeared before the Ways and Means' committee, said that with a duty of seventy-five cents a ton the Spanish ores were meeting those from Lake Superior at Pittsburgh and competing with them. He was a believer in high wages. To Mr. Morrison he said that wages had not increased since the tariff on iron ore had been doubled; "but the tariff has only been six months in operation," he suggested. "Oh, well," answered Mr. Morrison, "that's long enough for you to increase a man's wages." Mr. Ely after he got increased duties on ore last year, forgot all about the relation between the tariff and wages. It was the law of supply and demand that controlled wages after his interests were fixed. That is the case as a rule.

Do We Receive Full Value.

The election in the coming fall will be one of unusual importance to our people, and involves grave and solemn responsibility, which should be timely considered and bravely met by the voter. Beside the choice of Presidential electors, members of congress and members of the legislature, all the county officers except District Attorney and County Surveyor are to be elected. In the choice of these the people of the county have a great personal interest and it becomes them to canvass well the merits of those who aspire to the position to be filled and select none but men thoroughly competent, absolutely honest and entirely fit to represent them in these several places.

We do not need men, who, inflated with their own importance, travel the county and claim office as the reward of mere party adherence without regard to qualifications for the duty to be performed intelligently and efficiently. But we do need and the times require men able and honest, of known qualifications, who feel it a duty when called upon to serve the public for the public good, rather than the small emoluments that may accrue to them by virtue of the office.

We shall doubtless have scores of aspirants pressing for preferment, traveling the county and detailing their merits, virtues, services and exhibiting cheek enough to make an ordinary devil blush. We pity the good people who must endure this periodical bore. It would be the right thing and only administer a proper rebuke to these bores for the people when they assemble in convention to make a ticket of men entirely competent who have remained at home and diligently attended to their own business.

There is another view of this matter and one in which the people are deeply interested. It costs just as much to have able, honest, capable and intelligent men in these places, as it does to have inferior, incapable and ignorant men. It is a truth that in nine cases out of ten, the inferior, ignorant and incompetent man costs the taxpayer much more than the honest, faithful, efficient and capable man. Ignorance and incompetency leads to errors, misgovernment, crooked accounts and many other evils of which the people justly complain.

If a farmer hires a man to do work and agrees to pay him wages, he expects, and justly, too, that the man will be able to do the kind of work required upon a farm and that, too, in a careful, competent manner, and in such amount as the necessities of the farm demand. If the hired man does not come to these requirements he will certainly be discharged and never again hired by the same farmer. The same reasoning applies to merchants, in fact to all branches of business. A private servant is paid so much to keep our house or stable clean, or to do a certain kind of work. We do not think we have done our duty by simply paying his wages, we see if he has properly performed his duties. If he is found direct he immediately gives place to another. Why is it then that we confine our carelessness and inattention solely to public servants and allow them to return nothing for their wages, when their duties and responsibilities are so great and of so very much more importance?

A member of congress receives, we believe, \$5,000 a year and mileage. We have had several contests in this district between different men for the nomination and in each instance Ex-Governor Curtin was nominated. It takes out of the public treasury exactly the same amount to pay Gov. Curtin it would to have paid the smallest and most insignificant man in the district, were he sent to congress. With this in Curtin's favor, that he is an honor to the district and the people he represents, adds influence and power to our state, and reflects glory

upon our great country. It would cost no more to the taxpayers of Centre county, and take no more money out of the public treasury to have an honest, efficient and capable representative like the Hon. C. T. Alexander in the lower house, than it does to have one who possesses no such qualifications. It did not cost near as much to the people of the state during the extra session, to have a man of the capacity, ability and well known integrity of the Hon. Wm. A. Wallace in the state senate from this district, as it did to have poor and inefficient members from many of the senatorial and legislative districts. Wallace only took \$943.20 pay for the time the senate was in session. Eight senators and one hundred and twenty-six representatives to pay in full, including the ten day recess and mileage, which in each instance amounted to more than eighteen hundred dollars.

These are grave questions to be considered by intelligent voters. In your own service you will of course give the man who can do your work best the preference. Do this with your public servants. Listen to no man on account of mere party fealty. Let your question be, is he able, competent and capable to fill the position which he asks. If not, stand him aside and select men in whom you have confidence, and whom you know to be able and competent to discharge the duties of the position to which you call them.

