

The Centre Democrat.



F. E. & G. P. BIBLE, Proprietors.

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

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FRANK E. BIBLE, Editor.

Democratic State Committee.

In accordance with the rules of the Democracy of Pennsylvania, the Democratic State Committee will meet at the Bolton House, in the city of Harrisburg, at 4 p. m., on Wednesday, Jan. 19, to elect a Chairman, Permanent Secretary, and seven members of the Executive Committee; and also to fix the quadrennial apportionment of Delegates to the State Convention.

W. U. HENSEL, Chairman.

J. B. LIGHTY, Secretary.

The "Gazette."

We are truly sorry for the misfortunes of our brother editors, Messrs. Cassidy and Feidler, as their loss was very heavy, they not having saved a single article not even their private papers and books. The *Gazette* was a very complete establishment and through Mr. Feidler's energy and progressiveness, was fast making for itself a place in Pennsylvania journalism. All the other offices extended to the proprietors of the *Gazette* the use of their presses and material. We have not at this writing learned what Messrs. Cassidy & Feidler propose doing but we doubt not that they will start up again. Their loss is about \$7000 with \$2000 insurance.

A law making it a penal offense for the conductor of one train to run on the time of another, would do way with such accidents as that on the Baltimore and Ohio road last week.

The *Daily News* don't seem to know the difference between a Republican "caucus" and Col. Quay's legislature, as it had the Col. elected by that august body, when he had simply received the caucus nomination.

BEN. BUTLER would hang a Director every time an accident occurred on a railroad. The idea is novel, but as railroad directors don't direct, a real *bona fide* director would be a curiosity, and should not be hung. Rather preserve him in alcohol, as a specimen of an extinct species.

COL. QUAY'S legislature does the proper thing from a Republican standpoint, when it makes him Senator Mitchell's successor. Of course it was "a great surprise" to the Col. "being entirely unexpected" you know. We now have two fellows in the Senate from our State who aren't much on a speech, but when it comes to running a convention, they are simply "awful." Since Wallace left the Senate Pennsylvania has only been represented by politicians.

WITH the heartlessness of a booby snatcher General Badeau dishes up for the newspapers the details of Mrs. Lincoln's insanity and presents to the world incidents which the grave should hide. It is enough for the American people or for the world to know that Mrs. Lincoln was insane. By that fact many of her actions alone can and have been explained. But, for Badeau to dive into the family closet of the dead Lincoln and bring forth the grinning skeleton that the family has all along kept hidden from public view, serves no good purpose, adds nothing to history, and wounds the feeling of the living. Mrs. Lincoln's misfortunes form no part of the history of her husband nor do they merit a place in the literature of the day. The fact of her insanity is all that the public wants to know. Badeau is an old scandal monger, a garrulous old woman, a seeker after dead men's secrets, a disgusting assassin of reputation that ought to be starved on his own literature.

Will it be a Compromise?

Mr. Randall has had a conference with Speaker Carlisle with reference to his (Randall's) tariff bill and the Speaker while he is opposed to Mr. Randall's ideas of tariff reform will throw no obstacles in the way of the Randall measure. It is certainly incumbent on Mr. Randall and his followers to formulate a bill which can pass the House as a Democratic measure. Having rejected the bill of the Democratic majority and with the aid of the Republicans prevented even a consideration of the measure, Mr. Randall must present a bill which can be endorsed by the Democratic House as embodying the principles laid down in the Democratic national platform and in line with the policy of the administration, or he must act in harmony with the Republicans.

The latter he cannot do, not because he is not willing to work in the traces with his Republican allies, but because they will not accept a bill tinctured with even so little Democracy as Mr. Randall possesses. The Republican position on tariff reform has been as fairly stated as has the Democratic position though it does not go the same length, nor does it reach the root of the evil.

