

The Centre Democrat.



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

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FRANK E. BIBLE, Editor

HAD the new marriage law been in force last week, the poor, unprotected Polish girl would not have been made the victim of an ignorant Justice of the peace and a lascivious negro.

J. N. CASANOVA of Philipsburg was elected a member of the State Central committee. Mr. Casanova is a prominent democrat who devotes considerable time and money to the party. He will be an active member of the State Central Committee.

DR. H. K. HOY was renominated for coroner. The Dr. is a rising young physician, and has been more attentive to the duties of his office than any of his predecessors. He believes that when a man is elected to an office he should perform all the duties pertaining to the position.

In another column will be found a letter from President Cleveland to a fellow out West who signed a man's petition for appointment and afterwards wrote the president protesting against it. After reading Cleveland's letter, if he don't stick his head in the sand to hide himself he has less sense than a cheetah. "He is not qualified morally or professionally," says the letter writer, yet knowing the man's entire unfitness he signs his petition and would shuffle the responsibility from his own shoulders to that of the president. If any man ever had any doubt as to the intentions of the President to reform the civil service by removing incompetent and corrupt men and appointing in their stead, competent and honest men, all doubt will now be removed by a perusal of his letter.

THE demand of certain of our Democratic contemporaries for a campaign of personalities against Quay is the silliest thing we have seen. Mr. Quay's record is well known, and he is one of those politicians who has never attempted to conceal his objective point by a subterfuge or lie. For this we admire him. His public record is vulnerable but an attack of a personal nature will not keep one Democratic vote away or take one republican vote from him. There are other, greater and more vital issues for the democracy than a "personal campaign." If our contemporaries will go back to the "personal" campaign of 1880, they will remember that we got badly left on it. But a more recent and certainly more vile personal campaign was that waged by the republicans against Cleveland and with the same result. The wide awake intelligent politician knows full well that the day of personal vilification in political contests has gone by, and the party which has no other issue had better close out at public sale. The voters of Pennsylvania are too intelligent to be carried away on such flimsy pretexts. The railroad and telegraph monopolies have raised the issue with the people of our state, and the democratic party has but to be true to its principles, and go off on no wild goose chase after an "issue." The inviolability of the constitution, in every word, phrase, clause and sentence, anti discrimination and anti-monopoly. These are the questions that are engaging the attention of Pennsylvanians, and not Mr. Quay's personal character. Let us have no false issue, no campaign of slander or personalities, no throwing of mud, but a square party deliverance on the questions now before the people. If some of our able contemporaries who seem to be groping in Egyptian darkness for an "issue" on which to fight the next political battle, will take up the defeat of the Wallace anti-discrimination bill last winter, and the sale or transfer of the Beech Creek and South Pa. railroads, parallel and competing lines, in open violation of the fundamental law of the state, on all of which the republican platform is silent, they will find the issue.

Democratic County Convention.

The county Convention assembled in Hume's Hall on Tuesday, at 2 p. m. with every precinct in the county represented except one. L. T. Munson of Bellefonte, was elected president and Mr. Wyche of Rush, and Mr. Reifsnnyder of Millheim, secretaries. Geo. W. Rumberger was made reading clerk. After roll call the president appointed D. F. Fortney and Messrs. Lehman, Fisher Harvey and Runkle committee on resolutions.

While the committee was preparing the resolutions, the balloting for jury commissioner began, on the third ballot, Mr. John Rhone of Spring township was nominated. H. K. Hoy was renominated for coroner and C. M. Bower, L. G. Lingle, D. C. Keller and B. F. Hunter were elected delegates to the convention next year.

Hon. Adam Hoy was elected chairman of the county committee. The committee reported the following resolutions which were enthusiastically applauded and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTIONS.

The Democracy of Centre county in Convention assembled unanimously declare.

1. Opposition to the open violation of section 4, of article seventeenth of the constitution in the sale and transfer of parallel and competing railroad lines to an already overgrown corporation to the irreparable injury and damage of the people of the commonwealth. We invoke the judicial power of the state to prevent the perpetration of this outrage upon the people.

2. Opposition to discrimination in freights by abatement draw-back or otherwise.

3. The adoption of a platform by the state convention on the single issue of anti-discrimination.

4. The democracy of Centre county pledge themselves their nominees and representatives in Senate, assembly and Congress to follow where an honest and fearless chief magistrate has dared to lead in the reform of the flagrant abuses and corruption of twenty-four years of Republican rule. We enthusiastically endorse the policy of the administration and commend Grover Cleveland for the faithful observance and maintenance of his pledge of reform in administrative methods made before his election.

5. The fidelity, ability and conscientiousness with which Hon. Robert E. Pattison has met and discharged his duties as chief Executive of this state and especially his use of the veto power in defeating vicious legislation entitles him to the highest admiration of the people of the state.