State Secrets Leaking Out.

The Washington correspondent of the Harrisburg Patriot of Sunday last has the following: "The revelations in the New York Sun of yesterday in regard to the Star route prosecutions have produced a genuine sensation in this city. It has been believed by those best informed that some of the attorneys employed by the government to prepare testimony were bribed by some of the mail contractors who were in danger of prosecution, but no one suspected that there was locked up in the safes of the Post-office department the proof of the treachery and corruption of those attorneys. The part of the Sun's story which relates to Mr. A. M. Gibson is not new here, though the statement in the books of the late J. M. Bosler show a payment to Gibson of \$2,500 for services rendered and to the partner of Colonel W. A. Cook (another of the government counsel) of \$4,000, is a revelation. Gibson is a Pennsylvanian, was one of the founders of *The Paper*, a daily journal published for a short time at Pittsburgh, afterwards became the Washington correspondent of the New York Sun, was a very violent enemy of Senator Wallace and very active in stirring up the feuds which from 1875 until 1880 disturbed the Democrats of Pennsylvania. In 1880 he had the *entree* of Chairman Barnum's National Committee headquarters at New York, but at the same time was always welcome at the Republican headquarters and on very intimate terms with William E. Chandler. He managed to get the confidence of Governor Tilden and was trusted with important political secrets during the electoral trouble in 1876-7. William A. Cook is also a Pennsylvanian. He was at one time a preacher and afterward became a lawyer. He hails from Greensburg, Pennsylvania, but has practised in the criminal courts of this city for many years. He is a Republican in politics. Chairman Springer says that his committee will get to the bottom of the secrets of the Star route prosecutions and that no matter whom the investigation may strike it will be pursued with the determination to aid the government in bringing the guilty parties to justice.

BISHOP SIMPSON declines to engage in a theological discussion with Col. Ingersoll or any other person. He thinks such discussions are productive of no practical good.

The Department of Justice.

Mr. Ralph Ballin, in his testimony Friday last before the committee investigating expenditures in the Department of Justice, said that there were more than sixty Deputy Marshals in South Carolina. He had examined the accounts of more than thirty of them, and found that two-thirds of these had made false and fraudulent statements. He also testified that he had examined into the official conduct of United States Marshal Blythe, of that State, and found that he had ignored the instructions of the department and the laws enacted by congress for the guidance of Marshals and disbursing officers; that he was personally responsible for reporting only about one-fifth of the amount of fees and commissions earned in civil cases; that he had frequently transmitted to the Treasury department, to be allowed in his favor, receipts and vouchers from witnesses of the United States and jailors in charge of prisoners, without having paid to such creditors of the United States the full amount specified in such receipts or vouchers; and had made untrue statements in explanation of reasons why he did not pay their claims; that he had applied money entrusted to him for purposes other than those provided in the act making the appropriation; that he had rendered to the department weekly itemized reports of disbursements which did not show all the payments made, and weekly statements of public funds, in which he reported fictitious balances; and that he had knowingly presented to the Treasury department for approval accounts for fees and expenses of Deputy Marshals, false and fraudulent items, and had given as an excuse, that he did not examine the accounts when he made oath as to their correctness. Mr. Ballin also testified that twenty-seven Deputy Marshals, whom he named, had rendered false, fraudulent and fictitious accounts for services rendered by them.

THE editor of the St. Louis *Westliche Post* in discussing the different Republican aspirants for President, disposes of two of them, Sherman and Logan, very unceremoniously. "The Ohio Senator is not to be considered in this connection. He reached his political zenith in 1880, as the leader of the anti-Grant forces, but the tide turned and he was wrecked. He is not strong now and never will be again. He is a man absolutely without magnetism, his head always controls his heart." Of Logan the German philosopher writes, "He amounts to nothing in the race; he staked everything to sustain the unit rule, and when we finally carried the day and broke down the rule he was a crushed man. He has never recovered from it." And his present bid for the soldier element is overdrawn and hopeless. The *Post* believes the chances rest between Arthur and Edmunds.