They are but waiting the opportunity to legislate in that direction. All parties realize the absolute and crying necessity of relief from the burdens of a war tariff and the danger to the people from the vast accumulations of surplus revenues. In its efforts to relieve the country from these unjust burdens the Democratic majority has been sincere and honest; and no better proof of this sincerity and honesty is wanted than the fact that the great leaders of the majority, Messrs. Carlisle and Morrison are willing to let Mr. Randall try his hand at framing a bill. Mr. Randall's course in the matter heretofore has been a broad assumption that the majority could not devise a proper bill but that he and his friends could. The way is now clear for the great Pennsylvanian and he has doubtless the ability to do so, but his bill must be a compromise measure with the majority of his party. The Republicans will not pass a Randall bill, the Democrats cannot unless it is in harmony with their platform declarations.

Tariff legislation is and always has been a system of compromises, it must be so in the future. Let Mr. Randall yield some to the wishes of his party. It has already met him half way is earnestly anxious to redeem its pledges and relieve the people from the unjust burdens which now rest upon them. We cannot present an united front to the enemy in the great battle of 1888 with a divided House on such a vital measure as the Tariff. Nor can we go to the people with a violated pledge and ask for a new lease of power. The interests and well-being of our party demand imperatively that some bill be passed looking to a reduction of the tariff and the surplus. We do not believe in Mr. Randall's idea of an abolition of the tax on whiskey and tobacco because it affords no relief to the people. Yet there should be some reduction on those articles and a reform in the internal revenue laws that create tobacco and whiskey monopolies. The necessities of life, those things consumed by the families of our laboring people should be relieved of taxes first and then if the revenue is in excess of the actual necessities of the government economically administered there could be a reduction of the tax on whiskey and tobacco. We hope the broad and liberal statesmanship of the Democratic party will grasp the situation. The only way to get at a measure of this kind is by a fair and open discussion. Mr. Randall and his friends have refused to do this to the Morrison bill but we hope that a more liberal, fair and honest spirit will actuate Mr. Morrison and his friends. The majority in the House will be held responsible for the failure to relieve the country of its burdens.

Exit Democracy.

The democracy retires from the administration of the state government, with colors flying proudly, and turns over to the Republican party and to our fellow townsman, Gov. Beaver, everything in complete order. Gov. Pattison retires with the proudest record of any Governor in over a quarter of a century. No stain attaches to his administration, no imputation or charge has ever been made against it by the bitterest of Republican partisans. Indeed its bitterest assailant, the Philadelphia *Times*, is forced to acknowledge the cleanness of the administration, and the assault of the *Times* was simply at the dictation of some of the great corporations who feared the presence of Mr. Cassidy in Pattison's cabinet. That fear was justified by Mr. Cassidy bringing them to terms and preventing the absorption and control of parallel and competing lines of railroad. The history of that struggle is well known to the people of this state and its successful termination is one of the bright jewels in the civic crown of Gov. Pattison. The record made by the democracy through its representative is one of the landmarks of the times and proves conclusively to the people that the state is safe in the hands of the democracy whenever they shall decide to turn it over to them. The election of Gov. Pattison was one of those political upheavals which are likely to occur in any state which has long been domineered and bossed over by a majority party. Pennsylvania returned to her Republican moorings the year after Pattison's election, not because the people were dissatisfied with Democratic rule but because the majority in the state was Republican and being satisfied with having rebuked the machine they returned to their party allegiance. All are interested in a proper administration of the affairs of the Commonwealth, and all will agree that Gov. Pattison has made an excellent officer. It is for Gov. Beaver to duplicate this record.

If it be true, as is intimated in recent reports from Washington that Speaker Carlisle and Chairman Morrison have finally consented to allow the tax reduction bill that is to be formulated by the protection Democrats, to be fairly considered in the House, it is the first sign of practical efforts for the reduction of needless taxes and excessive revenues, exhibited during the present session. If the report is not warranted, the speaker and his chairman of the chief committee of the House, must, sooner or later, see that they are simply arbitrary obstructionists, and care more for impracticable theories than for substantial relief to the people.—*Philadelphia Times*.

