

# The Centre Democrat.

THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT is published every Thursday morning, at Bellefonte, Centre county, Pa.  
TERMS—Cash in advance.....\$1 50  
If not paid in advance.....\$ 2 00  
A LIVE PAPER—devoted to the interests of the whole people.  
Payments made within three months will be considered in advance.  
No paper will be discontinued until arrearages are paid, except at option of publishers.  
Papers going out of the county must be paid for in advance.  
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POLITICAL NOTICES, 15 cents per line each insertion. Nothing inserted for less than 50 cents.  
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## The Presidents Reply.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, }  
WASHINGTON Sept., 11, 1885. }  
HON. DORMAN B. EATON.

My Dear Sir.—I am in receipt of your letter tendering your resignation as a member of the Board of Civil Service Commissioners. I can not refrain from expressing my sincere regret that you have determined to withdraw from a position in the public service where your intelligent performance of duty has been of inestimable value to the country. The friends of civil service reform, and all those who desire good government, fully appreciate your devotion to the cause in which you early enlisted; and they have seen with satisfaction that your zeal and faith have not led you to suppose that the reform in which you are engaged is unsuited to the rules which ordinarily govern progress in human affairs, or that it should at once reach perfection and universal acceptance. You have been willing, patiently, to accept good results as they, step by step, could be gained, holding every advance with unyielding steadfastness.

TO WHAT SUCCESS IS DUE.  
The success which thus far has attended the work of civil service reform is largely due to the fact that its practicable friends have proceeded upon the theory that real and healthy progress can only be made as such of the people who cherish pernicious political ideas, long fostered and encouraged by vicious partisanship, are persuaded that the change contemplated by the reform offers substantial improvement and benefits. A reasonable toleration for old prejudices, a graceful recognition of every aid, a sensible utilization of every instrumentality that promises assistance and, a constant effort to demonstrate the advantages of the new order of things are means by which this reform movement will in the future be further advanced, the opposition of incorrigible spoilsmen rendered ineffectual and the causes placed upon a sure foundation.

Of course there should be no surrender of principles nor backward step; and all laws for the enforcement of the reform should be rigidly executed; but the benefits which its principles promise will not be fully realized unless the acquiescence of the people is added to the stern assertion of a doctrine and the vigorous execution of the laws. It is a source of congratulation that there are so many friends of civil service reform marshaled on the practical side of the question, and that the number is not greater of those who profess friendliness for the cause, and yet mischievously and with supercilious self-righteousness, discredit every effort not in exact accord with their attenuated ideas; deery with harping criticism the labor of those actually in the field of reform, and ignoring the conditions which bound and qualify every struggle for a radical improvement in the affairs of government demand complete and immediate perfection.

## THE POSITION OF THE CABINET.

The reference in your letter to the attitude of the members of my cabinet to the merit system established by the Civil Service law, beside being entirely correct, exhibits an appreciation of honest endeavor in the direction of reform, and a disposition to do

justice to proved sincerity which is most gratifying. If such treatment of those upon whom the duty rests of administering the Government according to reform methods was the universal rule, and if the embarrassments and perplexities attending such an administration were fairly regarded by all those professing to be friendly to such methods, the avowed enemies of the cause would be afforded less encouragement.

I believe in civil service reform and its application in the most practicable form attainable, among other reasons because it opens the door for the rich and poor alike to a participation in public place-holding, and I hope the time is at hand when all our people will see the advantage of a reliance for such an opportunity upon merit and fitness, instead of a dependence upon the caprice or selfish interest of those who impudently stand between the people and the machinery of their Government. In the one case a reasonable intelligence, and the education which is freely furnished or forced upon the youth of our land are the credentials to office; the other way is found in favor secured by a participation in partisan work, often unfitting a person morally, if not mentally, and physically, for the responsibilities and duties of public employment.