6. The Democracy of this county commend the distinguished services of Hon. A. G. Curtin, who in season and out of season faithfully guards and cares for the interests and welfare of his people.

We heartily commend the course of Hon. Wm. A. Wallace, John A. Woodward and Leonard Rhone, Senator and Representatives in the Legislature of Pennsylvania for their honest advocacy of the measure to break up the discrimination in freights by railroads.

The following delegates were present:

- Bellefonte, N. W., L. T. Munson, Thos. Shaughency, Jr.
- Bellefonte, S. W., D. F. Fortney, Michael Keefe, John Hoffer.
- Bellefonte, W. W., J. Harvey Adams.
- Millsburg, J. C. Smith, W. K. Alexander, J. H. Reifsnnyder.
- Spring, J. A. Hanzel.
- Philipsburg, 1st W., L. G. Lingle.
- Philipsburg, 2d W., C. A. Faulkner, Henry Lobman.
- Philipsburg, 3d W., John Walton.
- Unionville, L. J. Bing.
- Renner Twp., Robert Cori, R. F. Hunter, Robert McLaughlin, Jr.
- Boys Twp., E. P. H. L. Harvey, Jos. L. Neff.
- Boys Twp., W. W., Frank Adams, A. Fetter.
- Burnside, Oscar Holt.
- Curtin, Wm. J. Singer.
- College Twp., Wm. Forster, John H. Williams.
- Erguson, K. P., E. F. Bittorf, A. G. Archay, I. W. Cori.
- Ferguson, W. F., Henry Garner.
- Gregg, F. P., Wm. Yearick, John S. Hoy.
- Gregg, S. P., J. C. Gondo, J. V. Heckman, Daniel Burges, Emanuel Zeltie, Samuel Harter.
- Haines Twp., W. P., Henry H. Weaver, Noah Croninger, A. J. Stover.
- Haines Twp., K. F., Michael S. Feldler, John J. Weber.
- Half Moon, Wm. Bailey.
- Harris Twp., Michael Hoes, Fergus Potter, F. M. Weber.
- Howard Twp., Michael Confer, L. G. Runkle.
- Huston Twp., John Q. Miller.
- Liberty Twp., James L. DeLong.
- Marion Twp., J. J. Hoy, F. A. Wright.
- Miles Twp., William Walker, William Kreamer.
- John Wolf, W. H. Gorman, John Hosterman.
- Patton Twp., George Glenn.
- Penn Twp., H. E. Book, Bond, Kerstetter, Sam'l Ard.
- Porter, J. A. Hanzel.
- Union Twp., S. K. Emertick, G. P. Hall.
- Walker Twp., Frank Emertick, B. F. Shaffer, John Miller, J. E. Hanzel.
- Woods Twp., W. H. Cronister, Jacob Williams.

For an off year it was the largest convention we ever witnessed and the entire harmony which existed all through is a matter of congratulation to the Democracy. The personal of

the convention was above the general average, and the large number of young and active democrats present as delegates is certainly encouraging.

The New Rules.

The new rules proposed by the late Convention for the better government of the party, will meet the hearty approval of every earnest Democrat in the county. The necessity for their adoption has been apparent to all who have had the interest of the party at heart. Some time after the election the DEMOCRAT called attention to the importance of business management in the expenditure of campaign funds, and to the unfairness and injustice of post-election assessments of candidates by party papers. The seeds sown then have borne fruit in the shape of the rules adopted by Tuesday's convention. The DEMOCRAT levied no assessment on candidates because it considered the system one of plunder, little better than picking the pockets of one's friends, and entirely out of keeping with the principles of honesty and decency.

Hereafter the County Committee will furnish tickets and "stickers" for the candidates, and no assessments for tickets or "services" can be levied. The appointment of a Treasurer by the County Committee, who shall not be a member of that body, and who shall have custody of the funds, is a wise provision, as is the election of disinterested persons as auditors. As a whole, the new rules will remedy an abuse long felt, and which might have shipwrecked the party at some future time.

The Democracy of the county is to be congratulated on the wisdom of the convention which adopted these rules. They have yet to be adopted by the next county meeting, but no man can afford to oppose such healthy amendments. Below we give the rules in full:

That the following be adopted by this convention and be recommended for adoption by the party at the first mass meeting which shall hereafter be held by the Democracy of the county as amendments to the Rules for the better government of the party, and to be known as Rules 17, 18, 19.

RULE 17—The county committee shall assess for campaign purposes the candidates for the several offices, which said assessment shall be made so as to cover the printing of tickets, stickers and all other necessary and legitimate expenses of the campaign, and no candidate shall be subject to an assessment or charge for any other service on support whatsoever. Nor shall the committee lay any unreasonable or unjust assessment upon any candidate or candidates.