We don't know whether Col. McClure takes "suttin" or not nor do we know whether he wrote the above, but whoever did was too full for intelligible utterance. The veriest school boy knows that every attempt at a reduction of taxes has been frustrated by Mr. Randall and his followers. They positively refusing even to allow a bill to be considered. Mr. Randall has put himself in a hole and his organ is now lustily crying for Carlisle and Morrison to help him out. Having prevented the consideration of a Democratic measure he is now brought face to face with a Republican bill in the hands of Mr. Hiscock. He has called on the mountain to come to him in vain perhaps Mahomet will conclude to go to the mountain yet. As between the Hiscock and the Randall idea we don't see that the Democracy has much choice. The *Times* is simply paving the way for an assault on the Democratic majority in the House in order to shield Mr. Randall. It is perfectly natural for the Republicans to profit by Democratic dissensions and blunders and they will do it effectually. The responsibility for our party blunder lies with Mr. Randall and his followers and it cannot be shifted to other shoulders. If Mr. Hiscock gets in with his bill for a reduction of the revenues before Mr. Randall knows what he wants, that is

Mr. Randall's fault. If the Republicans steal our thunder it is through the stupidity of the mules who have voted with them every time.

The time for selecting township and borough officers is drawing near and it is important that due consideration should be given to the qualifications of those asking for office. The "best" men should always be selected as a matter of course, but the "best" men don't often importune the voters for these local offices and the active untiring importunate worker invariably gets the position which should go to the "best" man. A little more care exercised in the selection of officers, notably Justices of the Peace might save a great deal of future litigation and trouble, now would be a good time for the voters to consider the various offices to be filled and the proper men to fill them and when the time comes for nominations the proper men be selected.

DELLA CORBET and the Quay girl who were concerned in the murder of John Akley at Lewistown, were the products of the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools of this state. Their first steps in the road to infamy and eventually murder was taken at those "grand charities." What a commentary on the schools, and these are not isolated cases. They have been prolific in criminals and prostitutes and yet Higbee could talk and write of the excellence of these "schools of infamy."

John Roach Dead.

NEW YORK, January 10.—The family of John Roach, the great shipbuilder, who has been dying of cancer, remained up with Mr. Roach until 1 o'clock this morning, when they retired, with the exception of Garrett N. Roach. He remained on watch with the nurses. Dr. Taylor called at 5 o'clock this morning. He detected the approach of death, and once informed the family that Mr. Roach had only a few hours to live. The dying man sank slowly. He lost consciousness about 7.30. His end was unmarked by struggle. In the room surrounding the couch of the dying man were Mr. and Mrs. William McPherson, of Philadelphia; John B. Roach, Garrett N. Roach, Stephen W. Roach, Miss Emiline Roach, John Walton, a nephew; Mrs. Roach, and the grandchildren. The funeral will take place from St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal church, corner Twenty-second street and Fourth avenue. Mr. Roach was a member of the church. The interment will be in the family plot at Greenwood cemetery.

The Pennsylvania Editorial Association will hold their regular annual meeting at the Lochiel Hotel, Harrisburg, on Wednesday, Jan. 19th inst., at 2 o'clock sharp. A full attendance is desired, as business of importance will be presented. Among other subjects will be the consideration of a proposition to make the objective point of next Summer's meeting the Natural Bridge, in Virginia. Editors not connected with the State Association, and who desire to become so, should send their names with the membership fee of one dollar, in time for presentation at the annual meeting, to R. H. Tacoma, secretary and treasurer, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Stoking Revelations

St. Louis, January 6.—The Coroner's jury which has been investigating the circumstances under which Laura Nalley came to her death, returned a verdict this afternoon to the effect that her death resulted from the injuries received by being burned by fire, which was caused by her coming in contact with a red-hot stove in the room of Henry Marshall, a colored coachman, while she was attempting to escape from him, he being at the time trying to make a criminal assault upon her. Marshall was held responsible for her death. Lena Stump, who was promised one dollar by the coachman for every girl whom she should bring to his room and who brought the deceased to the stable on the day of her death, was held as an accessory to the fact.