## THE ATTITUDE OF THE PARTY.

You will agree with me, I think, that the support which has been given to the present administration in its efforts to preserve and advance this reform by a party restored to power after an exclusion for many years from participation in the places attached to the public service; confronted with a new system precluding the redistribution of such places in its interest; called upon to surrender advantages which a perverted partisanship had taught the American people belonged to succeed and perturbed with the suspicion, always raised in such an emergency, that their rights in the conduct of this reform had not been scrupulously regarded, should receive due acknowledgment, and should confirm our belief that there is a sentiment among the people better than a desire to hold office, and a patriotic impulse, upon which may safely rest the integrity of our institutions and the strength and perpetuity of our government.

I have determined to request you to retain your present position until November 1 next, at which time your resignation may become operative. I desire to express my entire confidence in your attachment to the cause of civil service reform, and your ability to render it efficient aid, and I indulge the hope and expectation that notwithstanding the acceptance of your resignation, your interest in the object for which you have labored so assiduously will continue beyond the official term which you surrender.

Yours, very truly,  
GROVER CLEVELAND.

## The Reading Takes A Hand.

HARRISBURG, September 23.—The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad and Philadelphia Coal and Iron Companies to-day filed a bill in equity in the Prothonotary's office here to compel the South Pennsylvania Railroad Company to complete its line and thus fulfill its contracts with the companies indicated and to prevent the American Construction Company from interference to their detriment. The suit is brought on the ground that the abandonment of the construction of the South Pennsylvania Railroad in its violation of an agreement made on December 11, 1882, between that company and the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad and Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company and would deprive the plaintiffs of the benefits which would have accrued to them from the faithful performance of the terms and conditions of the contract, and will involve them in great loss, and cause injury to accrue to them, which will be irreparable and cannot be adequately compensated in damages. It is also held that the failure to construct the South Pennsylvania will demar the plaintiffs from entering into traffic agreements started at the time the contracts with the South Pennsylvania was made with the Hanover Junction, Hanover and Gettysburg, Bachman Valley, Baltimore and Hanover, Baltimore and Harrisburg, and Har-

risburg and Potomac Railroad companies and thus deprive the plaintiffs of a large amount of business which would be secured to their lines.

## A BROKEN AGREEMENT.

According to the contract specified in the bill in equity the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, the Pittsburg, McKeesport, and Youghiogeny, the Pittsburg and Lake Erie, and the South Pennsylvania Railroad companies agreed that their several lines of railway should be used for the interchange of traffic so that all railway traffic from the line of one should pass to and over the lines of the others; and the Philadelphia and Reading and the South Pennsylvania Railroad companies agreed that each of the said parties should have an easement or leasehold estate upon and over the lines of the other to be exercised for the movement of traffic in case either of the parties should fail to comply with the covenants in the agreement with respect thereto. The plaintiffs aver that by the agreement made it was provided that the Philadelphia and Reading, Pittsburg, McKeesport and Youghiogeny and Pittsburg and Lake Erie Company guarantee the payment of interest on the twenty million bonds to be issued by the South Pennsylvania Railroad Company, to the extent of 20 per cent. of the gross earnings upon traffic carried over or upon the lines of the guarantor, coming from or over the line of the latter company. The Philadelphia and Reading, Pittsburg, McKeesport and Youghiogeny and Pittsburg and Lake Erie, also covenanted for the period of ten years to make good any deficiency which might in the net earnings of the South Pennsylvania to secure the payment of the interest on the bonds agreed to be issued.

## WHAT THE READING HAS SPENT.

It is set forth in the bill in equity that the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company in pursuance of the obligation imposed upon it by the terms of the indicated agreement has expended over \$180,000 to provide a connecting line from its Lebanon Valley line in this city to that of the South Pennsylvania in this city. It has acquired property for right of way and entered contracts in relation thereto which are without value to the company except for the purpose of establishing the proposed connection.

## A Secret Discovered.

Mifflin Pa. September 28.—The terrible experience near Longfellow this county, of Foreman Keeps, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, six weeks ago, will not have been forgotten by the readers of the Patriot; how, while on his way home on a Friday evening with a check for his months earnings in his pocket, Keeps was attacked by three men, gagged and robbed, and then bound to the track while the roar of a fast approaching freight train could be heard in the distance. Nor has the memory left them of how with almost superhuman strength, the desperate man struggled with his bonds as the roar of the train became louder, how he succeeded in releasing his right hand, withdrew his feet from his large every day boots, rolled to the outside of the rail and saved his life at the price of the fingers of his left hand. Keeps was so exhausted by his struggles that he was unable to make his way home. His story of the outrage perpetrated upon him sent a thrill of horror throughout the county.