WAYNE McVEIGH, in his article in the *Century Magazine*, discussing the desirability of electing an honest man President, thus refers to the crimes of the Republican party: "They have exhausted almost the entire calendar of crime while they masqueraded in the name of the Republican party and protested that their crimes were necessary to its preservation. They have stuffed ballot boxes. They have forged election returns. And they have done all this in the name of the party whose first great historical achievement was the election of Abraham Lincoln, a name which has become a synonym, wherever the English language is spoken for plain, downright honesty."

This is a fearful indictment to bring against his party, but the greatest infamy of all does not appear in the above paragraph—the theft of the Presidency in 1876—the inauguration of a base villainous fraud in the Presidential office.

—Subscribe for the CENTRE DEMOCRAT.

THE Clinton Democrat reflects our views when it favors the freedom of the mails for newspapers. It says, referring to Senator Vorhees speech favoring free postage: "Whether such act should be adopted we are not just now prepared to say, but publishers of newspapers should be relieved from paying the postage. The law, whereby the subscriber was made to pay the postage, should be restored. It is now paid by the publisher, and is a tax on him. So far as we know, this is all congress has done for newspapers. In all the schemes for protection, the newspaper man is overlooked, or forgotten; at least he is now "protected." Congress should be the last body in the world to tax newspapers. Inasmuch as newspapers have made many congressmen, and some of them out of very poor material, it is about time they do something for their creators. Turn about is fair play.

THE thieves of the south, it appears, are not alone in obtaining infamous notoriety from the investigations of the Springer committee. Pennsylvania comes in for its full share, even if it does not damage the reputation of one of its illustrious senators. Mr. Stone, the District Attorney for the western district, is detected in some reprehensible practices detailed before the committee, by which the Governor has suffered great loss in connection with the Venango Bank failure. This attorney, Stone, who was appointed by Hayes, the Presidential fraud, on the recommendation of Senator Mitchell, it appears has a deputy named D. Cameron, who is also Senator Mitchell's brother-in-law and law partner, and resides in Wellboro, Tioga county. This deputy, it seems, is in receipt of \$1,250 per annum from the government and renders no service whatever, besides residing about 400 miles from the Pittsburgh office. This case presents as bad an appearance as any that has come up from the south, and casts a shadow sufficient to discredit Pennsylvania to demand explanation.

AT the city election in Philadelphia, a new trick in political rascality was developed. Under the bad system that has grown up there and elsewhere in the state, the political committees took out the tax receipts for great numbers of voters, who have been educated to the idea their taxes should be paid from the party funds. The Republican managers on this hint, sent out circulars to the Democratic Chairman being forged, warning them their tax receipts were fraudulent, and if they attempted to vote on them, they would be prosecuted. Circulars to the same intimidating purposes, in regard to naturalization papers, were sent to foreign born voters. By this means a good many Democrats were intimidated from voting. Several arrests of prominent Republicans politicians have been made for being concerned in the forgery, and they will be prosecuted. John Sherman's committee, in hunt of outrages on the freedom of elections, should go to Philadelphia.—*Pittsburgh Post*.

By all means extend Sherman's commission. Let him investigate the civilization of Philadelphia also.

Additional Local.

LEMONT NEWS.—Our little village is still increasing.—Harry Williams, the sadler, is getting his lumber and foundation ready for a new house.—It can now boast of two stores, one doctor, two blacksmith shops, one barber shop, one tinner, one sadler, one hotel, two churches, two school houses, the graded and primary. Mr. Hoover teaches the graded and Mr. Jacobs the primary. They are both elegant gentlemen and understand their business.—About one-fourth of a mile west of Lemont is the cabinet shop of Williams & Roan. They also are carrying on quite an extensive business.—Mr. John Rupp, the miller at Centre Mills, is the boss miller of these diggings and turns out No. 1 flour.—Rev. T. M. Morris preached his farewell sermon in the Evangelical church at this place on Sunday last.—John, the weather prophet, is laying low. I guess he will give it up. BLUE MOUNTAIN BOY.

—The citizens of Pine Grove Mills are making strong efforts to have the Buffalo Run railroad extended to their village, and are holding public meetings with that object in view. It will be a great convenience to them, and we have no doubt the movement will be cheerfully seconded by those having the construction of that road in hand. Below we give a communication received too late for publication last week.