Pattison's Message

THE LIQUOR QUESTION AND VARIOUS IMPORTANT MEASURES DISCUSSED.

HARRISBURG, January 4.—Governor Pattison's final message was sent to the Legislature to-day. He presents a gratifying financial exhibit. He quotes from the State Treasurer's report, placing the receipts of the year at \$7,520,711.13; balance on hand, December 1, 1885, \$1,784,011.86; payment during the year, \$7,303,235.42. The debt on the 30th of November was \$16,258,885.23. In four years the reduction was \$2,955,101. The sinking fund holds bonds and money amounting to \$10,180,746.46. The fund is sufficient to meet the principal of the indebtedness of the State maturing up to the year 1912, a period of twenty-five years. After the year 1894 there will only be outstanding \$6,861,000 of debt, other than the Agricultural College loan of \$500,000 payable in the year 1922.

The Governor thinks the State can dispense with the tavern, retailers, eating house and billiard licenses. These should go to the counties. If this policy should be abolished the office of Mercantile Appraiser should be abolished.

The Governor complains of the ineffectiveness and partiality of the laws for the taxation of personal property. Real estate furnishes four-fifths of the revenues, while its assessed value is only one sixteenth greater than that of personal property. The time is ripe for the inauguration of earnest efforts to eradicate the evil and for the reform of the tax laws. He throws out the suggestion of a commission to consider the whole subject.

The Legislature should designate the places for the deposit of the public money. It is unwise and dangerous to allow the Treasurer absolute discretion. Private banking institutions should be entirely debarred. There are eighty-one banks incorporated by the State. The annual returns of many of them show an alarmingly small amount of available assets. Either many of them are insolvent or the State is being defrauded.

The Governor would abolish fees to the Attorney General and Secretary of the Commonwealth. He favors a constitutional amendment abolishing the poll-tax. It is so small that it amounts only to vexatious obstructions to suffrage and is a means of corrupting the ballot through the agency of political organizations. A uniform ballot is considered essential to the secrecy of the ballot-box and the protection of the votes from surveillance and intimidation. He thinks the money appropriated to charities should be restricted to the State institutions. The Eastern Penitentiary is overcrowded the Huntington Reformatory should be completed and additional asylum provisions are absolutely needed. He would have the State assume entire control of the Department of Fort Wardens and would like to have the Legislature build a fire-proof building for the State Library. He thinks the State Board of Health has fully justified its creation but the act creating it needs to be perfected in various particulars. He reports the condition of the militia as excellent. His suggestion that the Legislature provide for the more speedy hearing and determination of capital cases removed to the Supreme Court is renewed.

The Governor discusses the liquor question at some length. He favors a license high enough to eradicate the enormous number of small tipping houses. Licenses should be granted only to men of proved good moral character and only upon the petition of a reasonable number of residents of the immediate vicinity. There should be a rigid regulation of the hours for closing. He also calls for divorce reform. He would conduct divorce proceedings in open court; would require a residence of two years in the State; would prohibit the guilty party from marrying again during the life-time of the other party; would limit jurisdiction to causes occurring while the parties are bona fide domiciled here; would make malicious desertion exist three years before beginning action; would make cruel treatment consist of actual violence.

The Governor, after advocating civil service reform for this State, tells of his investigation of the Orphans' Schools. He found that the charges made in the newspapers were true. He called for the resignation of Superintendent Higbee, but had not the power to dismiss him. The disclosures have compelled a marked improvement. He asks the Legislature to go through a thousand pages of testimony and take action that will prevent such shameful abuses in the future.

A systematic revision of the laws governing the making of the geological survey of the State and the publication of the reports thereof, is again recommended. There has already been expended on this undertaking over a million dollars, and there is no visible limit to the cost that may yet be incurred. He suggests a fixed time for completing the survey and a limit to expense. He recommends that the present laws relating to State printing be repealed and that the subject be guarded by enactments definitely fixing the amount to be expended for each department.