The deed was so fiendish, and so deliberate in its execution, that at the time it was not deemed possible for any wretches not beyond the pale of all moral and social restraints to conceive such a crime. With this view of the character of the perpetrators the civil authorities along the railroad arrested and searched all tramps and vagrants in their vicinity, with the hope of finding the criminals. The railroad company offered a reward of \$500 as an incentive in the search. A party from Harrisburg is said to have had eight persons suspected of this crime in the Huntingdon jail a short time after the deed was committed, but was compelled to acknowledge that there was no evidence against them and consent to their release.

During this hue and cry the railroad authorities were not idle. They

did not stop at the \$500 reward. The hard-headed officials determined to find the guilty parties, and some people know now if they did not previously that the word "can't" has no existence in the railroad's vocabulary. While all the officers in a half a dozen counties were searching the tramp population, a detective from one of the large cities had the case confided to him by the company, and he started to work on a different theory.

At Lewistown, a week after Keeps had wriggled himself from his boots, an awkward-looking man, dressed in the garb of a laborer, got out of a car. When the train he came on had gone its way, this man ambled up the track. The stranger looked like a railroad trackman, and when he reached Longfellow and made application to the section boss for work there was no hesitation in giving him a job. It so happened, too, that men were needed on that section to assist in putting the roadbed in proper shape for the annual fall inspection. For several weeks the stranger worked with the section gang, all the while gaining the good-will and confidence of the trackmen. He was a good workman, never shirked his share of the labor, and could tell a story and enjoy a joke with a gusto that made him a hale fellow-well met with all. Slowly he became acquainted with little personal secrets, and finally grew to know almost as much of their past and daily lives as though he had known them from birth.

At last came the one great secret he was there to learn. The details of how the history of the affair was imparted to him, and for what purpose the stranger was taken into the confidence of the guilty men, have not been told. Suffice it to say for the present that one of the participants confided in the detective, told him how three of their gang upon a very dark night, just after pay-day, laid in wait for their forman, stealthily stole up behind him, blindfolded, bound gagged, robbed and then tied him to the rails.

The detective played his game well, and, after having gained all the information necessary, had them arrested, and they are now in the Millin County jail, in this place, awaiting trial. The check had been cashed a day or two after the robbery in a town further up the road.

## The Commonwealth vs. the Railroads

HARRISBURG, September, 29.—The cases of the commonwealth against the South Pennsylvania, Northern Central, and Beech Creek railroads, came up for argument on a continuation of the preliminary injunction this morning. Hon. Wayne McVeigh spoke for the Pennsylvania, Lyman D. Gilbert for the South Pennsylvania, and S. R. Peale for the Beech Creek. After the calling of the case, Attorney General Cassidy asked for the appointment of an examiner, for the purpose of taking testimony. The court seemed to favor it, but Mr. MacVeigh opposed it, on the ground that it would cause delay and injure to a great extent the interests of defendants.

The courts, however, decided in favor of an examiner, and the parties interested withdrew to decide on the examiner and the time to be allowed him for taking evidence. John H. Weis, of this city, was then selected. Mr. MacVeigh then endeavored to limit the time to five days for each case in taking testimony. The court decided to give the commonwealth ten days and the defendants five, it being all the time asked by the latter. All the papers and testimony are to be ready by the 20th of October, when the case is to be ended.

In the case of the Reading railroad against the south Pennsylvania for breach of contract the same order was asked for, an examiner, but the defendants objected on the ground that no affidavits warranting it had been filed. The court reserved its decision.

—Our subscribers who reside in and near Pine Grove Mills will do well to read the advertisement in another column of this paper, of E. E. Young, who is engaged in selling all kinds groceries, queensware, glassware, tobacco, Cigars, etc., at remarkably low prices. He resides where rents are cheaper than in larger places, and he can therefore sell his goods for a correspondingly low price. Give him a trial.

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