MR. EDITOR:—In pursuance of a proposition made to the citizens of Pine Grove to continue the B. & B Run railroad from Johnson's Ore Mines to Pine Grove, they in meeting assembled and organized by calling T. F. Patton to the chair and J. F. Krebs as secretary. After a few appropriate remarks by R. G. Brett and Levi Krebs, upon motion of R. F. Brett a committee was appointed to solicit and secure the right of way. The following gentlemen were chosen: R. G. Brett, J. C. Sample, Levi Krebs, J. G. Hess, and Dr. J. H. Smith. These are enterprising men and mean business, and the railroad to Pine Grove Mills we believe to be a fixed fact, unless the parties making the proposition should back down or "hoof" out. K.

SPRING MILLS SCRAPS.—REV. James Wilson, D. D., of New York city, and lady, are home on a visit to the Doctor's father, Peter Wilson. The occasion of their present visit was to join with other friends in celebrating Mr. Wilson's eighty-fifth birthday.

On last Sabbath Rev. S. M. Bader administered the rite of confirmation to five young persons, and also admitted two adults by certificate. Thus gradually the little church that started last summer with a membership of eight, is growing in strength and stability.

W. A. Brown, C. R. Neff and W. A. Krise, were the only Gregg township teachers who attended the local institute at Centre Hall. Where were the other ten?

The Spring Mills grammar school is preparing for an exhibition at the close of the term.

The firm of Peelor & Long has dissolved partnership, Mr. Peelor retiring.

The Republicans met at the mill Saturday evening before the election and put in nomination candidates for justice, constable and school director. The nominee for justice, however, had too much good sense to run against so popular a man as Squire Kiesel, and withdrew from the race. The others, however, one of whom was a democrat, led a forlorn hope to the end.

WOODWARD ITEMS.—Weather changeable. Election passed off quietly. Our village is fast improving. Mr. C. W. Hosterman, the lively business man, had the county surveyor and U. S. storekeeper laying off a new street called Mountain Avenue. Last week he broke ground for a new house on the avenue for Mr. Van Valin. The young men received their new violins last week for the new string band now forming in town, with Mr. Snyder and Mr. Muckle at the head. They expect to get a teacher from Lewisburg. Mr. Shrunder quit driving team and is now running Mr. J. C. Motz's water mill. Mr. Bletz is again running his steam saw mill. Black is on the sick list, but is better again. Jacob, the apple king, is off with a lot of apples. Sol. is in the onion business at present. NEWS BOY.

HAINES TOWNSHIP ITEMS.—Glad to hear from "Pick Wick" last week. Items are at present very scarce.

Public sales are all the go.

Jacob Bower, Jr., makes sale of his entire farm stock on March 4th, and expects to retire. His son Henry takes charge of the farm in the spring. Success to you, Henry O.

John C. S. thinks Woodward is not too large a place for him to get around in without a guide. John, look at the lamp posts the next time, or the number on the door, then you may strike the right place.

H. G. Miller, wife and daughter, have returned from their western trip and seem to be very well pleased with their journey.

Mr. H. B. Hosterman, from Moccasin, Ill., who has been spending some months with his aged mother and friends in this vicinity, intends to leave again for the west this week. Henry, you must come back again, and bring Victoria along.

Willis says "U. S. George" got it into his head to run the mail wagon himself last week. And he did have one end kicked in before J. W. got him cooled down. Willis, you had better put weights on him to keep him down. LEADER.

PINE GROVE CHIPS.—Cyrus Goss, one of Ferguson township's successful farmers near Pine Grove Mills, is confined to the house from the effects of a badly cut foot.—The principle subject of discussion last week was the Spring election, which resulted in a mixed affair.—Mr. Todd, an employe in J. B. Ard's mill, is moving to Petersburg. The mill will be carried on by the senior member, Mr. Jas. C. Miller, who is one of the best mechanics in central Penna.—Mr. W. H. Krebe, son of J. F. Krebs, intends starting west in a few days. His destination will be Stephenson county, Ill., where he expects to spend the summer.