The Governor calls attention to the neglected apportionment laws and points out the plain constitutional duty of the Legislature to attend to them. He gives a history of the South Penn and Beech Creek Railroad cases, and as a result of the proceedings believes that the competing South Penn will be

finished. The combination known as the "Trunk Line Pool" and the "Coal Pool" is a manifest violation of law and it is to have the question determined that the Attorney General has begun proceedings. The Governor says that the railroad corporations have never pretended to obey the Constitution, which is not to be wondered at "when we find the Legislature of the past occupying almost the same attitude." For twelve years the seventeenth article of the Constitution governing railroads has been a dead letter. Discrimination is as widespread as ever. He urges that no legislation will be effective on the subject that does not declare a violation of the provisions of the seventeenth article referred to a crime and affix adequate fine and imprisonment as a penalty for its commission.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A Pennsylvania company has just begun to work a gold mine in Charlotte county, Va.

There arrived at Castle Garden, New York, last year 300,918 steerage and 68,642 cabin passengers.

District Attorney Martine says there are over 6500 untried indictments in his office at New York.

Professor Joseph Tosso, a celebrated violinist, died at Covington, Ky., Thursday, aged 35 years. He composed "The Arkansas Traveler."

Charlie Johnson, a Chicago tailor, on Wednesday, in a fit of jealousy, shot and slightly wounded his wife and then blew out his own brains.

Proceedings were begun in Court at Washington, D. C., to test the sanity of Mrs. Weltha A. Emmons, wife of Prof. Emmons, of the Coast Survey.

Mable Putnam, aged 4 years, was shot and killed on Wednesday at Batavia, N. Y., by Roy Orendorf a playmate of her own age, who was playing with his father's revolver.

George D. Schelling, of Tremont, N. Y., dangerously shot himself in the head with a pistol Thursday on a train at Yonkers while in the custody of two persons who were removing him to an asylum.

Judge Treat Thursday in the United States District Court at St. Louis sentenced Joseph H. White, of Waco, Texas, convicted of counterfeiting Brazilian Treasury notes, to three years in the penitentiary.

Isaac Sprague, the "living skeleton," died at Chicago on Wednesday. He was born in Bridgewater, Mass., and weighed only forty-six pounds. He was married and the father of three robust children.

Governor Ames was inaugurated Thursday at Boston. In his address he stated that the increase of savings banks deposits was larger than in any year since 1875 (\$16,199,500), while the number of depositors had increased 57,250.

James E. Nowlin, under arrest at Boston, has confessed the murder of George A. Codman, the milkman of Somerville, whose mutilated remains were found on Tuesday in Lexington. The object of the murder was robbery. Nowlin is 17 years old.

Joshua N. Doyle, a school teacher who shot and killed Nicholas Dauch a barber in a saloon at Effingham, Ill., May 21, 1866 and in June of that year (with five other alleged murderers) broke jail, has been arrested at Nashville, Tenn. Nearly all the witnesses to the murder are now dead.

The Canadian Snow-Shoe Club, of Montreal, 350 strong, arrived at New York recently on a special train. They were met at the Grand Central Depot by a delegation of French-Canadian citizens and the Oriskany Snow-Shoe Club of New York, and escorted in procession to the Metropolitan Hotel. The party includes delegations from fifteen Canadian clubs.

PITTSBURGH, January 6.—The wages question at the Edgar Thompson Steel Works was finally settled to-day by the arbitration committee, and work will be resumed in all the departments next Monday. The new scale advances wages on an average of ten per cent. These works employ over 3,000 men and the increase in wages occasions great rejoicing.

Bench warrants were issued at New Haven, Conn., Thursday for the arrest of Conductor Elbert O'Morrell and Gatekeeper John Starkey, of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, on a charge of manslaughter. On December 10 last M. B. Scott, a well-known citizen, was crossing the track—the gate being open—in his carriage, which was run into by a train. Mr. Scott received fatal injuries and died shortly after the accident.