RULE 18—The county committee shall at its first meeting in each and every year hereafter elect a Treasurer, who shall not be a member of the standing committee and who shall be the custodian of the funds of the committee and shall pay out said funds for necessary and legitimate campaign expenses on orders drawn upon him by the chairman of the committee and attested by the Secretary.

RULE 19—The committee shall at the first meeting in each and every year elect three competent persons neither of whom shall be a member of the committee whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the committee and the Treasurer at the end of each campaign, and make report thereof on or before the first of January of each year. Which said report shall be open to the inspection of all Democrats. All balances found upon settlement of said accounts in the hands of the Treasurer shall be paid to his successor in office.

Chairman Hoy.

The selection of Hon. Adam Hoy for Chairman of the County Committee, will meet the hearty approval of the party all over the county. It is a mark of confidence which is entirely deserved. Judge Hoy will make one of the best chairmen we have had for many years, and the party can depend on it, that there will be no trading or underhanded work in the next campaign. There will be a lively tussle in Old Centre next fall, with the Judge at the helm, with war paint on. If the county don't get a shaking up it will not be the fault of Judge Hoy. It was a wise choice, and the handsome thing to do on the part of the democracy.

John Rhone.

The Democrats of Centre have placed in nomination for the important office of Jury Commissioner Mr John Rhone of Spring township. Mr Rhone is a poor man and has recently been so unfortunate as to lose his hand. He is a representative of the laboring class and a well educated gentleman and stirring democrat. He will command more than his party strength in the coming struggle. We have every reason to believe that so far as he is concerned the jury wheel will be filled by a good class of men. There have been complaints on the part of those connected with our courts as officers, attorneys, plaintiffs and defendants of the character of many who have been drawn as jurors. We hope no such complaint will be made in the future.

In the new act passed for raising revenue by taxation the Legislature neglected to provide compensation for the extra work put on Recorders and Prothonotaries by the provisions of the bill. Quite a number of officers throughout the state have addressed letters to Hon. J. B. Niles, Auditor General, in regard to the matter. We append a circular letter addressed to the different Prothonotaries and Recorders of the state. The failure to provide compensation for the additional work was clearly an oversight on the part of the Legislature. The following is Mr. Niles's letter:

"DEAR SIR: I have received numerous inquiries concerning the compensation to prothonotaries and recorders of deeds for the performance of the daily duty imposed upon them by the general revenue act. Through an inadvertence no provision was made in the act for the service you are called upon to perform. This is to be regretted, but if the duties prove onerous I have no doubt the next legislature will provide compensation for past services and make suitable provision for the future, and I shall be glad to aid in presenting the subject for their favorable consideration."

AQUILLA JONES the new post-master of Indianapolis has been exonerated by the civil service committee. Mr. Jones found but one Democrat in the Indianapolis office. Our Republican contemporaries who were looking for a fight between President Cleveland and Vice President Hendricks will have to exercise considerable patience as the "racket" is not even brewing.

Signing Papers.

A most interesting and instructive correspondence, in which the President expresses some sound opinions with characteristic emphasis, has just got into the newspapers. A short time ago a vacancy was to be filled in one of the Federal courts in the West, and one of the applicants for the place had such strong indorsements from the most influential people of the district, including two Judges of the State Supreme Court and other high dignitaries, that the President, after careful consideration, concluded that he must be the best man and accordingly appointed him.

Not long after he received a letter from one of the persons who had signed the application, saying that the community had read of the appointment "with astonishment and regret, if not pain," and that "none were more astonished than those who had signed his petition." The writer regretted to say that he was one of these, but he had "signed it thinking there was no chance for its reaching even a consideration." "Not a man whose name is on it," he continues "had the remotest idea that his appointment was possible. Not one would have appointed him if he had the appointing power. He is not qualified, morally or professionally." In fact he was so unfit that they took in for granted that the President would find it out in some way and so there could be no harm in their signing his recommendation.

As might be expected, the Presi-

dent declines to have the responsibility thus thrust upon him and he speaks his mind with an emphasis that can only be described as red hot. Here is what he writes:

I read your letter of the 28th ultimo with amazement and indignation. There is but one mitigation to the perfidy which your letter discloses and that is found in the fact that you confess your share in it. I don't know whether you are a Democrat or not, but if you are the crime which you confess is the more unpardonable. The idea that this administration, pledged to give the people better government and better officers and engaged in a hand-to-hand fight with the bad elements of both parties, should be betrayed by those who ought to be worthy of implicit trust is atrocious and such treason to the people and to the party, ought to be punished by imprisonment.

Your confession comes too late to be of immediate use to the public service and I can only say that while this is not the first time I have been deceived and misled by lying and treacherous representations, you are the first one who has so frankly owned his grievous fault. If any comfort is to be extracted from this assurance you are welcome to it.

No fac-simile is required to prove the authenticity of this letter. It has the marks of Grover Cleveland all over it, and the force of it is the greater because it is all true: Men who profess to believe in individual responsibility and who would not willingly tell a lie or do a public wrong will sign petitions for anything and everything, simply because they are too indolent or timid to refuse, and they are very much surprised when they find themselves taken at their word.

This is one of the greatest difficulties with which a conscientious officer has to contend. It is impossible for President to know personally every man in the United States. He must accept the apparent judgement of the community in which a man lives. And yet, when he has been wilfully deceived, he is held accountable. No wonder such things excite the President's anger. His letter ought to be read and taken to heart by everybody who is in the habit of recommending unfit men to office or signing his name to anything that he does not know to be right and true.—Philadelphia Times.

The State Should Intervene.

It is within the power of the Governor of Pennsylvania to prevent the consummation of the gigantic conspiracy by which the Beech Creek and South Pennsylvania Railroads are being brought under the control of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, in flagrant violation of the Constitution of the State and in disregard of the rights of the people. The Vanderbilts and Depews, claiming the exclusive right to the carrying trade of New York State, and the Roberts, Thompsons and Cassatts, who assume to exercise a similar power over the territory of Pennsylvania, have rendered themselves liable to criminal indictment. They are offending against the spirit and letter of the organic law of the State. They are welding into one combination companies which control the transportation business of communities that are insured by the solemn guarantees of the Constitution against the absorption of parallel or competing lines. They have bargained among themselves to do what the Supreme Court of the State has declared to be an illegal act—a criminal conspiracy in restraint of trade and against public policy. Why should they be permitted to work this wrong while other offenders who have wrought less damage to the public are brought to the bar of justice? Does the enormity of their misdoing excuse their crime? Or is the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to be allowed to break the law because it is the most powerful corporation in the State? Are its officers free from the restraints which should bind all citizens? Are no considerations of public good or private right to be respected by these creations of the State?

It can be truly said that the Guber-

natorial chair of Pennsylvania is occupied by one who is conspicuously free from all entangling and improper alliances. His utterances and his administrative acts have been marked with a determination to faithfully carry out every provision of the State Constitution. He has done much to purify our legislation. He has endeavored to protect the Treasury. He has labored to enforce a healthy respect for those principles which form the bulwark of society. Let him now embrace the opportunity which offers for exacting from our railroad kings a rigid compliance with the fundamental law of the State.—Philadelphia Record.

The Beech Creek Road.

The Lock Haven Democrat of Monday, prints the following: "Is it true that the Beech Creek road has been sold to the Pennsylvania railroad company?" was asked of Hon. S. R. Peale to-day.

No sir, it is not. A proposition has been made by the Pennsylvania railroad company to buy the Beech Creek road, but it has not been accepted except by such stockholders as have other purposes to serve. The Pennsylvania railroad company is extremely anxious to get this property and the newspapers in their interest have been industriously publishing that they have got it, and that the road will be turned over to them in a short time. They have not got it and they will not get it if it is in our power to prevent it and I believe it is in our power to do so. I do not object because it is the Pennsylvania railroad company that seeks to absorb the Beech Creek railroad, but I object to the idea of concentrating all transportation lines throughout Pennsylvania in the hands of any one company. I feel that it would be very disastrous to the business interests of Clinton, Centre and Clearfield counties to destroy the healthy competition that exists between these two rival railroad lines. I went into this enterprise for the purpose not only of benefiting myself but for the purpose of opening up a new avenue for the bituminous coal to ready market. Clearfield county with all her mineral wealth had but one railroad, and her traffic was in the absolute control of one corporation which did not fail to use the power it possessed. By the construction of the Beech Creek road the coal business has been greatly stimulated as has business generally through the section reached by it. Large investments have been made upon faith in this line being a competing line with the Penna. R. R. lines and a large business has been thrown upon the road. I am informed that agents are now going about among the shippers on the Beech Creek road asking shippers to contract their traffic to the Pennsylvania railroad as the Beech Creek road was sure to fall into their hands. It strikes me as rather peculiar that these contracts should be sought for if they were sure of the Beech Creek road. So all along the line between here and the eastern markets the agents of competing coal companies have been visiting the customers of the several coal companies that ship by the Beech Creek line and these agents have been endeavoring to take away the customers so shipping by the Beech Creek line on the argument that the Beech Creek railroad was about to fall into the hands of the Pennsylvania R. R. Co., and that thereafter the companies of whom they had been purchasing coal would not be able to fill their orders. Here we have the thought that the Beech Creek road is to be used not for the purpose of affording equal facilities to all shippers, but, on the contrary, to a favored few. It cannot be that the people will submit to the crushing control and mastery of any one transportation company by whatever name it may be called, and I can not, with self respect, abandon the interests of the people to whom we have made our pledges and who have invested their money relying on our good faith.